

PORT ARTHUR  
**The News**  
CONNECTING COMMUNITIES

## SEND US YOUR NEWS!

The Port Arthur News is your community bulletin board. The following deadlines will help ensure your news item is included in The News in a timely manner. Always include the name and phone number of someone who can answer questions about news announcements. For additional information, contact Roger Cowles, editor, at 721-2431.

**RELIGION** — 5 p.m. Wednesday before the Saturday publication.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**, including births, anniversaries, reunions — 5 p.m. Wednesday, a week and a half before publication.

**NEWS BRIEFS** including civic and social club meetings — 5 p.m. at least two days before publication. Briefs run on a daily basis.

**DINNERS AND FUNDRAISERS** — 3 p.m. Tuesday before the Thursday publication. Fundraisers include all benefits and benefit dinners, regardless of what organization or individual is sponsoring the event.

**SENIOR LINE** — 5 p.m. Thursday before the Monday publication.

*All forms must be received at the Port Arthur News offices, 3501 Turtle Creek Drive, by the above deadlines. Forms may be faxed to 724-6854, e-mailed to [panews@panews.com](mailto:panews@panews.com) or mailed to P.O. Box 789, Port Arthur, Texas 77661. For more info*

# Fallen hero honored in unique fashion

## Travis Berg paints mural of late brother on truck

By Mary Meaux  
The News staff writer

When Brad Berg drives around town, people take notice.

Berg, 17, is the younger brother of U.S. Army Spc. Ryan Berg who died in the line of duty Jan. 9, 2007, in Iraq.

After his death, Brad Berg asked his father, Travis, for his brother's truck. The young man didn't care about the dents in the truck or the need of a paint job. He wanted the truck because of his love for Ryan.

So the father devised a scheme. He would give the truck and have it painted but told him the only color available was red, not blue as Brad specified.

Travis Berg brought the truck to Gonzo's Paint and Body Shop on Texas 73 and 39th Street in Groves and had the truck revamped with viper blue paint. He then enlisted the help of artist John Janis who painted a mural of Ryan on the tailgate.

The surprise was revealed on Christmas Eve.

The newly painted truck was



Mike Tobias/The News

Brad Berg checks out the newly finished mural, which honors his older brother, Spc. Ryan Berg, alongside Gonzo Pulido, who owns the Groves shop where the work was done on Berg's truck.

parked outside the family home unbeknownst to the Sabine Pass High School junior. Brad was looking at an engine part and was worried it would not fit the truck so Travis told him to go outside and see if it would fit.

"Then I saw it," Brad Berg said. "I was really excited."

The GMC Sierra sports a portrait of

Ryan Berg, the American Flag and paintings of the medals the soldier earned. The bottom of the mural reads "My Hero, My Brother, He gave all."

Since receiving the truck, Brad has had strangers honk and wave and had even been stopped by the curious who recognize the name and portrait of the hero.

## TRIANGLE BRIEF

### Tuesday, Jan. 8

- Association of Retired Personnel meeting, 2 p.m. Technical Center, 4801 Ninth
- Port Arthur EDC regular p.m. EDC office building, 417
- Port Neches-Groves Band Committee meeting, 7 p.m., 1 band hall.
- Jefferson County Amateur Club, 7:30 p.m., 216 10th St., 724-1579.

### Wednesday, Jan. 9

- The Bridge City Chamber of Commerce's monthly coffee One, 8 a.m.
- Parenting Wisely (en Espanol), Tyrrell Elementary 440 Dr.
- Port Arthur EDC-City Chamber meeting, 5:30 p.m., Fifth Floor Hall, 444 Fourth St.
- Port Neches Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Pompano Club, 330 Twin City Dr. Port Neches.

### Thursday, Jan. 10

- Education Meeting, 8:15 p.m. Twin City Hwy, Community Third Floor, Lincoln Tower.

### Friday, Jan. 11

- Port Arthur Women's January luncheon, 11:45 a.m. Inn Park Central, 2929 Jimmie Blvd. \$13.50 per person.

upcoming activities:

Regular events offered by residents of the home include Bingo three times a week and a regular 2 p.m. Fridays.

Baptist, Catholic, Army and the Church offer religious programs.

The Community Home is in need of

## SENIOR LINE

### 'SENIORS ALIVE' MEET THURSDAY

Mount Sinai Missionary Baptist Church, 501 W. Thomas Blvd., will host a "Seniors Alive" meeting at noon Thursday. Yvonne Floyd will be the discussion leader.

### 'Skip Bo' played at Ritter Center

NEDERLAND — The B.A. Ritter Senior Citizens Center, 914 Boston Ave., hosts daily activities. Upcoming activities for the month include:

Card players meet at 9:15 a.m. to play "Skip Bo," "Rummecue" and "Chicken foot." The group is also learn-

Games, 5 to 9 p.m. on Fridays.

Texas Seniors meet from 1-2 p.m. the fourth Tuesday of each month.

Lunch is served daily. Call a day in advance to eat at the 11:45 a.m. meal. The center is available for rentals. For more information, call 963-1036.

**Nutrition Services plans**

### Senior Center offers fitness

PORT NECHES — Port Neches Senior Citizens Center, 633 Grigsby Ave., upcoming activities:

Line dancing lessons, 10 a.m. Wednesdays.

Chair Exercise, 11 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Bingo, 10:30 a.m. Fridays.