

# Merry Christmas

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## Restaurant feeds more than 300

By LE KILLGORE  
Staff Writer

More than 300 people came to Joe Pena's Christmas Party Wednesday, marking the ninth successive year the restaurateur has provided a free turkey-and-trimmings meal for San Angelo's senior citizens.

"I tell them it's like a party," said Pena, standing near the doorway of Joe's Park Restaurant at 2821 N. Chadbourne. "I welcome them. It's more personal, so they don't feel any problem with coming by and eating without paying."

Pena estimated fewer people would come than in years past. He said more people are now sharing with others less fortunate.

"This year, some people don't have anything. And things like this tend to bring out the best in people. I'm seeing more programs, and more sharing with people, and that's good," he said.

Pena said that when he set aside Dec. 24 back in 1977 as a special day for a senior citizens' Christmas dinner, he intended the event to become an annual affair.

"I never do anything for the short term. Everything I do in life is that way," he said as the crowd swirled

S-T photo by Joe Abell

Los Bohemios play lively tunes at noon Wednesday as senior citizens enjoy the free Christmas dinner offered for the ninth consecutive year by Joe Pena at Joe's Park Restaurant, 2821 N. Chadbourne.

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