Imperial Chamber of Commerce members were thrilled with the response to their Christmas Festival on Dec. 3, which drew hundreds of people to local businesses for a variety of events, specials and free refreshments. Mary Deyle, Chamber secretary and a promotions committee member, said, “It was awesome. We had a great turnout. There were lots of people out and about,” all day last Wednesday. There were special events, such as a fashion show, above, at Alco, where Sophie Fiedler and Emmett Zuege were among those modeling pajamas. At Imperial County Ford, below, Dan Robinson serves up a cinnamon roll to a customer, one of the many businesses offering free refreshments during the day. More than 80 youngsters came to visit Santa, who was located at Adams Bank & Trust in the morning and Pinnacle Bank in the afternoon. Among them were sisters Bryne, left, and Landry McNair (above), who weren’t shy about getting up close to Santa. Music was also part of the day, as guitar students of Marla Smith performed several numbers at McNair Agency. There were also tours of some of the businesses in town, a coloring contest and a number of free lunches. The day ended with a soup and pie supper at the VFW Hall put on by the VFW Auxiliary, and they were swamped. Organizers ran out of soup about 6:30 p.m. as more than 200 were served. Below, Teresa Groff and Sue Moore serve up the chili, chicken noodle and potato soups. Deyle said they plan to build on this year’s event for 2009. See page 7 for a list of prize winners. (Republican photos)

Merry Christmas