



# THE WHEELER TIMES

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VOLUME 73, NUMBER 52

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2007

SINGLE COPY **50c**

"Wheeler, town of friendship and pride."

## CWE CHAT WITH EDITOR

By Louis C. Stas

**Congratulations** to the second through 8th grades for their having placed in the U.I.L. competition.

—cwe—

Wheeler got lucky once more and missed the snow scheduled for this past weekend. There was only a scattering of snow and .07" moisture was dropped.

—cwe—

Last week I left spaces to put in the rainfall amount received on Sunday night and then forgot to measure it. We received 1.47" moisture, which was much needed and appreciated.

—cwe—

The paper for next week will be put in the mail on Christmas Eve. It will be the annual "Greeting Edition" with Santa letters. We hope you enjoy all the letters.

—cwe—

Thanks to Patricia, who came in once more to help while the OKC branch office is out of commission. They still did not have electricity on Tuesday; however there were trucks spotted on their street.

—cwe—

Patricia also did the calling for the greeting ads. Thanks once again.

—cwe—

Remember the Christmas Open Houses at First State Bank, Wheeler Banking Center and Farm Bureau. There will be lots of goodies.

—cwe—

We traveled to OKC over the weekend and visited the Mac Man to have some work done on the laptop. It started just printing what it wanted to and ignoring the rest.

—cwe—

Greg and I ate Saturday evening with the lights flashing off and on. A wire down the street was

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## STORM REPORT

As Reported By... Stormie Meriwether  
Wheeler Pre-Kindergarten

The letter 'X' is a fun letter. We see the letter 'X' on the treasure map. We dig in the dirt on the letter 'X' to find the treasure. We have bones everywhere in our body. We can see the bones in the X-ray.

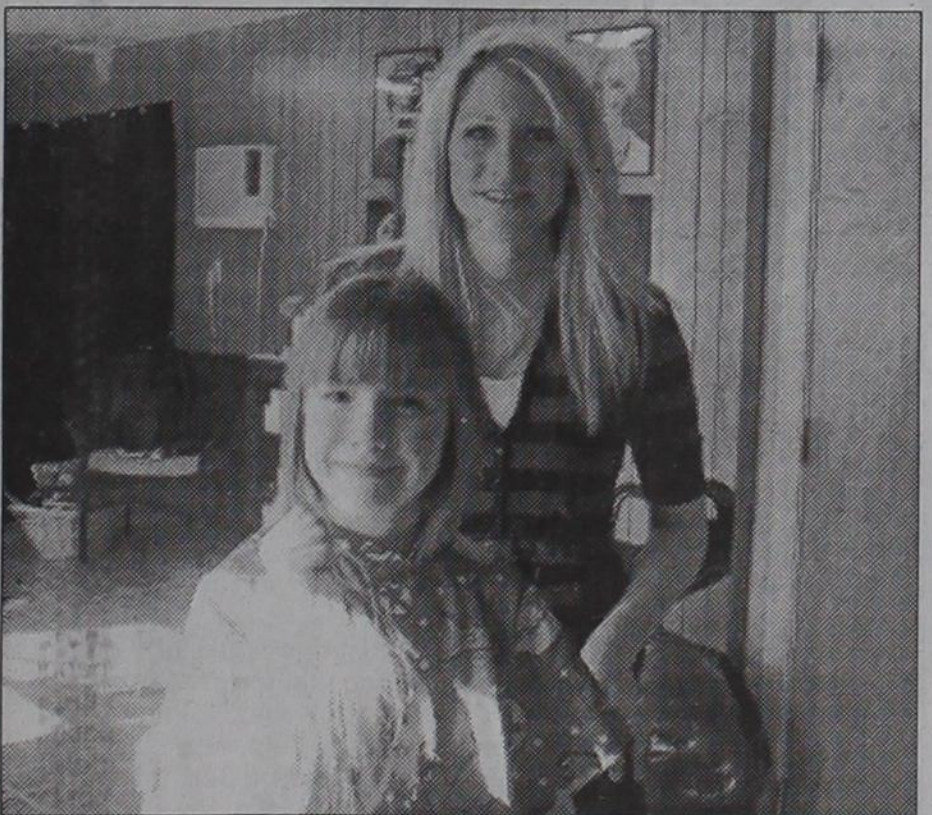
We sing Christmas songs at school. I like to sing Jingle Bells. I am a mouse in our 'pogram'. The girls are the mice. The boys are the reindeer. I like to hear the Christmas songs on my radio. My favorite is Frosty the Snowman.

## 1st Lt. Ben Britt & Nathaniel Hillhouse Memorial Annual Toys For Tots Drive

The Eleventh year for Toys for Tots drive is underway in Wheeler. Sponsors are the Wheeler County Sheriff's Department, Wheeler Banking Center, First State Bank of Mobeetie and Wheeler and United Methodist Church.

New or good serviceable used toys are needed. Items are being collected for youths from 0-15 years of age. If you wrap a gift, please include sex and age on each gift.

These gifts may be the only Christmas some children may receive.



**LOCKS OF LOVE:** Kaitlyn Peppers recently donated 12" of her hair to "Locks of Love". "Locks of Love" is a public non-profit organization that provides hairpieces to financially disadvantaged children under age 18, suffering from long-term medical hair loss from any diagnosis. This unique need for children is met by using donated hair to create the highest quality hair prosthetic. Most of the children helped by "Locks of Love" have lost their hair due to a medical condition called alopecia areata, which has no known cause or cure. The prosthesis provided helps to restore the youngsters self-esteem and their confidence, enabling them to face the world and their peers. Dawn Case at Scissor Works Beauty Salon in Allison, cut Kaitlyn's hair. Kaitlyn's parents are Thomas and Charlotte Peppers of Wheeler; her brother is Landon Peppers.

