

**Santa
visits
downtown
tomorrow**

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gifts for
2012 and
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get them**

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Holiday Gift Guide

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2012

Love,
Upstate Leader-News

Shop locally to avoid holiday headaches

To cut down on holiday stress this year, one would be well advised to skip the trek to San Antonio, where bumper-to-bumper traffic and overcrowded malls can send anyone into an emotional tailspin.

Instead, shop locally.

Uvalde has been growing and every year there are more choices for holiday shoppers. With many local stores offering extended hours and staying open for additional hours on weekends it is easy to cross off some of those wish-list items at lunchtime, after work or on a Saturday or even Sunday.

If someone on your list is particularly hard to shop

for local merchants are happy to suggest gifts for a picky friend or family member.

Dorothy Winston, owner of Julien's, said the store has a complete selection of Brighton merchandise, along with many other gift ideas.

"From now through Saturday we will hold our Virgins, Saints and Angels Trunk Show for the public to view," Winston said.

The store also has a kitchen area filled with cookware of all sorts.

"We also do bridal registry and carry gourmet foods for Christmas baskets. We recently expanded our children's department

with clothing and more," she said.

For more information about Julien's visit the Web site www.julien-suvalde.com.

Jordan Winston, owner of Mi Vida boutique, said she and her staff are prepared for a Black Friday Courtyard sale to be held tomorrow from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. She welcomes the public to see what they have to offer this holiday season. The boutique is located next door to Julien's.

Milton's Jewelry is another downtown business that carries many different items for those wishing for a personal

touch.

"We have something for everybody on your list," Melinda Estrada, store manager, said. "Everything from coolers to handbags to diamond jewelry to wall crosses."

Estrada said Milton's selection of Swarovski Crystal is new this year, in addition to the store's usual lines of camouflage and zebra luggage, wallets and makeup cases.

Milton's also features jewelry in 10-karat and 14-karat gold, diamonds and sterling silver.

If a big-time hunter, or even a part-time one, is on your list, Oasis Outback can help. But Oasis Out-

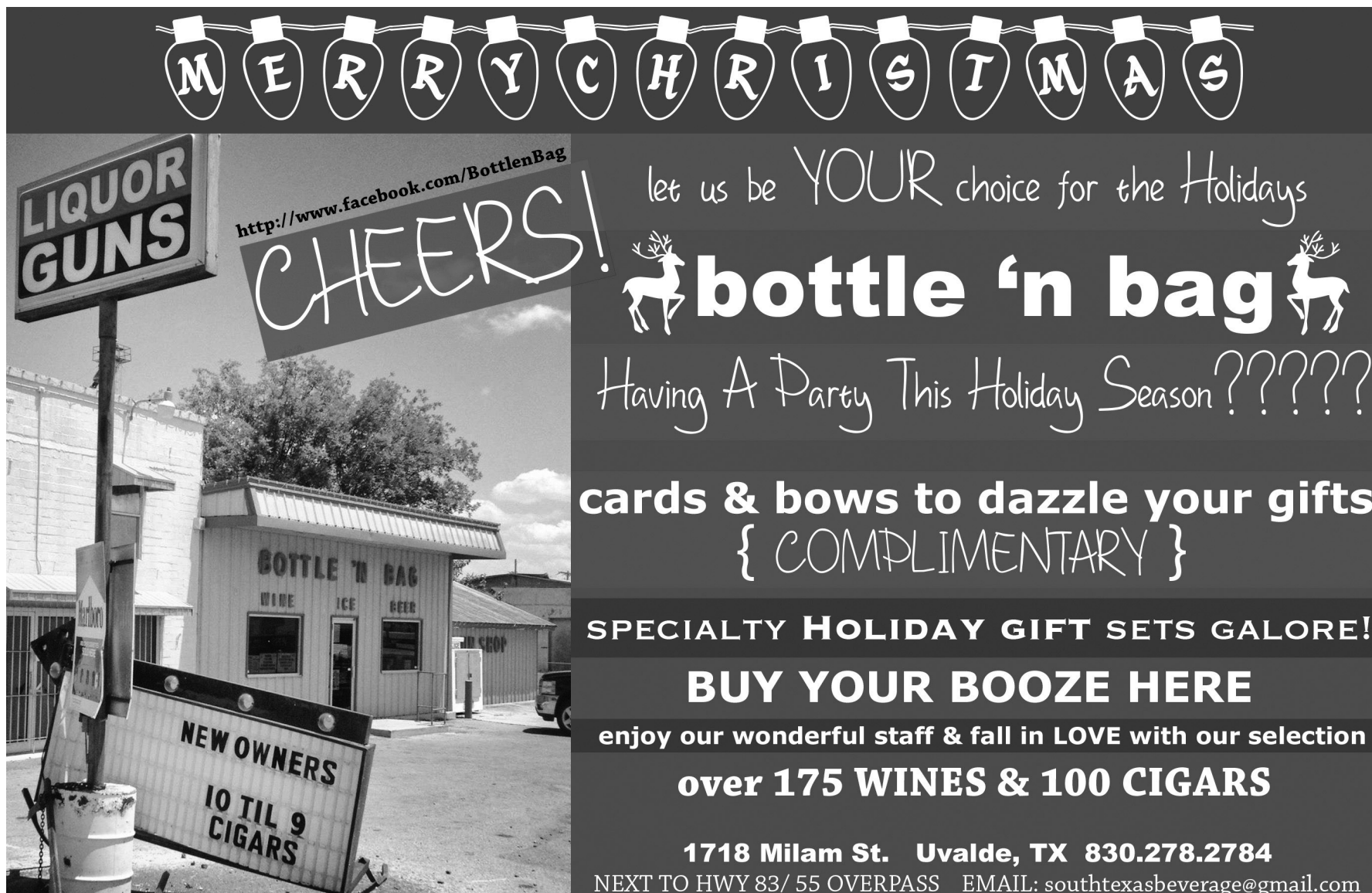
back is not only for the hunters in the family.

