

## Chamber News

### Castroville Area Chamber of Commerce

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By Ashlee Tondre Bates

The Chamber would like to introduce you to our new Marketing Coordinator, Kimberly Frangesh. Kimberly comes to us with a Bachelor of Arts from Stephen F. Austin State University. She has an extensive background in marketing through her work at the call centers at Stephen F. Austin, Rice University and the University of Texas at San Antonio. She was involved in raising over \$2 million dollars through the student calling programs she helped run. Kimberly also speaks, reads and writes fluent French which is really going to come in handy when we have visitors from Alsace. We are very excited to welcome her to the chamber and we look forward to her helping with our marketing efforts.

We wanted to give you an update on the 2009 Visitor Guide. It has officially been sent to the Press! We are so excited that this project will soon be over and we will have a great product to show for it. Designer Joan Tinar of JT Advertising and Graphics has been working hard with me and several others to get this guide redone and printed. We will be meeting with the printer this week to approve the copy so we can get these guides printed. We expect to have them in our hands before or around Thanksgiving. We will be sure to let everyone know as soon as we receive them. We know you are all looking forward to seeing them as much as we are. We hope you will be happy with the finished product.

Looking for a gift for that certain person who seems to have everything? Well why not give them a souvenir of your town. Stop by the Chamber office today and pick up your authentic Castroville gifts. Check out our new mugs with a Castroville scene on them. They make really great gifts and are only \$4 a piece or buy a set of 4 for \$12. Or how about a Castroville t-shirt or cap? No one can ever have enough of these. Maybe you want to send them something Alsatian. We have many items sold by the Steinbach House committee such as a Steinbach House ornament, bottle openers, toothpick holders, key chains, cork screws and more. Or if you have a reader in the family, check out our selection of books made available by the Castro Colonies Heritage Association. These include the Medina County History Book, "Ripples from Medina Lake," "Castroville and Henry Castro," "Old Favorite Receipts," "Tales Told and Retold" and several others. So stop by the Chamber office today and mark some of those gifts off your list early!

We got a call the other day from someone who wanted know if there was a program in Castroville that collected Christmas gifts for children of needy families. We were glad to find out that there indeed are two entities in the Castroville area that handle this. If you or someone you know would like to help out a family in need in the Castroville/Medina County Area, you have two choices. One is the Brown Santa program that is put on by the Medina County Sheriff's Department. To find out how to donate, please call them at 830-741-6150. The other program is Christmas in Castroville which is led by Amelia Payne. Those interested in donating to this program can contact Amelia at 830-931-3433. So if you have thought about helping someone who may not be able to provide gifts for their children this year, please contact one of these programs.

This weekend, Tractor City will host a Mowing Service Essentials/Winterization Clinic to help you get your lawn equipment ready for the winter. The clinic starts at 9am on Saturday morning at Tractor City. Then head on out to Hondo for Christmas in God's Country which features arts and crafts, food, live entertainment and more. On Sunday, don't forget about the St. Louis School Fundraiser taking place at the Old Alsatian Steakhouse at 5:30pm. Tickets are just \$25 per person. Check out our calendar of events for more details on these events. Enjoy your weekend and this wonderful weather!