## Wheeler I.S.D. Board Meets Dec. 13; Contract Signed to Collect Del. Taxes

Unapproved Minutes  
Regular Board Meeting  
December 13, 2007

The Wheeler ISD Board of Trustees met for a regular scheduled meeting December 13, 2007. Dr. Mike Smith called the meeting to order at 7:10PM. All board members were present with the exception of Angie Ware. School personnel present were Mike Bailey, Brandon Smith, Debbie Finsterwald, Doug Rives, Stacy Horton and Clay Mahler.

### Christmas Greeting Edition Information

The annual Christmas Greeting edition of the Times will be put into the mail on Monday, December 24, 2007.

At the present time, greeting ads are being sold. This is an excellent opportunity to say "Merry Christmas" and "Thank You" to your friends and customers for their friendship and/or business during this past year, without having to address all those envelopes. Santa letters will also appear in this edition of the paper. Santa letters from the area schools have already been received. Dec. 14 was the deadline for getting Santa Letters in to the paper for publication.

Deadline for getting advertising and articles into the Christmas edition will be today, Thursday, December 20 at 5:00.

Please make note of the early deadline.

### New Arrival



### ELIZABETH ANN TURVILLE

We proudly announce the arrival of Elizabeth Ann Turville, to the Turville Family. She joined the clan on October 23, 2007. At 6lbs 6oz and 19 inches long, she has big blue eyes and dark hair. Her Big sister Victoria along with her parents David and Jennifer are excited about the new little one. We are looking forward to spoiling her and giving her bunches of hugs and kisses.

Elizabeth Ann Turville. Your gifts will be greatly appreciated.

If someone is award of needy families, please contact Wheeler Sheriff's Department or Lee Ann Hillhouse with families name, ages and sex.

Your help and contributions are appreciated.

Monetary donations may be left at the Sheriff's office, Methodist Church of Wheeler and Wheeler Vet Clinic. Monies will be used for toys, clothing or food as the donor wishes.

The pledge to the flag was led by Mr. Mahler and Dr Smith offered the invocation.

There were no individuals or groups that wished to address the board.

Motion by Ravonda Hardcastle, Second by Dr Hillhouse—To approve the minutes of the November 13, 2007 regular board meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Todd Moore, Second by Kent Vise—To approve payment of bills as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by James Masters, Second by Dr Hillhouse—To accept the auditorium renovation bid, less the intercom section, from Norris Audio Video Systems. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Ravonda Hardcastle, Second by Kent Vise—To accept the contract with West Texas Food Service. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Todd Moore, Second by Kent Vise—To accept the con-

(Continued Page 4)

## Mobeetie Council Meeting For Dec.

December 10, 2007

Meeting called to order at 7:09 p.m. by Mayor Gordon Estes. Members Present: Mayor Gordon Estes, Council Members-Pam Jones, Patricia Kephart, Emma Swigart, and Gaylord Thompson. Members Absent: Louise Shorter

No one from public present  
Minutes for the November 11, 2007 meeting were read by Patricia Kephart. Pam Jones made a motion to approve the minutes as read, seconded by Gaylord Thompson. Motion approved 4-0.

The Financial Report was read by Emma Swigart. Gaylord Thompson made a motion to accept the financial reports as read, seconded by Pam Jones. Motion approved 4-0.

Monthly bills were reviewed and considered for payment. Emma Swigart made a motion to approve and pay the bills as presented, motion seconded by Pam Jones. Motion approved 4-0.

New Business: A motion was made by Patricia Kephart to accept the election of two members to the WCAD Board of Directors for the two year term including the years of 2008-2009. Place 1 Scott Porter, Place 5 Keith Horn, motion seconded by Emma Swigart. Motion approved 4-0.

Mayors Report: All is well.  
Water Report: Good.  
Meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

## Mobeetie Museum Closes Temporarily

The Old Mobeetie Grade School, just east of the Old Mobeetie Jail Museum is very near completion. The museum offices will be relocated to this site and

## Mitchell, Zybach Receive Degrees

Approximately 298 students from Southwestern Oklahoma State University at Weatherford will complete requirements for either bachelor's, master's or doctoral degrees after the current Fall 2007 semester.

These students had the opportunity to participate in the 2007 SWOSU graduation ceremony or go through convocation exercises in 2008 on Saturday, May 10, at 10 a.m. at Milam Stadium on the SWOSU campus.

Students who complete requirements for their degrees this December include:

BRISCOE—Kade Zybach, B.B.A. in Finance; WHEELER—Hadley Mitchell, B.S. in Technology Education;

## Old Mobeetie Tex. Comm. Cal. Info

The Old Mobeetie Texas Association is producing a Fort Elliott Community Birthday Calendar for 2008. Birthdays are listed for FREE. Calendars will be sold in January. You may list as many birthdays as you like including relatives and friends. If you would like names listed in the calendar, please contact Tonya Finsterwald at 806-375-2168. If there is no answer, please leave birthdays on the answering machine. You may also email listings to [Finsterwald@centramedia.net](mailto:Finsterwald@centramedia.net)  
Deadline for birthday listings is Dec. 15th. Thanks and have a wonderful holiday!



**U.I.L. WINNERS RECOGNIZED:** An assembly was held Monday for Wheeler Elementary and Junior High students. Recognition was given those students placing in U.I.L. competition on November 16. These students, grades 2 through 5 received awards. They are (back row, l. to r.) Left to right: John Turner, Jordan Venzor, Ky Markham, Audra Weatherly, Rebeca Rodriguez, Alejandra Gonzalez, Kayla Duncan, & Abril Buenrostro, (middle) left to right: Cambri Moore, Kaitlyn Helton, Savannah Foster, Morgan Brdecko, Gracie Gaines, Madalyn Brdecko, & Abby Bond, (front) left to right: Blayne Richardson, Urrick Marshall, Bryan Parra, Mitchell Ford, Don Butler, & Michaela Bailey



**U.I.L. JR. HIGH WINNERS:** These 6th through 8th grade students were called to the stage on Monday, December 17, to receive awards for their U.I.L. placings. Pictured are (back row, l. to r.) Megan Reed, Elizabeth Horton, Alyssa Johnson, Zay McCasland, Trevor Marshall, Kallen Moore, & Daniel Gonzalez, (front) Breann Robinson, Zackary Johnson, Jake Ware, Zack McCasland, & Andrew Coomer

## Thomas R. Helton Elementary & Wheeler Jr. High Students Are Recognized for Accomplishments in U.I.L. Attendance

On Monday, December 17, 2007, an assembly was held at 9:00 a.m. for the students in Wheeler Elementary through eighth grade. Awards for those students placing in U.I.L. competition on November 16.