In addition to their vast array of hunting items, shoppers will also find jewelry and new clothing lines like Cowgirl Tuff and other western wear.

If gift baskets, wreaths and gourmet products are on your list, Country Gardens and Seed on South Getty Street is a good place to look.

"We still do custom baskets and have fresh pecans, Uvalde Honey and Fredericksburg Farms food products" said Yolanda Moreno, storeowner. "We are also going to have fresh

PLEASE SEE **LOCALLY**, PAGE 3





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LOCALLY: Shopping at home boosts Uvalde economy, decreases stress

FROM PAGE 2

poinsettias, Christmas cactuses and artificial lighted Christmas trees. We also have a large variety of gifts for all ages.

"And if someone is running late, they can always call us and we'll wait for them," said Moreno.

Moreno added that Country Gardens and Seed also offers crosses and a large selection of Christmas ornaments.

Gree's Boutique is another place where holiday gift shoppers can find a wide selection of gifts. Among the items that seem to be popular so far this year are watches like Seiko, Citizen, Pulsar and G-Shock.

They also sell Susan Lordi's Willow Tree figurines and cards. Gricelda Salinas, owner of Gree's Boutique, said the store is a Platinum Dealer for the popular items and shoppers can find a large selection of name-brand angel collection carvings as well as other familiar figurine collections.

"Fashion jewelry and sterling silver jewelry are always popular. We have a little bit for everyone. We also provide free gift wrap-

ping and free engraving for purchases made in store," she said.

Salinas said they recently received a large shipment of 500 sterling silver charms and charm bracelets.

"What's popular, too, is our Sideway Cross jewelry selection that is available in sterling silver, rose gold and yellow gold.

Christmas ornaments and more are also available.

"We've also expanded our religious jewelry and gift lines and we've made the store larger. We have one of the largest selection of traditional to vintage style wedding sets, and other gold and diamond jewelry like necklaces, earrings and bracelets," Salinas added.

Dudley Ilse, owner of Dudley's Ranch House Furniture, said their storewide sale will run through Saturday.

"This is our second annual and has been tremendously successful," Ilse said.

Gift cards are also an easy way to shop for those on your list that have not quite made up their mind about what they want in their stockings.

A large selection of

gift cards can be found at Walmart for local business such as Applebee's, Subway or Pizza Hut, and Lunker's Bar and Grill offers their own gift cards, as do most Uvalde stores and restaurants.

Other ideas for shopping in the area include Steele's, Bealls, H-E-B, Huntson Clothing, Amy's Attic,

Homegrown, Pieces of Me, Texas Home Furnishings and Edwards Furniture.

Most businesses in the Uvalde area will be open extended hours through December, with many stores open both Saturdays and Sundays. In addition, some stores have special-appointment hours. Contact the specific store for

more information.

With so many local businesses with different and creative gift ideas there really is no need to go to San Antonio for Christmas shopping. From clothing to food and jewelry to hunting accessories, Uvaldeans need only stop in at area stores to find everything on their holiday shopping lists.

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Fire marshal urges Christmastide caution

According to research posted by the U.S. Fire Administration, between Dec. 24 and 26, the average daily number of deaths and injuries, and the amount of money lost due to fire increases between 43 and 61 percent over non-holiday daily averages.

During that period in 2000, the number of fires was estimated to total 11,600 fires with monetary losses coming in at over \$80 million. Using those same statistics, a total of about 250 injuries and 40 fatalities also occur during that period each year.

Through the years, local firefighters have offered tips to reduce the risk of fire hazards presented during the Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year holidays.

Juan Hernandez, city fire marshal, said checking used strings of Christmas

lights is one of the most important seasonal tasks when it comes to decorating.



