

## Lodge 229, Abilene meets quarterly

SPJST Lodge 229, Abilene will hold quarterly meetings on the second Tuesday in February, May, August, and November at 6 p.m. at Rosa's Cafe and Tortilla Factory, 1026 North Judge Ely Boulevard, Abilene, Texas 79601. Please join us.

Thank you for your attention.  
—SPJST—

## Fort Worth Friendship Club

The last meeting was held on Wednesday, January 4, 2017, and I was unable to attend. This is a short article as I think it is important to let everyone know that the meetings will now be held at the new St. Thomas Catholic Church, located at 5953 Bowman Roberts Road, Fort Worth, Texas 76179.

In the event you are not a St. Thomas member and do not know where the new church is, I'll try to give you some directions.

From Azle Avenue, going north, cross 820 Loop. Turn right on Boat Club Road. Travel about two to three miles. Pass the Sokol on the right, and at the light, turn right on Cromwell Marine Creek Road. Then after about one-quarter mile, turn right on Bowman Roberts Road. You'll see the church on the right.

We hope to see all of you there with none of you getting lost!

## Lodge 117, Robstown Assists Good Samaritan Rescue Mission



In December, President Frances McDonald, Vice President/FAC Frank Sijansky, and Treasurer Kathryn Marek helped the Good Samaritan Rescue Mission wrap gifts for the residents and homeless for Christmas. President Frances McDonald, far left, and Vice President/FAC Frank Sijansky, far right, are pictured in front of the Christmas gifts for the Christmas Eve party at Good Samaritan Rescue Mission.

CENTER PHOTO: Director of Good Samaritan Rescue Mission Carol Murphrey, second from left, accepts a donation check from Lodge 117 President Frances McDonald, left, Treasurer Kathryn Marek, and Vice President/FAC Frank Sijansky. The monetary donation is one of Lodge 117's annual donations.

—Submitted by Kathryn Marek, Treasurer

We will have the normal potluck lunch with fried chicken and the meeting. We will play games.

So Until, Keep Smiling!  
Libbie Vrla

—SPJST—



## Schlesingers named Entertainers of the Year

Paul and Tara Schlesinger of Taylor were recently named Entertainers of the Year by the Country Music Hall of Fame of Gatesville, Texas. The announcement took place at the December Comal Country Music Show in New Braunfels where the Schlesingers perform as members of the house band on a monthly basis.

Roger Vierser, director of the Gatesville Country Music Hall of Fame, presented the Schlesingers with certificates and a trophy in recognition of their outstanding accomplishments and musical abilities. Paul had previously been inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2012, and named its Country and Swing Artist of the Year in 2014. "Tara and Paul

## Lodge 157, Lubbock Youth Visit Santa



Ernest and Fredda Kristinek's great-grandchildren are pictured with Santa. They are Reece, Rylee, Brody, Grant, and Cooper, all members of Lodge 157, Lubbock. They are also the grandchildren of Walter and Carla Kristinek.



Tara and Paul Schlesinger of Taylor are presented Entertainers of the Year awards by Roger Vierser, right, director of the Country Music Hall of Fame of Gatesville. The ceremony was held at the Comal Country Music Show in New Braunfels on December 20, 2016.

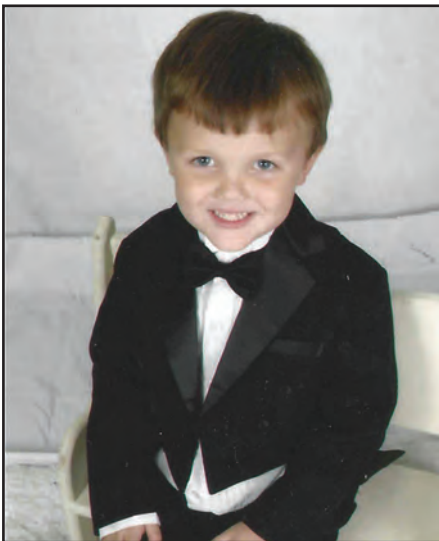
—Photo by Donna Schlesinger

mean an awful lot to the members of the Hall of Fame, and to a lot of people around the country, as they sing and play everywhere.” says Vierse. “It was our distinct honor to induct Paul into the Hall of Fame. I felt he had everything going for him in the right direction. Then he went and got married . . . and things only improved!”

The Gatesville Country Music Hall of Fame holds a show every month in their city auditorium, and the Schlesingers were featured performers in September. Of all the entertainers that performed throughout the year, the Hall of Fame’s directors felt the Schlesingers deserved their highest annual recognition. Due to the Schlesingers’ travel schedule, the presentation occurred on stage in New Braunfels rather than the Gatesville Hall of Fame.

