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THE Devil's River NEWS

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SONORA, TEXAS

Thursday, December 16, 2004

Santa Bucks **Auction offers** gift grabbing opportunities

by Ruthie Bounds, Sonora Chamber of Commerce **Executive** Director

Thursday, December 16, 2004, is the day of the annual Sonora Chamber of Commerce Santa Bucks Auction, beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the Sutton County Civic Center. There will be many items up for bids in a live auction, as well as a special silent auction going on at the same time.

There will be two special sections of the live auction this year: one only for children and one only for senior citizens. This will allow some of the young and young-at-heart an opportunity to bid without all those "shopaholics" taking their prizes away!

have many great items to bid 7:00 p.m. with the winning bids being announced.

Just to name a few of the many great items that will be auctioned this year, there are five free DVD rentals from The Video Store with a value of \$18.00, two complimentary one night stays at the Best Western Sonora Inn valued at \$90.00 each, two \$50.00 Sonora shopping sprees from First National Bank of Sonora, two one year subscriptions from The Devils River News with a value of \$20.00 each, a beautiful Mohair Throw by Carl J. Cahill, Inc. valued at \$98.00, a 3 column x 5" advertisement valued at \$60.00 by The Devil's River News, one community were witnesses to a Free Month of service from frog becoming a Prince on the Cellular One with a value of stage at Sonora High School on \$40.00, two Combo Plates from B & H Catering valued at \$18.00, one free hair cut from Ronda's Styling Haus valued at \$10.00, \$20.00 gift certificate from the Stagecoach Meat Market, one full set of Solar Nails from Olivia Torres at The Hair Salon, \$10.00 worth of gas from each Shot's # 5 and Shot's #6, two Christopher Radko Christmas Ornaments one valued at \$46.00 and one valued at \$57.00 from Everett's Pharmacy Gifts Galore & More, one car care Holiday Gift Pack from Napa -Circle S Automotive, three complimentary one night stays at Comfort Inn of Sonora, a KC for four valued at \$52.00 and a KC for two valued at \$21.00 from the Sutton County Steakhouse, two \$100.00 advertisements from KHOS Hill Country Radio and many, many more wonderful items all cease to amaze me as they repdonated by local merchants and businesses. The "Santa Bucks" promotion is one by which the local merchants hand out Santa Bucks to their customers throughout the Holiday Season. When a customer spends about \$10.00 with a merchant, the customer in turn will receive a "Santa Buck." Then the merchants and businesses in Sonora donate items to be purchased by their customers with the "Santa Bucks" at the Santa Bucks Auction. This is a winning proposition to reward the customers who are loyal to Sonora and do their Holiday shopping at home. Without the cooperation and donations of all the generous people of Sonora, it would be impossible to have such a wonderful holiday promotion.



"Yes, Santa, I PROMISE I've been good this year!" See Santa pictures page 6!

The silent auction will Missoula Children's Theatre brings on as well, and will end at 7:00 p.m. with the winning The Frog Prince to life in Sonora



The cast of The Frog Prince.

by Ann Kay, Friends of Historic Sonora Main Street Manager

Many lucky citizens in our

based out of Missoula, Montana, that we can produce a production of high quality even though it is the busy Christmas time of the year!

Historic Sonora Main Street Alisha Covey, Bert the Alligator Program would like to say a big "Thank-You" to the parents and grandparents for helping with the scheduling of the students' play practices. It is dedicated people working together with their children that make this project successful. The goodies were wonderful and the sweet punch was a treat for the actors, guests and actresses. We deeply appreciate the cookies and punch provided by The Bank & Trust and the First National Bank of Sonora, who always show their support of our youth programs. A special note of thanks is extended to John and Dell Tedford, Radio Shack, James Barton, Virgil Polocek, Judge Carla Garner and Tedford Jewelry, who are all strong supporters of the arts and many other special events in our community. This presentation would not have been so successful without the help of KHOS Radio, The Devil's River News, Sonora High School, Renee Casey, Sonora Independent School District and the assistance of the Sonora PTO. The members of the cast of

the Frog Prince were: Castle Frog/Prince - Clayton Parks, Swamp Frog - Bailey Joe Pennington, Ollie Aspen Tree -Kathy Pacheco, Princess Prim -S.C.A.T and Friends of Erin Newton, Princess Peppy -

School Board plans open house in Old Rock Schoolhouse by Storie Sharp term substitute teachers and

January 3, 2005. Myers made this announcement at the December 13, 2004, that it would be best to wait regular meeting.

Dr. Myers gave a construction update, first reporting that the Rock Building looks great and an open house will be held on January 3, 2005, with the ringing of the original school bell. Dr. Myers reminded the Board that the "ringing of the bell" had been auctioned at the Lions Club Auction, and was purchased by the Cahill Family. Wanda Neville will officially open the building by ringing the bell on that Monday. The public is invited to come see all that has been done on the building, beginning at 10:00 a.m., before the teachers begin moving in. In other construction news, Dr. Myers reported that the rock wall around the school was almost complete and the workers are finishing up the handicap ramps and parking area behind the middle school. The air conditioning and duct work is being put in at the Primary building. Dr. Myers reported that a worker had fallen through the roof last month and was injured, but was doing better.

In other businesses, a budget amendment was approved for a donation from the booster club for \$2,000. The Booster Club requested that \$1,000 be allotted for football supplies, \$500 to boys basketball and \$500 to cross country.

Bids for school vehicles were opened and it was approved to purchase two suburbans and two buses. The Board discussed having the busses painted in school colors

The Old Rock School possible policy changes. Building is scheduled to open Principals Dermody and Chavarria provided input Superintendent, Dr. Brant regarding retaining long term substitutes. The board agreed Sonora I.S.D. Board of Trustees until budget time to change any pay fees, but it was approved to change the policy to consider a substitute "long term" after five days instead of the current 10 days.

Dr. Myers explained that the District Site Base Committee had met and produced a list of goals for the schools. The main goal was for all Sonora schools to be "Exemplary" campuses by the year 2006.

Business Manager Diane Jacoby explained the audit report for year ending August 31, 2004. Jacoby explained some changes that were required by the auditing company, that were being applied. The audit report was approved as presented.

Louise Dermody explained that the Reading 1st Grant was progressing. She told the board that most training had been completed and the orders had been placed for the necessary supplies. All of the elementary teachers recently received palm pilots and would be using them for testing, allowing for quick access and less paper and pencil tasks. The Reading 1st program allows for assessing the levels of the readers and allows the teachers to work better with students.

Jacoby gave the annual review of the District's investment policy.

Dr. Myers reported that enrollment was down by four, for a total of 978 students, but attendance was up from this time last year.

In November maintenance,

Dr. Myers reported that the

floor of the stage had been

painted by the Theatre Tech

class; quotes were being

obtained for the air controls at

the high school, the benches

and the backboard in the gym

had been replaced and they are

waiting on the electrician to

look at the water controls. He

also reported that the track run-

ways would be started soon.

Several repairs have been made

in teachers' houses, but the roof.

at Baldwin's house is still in

ber comments, so the board

then went into executive session

to discuss evaluations, employ-

There were no board mem-

Don't miss out on this opportunity to get some great gift ideas!

Saturday, December 11, 2004. Deep in the royal swamp, a

lonely Frog retrieved a golden ball for Princess Prim in exchange for friendship and comfort. The spoiled princess didn't want to live up to her part of the bargain, and put her royal Knights on alert. And so the trouble began. Luckily, Frog got some good advice from Ollie the wise old Aspen tree, Bert the Alligator, and the kindly Swamp Things. The Ducks and dancing Flamingos also come to Frog's assistance and servant Henrietta tries to set things right. Even the Queen, kindly Princess Proper, and spunky Princess Peppy get involved and, despite the trouble caused by the nasty Venus Fly Traps, all ended happily. Our hero became a Prince (formerly known as Frog) and realizes that friendships are made, not bought-and he discovered that it is not what you are but who you are that counts.

The youth of Sonora never resent our community. Their enthusiasm showed Sara Wright and Katie Becker of the Missoula Children's Theater,

- Rose Karnes, the Fly - Jeremy Doran, Knights - Kari Nicholas, Christian Kenney, Madison Myers, Alex Galindo, Milton Allison Freeman, Black, Nicolas Favela, Zachary Leonard; Swamp Thing - Macie Friess, Sidney Dermody, Hannah Henderson, Fabian Guzman, Kenzie Herring, Marcie Parks, Emily Cory, Kylie Love, and Jamie Braly, Flamingos - Hunter Jennings, Maddie Lang, Rachel Eisenhour, Alex Lang, Alyssa Williams, Ellie Newton, Little Ducks - Joni Casey, Kandyse Rodriguez, Brenda Merrill, Ashley Perales, Jacinda Sanchez, Chanel Martinez, Venus Fly Traps - James Freeman, Gage Glidwell, Tanner Esparza, Sky Jennings, Tanner Myers, Straton Rushing, Katie Braly, Cassandra Amare, Tate Shannon, Abigail Garcia, Kobi Herring, Sidney Burnham, Queen/Maria/ Von Fly Trap/Henrietta - Katie Becker, Lights - Alexandrea Kenney, Accompanist Connie Eisenhour, and Director - Sara Wright.

and it was decided to look into having the top painted white with red lettering.

Bronco band director, Rusty Baldwin, presented the Board with a photo of a proposed band uniform that he and the students had worked to put together. Baldwin explained that the new uniforms were simple, yet very classy and could easily be maintained and should last from seven to nine years. The new uniforms will have a Bronco embroidered on the back of the jacket and will have a removable sequin sash. A durable, nice looking, black hat will accompany the uniforms. The price of the proposed uniforms are \$318 each. The board approved the purchase of 120 band uniforms.

ment of an elementary teacher, an assistant band director posi-A discussion was held tion, a science teacher position regarding the definition of long and employee stipends. **Everett's Pharmacy hosts open**

need of repair.



The Texas Department of Transportation Offices, located on the edge of town on Hwy 277 N. were chosen by The Friends of Historic Sonora Main Street Program as one of the "Best Dressedup for Christmas" winners this week - see all the winners so far on page 8.



house to meet new owners

Jim Bob and Glynda Everett opened their doors in a special open house on Wednesday, December 8, 2004. The new owners and operators of Everett's Pharmacy and Gifts Galore and More were joined by their son, Brad, and granddaughter, Jayice, as well as many friends and customers that stopped by to say hello and see all that Everett's has to offer. In addition to all your pharmaceutical needs and medical supplies, Everett's Pharmacy and Gifts Galore and More has Radko Christmas ornaments, gourmet dips, Painted Ponies, Cow Parade, home decor, iron collections, tote and makeup bags, baby items, jewelry, greeting cards and much more. The Sonora Chamber of Commerce welcomed the Everetts with a special Ribbon Cutting ceremony, and visitors were treated to some great snacks and sweets. Stop by and visit Everett's Pharmacy and Gifts Galore and More today.

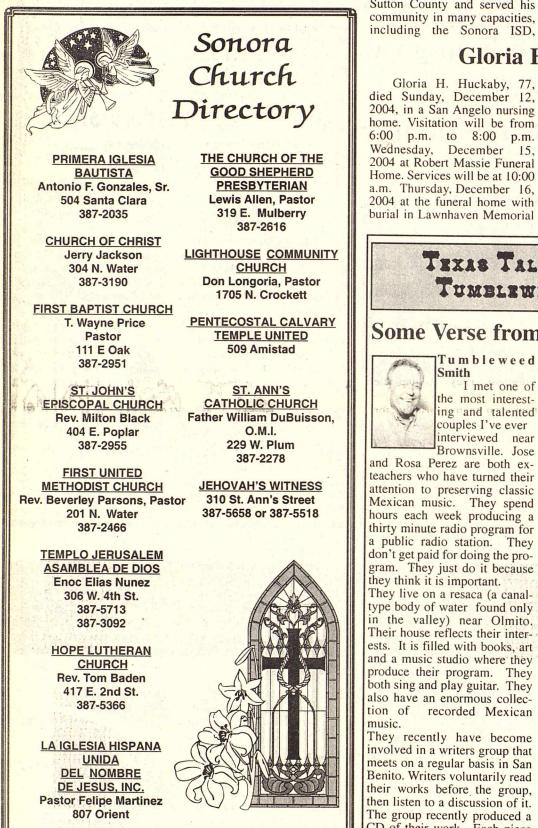


that is real, personal and practical Sunday Services Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Worship • 11:00 a.m. • 6:00 p.m. 1705 N. Crockett



SUTTON COUNTY HEALTH FOUNDATION

Your memorial gift helps preserve access to quality healthcare for generations to come. Please consider the Sutton County Health Foundation, P.O. Box 18, Sonora, TX 76950. All contributions 100% tax deductible.