Juan Hernandez

Hernandez said the first inspection should seek out any burned out

bulbs or issues with wires. He stressed that the strings should be checked prior to being placed on the tree or house.

When it comes to picking out the tree, it is not a good sign if you run your hand down a Christmas tree's branches and pine needles fall out and litter the ground like brittle, brown snowflakes.

Whether the tree is artificial or real, the fire marshal also has a number of tips to keep homes and families safe.

First, Hernandez advised against placing a tree anywhere near a doorway. He said some years back two fatalities resulted from a fire, and he attributed them to a Christmas-tree blocked exterior door.

"You don't want to block the door," he repeated.

He said it is also important to be sure any Christmas tree lights carry a Underwriters Laboratory, or UL, label.

"Most [artificial] trees come already pre-lit. Pre-wired," Hernandez said. "That UL tag is most important."

Another tip the fire marshal has for families who have either an artificial or living tree is to keep candles far away from trees and the gifts underneath.

"Don't use candles near trees," he stressed. "Whether it's artificial

or real, but especially not real."

Changing the subject to refer only to artificial trees, Hernandez said it is important to make sure the right type of tree is being utilized. For example, he said people should be sure not to use a tree designed for inside use outside of the home.

He also advised that much care should be taken to shield even those trees listed as flame-retardant from flame and heat.

"Even if fire resistant they will burn," he said. "They will burn."

When opting for a living tree, the fire marshal said there are a variety of ways to test the freshness. First, he said, reach into the middle of the tree and grab a handful of the needles.

"Make sure you don't pull out a lot of the pines," he said. Another test is to bump the trunk against the floor or ground.

"Shake it some and see if [the needles] are falling," Hernandez said.

When it comes to decorations, Hernandez again referred to the importance of UL labels on strings of lights. He also said to use no more than two extension cords, and only those created specifically for holiday lights. He said those cords can be found at most stores alongside the lights they are designed to accompany.

Other tips offered from the fire department throughout the years include carefully monitoring water levels of all living trees; using stable and secure candle holders while avoiding drafts when candles are lit; and extinguishing all candles and unplugging lights and other hazards before going to bed or leaving the house.

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Trim-a-Tree contest runs through Dec. 19

Texas Home Furnishings is conducting its second annual Trim-a-Tree for charity contest.

The Christmas-themed contest offers cash prizes for winning non-profit groups and collects non-perishable goods for the Uvalde Food Pantry.

Ten non-profit groups are participating in the contest.

The public casts votes

for their favorite tree by placing non-perishable goods under the tree. At the contest's conclusion food items are transported to the local food pantry.

The non-profit group with the first-place winner receives \$200. Second prize is \$100, and the third-place winner receives \$50.

The contest runs from Nov. 18 through Dec. 19.

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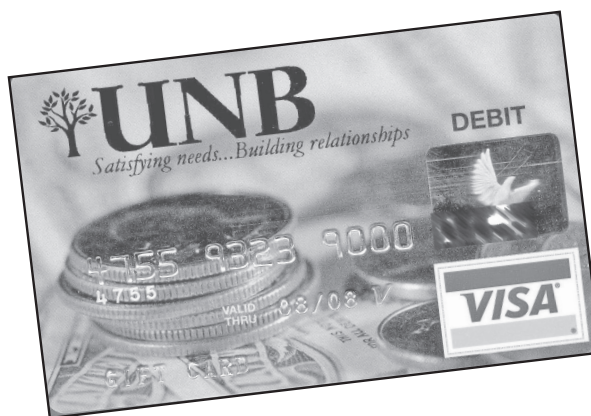
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Meal Bags now available

Holiday Meal Bags to donate food for meals provided by the Uvalde Food Pantry are now available at local businesses and churches in an effort to provide a complete Christmas dinner to Uvalde families experiencing economic hardship.

Tru Hiatt, Uvalde Food Pantry director, hopes to

have at least last year's total of 500 bags filled and donated back to the pantry. The deadline for returning sacks is Dec. 15, and the items will be distributed Dec. 22.

The Uvalde Food Pantry will provide a turkey to complete each meal bag.

Traditionally the cost of filling a bag has fallen

between \$10 to \$15 and local stores often dedicate a display shelf to provide all items in one place for convenience.

Filled bags can be returned to St. Philip's Episcopal Church at 345 N. Getty St. on any business day between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. before Dec. 15.

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CRANBERRY SAUCE, one 16-ounce can

STUFFING, ONE 8-ounce package

CHICKEN OR turkey broth, one 14-ounce can

INSTANT MASHED potatoes, one 7-ounce package

PUMPKIN PIE filling, one 16-ounce can

EVAPORATED MILK, one can

CHRISTMAS NAPKINS, one package

CANDY CANES, one package

ADD ONE item that makes Christmas special to you, such as a candle, mug, stocking, etc.

