

Sisters salutes...

• Breezy Tewalt, a Sisters High School graduate in the Class of 2011, is graduating December 15 with a masters in education from Texas Womens University. She has accepted a second-grade position in Keller, Texas, and will begin immediately following graduation.

• Jennifer Knowles-Seher and Deri Frazee wrote:

Another year of thankfulness...

This past Thursday, millions of men, women, and children spent the day gathered together to celebrate. Each gathering being traditional, and yet unique. In our small city of Sisters, over 125 of us celebrated at the Sisters Community Church. A recent tradition to the city, yet timeless to American culture: Thanksgiving.

The annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner began five years ago, by two local citizens. The idea being to bring the meal to the people that wouldn't otherwise have it. With about three weeks of time to pull it together

and a lot of will, about 125 meals were served. The volunteer group was small, worked from start to finish, and still it was an amazing day of success. Looking at the current year, the volunteer group grew to over 40 individuals working in rotating two-hour shifts. The "staff" consists of still a very small group of people who are also volunteers, and the number of meals served topped 300. Every diner was offered a meal "to-go" for themselves, and anyone else they wished to take one to. Some took extras home to family members, some to neighbors, some to homeless individuals unable to attend. All the food remaining at the end of service was carefully packed and delivered to the Sisters Fire Station, so that all the firefighters scheduled to work were able to enjoy a meal as well.

The food was all donated by local merchants and citizens, or purchased with donated funds. The Sisters Community Church has been

an invaluable partner by donating the facility to cook and serve since the beginning. Community members gather over a scratch-made meal, served to their table at no charge for those who attend. Some sit with people they know, some sit with strangers and leave new friends. Children even have a craft table to entertain them while their parents relax and visit with others.

It is very easy to see why this meal is enjoyed so much by diners and volunteers alike.

Looking back on this year's successful gathering, many thanks are due. Without the generosity of local merchants, this endeavor would be tremendously difficult. We owe heartfelt and sincere thanks to the following: Ray's Food Place, Sno Cap Drive In, Sisters Market, Sisters Bakery, Sisters Smokehouse, Spoons, and Xpress Printing. Several private individuals donated food as well. Many put something into the

donation jar at the meal, providing seed money toward next year's feast.

An extra-special thanks to Vince Faludi and Dutch Van Krieken for providing a truly high-end, restaurant quality meal. It's truly awesome having such talented chefs practice their artistry for us to enjoy for free! Thanks also to Debbi Stevens of Spoons for providing the tablescapes and craft table for the children. Lastly, but absolutely not least, a huge shout of thanks to Kimber Finney for her hard work and dedication as the volunteer coordinator.

Until next year, when we WILL see you again!



PHOTO PROVIDED

SHS graduate Breezy Tewalt will soon be teaching in Texas.

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