Thank You Commerce
Third Annual Bois d’Arc
Christmas Celebration A Huge Success

By Paul Voss

The Christmas Season was started in Grand Style this year with quite a few major events in Commerce, Texas. Friday night our Commerce Tigers had a great playoff game, even though they lost, they had a great season making the playoffs. Saturday the Texas A&M-Commerce Lions won another round in the playoffs on their way to play here next week. With another win they are playing for a National Championship. Saturday morning there was Brunch with Santa at the Children's Museum, followed by Merry Market Place at the First United Methodist Church. The Public Library hosted an open house and the Chamber of Commerce had the Bois d’Arc Christmas on the Square and Parade. Wow, what an event filled weekend for Commerce and our citizens.

This was the 3rd annual event downtown for the Christmas Celebration including 17 vendors, a mini-carnival, children's movies, Santa Claus and great food on the square. This event just keeps growing and growing with really big plans for next year as well. The Parade had some of the best floats and entries that we have ever had. Some families outdid themselves with the light shows on board their floats. Our local business community had some great entries as well. There were antique cars, fire trucks and people enjoying a beautiful evening in the parade of lights. ATV’s, horses, bicycles, cars, trucks, emergency vehicles, police cars, city officials, candidates for public office, Commerce High School Marching Band, and spectators 5-6 deep in downtown Commerce. What a testament to our little town, the outpouring of support for the Christmas Spirit and unity in our community.

I want to thank Commerce Chevrolet Buick who was our “Partnership Sponsor” for the event as well as the Grand Marshall and for their continuing support of the Chamber. Chris and Autumn Graves and family brought their own ride to proceed over the parade and other vehicles were provided by their dealership to pull floats, detailed by Joey Patterson and his crew in their service department.

I also want to thank the City of Commerce Parks Department for the great decorations in downtown as well as the help with the square. The Street Department helped me personally set up and prepare for the event and

I appreciate all they do to help us. Thanks Sheryl and Ronnie Millar, Jeannie Creed, Amy Welch, Susan Voss and the volunteers from the University and High School for your help making this a premier event in Northeast Texas.

We at the Chamber wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Grand Marshals
Commerce Chevrolet
Dear Chamber Members,

Did you make it to our 3rd Annual Bois d’Arc Christmas Celebration and Parade? If you didn’t, you certainly missed out. Santa visited with the boys and girls and even let a few of our Chamber volunteers give him their wish list for Christmas this year. Santa’s wishes came true as the Texas A&M Commerce Lions football team advanced to the NCAA DII semi-finals while he visited our town square. Our Christmas parade included dancers, marchers, walkers, floats, and of course Santa made one last appearance for the evening on his fire truck sleigh. The Hunt County Sheriff’s Office received a special recognition and plaque for their continued support of each of our annual parades.

2017 has been an incredible year for the Chamber. I am thankful and blessed for each member and volunteer who put in countless hours and labor into our successful year. Each board member is a volunteer who shares their time selflessly in creating successful events, committees, publications, etc. Without each of you and your contributions, our Chamber would not be the organization it is. I appreciate each and every one of you greatly.

Thank you for letting me serve you as a Board member for the last 3 years and as the 2017 President. Participating with the Chamber has been an amazing adventure and I am thankful for the time spent. I have always enjoyed Commerce, however serving with the Chamber has allowed me to fall in love with Commerce.

Thank you again to our members and volunteers. I cannot wait to see what 2018 has in store.

Best Regards,

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jharris@churchillcommerce.com
903-886-4444

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| Display Ad (Horz. 5” w x 3” h or Vert. 3.25” w x 4.625” h) | $30 |
| Event Showcase (5” w x 6” h) | $50 |
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Chamber Membership Levels

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Call 903.886.3950 to join the Chamber today!
**Chamber Calendar of Upcoming Events**

Lunch and Christmas Entertainment Program TBA .............................................. December 12
Retired Teachers - Program Nan Clay-Commerce Public Library .......................... January 9
Retired Teachers - Program Richard Hill-Homeland Security ............................ February 13
Annual Chamber Banquet .................................................................................. March 8
Retired Teachers - Program Coco Behm-Women in Need Education .................. March 13
Retired Teachers - Program Helon Razniak & Luann Huffman-Plant Demonstration ...... April 10
Retired Teachers - Dinner and Newly Retired Teachers Welcome Program (6:30pm) ............ May 8