ATTACH THIS list to a brown paper sack and return it to St. Philip's Episcopal Church at 345 N. Getty between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. by Dec. 15

Cans of pineapple, green beans, mushroom soup, cranberry sauce and pumpkin pie filling are requested for the bag, as well as packages of stuffing and mashed potatoes.

One package each of napkins and candy canes are requested for each bag, as well as one item that makes Christmas special to the person donating the items.



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Santa to visit downtown Uvalde tomorrow

Santa Claus is coming to town tomorrow to throw the switch lighting up the Downtown Plaza, greet area children, hear wish lists and pose for pictures.

Olga Charles, city of Uvalde Main Street Project manager, said this year's starting point for the Main Street Christmas Parade



Santa Claus

will be at the corner of Mesquite and Getty streets. Line up is scheduled at 5:15 p.m. and the parade will begin at 6 p.m.

The parade will proceed down Getty Street to Nopal Street, where participants will turn right going west for the end of the parade.

Rexall Lifecheck has given permission for parade participants to park in their parking lot, then everyone may walk to the Downtown Square to meet with Santa, Charles said.

"Uvalde is known for its parades, so let's show them what we are made of. We want everyone to be in the Christmas spirit and

have lots of fun," she said.

While at the Downtown Square, in a ceremony hosted by the Uvalde Area Chamber of Commerce, Santa will light up the decorations put in place by chamber staff and volunteers. He will pose for pictures and visit with children.

'Uvalde is known for its parades, so let's show them what we are made of. We want everyone to be in the Christmas spirit and have lots of fun.'

Olga Charles
Main Street Project Manager

Charles said there will be no professional photographers at the event but the public is invited to bring their cameras to take photos of the children

with Santa Claus.

The plaza will also be the site of a holiday arts and crafts fair on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. as

vendors present antiques, collectibles and food in addition to arts and crafts.

Olivia Rish, Uvalde Area Chamber of Commerce

executive director, said as of last week between 30 and 40 vendors had signed up for the arts and crafts fair.

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Police officers round up gifts for children in need

With about \$1,300 to \$1,400 earmarked thus far, the Uvalde Police Officers Association is still pursuing funds and rounding up gifts to ensure a very merry Christmas for children in need.

The association has not set a specific fundraising goal, but Detective Mariano Pargas hopes to ensure that every child who is at risk for going without a gift benefits from the effort.

"I just want to give out as many gifts as we can," Pargas, who serves as president of the police association.

Gifts, which should be at least \$10 in value, will be distributed the week of Christmas and the deadline for donations is Dec.

14.

Pargas encourages anyone who knows of families in need get in touch with him to provide contact information. "We'll welcome any names," he said.



Mariano Pargas

The association is working with Rebeca Cantu, parent educator at Uvalde Consolidated Independent School District, to determine which families are in need.

The association has held numerous fundraisers throughout the year to ensure a successful gift drive this year. Last year the police department was gifted with \$1,000 from an anonymous donor who wanted to make Christmas special for a few children.

Association members, who at the time had not planned a toy giveaway, expressed immense thanks to the man they termed a guardian angel.

This year Pargas hopes to acquire a blue santa costume for gift delivery.

Gift drop-off locations include the Uvalde Police Department, Town House and Jacks restaurants, Dollar General and the Uvalde Leader-News office at 110 N. East St. To donate money, call Pargas at 275-1252 or Debbie Pike at the police department, 278-9147.

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Hours: Tuesday - Friday 9 a.m. - 7 p.m. Saturday 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.





City slates pickup of holiday trash Dec. 26-28

Even though the trash may pile up over the Christmas gift-giving season, there is no need to worry if you live in the city of Uvalde.

"We do pick up trash every day," said Juan Zamora, city wastewater superintendent.

Zamora said city crews never take a holiday from trash collection and Christmas is no exception.

With Christmas falling on a Tuesday this year

Christmas wrappings will be collected from Dec. 26-28, Zamora said.

"We do ask that everything be put in boxes or bags and not be mixed with any other household trash," he said.

Everything should be placed curbside by 7 a.m., and Zamora recommended that residents put trash bins out the evening before. The extra pickup will not include extra household garbage or bags of leaves.

Those whose trash is normally collected on the days when a holiday also falls are reminded to take their 90-gallon containers to the curb by 7 a.m. as usual for pickup on those days.

Zamora said the recy-

cling center will be closed today, tomorrow and Saturday for the Thanksgiving holiday and also Dec. 24 and Dec. 25. The landfill on Farm-to Market Road 481 will be closed the same days.

During city-observed holidays, the sanitation department uses three trucks instead of two trucks to allow workers to finish sooner so they can spend time with their families.