James Milton Condra, Jr.

Sutton County Airport and 4-H

Club. He was a very dedicated

and active member of the First

wife, Diana Cahill Condra of

Sonora; daughter, Jamie Sue

Haga of San Antonio, Texas;

son, Justin Condra and wife

Donette of Austin, Texas; daughter, Whitney Condra

Keller and husband Shane

Keller of Galveston, Texas;

granddaughter, Erica Maingot;

sister, Dottie Routh and hus-

band Steve of Ballinger, Texas;

and niece, Julie Guzman and

children Matt and Michaela of

3:00 p.m., Sunday, December

12, 2004, at the First United

Methodist Church in Sonora.

Burial followed in the Sonora

Whitehead, Espy Whitehead, Ben Pool, Cleve T. Jones, Billy

Burnham, Mario Duran, Jr.,

Glen Richardson and Bobby

Doran. Honorary pallbearers

were Arnold Gilcrease, Jim

Mathews, Al Lynch, Jackie

Howard, Aaron Cranford, Bob

rials be made to the Sutton

County Health Foundation, Box

18, Sonora, Texas 76950, or

The family requests memo-

Cramer and Jim Stimmel.

your favorite charity.

Cemetery in Sonora, Texas.

Funeral services were at

Pallbearers were Bud

San Angelo, Texas.

Jimmy is survived by his

United Methodist Church.

James Milton Condra, Jr., 67, died Friday, December 10, 2004, in San Angelo after a brief illness.

Jimmy was born August 3, 1937, in Dryden, Texas. He was the son of James Milton Condra, Sr. He attended elementary school in Dryden and high school in McCamey, Texas. He served in the 3rd Infantry of the U.S. Army and, after being honorably discharged, he attended Texas Western College in El Paso. Jimmy began his career in the oil and gas business during high school working on a pulling unit for Yale E. Key. After his service duty, he worked for Kennedy Trucking, Dowell, Texas Eastern Transmission, Mobil Oil and BTA Oil Company.

Jimmy moved to Sonora in 1974 while working for Lively Exploration. On June 3, 1978, Jimmy married Diana Cahill in San Angelo, Texas. He started a contract pumping and roustabout service, which evolved into JIMCO and DICON Enterprises. In 1996, they fulfilled their dream by moving to their ranch in the eastern part of Sutton County.

Jimmy loved Sonora and Sutton County and served his community in many capacities, including the Sonora ISD,

Gloria H. Huckaby

Gloria H. Huckaby, 77, died Sunday, December 12, 2004, in a San Angelo nursing home. Visitation will be from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Wednesday, December 15, 2004 at Robert Massie Funeral Home. Services will be at 10:00 a.m. Thursday, December 16, 2004 at the funeral home with burial in Lawnhaven Memorial

Gardens. Survivors include her husband, Raymond Huckaby of San Angelo; daughters, Charlotte Huckaby and Mary George, both of San Angelo, Debbie Arrott of Ozona, Dorothy Williams of Atlanta, Georgia, and Cheryl Swilzer of Odessa; and son, Reggie Williams of Sonora.



Some Verse from the Rio Grande

fumbleweed Smith I met one of the most interesting and talented couples I've ever interviewed near Brownsville. Jose and Rosa Perez are both exteachers who have turned their attention to preserving classic Mexican music. They spend

sounds begin, little chirps and whistles and the far cry of tires on the distant highway. Across the resaca the chachalacas continue their traveling teetop serenade as they seek the perfect mate. I walk out to greet the day, listening to the faint flutter of nighthawk wings as they chase another mosquito.

"Yellow hues of the rising sun fall on the cooing dove as fishtails splashing ech

Obituaries

Maria Del Refugio "Cuca" Chavez

Survivors include her broth-

Chicago, Illinois, and Lloanda

C. Fonseca and husband,

Gregorio, of Sonora, Texas; and

union with the Novena to Our

Lady of Guadalupe at 6:00 p.m.

Friday, December 10, 2004, at

St. Ann's Catholic Church in

Sonora, Texas. A Mass

Celebration of her life was held

at 2:30 p.m., Saturday, December 11, 2004, at St. Ann's

Catholic Church with William

lieu of flowers was for monetary

donations to be made to the

American Diabetes Association

and the National Kidney

Refugio Chavez would like to

express their sincere gratitude to

Father Bill and Father Frey, the

Permian Basin Dyalisis Center

and her devoted technicians,

Hospital, nursing staff at I.C.U.

Dept., Odessa E.M.S. Lifeline

and Drs. Oliver and Newsome.

May God continue to bless

everyone who helped during her

Hubbard-Kelly Funeral Home.

Services entrusted to

Center

Odessa Medical

The family of Maria Del

Foundation.

illness.

Eugene Glen Benson

Miss Chavez' last wishes in

DuBuisson, O.M.I. officating.

The rosary was recited in

numerous nieces and nephews.

Thursday, December 16, 2004 • The Devil's River News

Chavez, age 63, passed away Saturday, December 4, 2004, at Medical Center Hospital in Odessa, Texas.

to Pedro and Mercedes Chavez in Sonora, Texas. She was a teacher for Ector County Independent School District, and a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church.

Miss Chavez graduated from Sul Ross University. She continued to further her education by receiving two Master's Degrees from East Texas State University. Her teacher's certification included bilingual, early childhood, special education, art and general elementary. Miss Chavez began her teaching career in Eagle Pass, then went on to teach in Pearsall, Texas, as well as San Antonio, Texas. She retired from Travis Elementary in Odessa. Miss Chavez' love for teaching extended to tutoring as well as teaching religious education classes.

'Cuca'' as she was known by most had a great love for family, life and friendships. She enjoyed various hobbies and was always full of life. She was a very generous and compassionate person. One example of this was the gift she left for others to continue to live through her generosity of organ donation. After organ donation it was

Eugene Glen Benson, born August 11, 1919, in James, Texas, passed away December 11, 2004, at the age of 85 years and 4 months.

Eugene grew up in and around Brown County. He served 42 months of military duty during WWII, with 39 of those being overseas.

Upon returning from the service, he married Willie Mae Gierisch in June of 1946. He then moved to Sonora in 1950, where he raised his family of five children.

After the death of his wife in August of 1973, he married Maude Doran in May of 1974.

He is survived by his wife,

Thank you for reading The Devil's River News

sisters.

Maria Del Refugio "Cuca" ers, Jaime Chavez and wife, Andrea, and Jesus Chavez and wife, Elizabeth, all of Sonora, Texas; and sisters, Olga Chavez of Odessa, Maura Chavez of

She was born July 4, 1941,

Cuca's wish to be cremated.

Maude Benson; three sons, Frederick and wife Donna Benson of Sonora, James and wife Dianne of Sonora, and Michael and wife Kelli of Abilene, Texas; two daughters, Carolyn and husband Bill Doran of Sonora, Dr. Nancy and husband Gary Law of Midland; one step-daughter, Roberta and husband Jess Freeman of Havannah, Florida; and ten grandchildren. He is also survived by four brothers and two

Services will be at 2:00 p.m. Thursday, December 16, at Kerbow Funeral Home Chapel in Sonora, Texas. Burial will follow in Sonora Cemetery.

Brought to you by: **Kerbow Funeral Home**

387-2266

thirty minute radio program for a public radio station. They don't get paid for doing the program. They just do it because they think it is important.

They live on a resaca (a canaltype body of water found only in the valley) near Olmito. Their house reflects their interests. It is filled with books, art and a music studio where they produce their program. They both sing and play guitar. They also have an enormous collection of recorded Mexican

They recently have become involved in a writers group that meets on a regular basis in San Benito. Writers voluntarily read their works before the group, then listen to a discussion of it. The group recently produced a CD of their work. Each piece of writing is introduced with some music appropriate to the words.

Jose wrote a poem about sounds he hears around his house during a single day. "Before dawn, the

from the resaca waters. I watch and listen. The rebellious mocking bird defends with a chatter the bush with bright red chilis, as the daring kiscadee steals yet one more fiery morsel. And the green flashes of hummers skip over the knarled wild olive.

'Shimmering heat of a noonday sun blends with the cicada's drone, soothing the racket of grackles fighting over the last seed. I hear woodpeckers working their wood and larks calling as they flutter across the ground.

Evening breeze rustles the leaves as a kingfisher screeches and dives, slapping the surface, flying out with a flurry of wings. The sound of life holds me in its arms. As the resaca sighs, I feel its breath .

'Soothing dark arrives with night. Crickets, moths and pale moonlight. The owls and paorakes send calls to balmy air; soft, soulful serenades as I drift into sleep. "An ebony pod falls."

Senior Center News

- Dec. 20 Polish sausage, sweet potatoes, steamed cabbage, bread, pears, milk.
- Dec. 21 Chicken supreme, herb new potatoes, broccoli, green salad, cherry cobbler, milk.
- Dec. 22 Hamburger on bun, lettuce, onion, tomatoes, chips, carrot salad, cake, milk.
- Dec. 23 Baked ham with pineapples, dressing with gravy, green beans, sweet potatoes, coleslaw, milk, fruit salad.

Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve. Center will be closed.

Senior Center Menu

Dec. 20 - Christmas Bingo after lunch!

Dec. 21 - Let's exercise with rock video. Sign up now.

Dec. 23 - Christmas Meal and Program. Noon.

Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve. Center will be closed!

NEW HOURS: Mon. - Fri 7:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M. Lunch is served Monday thru Friday at 12:00 Noon. \$1.50 donation is suggested for those 60+ and \$4.00 for others. *Menu is subject to change.*

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Member 2004 TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

Dec. 16 Santa Bucks Auction • 6:00 p.m. 4-H Civic Center Dec. 17 - Jan. 3 S.I.S.D. Christmas Holidays **Al-Anon Family Meetings** Every Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. • Hospital Dining Room Call 387-2521 ext. 170 The Community Calendar Member FDIC

Dec. 20 Tree Management Seminar 6:00 p.m. • Civic Center R.S.V.P. 387-3101 Dec. 21 City Council Meeting 2:00 p.m. • City Hall

is made possible by :



Letters 10 1 ne Editor Policy

Community Calendar

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Ask the Historical Society

by Jo-Ann E. Palmer, Secretary County Historical Sutton Society

Q. Is it true that Sheriff R. H. Martin never carried a gun or shot one?

A. Maybe while he was, sheriff but not after he resigned his position. In the Sheep & Goat Raisers Magazine circa 1926, we found that "R. H. Martin, former six-shooter-less sheriff of Sutton County, a member of the executive committee of the Sheep & Goat Raisers, Association, and said by his friends to have killed more than 2,000 wolves in his activities around Eagle Pass during the last two years, is in favor of a bounty being placed on wolves by the state. The government has a trapper assigned to cover the175,000 acre tract upon which he runs his sheep in Maverick County, and all of the employees of the ranch lend their hands in an effort to stop the infestation of this area by the wolves. 'We had to kill off the wolves or they would have killed all of our sheep,' says Mr. Martin, who notes a steadily decreasing percentage of loss in his area. Incidentally there are only two sheepmen in the county.