Second graders recognized were Kaitlyn Helton, 3rd and Cambri Moore, 6th in creative writing. Kaitlyn Helton also placed 6th in story telling.

Third grade students recognized were John Turner, 2nd,

Audra Weatherly, 4th, and Ky Markham, 5th in story telling. In music memory, the team placed 6th; team members were Jordan Venzor, Ky Markham, Audra Weatherly, Braylan Alvarado, Johona Pacheco and Cassidy Andis. Jordan Venzor placed 6th individually.

Fourth grade's art smart team placed 2nd; team members were Blayne Richardson, Urrick Marshall, and Savannah Foster. Morgan Brdecko placed 2nd in oral reading. Blayne Richardson placed 6th in music memory individually. The team in music memory placed 5th; team members were Rebeca Rodriguez, Michaela Bailey, Alejandra Gonzalez, Grace Gaines, April Buenrostro and Lyndi Hernandez.

In the fifth grade, Abby Bond took 6th place in ready writing and Kayla Duncan placed 6th in spelling. The art smart team, Abby Bond, Madalyn Brdecko and Mitchell Ford placed 4th, with Mitchell Ford placing 5th individually. A 2nd place in listening was earned by Abby Bond. First and 5th place in MC&G was won by Don Butler and Bryan Parra respectively. Oral reading honors were won by Abby Bond, 2nd and Madlyn Brdecko.

Students in the sixth grade placing were Andrew Coomer, 2nd in ready writing and Jake Ware placed 5th in oral reading. Honors in number sense went to Zack Johnson, 1st, Megan Read, 5th and Andrew Coomer 6th. In mathematics, Andrew Coomer placed 1st, Jack Johnson, 2nd and Jake Ware, 5th.

In the seventh grade level Elizabeth Horton took 3rd in dictionary skills; Daniel Gonzalez placed 6th in MC&G; Elizabeth Horton placed 1st in calculator and Zay McCasland took 6th. Second place honors went to Breann Robinson in Listening. First and 6th place went to Daniel Gonzalez and Zack McCasland respectively.

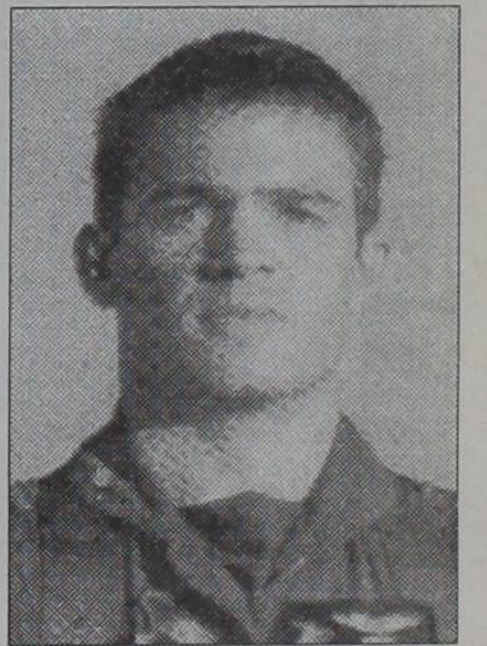
The local eighth grade did well in U.I.L. Alyssa Johnson took 1st in ready writing, Alyssa Johnson 3rd in MC&G and 1st in listening.

## Change In Ft. Elliott Jr. Hi. BB Schedule

The Junior High Basketball Tournament at McLean that is on the Fort Elliott Basketball Schedule for January 3rd and 5th will actually be on January 10th and 12th.

Recognition in science went to Kallen Moore, 3rd; Trevor Marshall, 4th and Alyssa Johnson 4th. Alyssa Johnson placed 1st and Kallen Moore, 4th, in math.

T-shirts were handed out to students of the class with less than 10 or less days absent. Both first grades and the second grade were given t-shirts..



1st Lt. Jalen Whitener

## 1st Lt. J. Whitener Joins "Wild Ducks"

309th "Wild Ducks" Fighter Squadron celebrated the graduation of 11 young officers ready to take their place in our current war on terrorism.

1st Lt. Jalen Whitener of Pueblo, Colo., is the son of Jamie and Helen Whitener of Pueblo, Colorado, was one of these graduates on August 25, 2007. He is stationed at Hill AFB, Utah.

Whitener is completing seven months of training to become a combat Air Force Viper driver. The purpose of the course was to train the world's greatest F-16 fighter pilots and maintainers while deploying mission ready warfighters.

After graduation the graduates will join 202 of their fellow graduates now deployed in harm's way. The 309th FS instructors feel this talented group is ready to conquer the Luke ramp and airspace. Their air-to-air phase DBC started with basic fighter maneuvers, then radar in intercepts and concluded with four aircraft fighting two aircraft in full-up engagements. Air-to-ground phase concluded the training.

Lt. Whitener is the grandson of Elwood and Odessa Mooney of Wheeler.