Carli & Chloe Jackowski suggest...
"A Uvalde Meat Gift Box for those on your gift list"

*Season's Greetings
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1 4-10 oz. Ribeyes 2-8 oz. Bacon-wrapped Filets 1 lb. Pepper Bacon \$48⁹⁹	4 Seasoning Box 4 - 10 oz. Ribeyes 1 - Uvalde Meat Seasoning 1 lb Pepper Bacon \$42⁹⁹	7 Quail Box 4 - Semi-Boneless Quail 2 - Bacon Wrapped Quail 1 - Quail Legs 1 - Raspberry Chipotle Sauce \$84⁹⁹
2 2 - 12 oz New York Strips 2 - 8 oz Bacon Wrapped Filets \$47⁹⁹	5 2 - 10 oz. Ribeyes 4 - 10 oz. Boneless Pork Chops 1 - Smoked Link Sausage 2 - 8 oz Bacon Wrapped Filets 1 lb. Bacon Smoked Pork Loin \$51⁹⁹	8 Dry Goods 2 Dry Sausage 6 pcs Jerky 1 - Longhorn Cheese 1 - Summer Sausage 1 - Smoked Beef Loin \$42⁹⁹
3 4 - Semi-Boneless Quail 2 - 10 oz. Ribeyes 2 - 8 oz. Bacon Wrapped Filets 1lb. Pepper Bacon \$50⁹⁹	6 1 - Bacon Wrapped Stuffed Pork Tenderloin 4 - 10 oz Ribeyes 1 lb. Longhorn Cheese \$54⁹⁹	9 4 - 10oz Boneless Pork Chops 1 - Smoked Pork Loin 1 - Longhorn Cheese 1 - Smoked Link Sausage 1 lb. Pepper Bacon 2 - 10 oz Ribeyes \$49⁹⁹

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Bandera Electric to host charity drive

Bandera Electric Cooperative is hosting a canned food drive and a coat and blanket drive from now through Dec. 31.

For the food drive the community is welcome to bring canned food items or other non-perishables to the cooperative's offices in Bandera, Comfort or Leakey.

These items will be given

to local food banks.

For the coat drive the public may bring new or gently used coats or blankets to the cooperative's offices at the locations listed above.

Bandera Electric Cooperative is partnering with the Salvation Army, who will give these items to families in need.

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Top-selling items available in various stores

Christmas is just around the corner and it's time to start shopping for family and friends. Stores in Uvalde have some of the top-selling merchandise for gift giving.

Whether it be jewelry, computers, games, CDs, DVDs, electric cars or planes, you can find it in Uvalde.

Radio Shack offers a variety of electronics.

There are several types of iPods, televisions, cell phones and MP3 players available in different price ranges.

Tomorrow, Black Friday, traditionally is one of the busiest shopping days of the year. There will be sales on random items in local stores.

While many people have been purchasing gifts for quite some time, merchants traditionally consider the day after Thanksgiving to be the official beginning of the holiday shopping extravaganza.

Radio Shack will be open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Black Friday.

Walmart Supercenter also offers a wide variety of gifts.

Raquel Hernandez, electronics department manager, said people get a little crazy when it comes to the sales on Black Friday.

"Black Friday is a sight to see and is mainly thought of as first come, first serve. This is my 25th year to be working on Black Friday and it has been crazy every time," Hernandez said.

Current top sellers are game systems such as the

Xbox 360, Nintendo Wii and Play Station 3.

"The Vizio televisions are the bestsellers right now. Some of our televisions will be on sale for Friday. People need to get the newspaper and look at the ads to see what will be out on sale. We prepare every day for Black Friday and I'm ready for this day to come," she said.

She added that there are gift cards to purchase for Apple items such as iTunes, iPads, iPods and the iPhone 3 and iPhone 4s are now in stock at Walmart.

Customers will have the opportunity to purchase items that will be on sale by forming lines in that certain area. There will be no ropes this year in the store.

Walmart Supercenter will hold its various sales beginning today at 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. and at 5 a.m. on Black Friday. All sales conclude at 10 a.m.

"This year we will be selling different kinds of merchandise at different times. People may look at our website to see what specific things will be on sale and where these items will be located throughout the store by downloading a map," she said. "We will also have maps here at the door."

Hernandez said that laptops and other electronics will mostly be on sale during the 10 p.m. time frame.

For more information about the store visit the website at www.walmart.com and enter the zip code.



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Mexican Burger

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Substitute Baked Potato \$1.50

MEDINA ELECTRIC
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The holiday season is generally a big time for energy use, but that doesn't mean it has to be that way. Here are ways to save energy (and money) during the holidays.

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TURN OFF ROOM LIGHTS WHEN TREE IS LIT. The lights on your Christmas tree should provide more than enough lighting to navigate around a room.

TURN THE THERMOSTAT DOWN WHEN YOU HAVE GUESTS. Extra bodies in the house mean extra warmth at no cost to you.