O. Why do the ranchers hate coyotes so much?

A. Not just the ranchers, farmers, animal control officers in large cities that the coyotes have moved into, residents of those cities who had cats and dogs and other pets killed by the covotes greatly dislike the animals. There were analysis done in the 1920's of what the average coyotes ate in a week. Stomachs of killed animals were examined and the following was found: cattle 2,517, horses 1,500, sheep or goats 6,946, swine 209, chickens and domesticated fowl 1,306, grouse 1,268, waterfowl 94, other birds 805, deer 399, elk 20, antelope 40, rabbits 7,929, ground squirrels 1,148, prairie dogs 584, chipmunks 65, marmot or ground-hogs 64, mice and rats 1,427, carrion 2,357, insects or worms 669, fish and frogs or snakes 138, grass sticks and berries 2,211. While I personally don't mind the elimination of ground squirrels, rats, etc. I don't think the huge loss of stock makes it feasible to reintroduce coyotes or wolves back into Sutton County or neighboring county areas. They multiply so quickly, have almost

3

no natural enemies left in this area and could quickly destroy all the stock on a ranch. Just think if you had a \$1,000 buck and a pack of animals decided to have it for supper; you wouldn't be very happy. So while the tree huggers are in favor of doing this I must side with the rancher and say no thank you.

O. When did we start having rodeos and races on the **Davis property?**

A. Sheep and Goat Raisers' Magazine in their December 1926 issue had the following article: Sonora Buys Rodeo Grounds and Cancels Mid-Winter Show-Sonora, Dec. 10-The Sonora Park Association has purchased thirty acres of land, a mile north of town on the San Angelo road, from R. Walter Davis as a site for new exposition grounds on which \$10,000 will be spent. Owing to the change in location and the time that will be required in establishing the new park, the mid-winter rodeo has been canceled. It was scheduled for Christmas week.

The present grandstand in the worst part of town on the Sonora-Ozona road will be torn down and the material used in erecting a grandstand on the new site that will accommodate 3,000 people. It will be on a five-eights mile track. An exposition building for the showing of livestock and range and farm products also will be built.

Sixty dollars an acre was paid for the new grounds. The first celebration there will be held on July 4, 1927. W.A. Miers is president and W.R. Barnes is secretary of the Sonora Park Association.

We found that in 1922 the McCullough County Wolf Club had been formed after predatory animals destroyed 200 lambs and over 20 older sheep in a one month period. They started paying a bounty of \$10.00 for wolves and \$5.00 for wild cats. As trapping, due to decrease of numbers, became more difficult they raised their bounty to \$15.00 and \$25.00 and by 1928 had raised the bounty to \$50.00. each. The first year 190 wolves and 16 cats were destroyed. The second year 180 wolves and 15 cats and in the third year 179 wolves and 19 cats were destroyed. Most of the wolves trapped were timber wolves as there were very few coyotes in strikes twelve on Christmas Eve that area. In five and one-half

years \$12,381.00 was paid out in bounty money, most of it paid by the assessed fee of one cent for each acre of land owned by club members. By 1928 the stock raisers were bothered very little by predators.

So not just Sutton County, we found old log books of bounties paid by E.S. Briant for predator control, but many counties in Texas have been subjected to loss from predators. People can't expect a wildcat not to attack their dog, cat or child. It is the instinct of the animal to hunt. The same with coyotes, wolves and bears. They get hungry and will eat anything that they can catch. Meanwhile it is the natural instinct of man to protect what he owns. As we move more and more into wild areas of the county and increase population you can expect more battles between predators and man. The predators' hunting ground has been so depleted during droughts that we have even had wildcats and bears foraging in dumpsters within the city limits of Sonora. One bear was caught a few years ago in an alley just down from my house and I have personally seen a nasty large cat in the alley. I don't mean a large house cat, I mean a large predator. So before you complain about the shooting of these animals stop and think that if they run out of food on the range they will come to town and be in your dumpsters and after your pets. We already have had skunks, ground squirrels, rats and snakes in town, which we must do a better job of controlling. Keep your dumpster covers closed and bag your trash to try to help keep wild animals out of town.

Now did you know that you can make your own pomador ball? All you need is a firm apple or orange and lots of cloves. Push cloves into the fruit, as close together as possible then roll it in equal parts of cinnamon and orris root and tie it with a gay ribbon. You can hang these in different rooms or closets to give a holiday scent to your house.

There is an old superstition in the south that if you let a fire go out on Christmas morning, spirits will come to you then and later in the season. Also if you eat an apple as the clock you will have good health



This photo is dated January 6, 1964, but no name. If you know who it is, give us a call.

throughout the coming year. Many of you know the old saying of "leave a loaf on the table after Christmas Eve supper and you will have a full supply until the next Christmas." These old wives' tales have been handed down for years and many still believe in them.

If you have any questions, concerning Sutton County history, send them to "Ask the Historical Society," P.O. Box 885, Sonora, TX 76950-0885 or e-mail them to schs@sonoratx.net. You may call me at the office, 387-5084, Monday, Friday and Saturday mornings with your questions or to rent the (Old Depot) John & Mildred Cauthorn Memorial Building. If vou can't reach me there, give me a call at home at 387-2855. Memorial donations should be sent to our P.O. Box and please include the name and address of the person you want us to send the notice of donation and your name and address.

If you enjoy the Christmas lights on the Sutton County Historical Society grounds and office, be sure to thank Patricia Johnson and Margaret Galbreath. They donated the money for the new lights. Also thank you to my husband for letting me put our large lighted tree in the depot again this year and all his work in putting these things up with the community service workers.





Page 3

Father Bill Du Buisson announces retirement

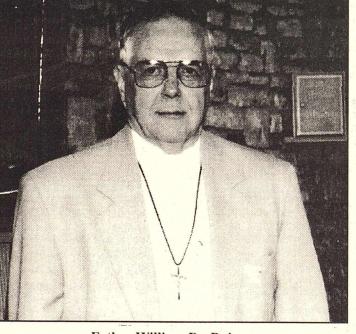
Rev. William Robert Du Buisson, O.M.I. has announced his plans to retire as Pastor of St. Ann Catholic Church, effective January 3, 2005.

Du Buisson was born December 25, 1929 in San Antonio, Texas, to Mr. William Robert Du Buisson, Jr., and Mrs. Louis Fox Du Buisson.

He attended school in San Antonio and Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. In May of 1948, Du Buisson entered St. Peter Novitiate in Mission, Texas, to prepare for entering the Oblates of Mary Immaculate. He pronounced his First Temporary Vows as an Oblate of Mary Immaculate on May 31, 1949, at St. Peter Novitiate. He entered De Mazenod Scholasticate in San Antonio, Texas, from September 1949 - May 1952 where he studied Philosophical studies. He pronounced Perpetual Vows as an Oblate of Mary Immaculate on May 31, 1952. He entered Theological studies in September of 1952. During the summers of 1953 -1954 he studied various college science courses at the University of Notre Dame. Notre Dame, IN.

Du Buisson was ordained a Roman Catholic priest on September 8, 1955, in St. Mary Church in San Antonio, TX, by Archbishop Robert E. Lucey. He continued additional theological studies until May of 1956.

Du Buisson taught General Science and Chemistry at St. Anthony Seminary from September 1956 through May 1964. In August of 1964 he volunteered to help open a high school seminary in Cotabato, Philippines, where he taught sciences, Latin and English. He also taught Senior Religion at Notre Dame College (now University of Notre Dame) Cotabato City, Philippines. While in the Philipines, he helped establish training courses in high school sciences and



Father William Du Buisson

mathematics for the Notre Dame school System. He helped design a new Administration/Science Building at Notre Dame College. In addition to teaching, he was Chaplain for the Leperosarium outside Cotabato City.

Du Buisson returned to the United States in June of 1968, where he was assigned as assistant pastor at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Harlingen, TX, until June 1969. He was assigned Assistant Pastor at Our Lady of Sorrows in Houston in June of 1969. In November of that same year, he suffered a paralyzed right diaphragm. He was transferred to Sacred Heart of Mary Mission in Rocksprings, TX, St. Mary Magdalene, in Campwood, TX and St. Raymond in Leakey, TX, as priest in charge. These churches became a Parish in 1972 and hebecame Pastor. He became Pastor of the Sacred Heart Parish in Del Rio, Texas, in 1977.

In June of 1981, Du Buisson took a sabbatical to study Canon Law at the University of St. Paul and University of Ottawa, Ottawa, ON, Canada. He received a civil and church Bachelor of Canon Law in May of 1982. He received a License of Canon Law and Master of Canon Law in May of 1983.

After appointments in Midland, Andrews and San Angelo, Du Buisson was appointed Pastor of St. Ann in Sonora in April of 1991, with continuing responsibility of Our Lady of Perpetual Help until 1995. He was appointed Adjutant Judicial Vicar of the Tribunal of the Diocese of San Angelo, June 1994, and was appointed to the College of Consulters in December of that same year. From 1992-1998 Du Buisson was appointed to the Superior of West Texas District of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate. After the death of Msgr. Timothy Murphy, Du Buisson was appointed Judicial Vicar (Chief Judge of the Tribunal) in February of 2004. At age 75, he will enter the Reduced Active Ministry with residence in San Angelo.

Opening April 2005: A state-of-the-art health and wellness center in Sonora.

The Health & Wellness Center

AT LILLIAN M. HUDSPETH MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

- A Indoor Swimming Pool
- A Land and Water Exercise Programs
- Aquatic Therapy
- 🍋 Fitness Center
- 🍋 Cardiovascular Equipment
- 🍋 Paramount Performance System Equipment
- Aerobics Facilities
- Locker/Shower Facilities
- 🍋 Diabetes Education Program
- Health Awareness and Prevention Programs
- Smoking Cessation Programs

Hours of Operation Monday-Friday • 5:30 a.m.-9 p.m. SATURDAY • 8 a.m.-7 p.m. SUNDAY • Noon-7 p.m.

Telephone Numbers 325 / 387-BFIT (387-2348) 325 / 387-SWIM (387-7946)

Sign up now for special discounts.

Types of Membership

Individual (One person, age 18+) \$30 / month

> Individual + Spouse \$50 / month

Family (Head of household + spouse + up to two children under age 18 living at home)

\$75 / month (Additional children \$5 / month)

Legal dependents under age 16 may utilize specific areas and programs while parent or guardian is at the Health & Wellness Center.

Activation Fee: \$25 per member (Not to exceed \$100 per family; activation fee waived if you sign up before May 31, 2005)

Senior citizen (60 & Over), corporate, and pre-pay discounts available.

Monthly membership fees may be paid only by credit card or bank draft.

Pre-payment packages may be paid by cash, check, credit card or bank draft.

To find out more or reserve your membership, call: 387-2348



"Thanks, **Sutton County!** difference!"

Those are words local volunteers look forward to hearing from the West Texas Rehabilitation Center at the conclusion of Rehab's annual telethon on January 15.

Under the leadership of Sutton County telethon coordinator Rosa Hernandez, those volunteers are currently seeking advance donations to Rehab 2005 and will be manning a local phone bank during the show. Their goal: To help Rehab raise money to provide outpatient physical rehabilitation therapy to all who enter its doors-regardless of their financial status.

"This is such a critical fund-raiser for Rehab-and Rehab is such an important health care provider to our community-that I hope every family will make a telethon dona-Hernandez. said tion." "Sometimes people think that only large gifts matter to charities. At Rehab, every gift matters...every donor makes a difference!"

"So," Hernandez continued, "if you think you might not be able to call in your telethon pledge on January 15 to our local phone bank, I urge you to send your donation now to WTRC Telethon, P. O. Box 895, Sonora, TX 76950, and I'll make sure it's included in Sutton County's telethon total."

"If you are at home on telethon night, I hope you'll help keep volunteers busy taking pledge calls. We'll be set up at the Bank & Trust of Sonora, where our phone number will be 387-2593. Remember: if you NEED help, West Texas Rehabilitation Center is a great place to go; if you CAN help, the Rehab Center is a great place to give," Hernandez concluded.

