

December 2009



Wise County Messenger

# community

# focus

Alvord/Chico  
area edition

## AREA NEWS

### Yearbooks needed

In an attempt to establish a complete, permanent file of Chico High School yearbooks, the CHS library is asking for donations of annuals. Yearbooks from 2006, 1991 and all yearbooks dated before 1985 are needed. Call the library at (940) 644-5783.

### District responds to H1N1 virus

Alvord ISD is working to remain in compliance with the Texas Department of Health's recommendations for battling the H1N1 virus (Swine flu) within the district.

- Maintenance staff cleans thoroughly, and daily, all student areas in each building.

- District is monitoring classroom temperatures. Lower temperatures may inhibit the spread of germs.

- Hand sanitizers have been placed throughout all buildings, and teachers encourage older students to use these many times during the school day; however, younger students are allowed access more often to washrooms for hand washing with soap and water.

- All students are required to wash hands after their restroom use.

n Any student or staff member who becomes ill at school will receive attention from the school's health services, and procedures for proper immobilization of ill persons will be followed until they leave campus.

- Ask that parents have a plan in place for prompt care and removal of their child, from the school, should he or she be sent home during the

school day due to any illness.

Alvord ISD encourages parents to remain attentive to their children's behavior at home. If any child shows behaviors or symptoms that may be indicative of Swine flu, have that child seen by a family doctor immediately.

Do not allow students to attend school if they have a fever until the fever subsides without the use of Tylenol or other fever-reducing medications. This will reduce contagion factors of any virus.

The district will adhere to any further recommendations that the Texas Department of Health may issue concerning the H1N1 virus to the best of its ability, according to school nurse Cheryl Clark.

Direct questions regarding the H1N1 virus or district procedures to combat the spread of this virus to Clark.

### Elementary student drop-off changes

Parking in the back of Alvord Elementary School cafeteria is now for faculty and buses only. The school is asking that parents stop letting their children out behind the cafeteria for safety purposes. At this time the district has no way of monitoring that area for safety.

They request that parents let their children out in the front of the elementary so they can provide a safe place for students to enter the building.

### Reuther honored

Lynn Reuther, a second grade teacher at Alvord Elementary, was honored with the 2008-09 Jack Harvey Fellowship Awards of Exemplary Teaching.

## ALVORD MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

Stacy Abbott's Alvord Middle School seventh grade science classes held a "compound machine" competition recently. The students were asked to plan and build a compound machine that consisted of at least two or more different simple machines (lever, wheel and axle, wedge, inclined plane, screw or gear). The top three projects were voted on by other students and faculty members.

Bethany Weaver and Jannett

Tadeo were judged the winner with their mechanical pizza slicer.

Masson Barclay, Heath Walker and Hunter Fain were reserve champions for their automated alarm clock and toothpaste dispenser.

Honorable mention went to a pinball machine built by Kylee McFerson, Megan Hastings, Kayli Baker and Courtney Oldham.

## CHICO HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

Larry Slack Ford-Mercury is sponsoring the Built Ford Tough collegiate scholarship program for Bowie High School, Nocona High School, Bellevue High School and Chico High School. For the 2009-10 school year, they are helping one local student attend the college of their choice.

The scholarship program will award \$1,000 scholarships to hundreds of FFA members, each co-sponsored by Ford Dealers.

To be eligible, FFA members must submit an online 2010 Scholarship Application at [www.ffa.org](http://www.ffa.org), and take the

required Signature Page to Larry Slack Ford-Mercury for the dealer endorsement and official dealer code, thus providing FFA members the opportunity to meet - and thank - the dealer for their support of continuing education.

"We're pleased to be able to support the local chapter and Ford Motor Company in its strong commitment to the National FFA," says Larry Slack. "All our previous scholarship recipients tell us how grateful they are for the financial support and how the FFA experience has changed their lives."

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## 50 year member

Texas Rural Letter Carrier Association President Robert Fair presents Willard Howell of Decatur with a National Rural Letter Carrier Association 50-year membership pin at a recent meeting at Braum's in Decatur. Howell spent 23 years as a rural carrier and served as postmaster of the Alvord Post Office for seven years.

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# LET'S DISH



Katie Slaten of Alvord took home a best of show ribbon in the Texas State Fair Youth baking contest with hummingbird cupcakes and also won second place honors with pumpkin whoopie pies.

Slaten is the granddaughter of Cyndy Grove of Alvord, who has also earned several ribbons at the State Fair baking contest.

Slaten picked the recipes out of her grandmother's cookbook. Slaten went to her grandmother's house the evening before the competition to bake the items. Grove helped with her measurements, but left the rest of the baking to the 6-year-old. She is the daughter of

Carter and Jody Slaten and a student at Alvord Elementary.

### **Hummingbird cupcakes with cream cheese frosting**

- 3 cups all purpose flour
- 2 cups sugar
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 3 eggs, beaten
- 1 cup vegetable oil
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 (8-ounce) can crushed pineapple, undrained
- 3 bananas, mashed
- 1 cup pecans, chopped

# LET'S DISH



10/9/2009

Combine the first five ingredients in a large mixing bowl. Add the beaten eggs and oil, stirring until dry ingredients are moistened. Add the vanilla, pineapple and bananas. Stir in the pecans and pour into paper lined muffin pans. Bake 25 to 30 minutes or until done. Cool completely and frost with cream cheese frosting.