BUY ENERGY STAR ELECTRONICS. Energy Star-certified electronics use up to 60 percent less electricity than their noncertified counterparts.

BAKE SEVERAL DISHES AT A TIME. The holiday season is a big time for baking. Make the most of your oven and the energy that goes into heating it by cooking several dishes at once. Remember: It takes about the same amount of energy to operate a full oven as it does a nearly empty one.

UNPLUG PHANTOM ENERGY USERS BEFORE YOU GO ON VACATION. TVs, DVD players, computers, printers and many other electronics use energy even when they aren't turned on. Unplug them before you go on vacation to enjoy the energy savings.

Organization prepares dinner for elderly, less fortunate

The Uvalde Service Organization is planning its annual appreciation dinner for the elderly and less fortunate in the community. The organization is seeking donations for the annual event, and this offers a gift-giving opportunity that would provide multiple benefits.

Giving a gift in honor of a friend or loved one will also add to the bounty of the dinner that Albert Barrios, USO president, said last year served approximately 625 meals.

Approximately 25 individuals volunteer time to prepare and serve meals and deliver to the homebound,



Albert Barrios

and entertainment is provided each year.

"This year we are planning to serve our meal on Saturday, Dec. 29, from 5 p.m. until 11 p.m.

The event will be held at the Event Center at the Uvalde County Fairplex. Doors open at 4 p.m.

"It is anticipated the total expense will be \$3,500. We are humbly asking the public to consider assisting in this worthwhile project. Any contribution made would be greatly appreciated," Barrios said.

He said last year's event raised approximately \$4,000 and was a huge success.

This is the 25th year the organization has hosted the dinner. Barrios was one of many founders of the effort. Their goal was to provide a meal prior to the New Year.

Barrios first began helping with the Luv Ya Uvalde Thanksgiving luncheon, but decided to step down and ask for the city's support in beginning a new tradition.

He is not the only person who is instrumental in continuing the tradition. Uvalde Consolidated Independent School District Interim Superintendent John Harrell, Uvalde County Judge Bill Mitchell and Uvalde County Sheriff Charlie Mendeke have also been a big part of the event.

Harrell said that Barrios, Abigail Flores, vice presi-

dent of USO, Blanca Velasquez, treasurer and Dora Estrada, secretary, provide their time and dedication to make the event successful.

He thanked everyone in the community who provides the funding and assistance.

"An accounting of donations received and expenditures are reviewed by a USO Committee at First State Bank with the assistance of Bob Baen," John Harrell said.

Barrios said all funds go toward the meal, entertainment and decorations.

During the event, door prizes of all sorts will be awarded.

Dinner at the Event Center will be served from 5 to 7 p.m. A dance will be held from 5 to 11 p.m. Musical entertainment will once again be provided by a local disc jockey.

Since funds are still being raised, the menu is still undecided.

"We might serve tamales, rice and beans or roast beef, mash potatoes and green beans; it all depends on how much money is raised. This meal is mainly for the senior citizens and the

PLEASE SEE **DINNER**, PAGE 13

Doors Open 7 a.m. Fri., Nov. 23

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Bring a pet home for the holidays

Humane Society of Uvalde, Petfinder.com participate in national foster program

The Humane Society of Uvalde and Petfinder.com are participating in the national Foster a Lonely Pet for the Holidays pet

fostering program. Across the country, over 13,000 pet rescue organizations are trying to empty their kennels for Christmas,

encouraging members of the public to invite a pet home for the holidays.

People interested in making this Christmas a happy holiday for a local pet in need or who want more information should contact the Humane Society of Uvalde at 830-

591-9229 or visit www.hsu-valde.com.

The Humane Society of Uvalde has adoptable dogs and cats that can be viewed online at www.hsu-petfinder.com.

The goal for the program is to have each of the pets living on Rescue Row at

the HSU office in a home by Dec. 16 for the Christmas Holiday.

Foster families will be able to return pets by Jan. 2. Families who decide to adopt foster pets will receive a discount and be given priority over other applicants.

DINNER: Barrios thanks all the volunteers for their effort

FROM PAGE 12

less fortunate, but if other people show up then we will not turn them away. This is the community's money, so we are here to serve them," Barrios said.

"We are not getting paid to hold this event. It comes out of our hearts," he said of the volunteers who make

the dinner happen. "I would like to thank each and every person for their much appreciated help."

Those wishing to contribute may send checks made payable to Uvalde Service Organization to Judge Bill Mitchell, #3 Courthouse Square, Uvalde, TX 78801; or John Harrell, 221 W. Mesquite St., Uvalde, TX 78801.

Happy Thanksgiving!



Courtesy of Kirkham's Photography - 2012

Itzel Bueno, Kalisa Barbosa, Anissa Prado, Austin Atkinson, Jacob Garcia, Deyanira Salazar, Desiree Martinez, Noah Contreras and Lynn Casey

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The 2011 Holiday Lighting Contest Best Overall award went to Gilbert Garcia Jr. at 740 N. Getty.