Note of Thanks

Thank you, friends and family of Jimmy Condra, for all that you have done for our family. We truly experienced the meaning of the phrase that what is done in love is returned 10 fold. The people whom Jimmy had touched during his life, returned to his family so much during these past three weeks.

We so appreciated the prayers, cards, calls, visits, flowers, food, and moral support during these difficult days. Our most special thanks to Bud and Tommy Whitehead, Ben and Lenora Pool, Glen and Rosalie Richardson, Cleve T. Jones, Aaron Cranford and Jackie Howard for staying by his side so that the family could get some rest. Thank you to Beyerly Parsons. Monte Jones and Aarou Cranford for a true celebration of the life of one we loved so dearly. Thank you to Maggie and Calle Mesa and Bob and Dorothy Cramer for all the work you did at the home, and to Arnold Gilcrease and Oscar Jimenez for keeping the ranch running. We love you all, and will never forget your many kindnesses. Diana, Justin and Donette, Whitney and Shane

Sutton County 4-Hers share You make a big Some facts about White Tail Deer

by Sutton County 4-H members Mandy Brister and Madison Myers

It's that time of year that most kids look forward to - - yes, you guessed it - - - deer season. We look forward to this time of year not only because we get lots of presents, but because we get to go hunting with our dads and granddads. Every time we go hunting with one of them, they are always telling us stories about the big one that got away, or some fact about the deer. Well, this year we are going to be ready for them. We looked up some things on the internet on the Environment Education for Kids website and we found some very interesting things we would like to share with you.

First of all, did you know that the White-Tailed Deer is the state animal for Wisconsin? Well, now you do. We also learned what certain parts of the deer are for. We will start from the top. The antlers are used by the bucks to establish who the boss is. The deer has oversized ears, which means they can hear incredibly well. They can also rotate their ears like a radar to pick up sounds. Their big eyes are located on the sides of their heads, which allows the deer to see ahead and behind without moving its head. Their long noses contains membranes which capture scent. A deer's nose is about 100 times more sensitive than ours. Even though you don't see their teeth, the teeth are designed to chew tough foods. The deer have incisors in their lower jaw for biting and molars for grinding their food.

A deer's coat is not only to keep it warm, but also to camouflage it all year round. Their coats are reddish-brown in summer and grayish-brown in win-

White-tail deer (photo courtesy of the Internet)

If any of you have ever seen deer hooves you know they are very sharp. Having sharp hooves provides excellent traction, helps them dig for food, helps them signal other deer by stomping, helps them defend themselves, and helps them make scrapes during the mating season.

ter.

Did you know that deer have four chambered stomachs? This allows deer to digest tough plant foods. Deer also eat quickly and barely chew their food. Later, as they rest, they cough up their food and chew it. Sounds like a cow.

Did you know a deer can run 40 miles per hour, jump nine foot fences, broad jump 30 feet and swim 13 miles per hour? Well, their long, powerful legs enable them to do all of this.

From the shoulders down, a deer can stand three feet high and weigh 200 or more pounds.

The deer also communicate with each other. "How?" might you ask. For one thing, a deer has glands on its legs and feet. This allows them to leave scents on the trail to help communicate with one another. Their tails are also used for communication. If their tail is held up it means there is danger and they should run for cover.

We hope you have learned as much about White-Tailed deer as we have. We are really excited about showing off our new found knowledge when we go hunting with our dads and granddads. Please be careful when hunting and always follow the rules and guidelines to safe hunting.



Up on Eaton Hill

Thursday, December 16, 2004 • The Devil's River News

Christmas Special 1 1/2 hour Massage with FREE Manicure

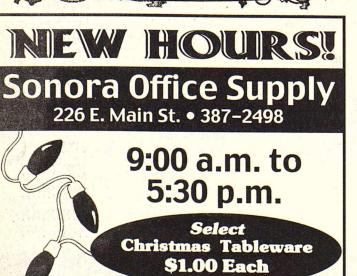
Call Myrna 387-2706 or 226-3310 Gift Certificates Available

Jesus Is The Reason For The Season! Happy Holidays from The Landmark Apartments 103 Dollie A-4 (Office) 325-387-2104 / 325-387-9504 (fax) Monday-Friday 10:00 - 3:00 (Lunch 12:00 - 1:00) Wednesdays & Weekends - Closed No pets or any satellites/antennas allowed. our apartment homes are equipped with dishwasher, stove,

refrigerator, built-in microwave oven, ceiling fans, wall-to-wall carpet, walk-in closets, storage on balcony and assigned parking. FRONTIER/DUNES MINI STORAGE • STORAGES AVAILABLE!

Smalls: \$40.00/Large: \$60.00 Call Jana Dover today for your apartment/storage needs!

CLOSED DEC. 22-26 for the holidays! AS AS



Hale claims State Title in **Oklahoma Duathlon**

Oklahoma Triathlon Organization held their annual Fall Classic Duathlon in Oklahoma City as the 2004 season came to a close. The Fall Classic was the last of a threerace series held each year and is considered the state championship. Over 200 competitors from all over the state competed in the two mile run/14 mile bike/2 mile run, highly competitive duathlon.

One of Sonora's own, Davis Hale, placed first in his age category and fifth overall, finishing the race in a time of 1:03:14, claiming the state title in the 25-29 age category. With such a finish, Hale is now considered one of the tope five duathaletes in the entire state of Oklahoma and is looking forward to moving up in the rankings once the season re-opens in March.

A Duathlon is similar to a

Happy Birthday

December 16

Bobby Taylor, Bobby Morgan, Shannon Rushing, Jane Archer, Aliyah Castillo, Bo Jimenez-Mejia

December 17

Bobby Liverman, Candise Martin, Israel Leija, Donna Seymour, Olinda Jimenez

December 18

Hoot Hearn, Fernie Emiliano, Donny Yocham, Sr., Yesenia Gandar, Hilario Garcia

December 19

Ooye Hernandez, Teresa Vasquez, Nonie Gonzales, Colton Moore, Rex Ann Friess, Angie Warden, Wayne Flores, **December 20**

Jamie "Gage" Hernandez, Amelia Butler, Landon Castro, Don Suridge, Andi Allen, Tommy Arnwine, Eddie Hernandez, Mike Badeaux, Jackie Smith, Damian Garza

December 21

Joe Hidalgo, Steven Guana, Daisy Perez, Gabriel Perez, Sandra Cardona

December 22 Juanita Vickers, Westley Lipham, Carol Sessom, Armando Avila, Judith Law



This was Hale's 4th duathlon of this season in which he swept his age group in all the others as well. He first began racing competitively in off-road duathlons while coaching in Texas. Hale now lives with his wife, Heather, in Stillwater, Oklahoma, attending Oklahoma State University while obtaining a Master's Degree in Applied Exercise Science and teaching three classes at th. University. His wife is receiving her Ph.D. in Educational Psychology. Davis is the son of Mike and Rita Hale of Sonora.



Eagles hang out near the Llano River.

by Delyse Jaeger,

If you build it – will they come...again? YES - the eagles are back! You may recall the excitement created last year when a pair of American bald eagles made their nest high in a tree beside the bank of the Llano River. Throngs of observers gathered along Hwy 29 just west of Llano to observe the mighty raptors build their enormous nest and raise two eaglets. Adding to the mystique was the presence of a third adult eagle who contributed domestic assistance to the breeding pair. This highly unusual behavior has only been documented a handful of times in the entire country. All three birds have returned this season and have been about the business of repairing their nest. Wildlife technician, Dale Schmidt with TP&W first spotted the eagles in the area on September 29th. The weather had ravaged the nest leaving sun-bleached bones and turtle shells visible inside and in November the great birds began the work of rebuilding their home. Eagles continually repair and rebuild the same nest and some nests eventually weigh up to two tons! Photographers Jess and Peggy Thompson have been dedicated observers since their hearts were first captured by the eagles last year. The Thompson's have documented the eagles' progression of activity on film and you can visit their website at: www.cottonwoodphotography.c om. The photographs are stunning and can be purchased online as well as in and around Llano. Asked what the birds have been up to thus far, Peggy Thompson described the incredible sight of the eagles gathering branches. 'Imagine the mighty talons of this majestic bird

grasping an exposed tree branch in fly-by fashion amidst the sound of snapping wood and crashing debris as he/she effortlessly breaks off the limb and continues in flight. Returning to the nest, the two often work together using beaks and talons to fit or weave the limb into place.

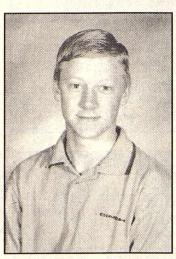
Last year, it was estimated upwards of 700 people a day were packing the roadside viewing area and over 1,000 on the weekends. So far, the crowds have not begun to amass, but this will change soon as the media begins to spotlight the awesome raptors. Currently, the birds can be seen most often in the morning from daylight until about 10:00 a.m. However, the eagles have been mating and once the eggs are laid they will be attended around the clock. Incubation is about 35 days. Last year the eggs were believed to have been laid around Christmas. It was during the rearing of the young eaglets that the public became enthralled with the Llano eagles and locals are scanning the skies hoping the young birds will also return. Problem is, bald eagles don't get their white head feathers until their fourth year and from a distance, young eagles are nearly indistinguishable from buzzards. If you would like to learn more about eagles, visit the website: www.baldeagleinfo.com. The Thompson's regularly update their website, so you can watch the eagle extravaganza unfold. Personally, this year I'm making the trip!

We are having excellent hiking weather and the birds are everywhere, so don't forget to hit the trails on Eaton Hill this Christmas season.

Jack Turney chosen as Enrollment open **Student Ambassador**

Jack Turney was interviewed and accepted to participate as a Student Ambassador with the People to People organization. President Dwight D. Eisenhower founded the organization in 1956. He believed that if people from different cultures could come together in peace and friendship, so eventually would countries. The objective of this program is to promote international understanding while building leadership skills among America's youth. Jack will be traveling to France, Switzerland, Italy, and Austria with a group of 40 carefully chosen students and teachers from the region in June 2005.

The 21-day learning experience consists of meetings with



Jack Turney

government officials, interaction with other students his age, educational activities, and home stays with host families.

Broncos size and speed sting Yellow Jackets

by Maray Cearley

On Tuesday, December 7, 2004, Sonora traveled to Menard to face the Yellow Jackets.

The Broncos were overwhelming with their size and speed and after one period of play they had a commanding lead 21-2. The Bronco bench got valuable playing time seeing action the majoirty of the second half. The Broncos won 58-28.

Clint Cearley led the Red with 12 points, 11 rebounds and four steals. Craig Leonard and Embre Smith each had 10 points, while Austin Wagoner finished with 9. Justin Northcott scored 7, Steven Duhon 4, Evan Gulley, Cullen Parker and Pete Trujillo each had two

Cearley, Wagoner and Leonard each had two 3-pointers and Northcott had one.

Defensively Brett McDaniel, having limited playing time due to a previous injury, had five rebounds,

Broncos win consolation in **Ozona tournament; McDaniel** awarded All-Tournament

by Maray Cearley

Over the weekend of December 10 - 12, the Broncos were playing basketball in the 74th Annual Crockett County Tournament. Their first game was against the Irion County Hornets, which they lost 42-60.

Clint Cearley was the leading scorer with 17, followed by Brett McDaniel with 12. Embre Smith and Steven Duhon each had three. Dustin Creek, Craig Leonard and Justin Northcott all had two, while Dustin Duhon added one. McDaniel made 8 of 13 from the charity stripe

Defensively, Cearley and McDaniel led the Broncos. McDaniel had six board and three blocks, while Cearley had eight boards, three steals and two blocks.

On Friday, December 12, Sonora faced Christoval. Every Bronco saw action, with almost everyone scoring.

