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MERRY CHRISTMAS

Local people join together to make Christmas bright

Brownfield News Staff

A few low-income families were worried they wouldn't have much of a Christmas, but can now celebrate the season through the generosity of their fellow Terry Countians.

About three weeks ago, a group of local business owners teamed up to recognize that not everyone was living through the holiday season as financially comfortably as they were, and brainstormed what they could do about it. They agreed to open their wallets and help out however they could.

"It's a group of friends who got together and decided to help some needy families," Larry Molina, one of the volunteers, told the *Brownfield News*.

While not exactly multi-millionaires themselves, the volunteers acknowledge that they are still fortunate with what they do have. Others have much less, and they wish to change that sad fact as Christmas approaches.

"We're people thinking of people at this time of year," Molina said.

Their next step was to find the less-fortunate folks who could use their assistance. They asked around in person and through Facebook, and then accepted nominations. They sought children, adults and entire families, and considered the types of gifts they would most likely enjoy receiving.

"We thought about kids needing presents," said volunteer Johnny Garcia.

Those youngsters sent them Christmas lists, which they took with them shopping. They purchased toys, clothes and even bicycles, and were surprisingly able to scratch off the lists nearly all the items requested.

"We filled almost all the gifts that the children asked for," Molina said.

Seeing the kids' excited reactions to the new goodies justified every minute and penny spent on the charity project, as did the feelings of relief from their parents when they learned that they would be able to have a Christmas after all.

"The ones with children broke down and cried," Molina said. "They're going through hard times right now, and for a group of guys to get together and do this, they were very thankful."

They gave gift certificates for United Supermarket to low-income elderly residents, many of whom had not anticipated the holiday-season care and attention.

"The elderly people were surprised that someone had even thought about them," Garcia said.



SANTA MAKES STOP AT CHRISTMAS IN THE PARK

Santa took time from the busy Christmas season to find out what local youngster David Martinez wants for Christmas at the Brownfield Boys and Girls Club Christmas in the Park fundraiser last weekend.

Wednesday winds whip West Texas

Winds howled across the parched West Texas landscape Wednesday, as a passing front made its way through the region and wreaked havoc with areas of power outages, wild fires and reports of low visibility.

According to weather tabulations through the Texas Tech Mesonet weather monitoring system, wind gusts reached a high of 55 mph at 3:15 p.m. Wednesday afternoon in Brownfield.

Gusts reached 58 mph in Seminole and 62 mph in Seagraves.

Sustained winds from the system, which brought cooler temperatures to the region Wednesday evening, ranged between 20-to-30 mph, according to Texas Tech weather data.

Wednesday's winds forced Texas Dept. of Transportation (TxDOT) officials to close Interstate 27 -- a major highway link between Lubbock and Amarillo -- due to low visibility, which was described as being "zero" according to Associated Press news sources.

Interstate 27 was also the site of a

fatal accident where one man died and 17 people were injured near New Deal around 1 p.m.

According to Texas Dept. of Public Safety officials, a total of 23 vehicles were involved in at least two accidents on the 120 mile stretch of roadway.

"It was a domino effect," said Cpl. John Gonzalez with the Texas Department of Public Safety. "It was down to zero visibility, vehicles started slowing down and other vehicles behind them didn't."

The fatal crash involved a tractor-trailer and a car while another crash on the interstate involved several vehicles, according to the Texas Department of Public Safety.

Gonzalez said his department responded to multiple reports of crashes to determine if other people were injured.

"But you can't see where the crashes are, it's that bad out here," Gonzalez said in a brief phone interview from I-27.

See WEATHER...Page 4

Sat Dec 22 Sun through high clouds 63° Lo 34°	Sun Dec 23 Partly sunny 66° Lo 36°	Mon Dec 24 Some sun; breezy, cooler 58° Lo 28°	Tue Dec 25 Rain and drizzle possible 45° Lo 23°
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Make sure you check out our Letters to Santa and Merchant Greetings in this issue of the Brownfield News.