Uvalde Chamber of Commerce sponsors decorating contest

The Uvalde Area Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring its annual Christmas Decorating Contest, and invites all residents and businesses in the area to participate.

Entry information must be received by Monday, Dec. 3. Judging will be Wednesday, Dec. 5.

Olivia Rish, Chamber

executive director, said judges are welcome to participate in the competition.

Winners will be provided with signs to display in their yards.

Participation in the contest is free.

For more information or to enter the contest visit the Chamber office at 207 N. Getty St. or call 278-3361.

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Christmas Boutique to open Dec. 1

The Herby Ham Activity Center Christmas Boutique will open its doors Saturday, Dec. 1, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 114 E. North Street.

The boutique will be open Monday through Saturday until Dec. 15.

Kay Brieden, activity center director, said vendors will be required to bring their own table (one table per vendor) and set up their own items on that table.

"Please use a Christmas print or solid red, green or white table cover. No excess inventory will be kept on site, so it is impor-

tant you fill out a vendor form so you can be contacted when more inventory is needed. Only handcrafted items may be sold in the boutique," Brieden said.

Each item must be labeled with the maker's name and the selling price (to include a 20-percent commission for the Activity Center).

Vendors may set up on Nov. 29 or Nov. 30 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Space will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis.

For more information call Brieden at 278-9571.

Sabinal PD Blue Santa drive wraps Dec. 14

The Sabinal Police Department is currently collecting gifts for a Blue Santa drive, which will conclude Dec. 14.

Gifts or cash donations can be dropped off at Sabinal City Hall, located at 501 N. Center St.

Police Chief Jesse "Chuy" Reyes and his officers will deliver all items collected to families in need based on recommendations provided by local churches.

Gifts will be distributed on or about Dec. 20.

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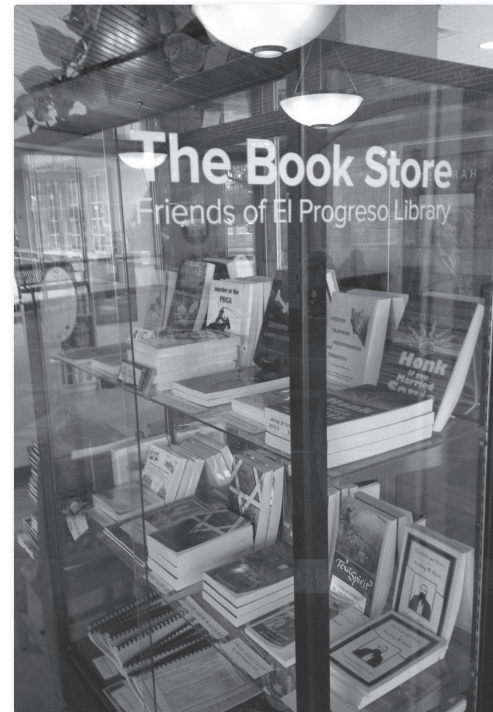
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The Book Store and library are located at 301 W. Main St. and the hours for the store are Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Indulge the bookworm on your holiday list

If you're looking to please that bibliophile on your gift list this Christmas but don't want to fork out too much cash, try The Book Store.

Located inside Uvalde's El Progreso Memorial Library, The Book Store offers an impressive selection of pre-read titles priced at \$1 for paperbacks and \$2 for hardbacks.

Bargain books – both hardback and paperback – are also offered at 25 and 10 cents per title.

Titles include books on health, travel, art, music, history, fiction and many, many other topics.

The store even has a display of Christmas arts and crafts books to help with holiday decorating.

In addition to literature, The Book Store also features DVDs, VHS tapes and

CDs; ink prints of local historic buildings; throw blankets; and jigsaw puzzles.

For a bit of novelty, the store also sells vintage high school yearbooks for \$15 that might make a nostalgic gift, especially if the recipient is featured in said album.

All proceeds from the store, which is operated by Friends of El Progreso Memorial Library, go to benefit the library, and cash donations are gladly accepted. Friends of El Progreso Memorial Library handbags are also available for \$10.

The Book Store and library are located at 301 W. Main St. and the hours for the store are Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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Santa's Elves busy collecting donations

The Uvalde workshop of Santa's Elves is in full swing this year and Yolanda Moreno and other volunteers are busy collecting donations of food, gifts, blankets and other items for distribution to needy families.

Moreno's business, Country Gardens and Seed at 403 S. Getty St., will serve as donation station for items including canned food, gifts of toys for children ages 6 months to 12 years and blankets for elderly residents who may not have adequate heating systems.

Donated food should be non-perishable and well within expiration dates.

Donations should be dropped off by Dec. 15.