McDaniel led with 18 points, three blocks and 11 rebounds. arley followed closely with 15 points eight rebounds and three

for Little Dribblers program

Sonora City League would like to announce the beginning of its Little Dribblers program for 2005. The program will have two divisions: 3rd & 4th grade girls and boys; 5th & 6th grade girls and boys. Any students interested in playing can pick up an enrollment form from the school or at the Devon Energy office in the Mercantile building on Main St. The cost will be \$20.00 per player.

The first group practice will be held on Saturday. Jan. 8th for both divisions. Third and fourth grade group practice will be held at the little practice gym next to the Middle School gym with the girls beginning at 8:45 a.m and boys beginning at 10:30 a.m. Fifth and sixth grade group practice will be held at the Middle School gym with the girls beginning at 8:45 a.m. and the boys starting at 10:30 a.m.

Enrollment forms can be turned in at the group practice on that date. If you haven't picked up a form by the 8th, please bring your child to the gym and pick up an enrollment form. We need a good turn out to have a successful program.

Anyone interested in volunteering or if you have any questions. contact Mr. Lynn Hinsley at 650-2223 or at home at 387-5276. You may also contact Mrs. Nelda Tobias at 206-0290 or at home at 387-5390.

Wednesday

First Bell

8:00-9:45

9:45-10:05

Activity

1st period exam

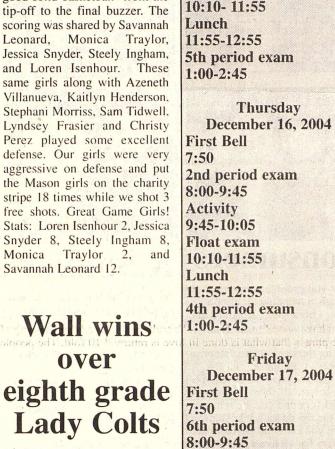
3rd period exam

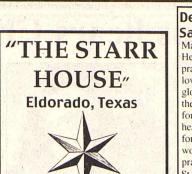
7:50

Eighth grade Lady Colts have solid win over Mason

submitted

The 8th grade Lady Colts played an exciting game on Monday, December 6, 2004, against Mason. The Lady Colts defeated the girls from Mason 32-22. The Lady Colts played good solid basketball from the tip-off to the final buzzer. The scoring was shared by Savannah Leonard, Monica Traylor, Jessica Snyder, Steely Ingham, and Loren Isenhour. These same girls along with Azeneth Villanueva, Kaitlyn Henderson, Stephani Morriss, Sam Tidwell, Lyndsey Frasier and Christy Perez played some excellent defense. Our girls were very aggressive on defense and put the Mason girls on the charity stripe 18 times while we shot 3 free shots. Great Game Girls! Stats: Loren Isenhour 2, Jessica Snyder 8, Steely Ingham 8, Monica Traylor 2, and Savannah Leonard 12.





OVERNIGHT GUEST

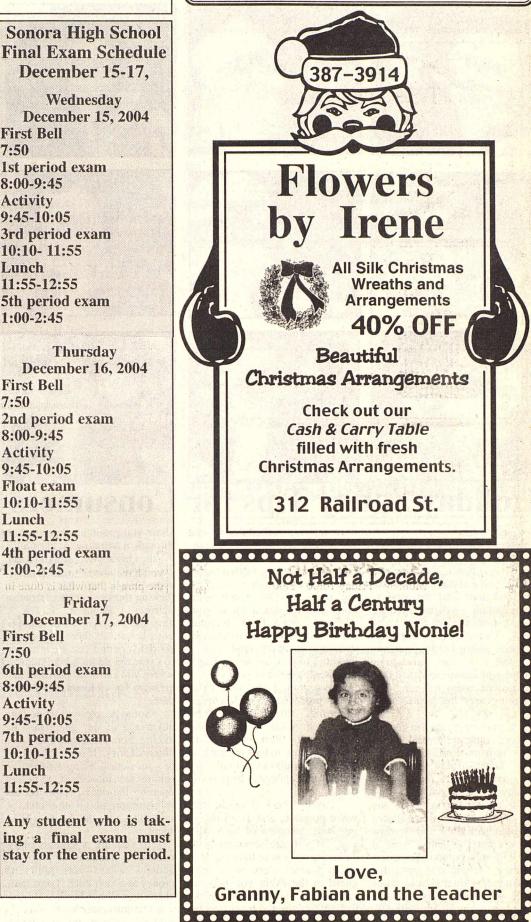
ACCOMODATIONS

(325) 853-3313

Devotion To Saint Jude May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, adored. loved, preserved & glorified throughout the world now and forever. The sacred heart of Jesus, pray for us. St. Jude. worker of miracles.

pray for us. St. Jude, Helper of the Hopeless, pray for us. Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ for the help of your servant St. Jude in listening to my prayers. Say this prayer nine times for nine days. By the end of the eighth, your prayer will be answered. It has never been known to fail. Publication must be promised. Thank you Sacred Heart of Jesus & St Jude for prayers answered. R.H.P.

Hudson Technology Consulting, Inc. Sonora owned & operated since 1999 Your local Computer Service & Support Company 206-0713 / 206-0168 / 387-5799 office



Page 5

steals. Smith added nine, Austin Wagoner seven, Pete Trujillo four and Evan Gulley three. Creek, Leonard and Dustin Duhon each had two and Cullen Parker one.

From the 3-point range, Cearley sank three, Wagoner one and Gulley one.

The final score was Sonora 63, Christoval 48.

On Saturday, Sonroa played in the consolation game against Ira.

McDaniel and Cearley once again led the Broncos, each finishing with 18 points. Smith scored six, Wagoner five, Leonard two, Gulley two, D. Duhon one and Creek one.

Leading rebounders were McDaniel 14 and Smith 6.

Sonora won 53-41, walking away with the consolation trophy. McDaniel received the All-Tourney honors.

The Broncos will have one more game before the holiday break, against Christoval. District action starts against Wall on New Year's Eve!

submitted

over

The 8th Lady Colts played at Wall Monday night, but never got on track. They will now have the Christmas vacation to get themselves back into the groove of winning with the Wall Tournament the week that they return. Their best effort came in the 4th quarter when Steely Ingham scored 6 pts., Christy Perez 2, and Monica Traylor 1.

Stats: Azeneth Villanueva 3, Steely Ingham 10, Christy Perez 2, Monica Traylor 1, Savannah Leonard 2.

ACTIVITY 9:45-10:05 7th period exam 10:10-11:55 Lunch 11:55-12:55

Any student who is taking a final exam must stay for the entire period.

> 'Tis the Season Join us for our Holiday Open House

Maraya Dunn- 16 **Cassie Krieg-10** Sara Gillit-4 **Meredith Earwood-2**

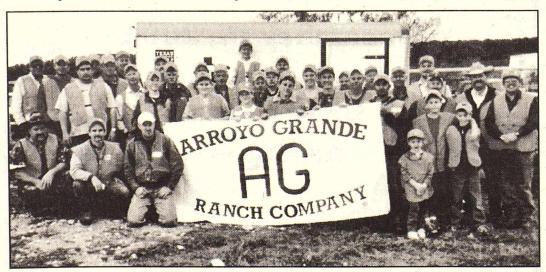
Monday Dec. 6

Sonora-32 Mason-21

Sonora at Wall Mon. Dec. 13 Sonora-17 Wall-36 **Cassie Krieg-7** Maraya Dunn- 5 **Amy Hernandez-3 Bianca Trevino-2**

Arroyo Grande hosts youth hunt in Sutton County

Seventh grade Lady Colts go one up, one down



Arroyo Grande Ranch Company of Sonora sponsored the third annual Arroyo Grande Ranch Youth Hunt in cooperation with the Texas Youth Hunting Program October 29-31, 2004. Thirteen young hunters along with their parents, grandparents, or guardians participated in the three-day hunt. All hunters participated in hunter safety, a nature trail and a talk given by local game warden Will Allison.

December 20 - 23, 2004 The Bank & Trust Lobby 9:00 a.m. lo 4:00 p.m.



As traditions of the holiday season are all around, at The Bank & Trust we have taken this time to reflect on our tradition of providing Home Town customer service with exceptional financial products. We thank you for your husiness in 2004. The Bank & Trust gives you our word that Home Town personal service is our tradition this year - and next!

> From our family to yours a very merry Home Town holiday!

Thursday, December 16, 2004 • The Devil's River News

Santa Claus hears Christmas wishes at "The More the Merrier"















Holiday Safety Tips for Consumers

By Greg Abbott Attorney General of Texas

The holidays are a time of joy and good spirit. Families and friends come together and share in good will and fellowship. Many people will be traveling long distances to see their loved ones. Unfortunately, criminals are well aware of this fact and will use it to their advantage. That is why consumers must take precautions when traveling and shopping over the holiday sea-

on a different schedule, so that no pattern is obvious to outsiders. Ask a friend to stay at your house for one or two nights while you are away. Also, ask the neighbors to watch your home and to park a car in your driveway from time to time. Have the mail and newspaper delivery stopped, and ask a neighbor to pick up any packages that are delivered to your door.

You should also take basic afety precautions when you go











show you proof of identification through a window or peephole. If the person's identification, dress or demeanor make you suspicious, tell them that you will pick up the item at their store or delivery warehouse, or ask to have the package left at a neighbor's house. If there is a charge for delivery and you are reluctant to open the door, get an address where you can send payment and arrange for delivery at a later





12/03/3











A Soldier's Christmas

We received this email in our office this week and thought we would share it to our frineds and family serving in the Military, thank you and Merry Christmas!

I had no Christmas spirit when I breathed a weary sigh, And looked across the table

where the bills were piled too high The laundry wasn't finished

umn right behind an M1A. A group of boys walked past the tank, not one was past

his teens. Their eyes were hard as polished flint, their faces drawn and

lean. They walked the street in armor with their rifles shouldered tight.

Christmas, just to have a silent night

I swept him up into my arms and held him oh so near And kissed him on the fore-

head as I whispered in his ear. There's nothing wrong my little son, for safe we sleep tonight,

Our heroes stand on foreign land to give us all the right, To worry on the things in

Their dearest wish for life that mean nothing at all, Instead of wondering if we be the next one to fall.



If you are going out for the evening, turn on several lights. Also, turn on a radio or televithey can be seen through the window from the outside. Turn off or unplug the lights on any indoor holiday decorations. Double-check door and window locks when you leave, even if you will only be gone for a few minutes. If you find signs that someone has entered your home while you were away, go to a neighbor's house immediately and call the police.

If you are going out of town,

Stay alert and be shopping. aware of what is happening around you. Park in a well-lit place. Be sure to lock the car and sion. Don't display gifts where close the windows. Lock any packages or shopping bags in the trunk

> Pay by check or credit card when possible, and avoid carrying large amounts of cash with you. If you are shopping with children, make sure they know to go to a store clerk or security guard in the event you become separated. Finally, deter pickpockets and thieves by protecting wallets and purses.

Sometimes, criminals pose do what you can to make it look as couriers delivering packages as though someone is home. Put or flowers. If a delivery person two or more interior lights on comes to your door, do not open automatic timers. Set each one the door right away. Ask them to Office.

Some people will try to take advantage of our generosity by asking for contributions to a bogus charity. If someone comes to your door seeking a donation, ask to see identification before opening the door. Also, ask for information about the charity, including how the funds will be spent

date

If you are uncertain about making a donation, ask for an address where you can send money at a later date. Legitimate charities will not hesitate to give you this information. If you suspect the solicitation is a fraud, decline to make a contribution and report the incident to your local law enforcement agency and the Attorney General's

and the car I had to fix. My stocks were down

another point, the Dolphins lost by six. And so with only minutes till my son got home from

school I gave up on the drudgery and grabbed a wooden stool.

The burdens that I carried were about all I could take, And so I flipped the TV on

to catch a little break. I came upon a desert scene

in shades of tan and rust, No snowflakes hung upon

the wind, just clouds of swirling dust. And where the reindeer

should have stood before a laden sleigh,

Eight Hummers ran a col-

Other soldiers gathered, hunkered down against the do and said its always right, wind.