If you would like to us to showcase your event or have it added to the Calendar of Events please e-mail your event information to the Chamber of Commerce at info@commerce-chamber.com

**On Going Events**

**Family Nights at the Commerce Public Library.** Every Thursday evening from 6:00-8:00pm.

**GriefShare** - Begins September 11, 2017 The GriefShare support/recovery group hosted by First Baptist Church of Commerce will begin its Fall semester on Monday, September 11, 2017. Nationally-recognized grief experts teach via the video-based curriculum developed by a non-denominational group, Church Initiative. The Commerce group will meet every Monday night, beginning September 11, in the Church Parlor from 6 to 8 p.m. for thirteen weeks. Books are provided free of charge to participants in our local group. For more information, contact Jim or Teena Ayres at 903-886-8600 or 214-729-7525. More information and resources are provided at www.GriefShare.org.

The Northeast Texas Hunt County Retired Teachers meet at 9:30 am for social meeting and 10:00 am for program and business meeting. This event takes place at the Texas A&M Commerce Alumni Center on the second Tuesday of months September through May. All retired teachers, staff and friends are welcome.

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**RECYCLE IN COMMERCE**

Due to the success of our partnership with the University and our new location, community members are now welcome to drop off recyclables at anytime throughout the month.

If help unloading recyclables is needed, please contact us and we will schedule a time for you to meet a volunteer. Contact us by either sending an email to commerce.cares.recycling@gmail.com or picking up a flyer at the site which contains further contact information.

The City containers are in the University parking lot at Campbell and Walnut in the same area as the University recycle units.

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**at the Chamber of Commerce**

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A&M-COMMERCE ANNOUNCES CHANGE IN UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT LEADERSHIP

By Daniela Chamorro

President Ray Keck announced that Keturi Beatty will serve as the University’s next Vice President of Advancement. Beatty joined A&M-Commerce as the Associate Vice President for Advancement in July of 2017. Interim Vice President for Advancement, Wyman Williams, will continue his service to the University as the Associate Vice President for Advancement and Beatty’s senior development officer.

President Keck looks forward to working with Beatty in her new role, stating, “Everyone who works with Keturi notices her acute ability to listen and to engage a community of active participants in University life. She possesses all the warmth and openness East Texas proudly offers both our nation and the global community. She will serve as the ideal partner with Wyman Williams, whose knowledge of this population and its history is unmatched.”

Beatty previously served as the Senior Director of Development for the College of Education at the University of North Texas. In this role, she redesigned major gift solicitation strategy, aligned the strategic priorities of the university’s College Development Board, implemented a peer solicitation program, and integrated communications, alumni, marketing, events and strategies to support college and campaign goals. Prior to her time at UNT, Beatty held advancement positions with The Hockaday School, where she served as the Director of Planned Giving and Stewardship and the Director of Annual Giving.

Now settled in with the A&M-Commerce advancement team, Beatty looks forward to assuming her new role, stating, “In my short four months, I have fallen for this great university. I am honored to serve in this role, and I look forward to partnering with our alumni and donors to build a robust culture of philanthropy at A&M-Commerce.”

Wyman Williams has served as a development officer at A&M-Commerce since 2010, and as Interim Vice President for Advancement for the past 18 months. Williams has lived in Commerce since he was three years old, and has had the rare opportunity to attend first grade through college in Commerce. He also owned and operated a family business in town. He is a 1969 graduate of East Texas State University and prior to joining senior leadership at A&M-Commerce, Wyman served on its Foundation Board for more than 20 years.

Wyman looks forward to continuing the important work of expanding alumni and donor support for his beloved alma mater. “Keturi is the right person to lead advancement at A&M-Commerce,” he said. “I am thrilled to assist her in taking our fundraising enterprise to the next level.”
COMMERCe AREA ALUMNI
Chapter of Texas A&M
COMMERCe

By Hoyle Julian

Retired Teachers held their regular meeting on Tuesday, November 14 in the University Alumni Building. Before the business got underway, the group stood as President Bettina Zvanut led the pledge of allegiance to our flag.