Paul, a lifelong resident of Taylor and a member of SPJST Lodge 29, Taylor, is a fiddle player and vocalist, and his wife Tara, previously from Rosanky, Texas, is a pianist and vocalist. They married on June 27, 2015. The couple performs regularly at the Lee and Milam County Cowboy Churches, S.P.J.S.T. Assisted Living facility in Taylor, and once a month for the South Austin Senior Dance Club as members of the Stardusters band. As previously mentioned, they also play at the Comal Country Music Show in New Braunfels, held at the KC Hall on the third Tuesday every month.

## Lodge 155, Austin youth celebrates 5th birthday



Nathan Tullos, member of SPJST Lodge 155, Austin, celebrated his fifth birthday on Tuesday, January 24, 2017. He is the son of Ashley and Kyle Tullos of Bertram. Happy birthday, Nathan!

Paul’s band, the Knights of Texas Swing, performs at many area venues, including Patsy’s Café in Austin, and the annual Old Settler’s Reunion in Round Rock. His latest CD, Paul Schlesinger and his Knights of Texas Swing, was released earlier this year, and unites Paul with many renowned western swing performers whose recording histories date back to the 1940s. The CD has been nominated for an Academy of Western Artists Award in Western Swing, and earned a five-star review in the July issue of *Country Music People*, an internationally distributed magazine from the UK. Their November issue features a four-page interview and pictorial focusing on Paul’s music background. As of December, the CD has held the number one position for the most requested album on the nationally distributed “Swingin’ West” western swing radio show for the past four months. The track “This Song Is Just For You,” held the number two position for three months on the same chart. The CD can be purchased from Paul’s website, [www.paulschlesinger.com](http://www.paulschlesinger.com), Friends of the Bride in Taylor, Plain Jane’s On Main in Taylor, Unique Celebrations in Bartlett, the Dowdy House in Lexington, and the KRXT radio station in Rockdale.

Paul is a 22-year employee of the Texas Dental Association in Austin. Through the years, he has participated in and won many SPJST-sponsored tarok tournaments. He also performs with Glen Collins and the Alibis, a classic-country show and dance hall band who have been featured on the syndicated television program “Songwriters Across Texas,” and perform all over Central Texas, including regular dances in area venues such as the Taylor and Elgin SPJST halls.

Tara is an assistant activities coordinator at S.P.J.S.T. Skilled Nursing facility in Taylor. She has a love for classic country, southern gospel, swing, and oldies rock-style music. She played in local bands around the Bastrop area, including the country-gospel group Gettin’ on Track, as well as the Hwy 304 Band, playing everything from the Eagles, Georges Strait and Jones, Patsy Cline, Fats Domino, Floyd Cramer, and Jerry Lee Lewis.

For more information, be sure to visit [www.facebook.com/schlesinger.paul](http://www.facebook.com/schlesinger.paul).

— SPJST —



## Last Laugh

By d.knape

These callow youth all think that they won't ever get to see old age

the time will come let's face the facts when we will see who will laugh last

the years of youth are briefly cast they think they will forever last

yet age has ways of creeping fast in the end it's age that will laugh last.

— SPJST —

## Needle in the Haystack

By d.knape

Common sense is what we lack

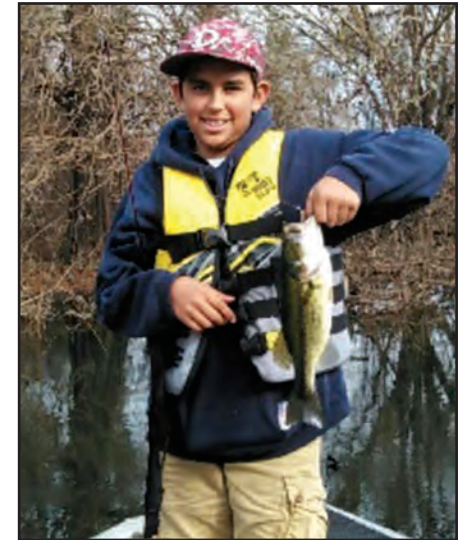
it's like the needle in the haystack

sense used to be common now it's a sad fact

there's too few needles too many haystacks.

— SPJST —

## Lodge 187 Round Rock youth shares catch



Lodge 187, Round Rock Member Ty Roman displays his catch while participating with the Diboll Junior High Fishing Team. The tournament was held on Lake Sam Rayburn. Ty is the son of Hector and Deandra Roman and grandson of Janie Barron and Eldon Lange. Janie is a member and director of Lodge 187.



## ★ ★ ★ Presenting 2017 Officers ★ ★ ★ SPJST Lodge 229, Abilene



The 2017 officers of Lodge 229, Abilene are, left to right, Fraternal Activities Coordinator Deborah Stevens, Vice President Jesusita Hudson, President Janice Stevens, and Secretary/Treasurer Tammy Copeland.