To share a scrap of mail and us and perhaps that we should dreams of going home again.

There wasn't much at all to put their lonely hearts at ease, They had no Christmas

turkey, just a pack of MREs. They didn't have a garland or a stocking I could see,

They didn't need an ornament-- they lacked a Christmas Tree.

They didn't have a present even though it was tradition, The only boxes I could see

were labeled "ammunition." I felt a little tug and found

my son now by my side,

feared, and why it was I cried.

He looked at me as children To thank the ones who help

write

And so we pushed aside the bills and sat to draft a note,

To thank the many far from home, and this is what we wrote:

God Bless You all and keep you safe, and speed your way back home.

Remember that we love you so, and that you're not alone.

The gift you give you share with all, a present every day, You give the gift of liberty and that we can't repay.

Thank you from a grateful America! Thank you, God, for He asked me what it was I our liberty and may we never take it for granted!



Oil & Agribusiness

Tree Managment Seminar scheduled for Sutton County

Drilling.

submitted by Pascual Hernandez, EXTENSION Sutton County

The pecans have dropped and the leaves are everywhere. Fall is ideal for planting some trees, but others should be planted in late winter when they are completely dormant. However, we wonder about where to plant our new tree to better enhance our landscape. We also start thinking about pruning our trees.

Well, to help answer all our tree questions, Extension Horticulturist Debbie Benge-Frost will present a Tree Management

Premises Identification Program Ready; Field Trial for Animal **Identification Also Launched**

said.

submitted

Ranchers and other livestock facility owners from every facet of the Texas livestock and poultry industry can now sign up for a unique "premises iden-tification number," for their livestock facilities. The premises identification number will identify the location of livestock operations in the state. It is the first step in implementing a national system for quickly tracing livestock and poultry for disease investigations or during a disease outbreak or animal health emergency. The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) also is launching a year-long pilot project with a number of ranches, feedlots, livestock markets, slaughter plants and other facilities to test the durability and reliability of electronic ear tags, related equipment and databases for identifying and tracking individual animals.

"The national premises and animal identification system has been under development for several years, with input and ideas from nearly 70 federal and state animal health agencies and livestock industry associations," said Dr. Bob Hillman, a member of the Secretary's Advisory Subcommittee on the National Animal Identification System. He serves as Texas' state veterinarian and heads the TAHC, the state's livestock and poultry health regulatory agency.

'The U.S. must have a reliable and efficient method for tracking and finding livestock and poultry during an animal disease investigation or when an animal health emergency occurs," Dr. Hillman said. He noted that producers and organizations have discussed at great length, the need for information ranch, or upon arrival at feedlots to remain confidential. To protect data in regards to premises and animal identification, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, state-level agencies, such as the TAHC, and livestock organizations and associations are seeking national and state legislation to protect the data from public release or access.

the unique identification of each head of livestock moved from its original herd. For cattle, sheep, goats, cervidae (deer) and some other species of livestock, the identification device will be an electronic ear tag, also called a radio frequency (RFID) identification device. For other species, such as swine and poultry, the number can be applied to groups of animals, if they spend their entire production life together as a group or unit," he

Dr. Hillman explained that the TAHC, Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry; and the Osage Nation in Oklahoma are working cooperatively on a year-long pilot project, funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), to test various aspects of the premises and animal identification. Field tests also are being conducted in at least 20 other states, to ensure the system will function well when it is fully implemented. said Dr. Hillman.

"In Texas, we will work with specified ranches and livestock facilities, equipment suppliers and computer data service providers to test the effectiveness, durability and compatibility of equipment and databases for identifying and tracking individual animals," said Dr. Hillman.

"As many as 80,000 individually numbered electronic tags will be used by the pilot project participants, so cattle, sheep, goats or domestic deer can be identified prior to change of ownership or commingling with animals owned by other ranchers or farmers. The tags may be applied to animals before they leave the farm and livestock markets or other livestock sites. This will give faciliSeminar at the Sutton County Civic Center on December 20th from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. Topics include: Using trees to improve the landscape; tree planting tips; variety selection; proper pruning techniques; caring for pecan, fruit, and shade trees; and dealing with borers, scale, and other insects.

Also, just in time for the holidays, we will have available information on baking with pecans, pecan nutritional information, and holiday recipes. There is no cost to attend, but please call the Extension Office at 387-3101 to register.

Rig Locations as of December 10, 2004 Sutton New Dominion; 9600' WH Karnes - C - #7, Patterson Drilling. New Dominion; 9150' Shurley RR - 2A - #3 Patterson Drilling. New Dominion; 8800' Mayfield - 34 - #14, Key Energy. New Dominion: 8800' LR Valliant #10, Patterson Drilling. New Dominion; 8550' Edwin S Mayer Jr - U - #5, Patterson New Dominion; 8280' Simmons Ranch #81, Patterson Drilling. New Dominion; 6500' Meckel - A - #71, Patterson Drilling. New KCS Resources; 6450' Carta - 104 - #3, Patterson Drilling.

New Range Production; 5000' David - 30 - #1, Patterson Drilling.

New Dominion; 5000' Vanderstucken - 65 - #7, Patterson Drilling.

Crockett

New Devon Energy; 7000' Ruby Helbing - 16 - #6, Patterson Drilling.

Approach; 9000' JR Bailey - A - #508, Nabors Drilling. Approach; 9000' JR Bailey - A - #502, Nabors Drilling.

New Approach; 9000' Approach Bailey - A - #303, Key Energy. New Anadarko E&P; 8500' McDonald - 18 - #8, Patterson Drilling.

Encore; 8200' Jones Ranch - A - #2027, Patterson Drilling. Terrell

Riata Energy Inc; 19000' Mitchell #1201, Lariat Drilling. Riata Energy Inc; 12000' Mitchell #6301, Lariat Drilling. Newfield: 15000' Poulter #3502, Patterson Drilling.

EOG Resources; 9500' Noelke - 31 - #1H, Nabors Drilling. New ConocoPhillips; 12600' University - 4 - #7, Patterson UTI/LV.

Edwards

New Devon Louisiana; 3600' Tom W. Epperson #5, Key Energy. New Dominion; 7725' Canyon Ranch #2113E, Key Energy. Val Verde

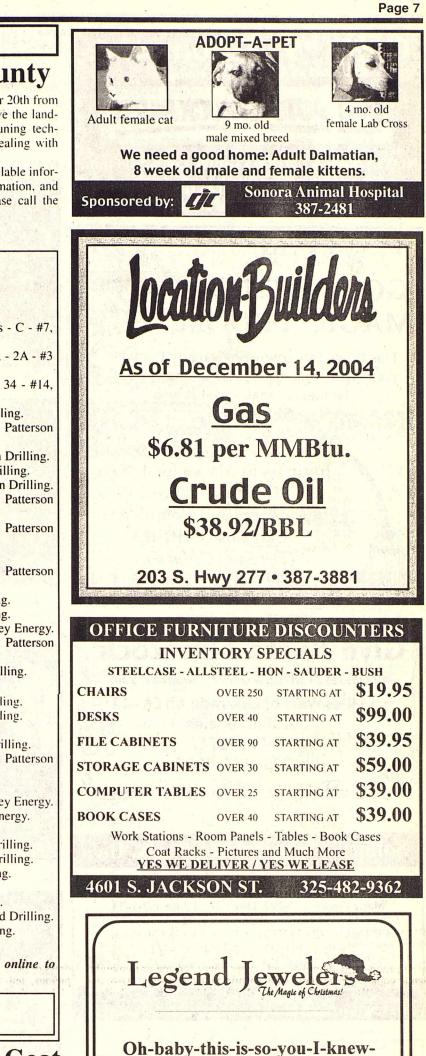
Newfield; 13000' Whitehead - A - #7908, Patterson Drilling. Beeson Energy Inc.; 2450' Great Shaman #1, Hinz Drilling. Chesapeake; 7000' Bunger - 30 - #8, Patterson Drilling. Schleicher

TXP, Inc.; 7600' Meador - A- #5, Heart Land Drilling. Pogo Producing Co.; 6900' West - 47 - #2, Heart Land Drilling. Fuller Prod. Inc.; 6800' Brooks #2, Heart Land Drilling.

For more rig locations call 1-800-627-9785 or go online to www.rigdata.com.



or order buyers' facilities, at Ag researchers help Boer Goat breeders find better animals



you-would-love-itkind-of-Christmas-present!

"Regulatory agencies do not need or want access to production data, but specific information, such as the age and class of animal, as well as movement information is critical for finding potentially infected or exposed animals during a disease situation," he said.

Today, it can take days to track the movement of livestock, to ensure that all exposed or diseased animals have been detected, Dr. Hillman pointed out. He predicted that, by 2008, are sold, moved or harvested, when the national system is fully implemented and mandatory, tracking livestock movements could be streamlined, greatly enhancing disease eradication efforts. He stressed that the ability to rapidly identify animals and trace livestock or poultry movements is crucial to an effective animal disease response

Dr. Hillman explained that the national animal identificasystem, also called tion "NAIS," has two major components. The first, he said, is the unique premises - or facility identification, which identifies the location of livestock operations. This seven-character alphabetic and numerical 'address' is to be assigned to ranches and other sites where livestock or poultry are maintained or moved. Premises information will reside on a database, managed by each state and accessible only by animal health officials. Dr. Hillman said facility owners can obtain a premises identification number now by calling the TAHC's headquarters in Austin at 1-800-550-8242. By late January, ranchers and facility owners in Texas also may register online through the TAHC's web page at http://www.tahc.state.tx.us.

The second component of national system-animal identification--is ready for 'field-testing.' This involves

owners and managers an opportunity to evaluate the system and calculate the costs and time involved with tagging animals, and collecting and reporting animal movement data. Implantable electronic devices will be used for identifying and tracking horses.

Unless a tag is broken or lost, an animal is to receive only one during its lifetime. The unique 15-digit number on each electronic ear tag or implantable device can be 'read and recorded' with a hand-held or stationary tag reader. Ear tags also are imprinted with the number, so the information can be accessed, even if readers are unavailable or out of service

When identified animals project participants will report the event to third-party data service providers by computer, fax or mail, Dr. Hillman explained. Animal tag numbers will be correlated in the database to premises identification 'addresses.

A major aspect of the project will involve determining problems that occur when integrating information from several data collection systems into a central or common database. Ultimately, when an animal's number is queried, a report should list all the premise numbers where the animal had been maintained. Likewise, when a premise number is queried, the list of related animal identification numbers should appear. When an animal is harvested, its number will be retired.

"With the 'roll-out' for the premises identification system, and field trials underway for animal identification, we are much closer to the goal of fighting disease more efficiently and effectively," said Dr. Hillman. "Once the field trials are completed across the U.S., improvements can be made before the animal identification system is launched nationally. By that time, we hope to have confidentiality issues, and any equipment and database compatibility problems evaluated, addressed and resolved."

by Steve Byrns

SAN ANGELO - Until now, the old adage, "beauty is only skin-deep" has been woefully true for meat goat producers trying to pick breeding animals on something other than looks.

To help breeders find animals with the right genetics, the Boer American Goat Association and the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station initiated the Boer Goat Improvement Network or "BGIN" (pronounced "begin") a year ago.

Dr. Dan Waldron, Texas Agricultural Experiment Station geneticist at San Angelo, is the lead scientist on the project. He worked closely with the association to adapt the testing procedures used in other species to meat goats. He said BGIN is the first program of its kind within the U.S. meat goat industry.

"The goal of BGIN is to provide breeders with the information needed to select breeding stock that will lead to an improvement in economically important traits," said Waldron. "The procedures were adapted from the National Sheep Improvement Program through a \$35,000 grant from the National Sheep Industry Improvement Center.

Expected Progeny Differences or EPDs have been available within several cattle breeds for years, Waldron explained. They give prospective buyers measurable estimates of the genetic value of an animal as a parent.

'With some modifications, we are now conducting similar work with meat goats.