Yvonne Rollins introduced our speaker Blake Cooper. Blake is a devout advocate for education. As a former teacher and superintendent, Blake Cooper is the Executive Director of Friends of Texas Public Schools. His expertise in the different aspects of education surfaces when he discusses his passion for education for everyone. Blake Cooper is a great motivational speaker as he explains the importance of education. His interest and love for his subject is evident when he speaks. Blake travels and shares his thoughts and ideas with various groups in the interest promoting the importance of education for everyone.

CANDLELIGHT
CHRISTMAS CONCERT

By Ann Julian

The lights were dimmed and the candlelight procession floated down the aisles of the First Presbyterian Church in Commerce, Texas singing O Come, O Come, Emanuel on Sunday, December 2, 2017. This began the annual Texas A&M University -Commerce Chamber Singers program to celebrate the coming of the blessed Christmas Season. The Chamber Singers, directed by Dr. Randal Hooper specialize in A cappella vocal music. The ensemble is noted for its excellence in the choral art. This was evident as they sang special songs of the Christmas season.

The readings between the choral performances had special meanings for the season. The readings included 16th Century Marian Hymn, excerpts from The Meaning of Life, The Children's Day, Minstrels, A Toast to Santa Claus, and Open Heart from Christmas Without Price. The crowd also was mesmerized by the songs that were performed: The First Noel, Ave Maria, Cantante Domino, Spotless Rose, and Deck the Halls. We Wish You A Merry Christmas was a sincere wish from the Singers. Silent Night was the candlelight finale. The voices came through beautifully for the entire program. There was a definite overwhelming standing ovation for the group and their program.

After the performance, Reverend Krista Rasco invited the group and all the guests to a reception in the hospitality room. This was a great opportunity for the guests to visit with the singers. It was a great start for our Christmas Season.

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-COMMERCE STUDENT TEACHER RECEIVES STATE AWARD

By Daniela Chamorro

Tiffany Kral received the "Clinical Teacher of the Year Award" from the Texas Directors of Field Experience (TDFE) for her student teaching at Commerce Independent School District. She was one of three teachers to accept the award at the Consortium of State Organizations for Texas Teacher Education (CSOTTE) on October 22 in Corpus Christi.

Kral credited part of her success to the faculty’s ability to communicate with her as a colleague as opposed to a student-in-training.

The following individuals were present for the awards ceremony: Timothy Letzring, Dean, College of Education and Human Services; Mark J. Reid, Associate Dean; Rhonda Clark, Coordinator of the Northeast Texas Center for Professional Development and Teaching; and Nicole Pearce, who supervised Tiffany’s student teaching.

Letzring said, "This recognition of Tiffany as a student teacher is a testament to her talent and commitment to teaching. We could not be prouder of her and also recognize the role of our faculty and the school partners who contributed to her success."

Linda Mott, Director of Educator Certification and Academic Services, said, "Tiffany is an example of a true professional educator. She understands and knows that asking questions and continual learning is a hallmark of an effective teacher." Mott was Kral’s sponsor for the award and a member of TDFE.

Kral, a Core Subjects EC-6 Special Education major, completed her student teaching in the spring of 2017 and now teaches 3rd grade math and science for Sulphur Springs ISD.

"Tiffany immersed herself wholeheartedly into her clinical teaching experience, seeking out every opportunity to gain pedagogical skills necessary for success as a future classroom teacher," Pearce said.
**Assistant Dean of Enrollment Named to Texas State Board**

Assistant Dean of Enrollment Dr. Fred Fuentes was appointed by the president of the Texas Association of Chicanos in Higher Education (TACHE) to serve on the State Board and regional representative of the Northeast Texas area.

Fuentes is a 2012 recipient of the TACHE Graduate Fellowship Award and has presented at TACHE’s annual conferences in the past. In 2010 he co-presented with colleagues Luis Franco and Gilbert Hernandez on The SALSA Project (Success & Access for Latino Students Ahora), and presented on “The Self-Anglicization of Latino Names to Acculturate Into American Society” in 2013. Last year, he co-presented with Dr. Chris Green and Julian Sanchez on the Latino American Mentorship Program, bilingual mentorship programs, and grant funding.

Mrs. Belinda Harmon, TACHE President and Director of Community Outreach at the University of Texas-San Antonio, stated, “Not only will Dr. Fuentes be an excellent representative, but the fact that he has been a TACHE Fellow and now comes back to serve on the board makes him a great role model for our members.”

