

GOODFELLOWS _____ from One

The Christmas Tree for Children, administered for years by Terry County employees, and Goodfellows, operated by City personnel, opted to combine their efforts in hopes of being more efficient and helping more people.

The Brownfield and Terry County Goodfellows is headed this year by Co-chiefs Jeff

Davis and Larry Gilbreath. "This is always a special time of year and the people of Terry County can be counted on to make it enjoyable for every family," Gilbreath said. "Our donations are a little low so far this year, but I have faith in this community and I know they will get to the stores and buy some gifts for the kids and families among us who can't

afford to do so on their own." Cooper Natural Resources donated \$2,500 to the Goodfellows Tuesday afternoon at City Hall, as well as to the local Meals on Wheels and Animal Shelter.

Brownfield citizens and businesses annually donate thousands of dollars worth of food and toys, which are delivered to homes throughout the city on Christmas Day or Christmas Eve each year.

The Co-chiefs stressed the importance of providing a good address with each application so the holiday goods can be delivered to the families who need them.

"It's a lot of work beforehand but it's absolutely worth it when you see these kids and families when you deliver them," said Davis. "Sometimes it's evident that what we're giving them is all they're going to get and the appreciation they have is very humbling."

The Christmas meal and gifts will be delivered at 8 a.m. Christmas Eve morning this year. The group will help children up to the age of 14 and each child gets at least one new toy.

"Brownfield is a special place and we take care of our own," Davis said. "This is a special project every year and even when the economy is down and we expect donations to slip, the people of Brownfield come through and help out those among us who are less fortunate. That's what the holidays are all about."

Only children living in the household and dependent on the family for their needs should be submitted. If the address of the residence is in a rural area of the county, directions to the home should be included.

It also is important to distinguish if the children are boys or girls so the appropriate toys can be delivered to each home. All donations should be forwarded to City Hall.

BISD _____ from Page One

detailed the school's finances from the fiscal year Sept. 1, 2011 through this Aug. 31, revealed good news.

"It's a clean audit - everything we looked at was in order," said contracted accountant Greg Gilbert.

According to the audit, BISD had a total of \$14.5 million in net assets after approximately \$13.7 million in liabilities were deducted from \$28 million in gross assets. The general fund balance was approximately \$6,421,000.

"That's a healthy financial position for a school district of your size," Gilbert said.

Suspect caught with stolen checks

A local man was arrested Saturday after he was caught attempting to cash a stolen check.

Johnny Lee Garcia, 29, is charged with forgery of a financial instrument - enhanced to a third-degree felony because the victim in the case was an elderly person - and with a misdemeanor charge of stealing or receiving stolen checks.

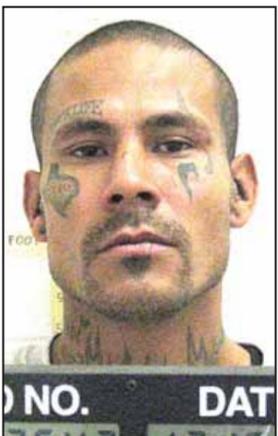
The offense of which Garcia is accused began Friday when Brownfield police received a report from an acquaintance of his that Garcia had stolen his wallet and checkbook during a recent visit to his home. As officers investigated leads, the victim placed a hold on the checking account.

About 9:15 the next morning, a teller at Lone Star Bank was alerted when a customer in the drive-thru lane attempted to cash a check from that account. The non-matching signature style raised further red flags.

Garcia, who was riding as a passenger in the vehicle as it passed by the drive-thru, was arrested shortly afterward near the bank. Another passenger, 46-year-old Ronald Perkins, was also arrested when officers learned he had an outstanding warrant for criminal nonsupport. The driver was released.

Garcia was taken to the Terry County Jail and booked. He remains in the facility as of press time in lieu of a total bond of \$7,500. Perkins remains with no bond.

Police recovered the victim's wallet and checkbook, with a few checks missing.



Johnny Lee Garcia

AP World News

First funerals after school shooting, debates of the building's future

NEWTOWN, Conn. (AP) — A grief-stricken Newtown on Monday began burying the littlest victims of the school massacre, starting with two 6-year-old boys — one of them a big football fan, the other a mischievous, whip-smart youngster whose twin sister survived the rampage.

Family, friends and townspeople streamed to two funeral homes to say goodbye to Jack Pinto, who loved the New York Giants and idolized their star wide receiver, and Noah Pozner, who liked to figure out how things worked mechanically.

"If Noah had not been taken from us, he would have become a great man. He would have been a wonderful husband and a loving father," his uncle Alexis Haller told mourners, according to remarks he provided to The Associated Press. Both services were closed to the news media.

Noah's twin, Arielle, who was assigned to a different classroom, survived the killing frenzy by 20-year-old Adam Lanza that left 20 children and six adults dead last week at Sandy Hook Elementary in an attack so horrifying that authorities cannot say whether the school will ever reopen.

As investigators worked to figure out what drove Lanza to lash out with such fury — and why he singled out the school — federal agents said that the young man had fired guns at shooting ranges over the past several years but that there was no evidence he did so recently as practice for the rampage.

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