Waldron said the Boer goat association's initial evaluation resulted in Expected Progeny Differences on more than 1,300 animals for the seven traits evaluated. The traits are: direct genetic effects for birth weight, 90-day weaning weight, 150day post-weaning weight, and number of kids born. Also, predicted were maternal genetic

effects for birth weight, weaning weight, and a combined maternal plus growth evaluation for weaning weight.

"The BGIN has the potential to impact the entire meat goat industry," said Waldron. "I expect that we will soon see buyers of breeding stock asking for documentation of the genetic merit of animals before making an investment. Buyers will be drawn to those breeders who have documented evidence of superior performance.

"The breeders who initiated this program are making U.S. meat goat industry history. They are to be commended for leading the way."

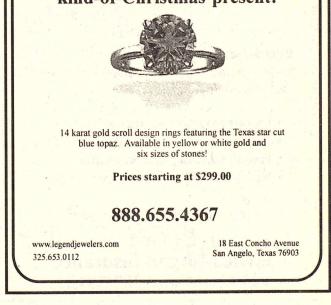
Robert Swize, the association's executive director, several cooperating breeders, and Texas Cooperative Extension personnel, recently reviewed the BGIN program's first genetic evaluations.

"We were very pleased with what we saw and how smoothly the program is going," Waldron said. "The program proves that there are truly many top animals in this country; both in looks as well as genetics.

Waldron said BGIN-tested breeding animals and their offspring are already on the market, and it will be only a matter of time before they start making a positive impact on the meat goat industry. Commercial producers will also benefit from the program, he said, because they can now buy bucks that will produce predictable results in the coming year's kid crop.

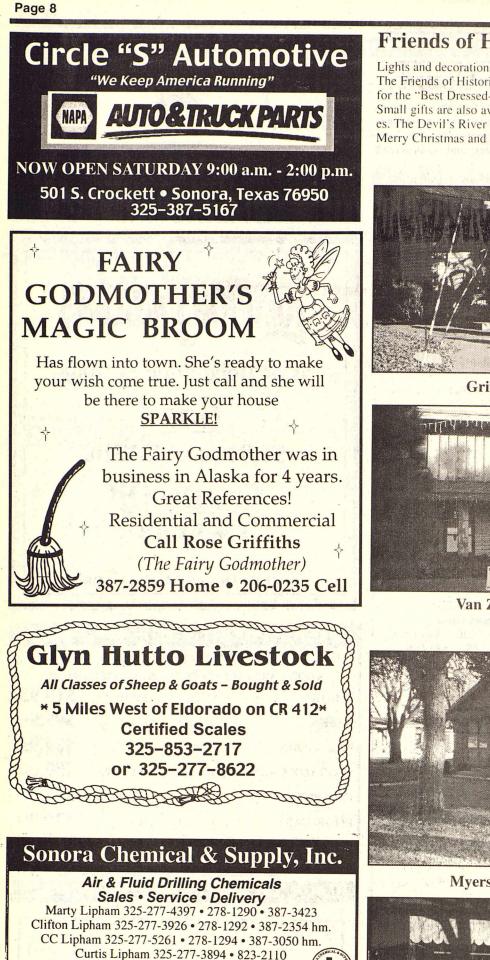
The breeders involved in the first BGIN evaluation were T4 Ranch and Texas Goat Flock, Sonora; Double-M Boer Goats, San Angelo; Sisters II, Carlsbad; Trueheart Meat Goats, Eldorado and 4D Ranch, Utopia.

To participate in the next BGIN evaluation, contact Waldron at (325).653-4576 or Swize through the American Boer Goat Association office in San Angelo at (325) 486-2242.





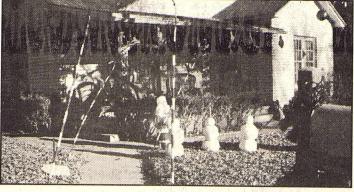




Friends of Historic Sonora Main Street "Best Dressed-Up for Christmas"

Lights and decorations are a way for all to reach out and share the Christmas spirit with friends and neighbors during the holiday season. The Friends of Historic Sonora Main Street Program divided the town into four parts and each week will award a winner from each area for the "Best Dressed-up for Christmas" house. Winners will have a sign placed in their yards proclaiming them a winner for that week. Small gifts are also awarded to the winners. Judges comb the town on Sundays. looking for the "Best Dressed-up for Christmas" houses. The Devil's River News and KHOS will announce the winners each week. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the Friends of Historic Sonora Main Street Directors, Brenda Bryant and Ann Kay.

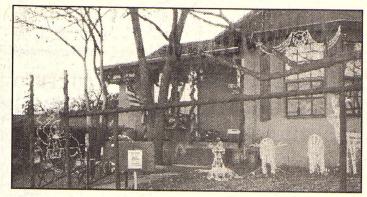
Week 1 winners



Griffith - 301 Water Ave



Van Zandt - 101 Edgemont



Perez - 206 Rock Ave.

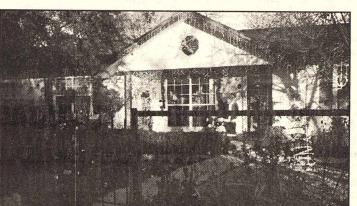


Hinsley - 1202 Glasscock

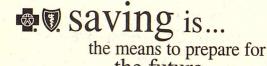
Week 2 winners

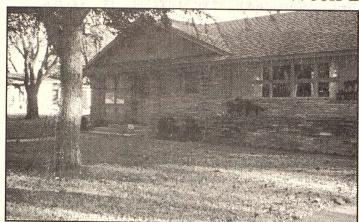


Solis - 206 Lorene

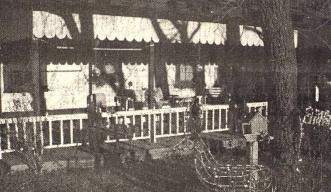


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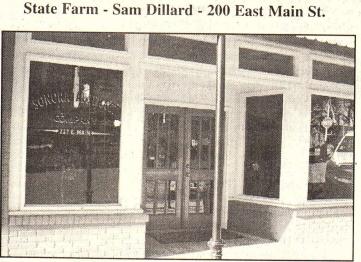
A Division of Health 'Care Service Corporation, a Mutual Legal Reserve Company, an Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association. 8712.505-1203

We sold 1,444 head of sheep and goats today. Kids were \$5 lower with nannies steady. 12/13/04 Where your friendship is cherished and your business is Appreciated!

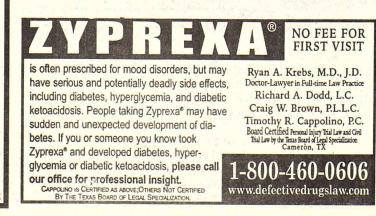
#1 Spring Lambs 50-70 Lbs. • 1.25-1.30 #1 Spring Lambs 70-90 Lbs. • 1.20 - 1.30 #1 Old Crop Lambs 50-70 Lbs. • 1.10 - 1.15 #1 Old Crop Lambs 70-90 Lbs. • .95 - 1.00 Fat Ewes • .50 - .62 Thin Ewes • .42 - .50 Bucks • .30 - .50 Solid Mouth Ewes • .55 - .65 Baby Tooth Angora Stocker Nannies • .70 - 1.00 Solid Mouth Angora Stocker Nannies • .70 - .85 Stocker Angora Muttons • .65 - .75 Angora Kids • 1.30 - 1.35 Angora Kids - Shorn • 1.25 - 1.35 Weighing Angoras - Shorn(thin) • .55 - .65 Weighing Angoras - Shorn (Fat) Nannies • .65 - .75

Stocker Spanish Nannies • .67- 1.00 Fat Spanish Nannies • .65 - .75 Fat Spanish Muttons & Billies • .90 - 1.15 mutt. 1.25 - 1.50 Fat Yearlings • 1.15 - 1.20 Fat Spanish Kids • 1.25 - 1.35 Small Kids • 1.22 - 1.30 Thin Kids • 1.15 - 1.22 Spanish Nanny & Kid Pairs • 42.00 head good boers

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Sonora Abstract Office - Main Street





First National Bank - Main St.



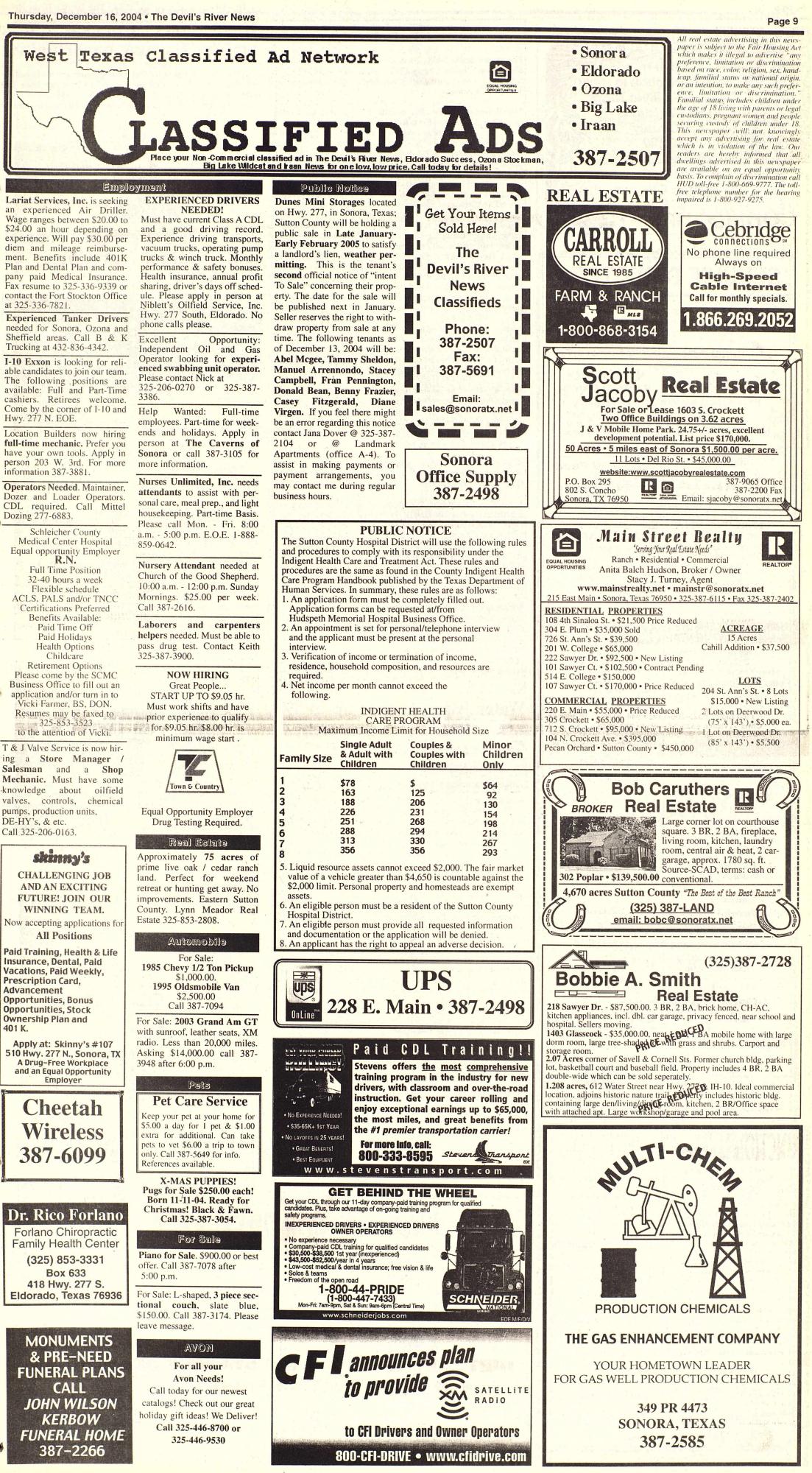
Sutton County Auditor/Treasurer - 224 E. Main St.