TACHE was established in 1974 and has been a significant resource for students, staff, faculty and institutions alike. In 2002, TACHE issued a series of report cards on the status of employment and educational access of institutions of higher education in Texas. Each institution is given a performance grade based on Hispanic student enrollment, as well as the extent to which faculty and administrative employment at these universities reflect the student demographics of the respective institution. The report cards have helped diversify the staff and faculty at institutions of higher learning. The state board also earned accolades for its annual conference that recognizes distinguished scholars, faculty and staff.

“Dr. Fuentes will be an active participant on the TACHE Board and will serve as an outstanding representative for the Northeast Texas area,” said Dr. Lee Young, Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management & Retention at Texas A&M University-Commerce. Dr. Young adds that in this role, Dr. Fuentes will continue to be an advocate and strong supporter of higher education, inclusion and student engagement as critical strategies for increasing student success and goal attainment.
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COMMERCe CONNECTION

December 2017

COMMERCe CHAMBER of commerce
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The **Tubby Adkisson Mobile Mammography Coach** is coming to Commerce monthly in 2018 at the Hunt Regional Emergency Medical Center.

| January 3 | July 11 |
| February 7 | August 1 |
| March 7 | September 5 |
| April 4 | October 3 |
| May 2 | November 7 |
| June 6 | December 5 |

All insurances accepted at Hunt Regional are also accepted on the Mobile Mammography Coach, including Medicare and Medicaid. We can also help with payment resources for uninsured/income-eligible women or those who choose to pay cash. For help with payment resources, please call 903-408-5010. Appointments and pre-registration are requested.

**To schedule individual screening mammograms, please call 903-408-5010.**
10 WAYS TO CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS LIKE OUR GRANDPARENTS DID EMBRACE THE ATTITUDE AND TRADITIONS OF AN EARLIER GENERATION FOR OLD-FASHIONED HOLIDAY FUN

By Arricca SanSone, from Country Living

If you're weary of over-the-top consumerism and crowded shopping malls, step back to a simpler time. Our grandparents didn't max out their credit cards or shop 'til they dropped. Having an old-fashioned holiday season centers on choosing what really matters to you. "My whole life is about simple living, slowing down and getting away from distractions," says Melissa Rakes, who blogs at Gracefullittlehoneybee.com. "That's especially important around the holidays when we have the opportunity to focus more on family, faith and community."

Here's how to enjoy the season more like our Grammas and Poppas used to do:

1. Use cash only - Our grandparents didn't go into debt over the holidays; they had a budget and stuck to it out of sheer necessity. "Spending with cash makes it more real. When it's gone, it's gone," says Elizabeth Revenko, a certified financial planning professional with Mosaic Financial Partners in San Francisco. "It also gives you a moment to stop and think about what you're buying, which makes spending more focused." If you shop online, use a prepaid card to stay within your limits (or make a promise to yourself not to go over your budget no matter what!).

2. Bake from scratch - Dust off the old recipe books or cards and try your hand at Bubbie's latkes, Bubka's potica, or Gammie's famous 7-Up cake. Your efforts don't have to be perfect, but this simple act pays homage to your loved ones, especially those who are now gone. If you don't have a recipe that's been handed down through the family, check out our favorite Christmas desserts and Christmas cookies to find one that seems close to what you remember as a kid.

3. Mail holiday cards - Even in the age of social media and instant updates, real honest-to-goodness cards are a way to reconnect with family and friends far and near. "It's still an American custom that's special," says Lizzie Post, cohost of the Awesome Etiquette podcast. "It's the one time a year we send and receive good wishes in the mail. Nothing else compares." Photo cards, postcards, or Year in Review letters are all fine; just keep them positive and factual without bragging.

4. Decorate with what you have - Grandma used what she had to deck the halls. "Look around your yard and house to find natural elements to dress up your home," says Rakes. "Many natural items are prettier anyhow, and they're fresh and free." Collect pine cones and make a wreath, or arrange in glass apothecary jars. Cut greenery and tuck into simple white pitchers. String cranberries and popcorn for the tree. Dress up branches with glitter paint, then place in vases or line the mantel.