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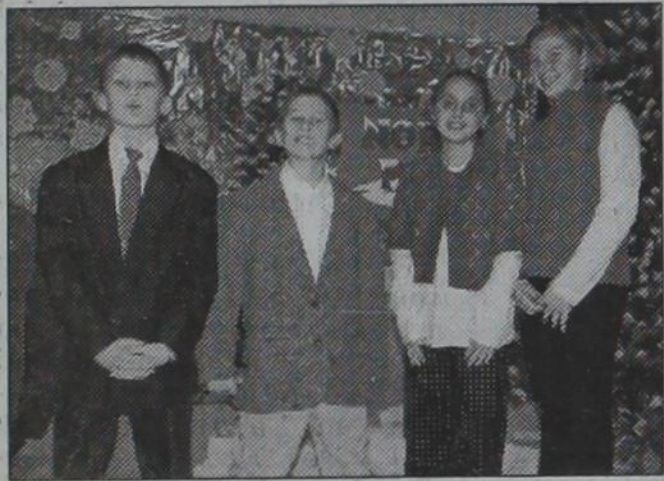
Mobeetie, Texas

845-2311

Member: F.D.I.C.



On Thursday night at the Fort Elliott Elementary campus there was a search, looking everywhere, no one could find Santa! The students of the elementary were performing their annual Christmas Play for their parents and family friends. The name of the play this year was "Your Christmas Wish", under the direction of Mrs. Lohberger. The plot of the play was that it was Christmas Eve and no one could find Santa. The children, news reporters, elves, reindeer's and Mrs. Claus were looking high and low. The whole town of Mobeetie was also looking for Santa with the help of Chief Tim Adcock, who passed out flashlight to everyone in hope that they could find Santa. But never fear Santa showed up just in time for Christmas delivery, he was only out shopping for that special gift for Mrs. Claus.



Elvis-Jace Forward, Brayden Trimble and Landon Helton



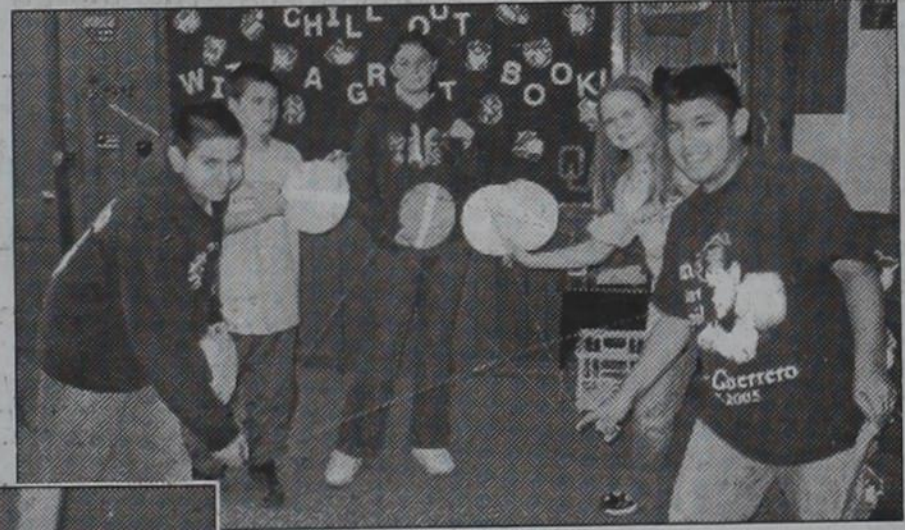
Announcer - Dalton McDowell—Reporters - Devin McDowell, Bailey Meadows, Larami Lancaster



Pictured are of the 7th & 8th graders practicing "webbing". They're reading sentence strips & passing yarn around to make a star. This reinforces the idea that in webbing, each sentence should build on the previous sentence, thus making a better and more interesting paragraph. (top photo)Elizabeth Moore, Tammye Lumpkin, Tarra Taylor, Paul Luna, and Lane Erwin (bottom) Junior Mora, Curtis Lewis, Tarra Taylor, Tammye Lumpkin, and Paul Luna



Traylen Drake



Kayleigh Coomer



The Eighth Grade class decorated a Christmas Tree in the Upstairs Learning Foyer at Kelson ISD. Elizabeth Moore, Junior Mora, Paul Luna are shown here.



Claudia Badillo



Sarah Garner



Parkview Assisted Living residents went on a Tour of Homes. The homes visited were Cherry Johnsons, Deleise Atwood and JoAnn Simmons. Lunch was served at Deleise's home, furnished by Staff. Dessert and coffee was served at JoAnn Simmons home and our cups ran over with Christmas joy. It was a fun day filled with memories of the past and present. The residents that attended were (l. to r.) Lou Dean Douthit, Tom Frye, Alverne Hutchison, Mary Whitener and Iona May.

## ALLISON NEWS

By Juanita Boydston

It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto thy name, O most High: To shew forth thy lovingkindness in the morning, and thy faithfulness every night, Upon an instrument of ten strings, and upon the psaltery; upon the harp with a solemn sound. For thou, Lord, has made me glad through thy work: I will triumph in the works of thy hands. O Lord, how great are thy works! and thy thoughts are very deep. Psalm 92:1-5

He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust. Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence. He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler. Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day; Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday. For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone. Psalm 91:1-6 & 11 & 12

O Give thanks unto the Lord; call upon his name: make known his deeds among the people. Sing unto him, sing psalms unto him: talk ye of all his wondrous works. Glory ye in his holy name: let the heart of them rejoice that seek the Lord. Seek the Lord, and his strength: seek his face evermore. Remember his marvellous works that he hath done; his wonders, and the judgements of his mouth. Psalm 105:1-5

The weather here in Allison has been pretty nice since the snow melted and we can get around lots better now. We didn't received that much snow, but got enough to cover the ground. But I think we received some ice before that. Anyway there was a few days it was too slick to get out for me anyway. I don't do good on ice for sure. On this Tuesday it is windy and chilly, but the sun is shining and the snow and ice is gone. The Lord is good to us. Praise God!!

Roma and Billy June Brown traveled to Pampa, Texas after Sunday School to enjoy doing some shopping.

