

Echoes from the Past...

# Ex-Sailor Plans Ministry

By Leo Copeland  
Seminole Sentinel

Joey and Helen Rivas were married in 2000. Helen was born in Durango, Mexico and came to Seminole at the tender age of two. Her parents are Frank and Maria Thiessen. Her dad was a welder and is now retired.

Helen went to public school for one year and then went to Gaines County Mennonite School until she was 12-years-old. She received her GED in 2009. After leaving school she worked as a farm hand and then worked at restaurants including the Indian Drive In, Cardona's, and at the Taco Bell.

She was staying with her sister, Mary Padilla, when Joey Rivas came to Seminole to visit his cousin, Lucas Padilla, who was married to Mary. Joey and Helen began dating and a year and a half later were married.

Joey was born in Stanton. His parents are Raul Tarango and Gloria Rivas. His dad was a welder and his mom was a stay-at-home mom. Joey went to school at the Grady Independent School District in Lenorah, an unincorporated community in Martin County.

While in school Joey participated in all the sports. He was a tight end on their six-man football team which tied for first place in their district his senior year. He was a point guard on the basketball team which won the district championship in 1997. Basketball was his favorite sport.

He graduated in 1997, and went one year to Howard College in Big Spring. Not long after their wedding Joey joined the US Navy in August of 2000.

He was sent to Great Lakes, Illinois for basic training and then to Bremerton, Washington where he was placed aboard the aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson and headed out into the Pacific Ocean.

Wikipedia describes the USS Carl Vinson (CVN-70) as the third United States Navy Nimitz class supercarrier, named after Carl Vinson, a congressman from Georgia in recognition of his contributions to the US Navy.

The carrier was involved in a number of important deployments including Operation Desert Strike, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Southern Watch among others. For 72 days, Vinson, along with Carrier Wing 11, launched over 4,000 combat sorties in the War on Terror.

But the Carl Vinson may be best known because it was from its deck the body of Osama bin Ladin was disposed of at sea in 2011.

With Joey on board, the Carl Vinson was doing flight drills, and was rounding the tip of India bound for the Persian Gulf to support Operation Southern Watch, but this abruptly changed during the night of

September 11 when they got news of the 911 terrorist attack on the United States.

Joey said the captain "put on the brakes and the whole carrier shook real bad." The crew was told this was no longer a drill. They were on full alert. The Vinson changed course and sped toward the North Arabian Sea where on October 7, 2001 Vinson launched the first air strikes in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, over Afghanistan.

Joey was at sea aboard the Carl Vinson for 160 days before docking. The good news for Joey was, during those 160 days he started his relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ which would shape his life in the future.

Meanwhile Helen was staying with her parents at home in Seminole while expecting the birth of their daughter, not knowing what was happening to her husband overseas.

Joey was in the US Navy for four years and upon his discharge he returned to Texas and the family moved to Lubbock for two years. They moved back to Seminole in 2006 and stayed until 2009 when they went to Broken Arrow, Oklahoma to attend the Rhema Bible Training Center.

They graduated from the Bible Training Center in 2011 and after graduation they went to Barcelona, Spain for 11 months as missionaries. Joey was Assistant Director for the Xplore Nation Bible School in Spain.

Their main job was to assist the directors of the Bible school, and Joey did some preaching.

The Rivas moved back to Seminole in 2012 and are interning at the Family Harvest Church to be pastors. In the first part of next year they plan to have an extension of the Family Harvest Church in Lamesa where they will go into full time pastor work.

As they are preparing for the work in Lamesa, Joey is going to teach Bible classes at Family Harvest in Lubbock and also in Seminole. He loves all the Scriptures, but says his favorite is probably Romans 2:4 where it says, "... The goodness of God leads you to repentance."

The Rivas have two children; Nicholas who is 13, and in the seventh grade and Mariah who is 10 and in the fifth grade in Seminole Public School. Nicholas plays tennis.

Joey's hobbies are playing sports and reading. Helen says she really doesn't have a hobby her time is spent in raising and playing with their children and going for walks.