Moreno said the goal is to help at least 200 families this year, and anyone is welcome to submit names of those in need. She said last year, due to a reduced number of donations, toys were taken three to four times per day to area clinics and handed out to children.

"This year it depends on how many," Moreno said of donations and how they will be distributed.



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USPS reminds gift givers of deadlines

With Christmas right around the corner those planning to use the U.S.

Postal Service to mail gifts are reminded of several deadlines to ensure gift

arrival by Dec. 25. For domestic mail, the deadlines for Parcel Post is

Dec. 14, while the deadline for First-Class mail is Dec. 20 and for Priority mail, Dec. 21. For Express mail, the deadline is Dec. 22.

The deadline for mail being sent to Africa or Central and South America is Dec. 3. and the deadline for mail being sent to Asia/Pacific Rim, Australia/New Zealand, Canada, Caribbean, Mexico, Europe and the Middle East is Dec. 10.

For family members interested in sending gifts

to military service members, the Postal Service offers free Military Care Kits, designed specifically for military families sending packages overseas. To request a kit call 1-800-610-8734 and ask for Military Care Kit.

The deadline has already passed for sending military mail by Parcel Post to arrive in time for Christmas.

PLEASE SEE **DELIVERY**, PAGE 19

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DELIVERY: To ensure arrival by Dec. 25, observe noted dates

FROM PAGE 18

For Space Availability Mail, the deadline for APO-FPO has also passed.

For most APO-FPO addresses the deadline for Parcel Airlift Mail is Dec. 3. For First Class Mail letters and card and for Priority Mail, the deadline is Dec. 10.

The deadline for Express Mail is Dec. 17 for most APO-FPO addresses.

The exception to the above deadlines is APO-FPO AE ZIP 093. There is no Express Mail service to 093. Parcel Post Service deadlines have passed and the deadline for Priority Mail and for First Class mail, letters and cards, is Dec. 3. For Parcel Airlift mail the deadline is Nov. 30.

When mailing packages to troops overseas, there are several rules and restrictions to keep in mind.

Mail must be addressed to a specific individual. Postal Service Form 2976-A is required for any mail weighing more than one pound and Customs documentation must be filled out on any mail addressed to an APO or FPO regardless of weight.

Items that cannot be shipped include securities, currency or precious metals in their raw, unmanufactured state, cigarettes

and other tobacco products, alcoholic beverages and coffee. Obscene or pornographic articles, prints, paintings, cards, films, videotapes, etc. are also prohibited

as they are non-authorized political materials.

Religious materials are prohibited in bulk, but such items for personal use are allowed.

Radio transceivers, cordless telephones, global positioning systems, scanners, base stations and handheld transmitters are prohibited.

Firearms and meats, including preserved meats, whether hermetically sealed or not, are prohibited. Meat products such as dried beef, salami and sausage may be mailed provided they remain in their original hermetically sealed packages and bear USDA certification.

For troops serving in Islamic countries, pork or pork-by-products are prohibited.

Fruits, animals and living plants are also prohibited.

DETAILS

FOR DOMESTIC mail, the deadlines for Parcel Post is Dec. 14, while the deadline for First-Class mail is Dec. 20 and for Priority mail, Dec. 21. For Express mail, the deadline is Dec. 22.

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Caution needed during holiday shopping, driving

The period between Black Friday – tomorrow – and the end of the year is possibly Uvalde Police Department's busiest time when it comes to burglary of homes

and vehicles. The threat of vehicular accidents also rises as shoppers scramble to make holiday purchases.

The Uvalde Police Department asks shoppers to use

caution and be courteous to others while driving.

"We want everyone to get where they need to go safely," said Officer Wayne Seiple, public information

officer, noting there will be a lot of traffic in town.

"Please don't drink and drive," he added.

With Black Friday marking the start of holiday shopping, Seiple also has tips for preventing burglary and theft of personal items.

Seiple cautioned first against leaving purses and wallets in shopping carts.

"Turn your back for one second and then your purse or items in your purse are missing," the police officer said.

He advised against shop-

ping alone and encourages everyone to take a friend along while keeping an eye out for potential problems.

"Be aware," he said.

Also, Seiple said, it is not a good idea to leave newly purchased items clearly visible in your car.

Instead, put them in the trunk or hide them some other way so they can't be seen.

That same advice applies at home. Christmas gifts should not be placed in front of windows or other areas visible to passersby.

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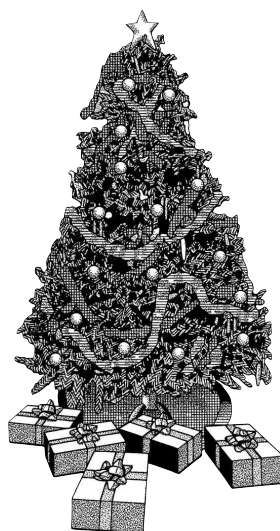


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