Larry and Verna of Harker Heights, Texas arrived in Allison late Monday night in the home of Roma and Billy June Brown for a pre-Christmas visit. Larry and Verna are going to stay til Thursday with them.

Monday, Glenn and Betty Boydston journeyed to Amarillo, Texas on business.

Tuesday, Glenn and Betty Boydston traveled to Elk City, Oklahoma on business and did some shopping.

The annual Christmas program of Ft. Elliott Elementary and Junior High School students was Thursday night at Mobeetie School gym. Opal, Juanita and Debbie Boydston accompanied Louise Boydston to the Christmas Program, also there were Glenn and Betty Boydston. Bill and Melody Dixon and Elizabeth and August, Nelda Dukas and David and Becky Zybach, Hiram and Darena Begert, Bret and Hayley Begert, Lori Henley and children, Richard and Carol Kiker, Richie and Twana Kiker and children, Charlene Rainey, just to name a few, I think most of Allison was there so can't name them all. It was a very good program. The singing was great!! And the little children did a great job with the play. And the snacks afterwards were really delicious. Ariel Lohberger did a wonderful job again this year directing the program and singing. And the ones playing the guitars were just great too. There was a big crowd there to enjoy the program. Enjoyed it very much!

The Ft. Elliott FFA students prepared Christmas dinner for everyone at the Allison School Cafeteria Sunday from 11 to 2. There was a wonderful turnout for that. Glenn and Betty Boydston was there to enjoy the delicious meal. Also after the meal Santa made his appearance and several sat on his knee and made their wishes known what they wanted for Christmas. And those getting their pictures made received them right then. Betty couldn't resist sitting on his knee and asking for what she wanted and getting her picture made with Santa. Anyway, Opal and Juanita Boydston enjoyed the delicious meal with Louise Boydston also. I can't begin to name all of that was there. But there was a very nice crowd of people there and there was lots of visiting going on. The FFA served ham, sweet potatoes, green beans, dressing and cranberry sauce and a roll with butter on it. And there was lots of desserts to pick from. Even someone had made some homemade divinity. Had a really nice time.

Heard from Vance and Carol, who are still visiting her mother, Dorothy Newman in Indiana. They all have had cold, so I know they would covet your prayers for them. They are enjoying their visit tho. We are looking for them back to Allison for Christmas time. Curtis and Lil Boydston had a



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"Wheeler, town of friendship and pride"

time when their electricity went off the other day and they had all electric home there in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. They were just about ready to try to make it back to their Allison home when their electricity came back on. Praise God for that.

Good to have Eddy and Sheila Walker back in Allison again. Welcome home!! We miss them when they aren't here.

Louise, Opal and Juanita Boydston visited Pearl Harrison Sunday afternoon at the Elkwood Assisted Living in Elk City, Oklahoma. If anyone would like to send her a card the address is: 1000 Elkwood Blvd. Room # 48 Elk City, Oklahoma 73644

She would love to hear from everyone!

Pat and Alberta Helton had guests last Monday-Saturday, Dr. Josiah Drawhorn of Bullhead City, Arizona, Rev. Steve Nalley of Napa, California and his father, Wallace Nalley of Vaccionville, California. Dr. Drawhorn ministered the Word last Wednesday night at Reydon Community Church. Also visiting Friday and Saturday were Pat's cousins, Benji, Laura, Constance, Savannah and Clayton Burris of Atwater, California. They were on their way to Virginia to visit Laura's parents for Christmas so they left early Saturday before the storm arrived in our area.

Every year the Allison church's all get together and make Christmas sack of goodies for the elderly and the Wheeler Nursing Home and Assisted Living in Wheeler and this year some in Amarillo that is in the hospital. Lots of cookies were made or bought and then crackers and candy was added to the bags and also the chex mix that had been bagged earlier. Several ladies gathered at the Methodist Church and all working together got the sacks all put together and then later in the evening Suzanne Lohberger, Darena Begert, Louise Boydston and Juanita Boydston went to Wheeler and passed them out the residents in the Wheeler Care Center and Assisted Living. They served punch and the sacks of goodies. They all seemed to really enjoy it. Darena Begert played for the Wheeler Care Center residents. They enjoyed that as well.

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Louise and Juanita Boydston enjoyed a very delicious meal at Soto's and also did some shopping while in Wheeler.

The Allison United Methodist Church enjoyed their annual Christmas meal, gift exchange and program on Sunday night.

God Bless and Keep ya'll till next time.

### CARD OF THANKS

We want to thank this great community for your loving response to the loss of our loved one, Grant Meek. We are so comforted by the outpouring of your love and sympathy. We appreciate the countless acts of kindness that have been given to us. Thank you and God bless you everyone.  
**Karen Meek and Family**

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## Wheeler Church of Christ

This is probably the last *Wheeler Times* that you will be looking at before Christmas Day 2007. Our prayers are that you and your family have a safe and wonderful holiday. If you are on the roads, please be careful. Go out of your way to remember and include people you know that have lost loved ones this past year. Spend some of your time with people that might not have anyone else. Share the love of God with everyone you meet. Don't stress out when you are in the shopping mall with millions of others. Don't let New Year's Eve become a night for partying in ways that don't represent your best behaviors. Don't let selfishness and ingratitude define who you are when it comes to giving and receiving gifts. Do good deeds without worrying about anyone ever repaying them.

Christmas and this time of

year isn't about fancy lights, buying stuff, getting everything you want. Christmas is about love, spreading joy to those around you, watching the twinkle in a child's eye. Christmas is a time for family, staying warm in the house together, playing board games, drinking hot chocolate. Christmas is a time when adults can act a little more like kids, engaging in a snowball fight or falling down and making a snow angel.

Christmas is about worship. Offering thanks to the Lord for a wonderful year. Singing and praying with friends. Listening to the Word of God, whether it be a story that many see as the traditional favorite at this time of year (birth of Christ narratives) or any other story since they are all about God's desires for us!