Joey left a message from the Bible. He suggested reading Romans 5:17, and said, "You are never too far away or too lost to come back to Jesus and receive forgiveness from God. Hebrews 13:5 says He will never leave us nor will he ever forsake us."



## Gaines County Sporting Events

### October 5

JV Indian Football - Idle  
Freshmen Indian Football - Idle

### October 5

Varsity Indian Football - Idle

### October 6

Junior High and High School Cross Country @ Sundown  
Varsity Maiden Volleyball vs. Andrews @ Andrews  
12:30 p.m.

JV Maiden Volleyball vs. Andrews @ Andrews  
11:00 a.m.

Freshmen Maiden Volleyball vs. Andrews @ Andrews  
11:00 a.m.

### October 9

Varsity Maiden Volleyball vs. Shallowater @ Shallowater  
7:00 p.m.

JV Maiden Volleyball vs. Shallowater @ Shallowater  
5:30 p.m.

Freshmen Maiden Volleyball vs. Shallowater @ Shallowater, 5:30 p.m.

## NEW TO THE CHAMBER



Sentinel Photo/Dustin Wright

### RIBBON CUTTING WELCOMES SEW CUTE

Members of the Seminole Area Chamber of Commerce and Pow Wow Ambassadors were recently on hand to celebrate the grand opening of Sew Cute, located in the 200 block of S. Main St. The store specializes in sewing fabric and accessories, and holds regular sewing classes.

## News Briefs

### Bull Butter Steak Cookoff Deadline Set for Oct. 8

Think you grill the best ribeye steak in the area?

Then test your luck at the 1st Annual Bull Butter Blowout Ribeye Steak Cookoff, scheduled to be held Oct. 13, southwest of Seminole.

Team entry fee is \$180, and the steaks will be furnished, according to event organizers.

Deadline to enter your team is Monday, Oct. 8.

Cash prizes will be given to the top three judged participants, with the top finisher receiving a paid entry to the 2013 Texas Steak Cookoff in Hico.

In addition to the steak cookoff, participants will also have an opportunity to participate in a "Bean Shootout." Participants in the "Bean Shootout" must be registered as participants in the steak cookoff to be

eligible for judging and prizes.

The cookoff event will be held at 471 FM 181 (the Charlie Dixon residence, landmarked with a white bull statue), and camping sites will be available for the event, at a cost of \$50. Camps can be set up on Friday, Oct. 12 and must be vacated on Sunday, Oct. 14.

Deadline to enter has been slated for Friday, Oct. 12.

Corporate sponsorships are also being sold for \$100 for interested companies wishing to advertise at the event.

Partial proceeds from the cookoff will be given to the Seminole Volunteer Fire Dept.

For more information about the cookoff, or for more information, contact Ted Wadzeck (432) 209-0849; Todd Lee (432) 209-2230; or Charlie Dixon at (575) 441-4180.

### Theatre Dept. to Hold Movie Night Saturday

Supporters of the Seminole High School Theatre Dept. are attempting to organize a

booster club to help assist the group with various activities and fund raisers through the course of the upcoming year.

If you're interested in becoming a booster member, you're encouraged to call Rachel Hatley (806) 773-9522, or Becky Rickman at (815) 434-6399.

Interested persons are also encouraged to attend the group's next meeting, scheduled for Sept. 27, at 7 p.m., at the old Seminole Junior High School Band Hall.

Some upcoming activities being planned by the boosters include:

- Beauty & the Beast coloring contest. Coloring pages will be delivered to the campuses. Kids will have until October 1st to get those turned back in. The Theater Productions class will be judging. There will be three age groups; Ages up to 5, 6-8, & 9-11. First prize in each group is two tickets to opening night of Beauty & the Beast, performed by the SHS Theater. Also, they will win a meet and greet with the cast before the play starts, and will have photo opportunities. There will be 2nd and 3rd prizes for each group, as well.

- Family Movie Nite; Saturday, October 6, @ 6pm, SISD Auditorium; Showing Beauty & the Beast; \$2 per person Concessions will be on hand. Please, no unattended children. Winner of the coloring contest will be announced after the movie. Winners must be present to win.



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