### **Cream cheese frosting**

- 1 (8-ounce) cream cheese, softened
- 1 stick butter, softened
- 1 box powdered sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla

Cream together the cream cheese and butter in mixing bowl until smooth. Add the powdered sugar and vanilla. Beat until light and fluffy. Frost tops of muffins and garnish to please.

She garnished the cupcakes with sugared pansies and sprinkled with edible glitter.

### **Pumpkin Whoopie Pies**

- 2 cups brown sugar
  - 1 cup vegetable oil
  - 1 cup canned pumpkin
  - 2 eggs
  - 3 cups flour
  - 1 teaspoon salt
  - 1 teaspoon baking powder
  - 1 teaspoon baking soda
  - 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
  - 1 teaspoon cinnamon
  - 1 teaspoon ginger
  - 1 teaspoon ground cloves
- In a large mixing bowl combine the sugar and oil, mixing well. Add the canned pumpkin and eggs one at a time until yellow of yolks disappear.

In a separate bowl, combine all the dry ingredients, adding gradually to the creamy

mixture. Combine well.

Drop by heaping teaspoons onto a greased cookie sheet.

Bake for 10 to 12 minutes. Let cool completely on a wire rack before putting on the filling and topping with another cookie.

### **Filling:**

- 1 egg white, slightly beaten
- 2 tablespoons milk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 2 cups powdered sugar
- 1 cup Crisco shortening

Combine the egg white, milk, vanilla and only 1 cup of the powdered sugar. Beat well to combine. Add the last cup of powdered sugar and the shortening, beating until smooth and spreadable. Spread filling on top of one cookie, and then top with another one to make a sandwich.

# TOY RUN



Messenger photo by Joe Duty

**HELPING HAND** — Chico's Barbra Russell of United Brotherhood helps out with the 50/50 drawing at last week's Wise County Toy Run. Money raised from the event benefits local charities.

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# CHICO ELEMENTARY STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Pre-kindergarten — Arturo Parra  
Kindergarten — Zane Schlekewy, Rigo Hernandez and Wynn Wiley  
First — Layne Spradlin, Janet Chavez and Shane Wolf  
Second — Corbyn Cornell, Lester Edwards and Keylee Sut-

ton  
Third — Rowan Morrison, J.D. Nunn and Reagan Hardee  
Fourth — Jesse Neagle, Patri- cio Galindo and Ty Deaton  
Fifth — Juanita Rivera, Mi- chael Smith and Dreyvin Lara P.E. — Dailyn Koger

# YOUR LIFE IN FOCUS



## ON THE COVER



The Spirit of Christmas programs in Alvord and Chico helped more than 160 children this year. On the cover, Kelly McCormick at Legend Bank in Alvord holds the last Spirit of Christmas angel on the bank's tree Friday, Dec. 11. McCormick said the community's support of the program had her "teary-eyed." Messenger photog- rapher Joe Duty took the photo. Have information you'd like to submit for publication in Community Focus? E-mail it to [focus@wcmessenger.com](mailto:focus@wcmessenger.com).



Above, Tammie Compton of Chico took this photo of a wagon at her house after the recent snowfall. Left, Marla Torres took this photo of the Chico water tower at sunrise. Do you have photo you'd like to see published? Submit it by e-mail to [focus@wcmessenger.com](mailto:focus@wcmessenger.com).

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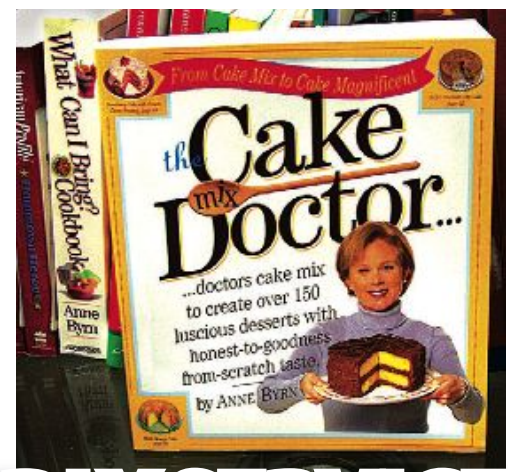
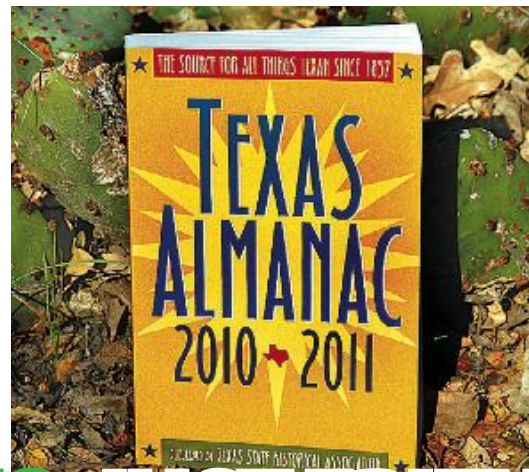
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