Have a wonderful Christmas!  
Shawn D. Johnson

An Invitation: You are cordially invited to attend any of the weekly services of the Wheeler Church of Christ which meets at 1001 S. Alan Bean Blvd. in Wheeler, Texas

Services:  
Sunday Bible Study ..... 9:30 A.M.  
Sunday Morning Worship ..... 10:30 A.M.  
Sunday Night Worship ..... 6:00 P.M.  
Wednesday Night Worship ..... 7:00 P.M.

# MOBEETIE NEWS

By: Sue Mayfield

This Texas weather sure keeps us on our toes. Really makes us appreciate the sunshine and 40 and 50 degree weather. Thank goodness the weathermen seem to continue to over estimate the severity of the ice and snow. We have really been lucky so far. Although, there is no such thing as luck, it is always another one of God's wonderful blessings. The snow was beautiful, but sitting in the house watching it is very different from having to get out and work in it. The ice is so treacherous and such a challenge when you are trying to get chores out of the way and get back and forth to work. Last Monday the canasta club went ahead and cancelled their weekly games because of the weather. They were leery of the weather with the day starting out so cold and wet. The forecast was for ice so they were going to be safe and not sorry. They have such a good time together, the week just doesn't get off on the right foot, it's almost like missing church.

Glad to hear that Bulah Stuart is doing better and getting settled in at the nursing home. She enjoys all the nurses and aides at the Care Center. She appreciates all the help they give her. Therapy is no fun, but all that help her are so nice.

The Fort Elliott Elementary students had their wonderful Christmas play on Thursday. It had been scheduled for Thursday because of the weather. They had a very good turn out and the kids did a great job. They are always so cute and work so hard at making it a big success. We appreciate all the extra time the teachers put in with the kids to make such a production. They will all get out early (12:45) on Friday, Dec. 21 and won't have to be back until Jan. 2, 2008. Here it is the week before Christmas. The kids are all ready for Santa. It sure is going to be a long week for them.

My list of must do's just seems to get longer. Michael and Brianna are going to be in Colorado with the Brooks family for Christmas. Then they will be here for the New Year's celebration. Todd and Lori were on the way to CA on Monday morning and hoping to be back in Fort Worth for Christmas with their daughters and the granddaughters.

Carol Orthman has finally shaken the cold and flu crud and is able to talk in a normal tone for the first time in 3 weeks. She is planning to have Christmas down here. We are looking forward to it.

Thursday after we got done with Bob's Dr.'s appointment in Elk City we went on to Cheyenne to visit with his brother, Ralph, before he left for New Mexico for Christmas. Then we had enjoyable visit with Ron and Dixie Leppert. They had their house and yard decorated so pretty for the holidays. It was so good to see Dixie feeling better. She struggles everyday with MS. Our deepest sympathy to Ron in the death of his mother in Iowa. Because of the weather and all the ice between here and their they weren't able to go up. Mrs. Leppert passed away at the age of 98. She passed on Dec. 7 and was to be buried on Dec. 14. That would have been her 99th birthday. She has 9 of her 11 children still living. They were all having trouble getting back for the funeral and fam-

ily time.

We spent the weekend in El Reno, Ok. with Todd, Lori, Michael and Brianna Mayfield. We went down on Friday in the fog and drizzle, just in case it really got worse. It was a little yucky, but the road conditions were good. The

ice and snow there made for a lot of cancellations and changed a lot of plans. After the ice storm two weeks ago, this little storm was nothing to them. They were lucky and had not lost any of their electricity through either of the storms. Every thing had a good sheet of

ice on it Saturday, but you could still get around cautiously. The kids found enough snow to make a few snow balls. Michael was to have a play on Saturday night, it got cancelled, but the families of the cast members were able to go the dress rehearsal on Saturday afternoon. They did a very good job presenting. A Charlie and the Chocolate Family A. Even though it was Michael's first major appearance, he did a good job as Charlie. They were to do 5 more performances on Monday and Tuesday. They invited the area elementary schools and middle schools and then were to do a performance for the local nursing home. Mrs. Crider does a great job with the kids and has a lot of help and support from her husband. The kids know they are blessed to have the Crider's teaching them and supporting them. They have already had tryouts for the U.I.L. play they will be doing in February. They will be doing A Mock Trials. All the students were trying to get some hints from Mrs. Crider, but they will have to wait until after the Christmas break to find out who made the cut and what character they will be portraying. On Monday afternoon Roblyer Middle School band and choir had their annual Christmas concert. The kids were having a great time doing it and they did a good job. They didn't do just the traditional songs they had learned and included songs from other religions and countries. Very nice. We got a chance to do some shopping between the play practice and play,

## Personal Hygiene Can Prevent MSRA

There have been quite a few news stories on MRSA (Methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus) infections across the country. Right now Tulsa has eight confirmed cases of MRSA.

"MRSA is an infection that's resistant to most antibiotics," says David Mitchell, Senior Vice President of Great Plains Regional Medical Center. "That makes it extremely difficult to treat."

"As simple as it sounds, washing your hands frequently with hot water and soap or any of the alcohol based hand sanitizers on the market can take care of many potential infections. Personal hygiene is the key to prevention. If more people would make a regular practice of washing their hands often, we could reduce the number of infections of all kinds."

Staph bacteria are one of the most common causes of skin infection in the United States. Staph is a major cause of pneumonia, surgical wound infections and bloodstream infections.

The staph or MRSA infection looks like a pimple or boil; can be red, swollen and very painful; and may have pus leaking from the wound.

There are some settings that have certain factors that make it easier for MRSA to be transmitted from one person to another. These factors are referred to as the 5 C's:

- Crowding
- Frequent skin to skin contact
- Cuts or abrasions
- Contaminated items and surfaces
- Cleanliness - lack of (this includes personal hygiene, clothing, towels, bed linens).