5. Spend time together - "That's what we'll remember years from now, not what you gave or received as gifts," says Rakes. Bake cookies with your kids. Plan a family game night. Attend services at a house of worship. Go caroling. Drive around to look at Christmas lights. Make ornaments. Arrange a potluck New Year's party with friends. The point is to interact and be present in the moment with your family and friends, not with your smartphone or tablet.

6. Make gifts - Our grandparents used their talents to create gifts. "But you don't have to be crafty," says Rakes. "Homemade goodies such as cookies and breads are always welcome, but you can make plenty of other easy gifts." Layer your favorite cookie recipe ingredients in a Mason jar, and attach baking instructions. Package homemade seasoning chili or taco mixes, or make your own vanilla extract. Download a free inspirational quote and frame it. Put together a themed gift basket such as movie night.

7. Dress up - "When you look at old photos of our parents and grandparents, you see that everyone is dressed nicely at big holiday gatherings," says Post. Sure, you want to be comfy in your PJs on Christmas morning. But kids—and actually, most adults—don't have that many dress-up events to attend these days. "Everything is super-casual. But sometimes it's okay to make your gathering a dress-up occasion so that it feels special and different," says Post.

8. Write thank you notes - Your grandma would tell you that nice manners still matter. Sit down and write a real thank you note this holiday season, whether you're thanking someone for a lovely party or a thoughtful gift. "They're always appropriate and relevant," says Post. "And handwritten reigns supreme."

9. Share memories - Part of the joy of the season is reminiscing about what makes your family unique. Ask your parents and grandparents about their holiday customs growing up or what they received as gifts when they were kids. Celebrate what makes you family, especially the silly or quirky traditions. "We have a mouse head ornament that has a long history in our family," says Revenko. "Sharing stories, traditions, and values defines your family and is a great gift to each other that doesn't cost a cent."

10. Give back to others - Our grandparents shared what they had with neighbors when times were tough. Think about what matters to you and your family and share what you can to reflect your beliefs, says Revenko. Your gifts don't necessarily have to be monetary. Collect coats for homeless shelters. Help an elderly neighbor put up her tree. Send care packages to military members who are deployed away from home this year. Invite someone who's single and may not have family nearby to your own holiday dinner.
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Commerce Automatic Gas 903-886-3045
FEC Electric 903-455-1715
OnCore Electric Delivery 888-313-6862

ENGINEERS
Hayter Engineering, Inc. 903-785-0303

EQUIPMENT RENTALS
Luckett Crane Service LTD 903-886-3407

EVENT PLANNING
4 Ever Event Planning 903-458-9627

FARM/RANCH
Aaron Ranch 903-886-8836

FARM SUPPLIES/FEED
Fix & Feed Commerce Hardware 903-886-7917
Hunt County Farm Supply 903-862-2273
Price Liquid Feed 903-513-4006
Twin Oaks Farm 903-886-5358

FINANCIAL SERVICES
Active Wealth Management 903-455-6956
AIS Financial Services 903-886-8050
Dixie Turman/State Farm Bank 903-886-7774

FITNESS CENTERS
Anytime Fitness 903-886-8811
Commerce Fitness 903-886-1266

FLORISTS
April Showers 903-886-3104

FOOD STORES/MARKETS/TRUCKS
Bruegger's 903-886-3252
Cajun Cone 903-413-1202
Kathy’s Old Fashioned Ice Cream 469-223-4774
Kona Ice Rocks 469-500-6500
Twin Oaks Farms 903-886-5358

FUNDRAISERS
Kona Ice Rocks 469-500-6500

FURNITURE
Affordable Furniture & Etc. 903-886-6096

FUNERAL HOMES/CREMATION SERVICES
Commerce Funeral Home & Cremation Services 903-886-8600
Jones-Walker and Son 903-886-3313

GIVEaways
City of Commerce 903-886-1100
State Representative Dan Flynn 903-455-0971

HAIR/BEAUTY/NAIL SALON
Aracely’s Hair Salon 903-366-9256
Hair on the Square by Kristie 903-886-0191
The Mane Salon & Spa 903-886-0717

HARDWARE
Fix & Feed Commerce Hardware 903-886-7917

HOME HEALTH
1st Choice 903-886-2666
Home Health Associates 903-886-061

HOME INSPECTION
JK’s Professional Inspections 903-886-3069
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A HOLIDAY TRADITION.
SINCE 1876.