Some of the places were the 5 C's are most common include, schools and school gyms, dormitories and military barracks, households, fitness centers, correctional facilities and daycare centers.

Mitchell also says that hospital patients should make sure that anyone caring for them has washed their hands first. This applies to family, friends and hospital staff.

"Everyone at the hospital works extremely hard to make sure the hospital is as clean as possible. We have hand sanitizers all over the hospital so that it's convenient for our team members to wash their hands frequently, especially before interacting with patients."

GPRMC wants everyone who comes to the hospital to thoroughly wash their hands before visiting friends or relatives. "One of the big questions we get asked is if someone with MRSA should go to work or school," says Mitchell. "As long as your wound can be adequately covered with a bandage, there's no reason not to work or go to school. The big thing is to avoid skin to skin contact with an infected person. If you have concerns about going to work or school, talk with your doctor."

How can you prevent staph or MRSA skin infections? The most important thing is to practice good personal hygiene. Here are some other tips:

- Keep your hands clean by washing thoroughly with soap and water or using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
  - Keep cuts and scrapes clean and covered with a bandage until healed.
  - Avoid contact with other people's wounds or bandages.
  - Avoid sharing personal items such as uniforms and personal protective equipment.
- "Most importantly," says Mitchell, "If you think you have a staph infection, talk to your family doctor. The sooner you start treatment, the better the prognosis for recovery."

Michael working, the weather and the visiting. Friday and Saturday night we had a couple of good games of dominoes.

Mary Margaret Dodd hosted the Christmas party for the canasta club on Monday. They all gathered at noon for a very delicious pot luck meal and fellowship. They spent the afternoon playing canasta and dominoes as all of the gals that get to substitute were also invited to participate. Instead of exchanging Christmas gifts with each other they pick a charity to

donate to. This year they chose to donate to Westview Children's home in honor of their dear friend, Opal Hefley. I know they all had a wonderful time together. Mary always has her home decorated so beautifully. Some of the best cooks in Wheeler county belong to the canasta club, so you know there were some delicious goodies. Lots of recipes changing hands to. What fun. Leola Stuart had to miss the party as she had an appointment in Amarillo. Fat and Wanda Childress went with Leola. They had such a good time together. Lots of visiting, shopping and a nice dinner at Logan's Run. Although Logan's didn't meet their expectations. They are like us though and try everything at least once.

Leola is looking forward to Dennis, Vanessa, Garrett and Braydon coming over the weekend for an early Christmas with them. Granddaughter, Amy, and her mother, Jeanette, are planning on leaving Ohio early Saturday morning to come to the panhandle area for Christmas and to be with Jeanette's family. Sorry to hear that Jeanette's grandmother is gravely ill. Amy and her 3 little girls, ages 10, 8, and 6 are hoping to get some time with Granny Stuart and Great-Grandmother, Bulah, and the rest of the family. Amy wants some new pictures. Amy had just sent Leola the girls school pictures. They are such little dolls. Have a wonderful week. Enjoy your family and friends. May the good Lord bless and protect you in your travels and daily needs. Merry Christmas from our house to yours.

Please keep our friends and neighbors in your prayers: Don and Mary Edwards, Clinton and Maurita Stribling, Jack and Berniece Hefley, Charlotte Coward, Curtis, Hall, Bulah Stuart, Bill and Shirley Dyson, Lorene Rector, Orville Greenhouse, Jane Seitz, Iona May, Mabel Tabor, Peggy Dunn, Curtis Hendrix, John Thierstein, Peggy Frazier, Kenneth and Vera Walker, Bill and Patsy Caswell, Leola Stuart, Iva Richardson, Earl and Leola Farris, Ann and Dick Graham, John McGinty, Shannon Pool, Chuck Carl, Mary Whitener, Byron Simpson, Shelton May and family, Lou Dean Douthit, Joe Tolle and family, Alvern Hutchison, Delmer Murray, Jimmy Love, Aaron Laverty, Joann Couch, Fred Castle, Vance and Carol Boydston, Aaron Hartline and family, Charlie Brown, Melba Corcoran, Lonnie Hendrix, Andrea Aldridge and family, John Paul Harris and family, Carol Orthman, Fredia Caldwell.

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Country

(From Page 5)

program to see Adley Gilmer in the program. Also there David and Winnie Gilmer, Tonya and Bill Finsterwald and Brandon and many others.

Thanks XI Epsilon Sorority for all the delicious Christmas goodies (home made!) Ones preparing the food were Dena Brown, Cathy Hunt, Rita Pearson, Jackie Lane, Patsy Harden, Jane Dukes, Sallie Adcock, Mandy Johnson, Kara Richardson, Ruth Cornell, Ann Lee, Tiffany Boydston and Kenzie Watkins. very Good! Sweet of you to treat us older ladies to Christmas Cheer! Many thanks also for the pretty painted tray!

Golden Agers will be meeting at Wheeler Baptist at 11:30 Thursday, Dec. 20, for Home Health blood pressure and blood sugar checks and a good pot luck meal. All over 50 invited to the program and fellowship.

Children's Musical Program

At Wheeler Baptist Church Sunday night the Children's Choir presented a musical program, "A King is Coming to Town". Good job. Some in the cast were Abby Bond, Brody Richardson, Don Butler, Destrie Kinnaman, Brittney Robinson, Blayne Richardson, Michaela Bailey, Keenan White, Megan Reed, Kylee Schubert, Layton Hibler, Zach Hibler, Justin Hardcastle, Jacob McNeil, Rebecca Rodriguez, Tillie Menefield, Jordyn Johnson, Cassidy Andis, Caitlyn Walker, Gracie Gaines, Savannah Foster, Kori Howard, Taylor McClendon and Lyndi Hernandez. Directors were Stacey Horton, Mendy Bailey and Michael Killingsworth. You did good! Delicious soup, sandwiches and desserts were served to all after the program. Many there.

Sorry to hear that Roy Bradstreet has been in Wheeler Hospital with pneumonia and some breathing problems. Remember Roy and Nell in your prayers. Hope you are soon all right, Roy.

Next Sunday night, Dec. 23 at 6:00 Wheeler Baptist Church Adult Choir will present a program of music. Everyone invited. Following the program will be a candle-light service and then a Holiday Fellowship with Christmas goodies. Everyone invited.

From Briscoe Community Church Sunday going to Mel's Diner for a good meal after church were Fat and Wanda Childress, Lou Dean Douthit, Lewis and Elizabeth Meers, Alice Kelley and pastor Thomas Peppers and wife Charlotte, Kaitlyn and Landan. good meal and good visit. Also Peggy North at church and eating with the group.

Wheeler Assisted Living Christmas party was Friday Evening,

Dec. 14, in the main dining room at the Hospital. Some there were Lou Dean Douthit, Alvern Hutchison, Jane Seitz, Iona May, Tom Fry, Mary Whitener, Gwen McCain, Shelly Schubert, Lois Puryear, Pete Seitz, Carol McCurley, Sybil Clark, Debbie Kinnaman, Dean and Georgia Tipps, Peggy North, David and Melba Seitz and David and Melba's grandchildren. They enjoyed a nice meal and had a gift exchange. Merry Christmas to all!

I talked to Eddie Root, nephew at Clovis, N.M. He almost died, but he is now home from the hospital and can eat, stand and talk some for a little while. He said tell everyone "Hi." He is so glad to be home. Keep praying for Eddie.

John 15: 7-8: If you remain in me and my words remain in you. Ask Whatever you wish and it will be given you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

Chat

(From Page 1)

arking. —cwe— The Meriwethers were out of town on Monday evening, so cards were not played. And, Barbara and I both had work we could be doing.

Glad to hear that Yukon and some of Oklahoma got their electricity back on after being off 2 days and a night. Praise the Lord! C. B. Brotherton and Gary Brotherton's family live at Yukon.

Jason and Amanda Floyd took a honeymoon to Mexico and will be living in Austin. Jason will be working for the University of Texas. Amanda will be working as EMT for Hills Golf Resort and taking college courses for her nursing degree. Best wishes!

Chandler Christmas

Getting together at Brad and Sue Chandlers in Allison for the weekend for an early Christmas were Jana Barthomew and Janessa from Amarillo. (Her husband, Larry Barthomew was planning to come later if weather didn't get bad.) Brad Chandler was able to get off for the weekend. Shea and Bridget Weatherly and Audra and Hagen also visited. Peggy Chandler would come for awhile if weather not slippery. Merry Christmas to all!

Nice to visit with Erma Riley at Tuttle, Ok., on the phone Saturday. She can't get out and get around very well. She surely doesn't want to fall. So she mostly stays home and enjoys playing her piano and watching TV church. Daughter, Annie Henderson, comes by frequently after work and visits and Erma reads some. Erma will be 91 on Dec. 28, her address is 413 N. Richland Rd., Tuttle, Ok 73089. Her phone number is 405/381-6246. They are expecting to have son Bob Riley and wife, Gail, come for Christmas. They will get together at Annie and James Hendersons.

Sincere sympathy to family and friends of Art Taylor, about 65, in his death Monday night, Dec. 17, following surgery at Tyler. He will be cremated. Memorial services will be at First Baptist Church of Shamrock on Saturday, Dec. 22, about 10 a.m. We are so sorry, but know God has better things for Art. A sweet man.

Next Sunday morning, Dec. 23, at Gageby Church at 11:00 a.m. will be a special speaker. Everyone is invited to come hear Michael Decker, who has been on alcohol and drugs and has a message for all to hear. Michael is with a group called "Beyond the Wall" and has a ministry out of Canyon, Texas. Everyone is invited. A noon meal will be served Sunday at Gageby church.

"Come on, ring those Bells Light the Christmas Tree, Jesus is the King, born for you and me. Come on ring those bells, Everybody say, Jesus, we remember this your



THE WHEELER TIMES

PAGE 6—Thursday, December 20, 2007

"Wheeler, town of friendship and pride."

birthday."

Canasta club met at Mary Margaret Dodd's for their Christmas Party and a good time.

Good to hear from Edith and Kelley Cross. But sorry to hear that they both are getting pretty "stove up" as the old saying goes. Good that daughter, Arveda, could move in with them in June and has been a big help. She does all their errands and shopping and is beginning to do more and more cooking. And still works full time. Their kids in Flower Mound are doing well and staying busy. If you would care to write, their address is 2042 Ballinger St. Abilene, TX 79605-5815. Edith is depending more on her walker with wheels and her wheel chair. Pray for Edith and Kelley.

Obituary

Robert (Bob) St. John passed away November 5, 2007, in Las Cruces, N.M. A memorial service was held in Madison, Wisconsin, where he will rest beside his wife, Betty.

Bob was born Oct. 14, 1920, to Ronald and Erna St. John. He is survived by daughter, Ann Mitchell, of Las Cruces; son, Tim of Fond Dulac, Wisconsin and numerous grandchildren; sisters, Louise of Ft. Smith, Ark., and Edith Cross of Abilene and brother, Byron of Louise, Texas. Sincere sympathy to the family and friends.

"I said a Christmas Prayer for you because the season's near. I didn't ask for riches but for gifts so much more dear.

"I asked for joyful gatherings with your family all around and for carols to inspire you with their old familiar sound. I asked for quiet moments in your heart on Christmas morn, for a special time to

celebrate the Savior, who was born.

I asked for friends to send their best that you might know they care.

I asked for peace and love and hope; And I know God heard my prayers."

God Bless and Keep ya'll till next time.



Gracia Cox, age 3, is the daughter of Tim & Daphne Cox, and the granddaughter of Marvin & Linda Cox and Jerold & Karlena Barry

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