Small Business Owner, **Self-Employed or Retired? Affordable Health Insurance** www.HealthInsurance2004.com (806) - 798-0800 Underwritten by Reserve National Insurance Company AHI-4-TX-2

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Week 1 Businesses



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(h)

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	251	268	198
	288	294	214
	313	330	267
	356	356	293







F.Y.I.

The annual Santa Bucks auction will be held on December 16. 2004 at the Sutton County Civic Center. Start collecting your Santa Bucks from participating merchants and bid on great gift items for Christmas.

The Roosevelt Jingle Bell parade will be held on Friday. December 24, in downtown Roosevelt. Ride your bikes, horses. 4-wheelers or just walk in the parade, but don't forget your jingle bells! Line-up will begin at 10:00 a.m. at the Roosevelt Community Center with the parade beginning at 10:30 a.m. Santa Claus will be available at the Back Door Café afterward for any last minute requests. For additional information call 325/446-8032.

Friends of Historic Sonora Main Street Program have received the NEW Christmas Ornaments: 2004 Lillian M. Hudspeth Hospital. We have also reordered the 2001 Sutton County Courthouse Christmas ornaments. The Sonora Woman's Club Sutton County Libray Christmas ornaments are also available. All these ornaments are collectors items, made with 24 K gold finished prass. The ornaments are \$10, so call or visit the Friends of Historic Sonora Main Street Program Office today. There are stil some of the 2002 Old Rock School House, 2003 Windmill and Turkey ornaments as well as the new ones. These ornaments make great Christmas gifts. We appreciate your business and your support of the Friends of Historic Sonora Main Street Program

Taxpayer Alert - The Appraisal District office will be closed on the following dates: December 24, 27, 31 and January 3. If you are unable to pay your taxes before these dates and want to make payments before the end of the year, please drop your payment in he mail with a December 31, 2004, postmark.

Sonora ISD will be hosting an open house for the newly renovated Old Rock Schoolhouse on January 3, 2005 from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Events begin with a ribbon cutting at 10:00 a.m., after which the old school bell will be rung to officially open the building. Visitors may tour until 2:00 p.m. and refreshments will be served. Everyone is cordially invited to attend.

If you are interested in signing a petition regarding the increased water rates please contact Julia Hines 387-2723, Susar Hall 387-5553 or Joan Cusenbary 387-2093.

The Lillian M. Hudspeth Memorial Hospital Auxiliary is selling tickets for a six month individual membership to the Health and Wellness Center scheduled to open in April 2005 (a \$180 value). The new facility will offer aquatic therapy, water and ground aerobics as well as fully equipped exercise facility for both strength and cardiovascular conditioning. The drawing will be held at the March Auxiliary Luncheon. Tickets are \$1 each and avail able at the hospital, Sutton County Extension Office and the Sonora Chamber of Commerce Office.

6th Annual Polar Bear Classic, sponsored by the Sonora High School Golf Team, Saturday, January 15, 2005, at the Sonora Golf Course, 12:30 p.m. (please sign up early); \$10 per peson (any extra donations will be gladly accepted); 18 holes of par 3 gold scramble), ties broke with putt off; sign up at the pro shop - 387 3680. The Sonora Golf Club has waived green fees for non mempers, if bad weather, will postpone until the next Saturday.

Water issues to heat up in 79th Legislature

5,592 bills of which only 1,383 passed. The governor vetoed 48 bills.

Farmers Insurance settles...

Ordered by the state to

AUSTIN - Except when dry reduce its homeowner policy Thursday, December 16, 2004 • The Devil's River News

Head Start program offers positive learning opportunities

Head Start is a positive and nurturing program that is free for qualified children 3-5 years old who are not in kindergarten. The program operates from 7:45 a.m. until 2:30 p.m.. Monday through Friday throughout the school year. The center follows the calendar used by the local school district.

Children who attend Head Start participate in educational activities, have healthy meals, and enjoy playing indoors and outdoors. Services are offered to meet the special needs of the children with disabilities."

There is no charge for participation in Head Start but there are eligibility requirements that must be met before a child may be enrolled. The staff members of your local Head Start center are available to answer any questions you may have about the enrollment or about the Head Start program.

Texas Mag offers dust control sealant products and in **Sutton County**



Texas Mag seals a reserve pit with the magnesium chloride product.

Clouds of dust are not a new sight for West Texas, but they may soon be something of the past. Ron Roesler and Texas Mag have moved into town and are introducing a new method of soil stabilization, remediation and dust control. In 2002, Roesler was talking to some rancher friends in the area who were tired of the oilfield equipment moving in and stirring up dust on their properties. Roesler listened to the concerns and started doing some research. He contacted the people at Texas Mag who were currently working with ice melt products and soon came up with some new ideas. Using a chemical solution made up magnesium chloride brine water a dust control product was soon produced.

Texas Mag Dust Control is a liquid magnesium chloride based product that is hygroscopic (attracts moisture). The ability to attract moisture provides maximum control of dust.

It is used as a binder for a variety of adhesives and specialty cements. The binding action creates the most dense, compact surface possible. It is very slow to leach. A single application will last from three months to one year depending on the application, soil type, and traffic. Texas Mag Liquid Magnesium Chloride brine water is produced from wells through a unique, natural solar evaporation process in West Texas. The principle energy required for production is derived from the sun for evaporating water. This naturally harvested mineral is used in a variety of industries due to its effectiveness and beneficial environmental impact, including dust control for roadways, parking lots, and plant sites, fertilizer ingredient for agricultural fertilizers, road base treatment for road building, smolder resistance for flame proofing lumber and cotton, fungicide manufacturing, to manufacture Magnesium Acetate for airplane deicing mixtures, odor control and soil remediation. How is this helpful to ranchers? Dust control saves money by:

* Reducing the need for blading, watering, soil and gravel replacement

* Providing a smooth, firm driving surface which increases: vehicle productivity, decreases fuel consumption, and saves time.

Preventing costly soil erosion caused by destructive wind conditions.

* Reducing vehicle maintenance costs by lowering the levels of dust that clog filters, bearings, and machinery.

* Reducing the cost of cleaning vehicles, equipment, property, vegetation, and living sites.

It was soon discovered thatdust control is not the only use: for Texas Mag product. More research by Roesler and chemists with Texas Mag found that the oil field could use the magnesium products as well.

A broken reserve pit on a location led to the ruling that all reserve pits must be lined. Sheet plastic was all that was used and not only was that costly, it didn't work well because of holes. and was an environmental mess to clean up. Texas Mag invented a product that is a sealant "hard pan" that can be sprayed on the pits. The clay pits are soaked, then sprayed with magnesium chloride that "locks" up the water and binds the particles together. A wet seal is formed so that the ground does not crack, but also does not allow seepage. The product is applied with a fire hose and is a cost efficient way to seal the reserve pits and currently is only offered by Texas Mag. If you are interested in finding out more information about using Texas Mag products for dust control or pit sealing, you can visit their website at www.texasmag.com.

spells force homeowners to cut back on their yard watering, most Texas urban dwellers tend to see their glass as half-full. But not a farmer depending on water for his livelihood.

State Capital

Highlights

Texas Press Association

Though more than 80 percent of Texans live in the big cities, agricultural interests still consume most of the state's water, Texas Agriculture Commissioner Susan Combs told a Lubbock conference on water issues last week. That sets up a rural versus urban battle for water rights that will get legislative attention during the next session, she said.

"A lot of interesting things are happening," Combs said at the meeting. "It's going to be a significant water session."

Bills filed ...

As of last Friday, 226 bills have been prefiled in the House and another 104 bills prefiled in the Senate in preparation for the Jan. 11, 2005 start of the 79th Legislature. No water rights measures have surfaced yet.

During the 78th Legislature, lawmakers filed

rates by 17.5 percent, Farmers Insurance - with about 10 percent of the state's homeowners market - has reached a settlement with the State Department of Insurance.

Under the agreement, which Insurance Commissioner Jose Montemayor said would prevent expensive litigation, Farmers' new and existing customers will receive a 5 percent rate cut. Existing customers will receive a 15 percent onetime discount when they renew.

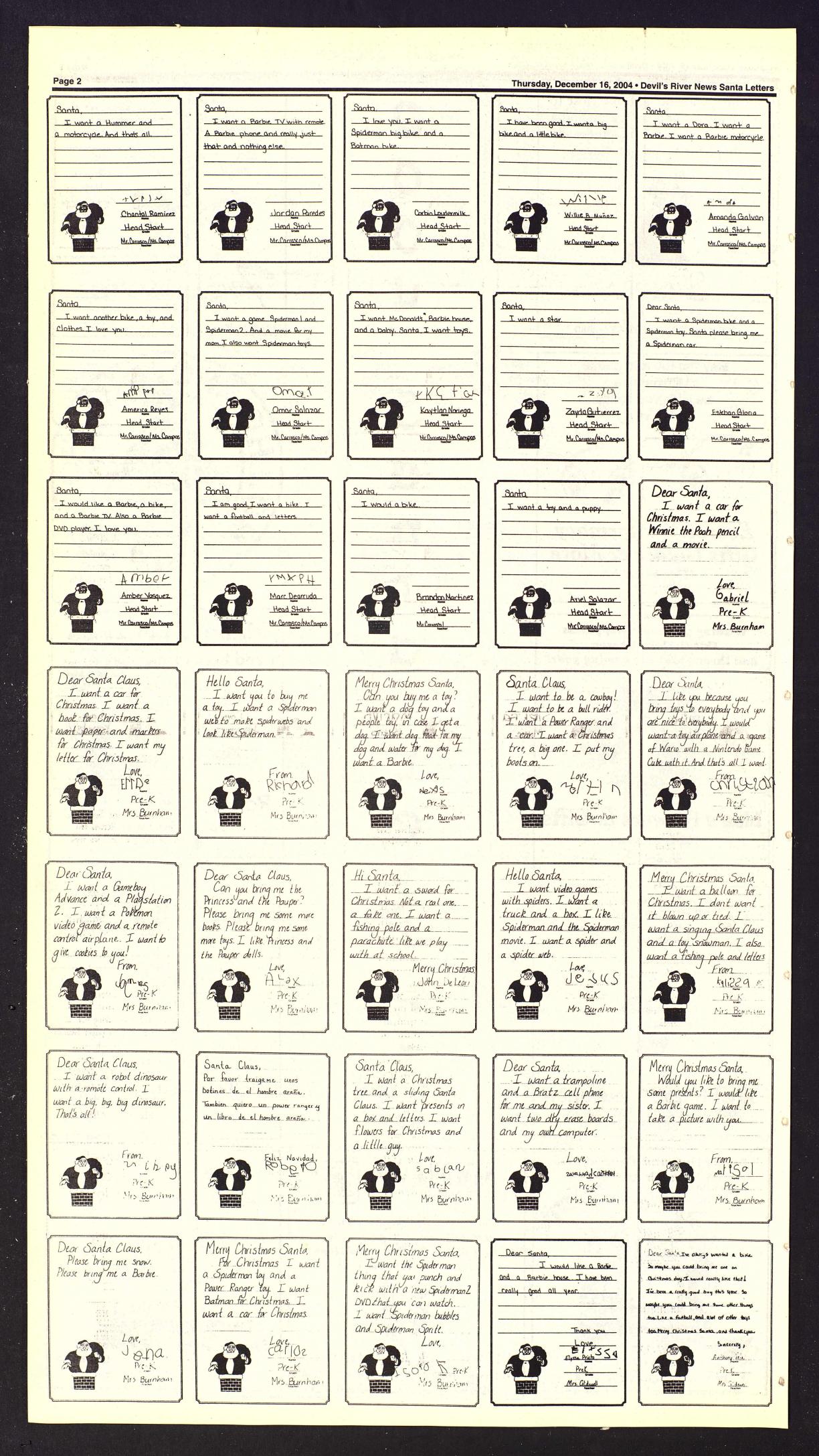
Meanwhile, State Farm Insurance, which has about 30 percent of the Texas market, is continuing to contest a stateordered 12 percent rate rollback.

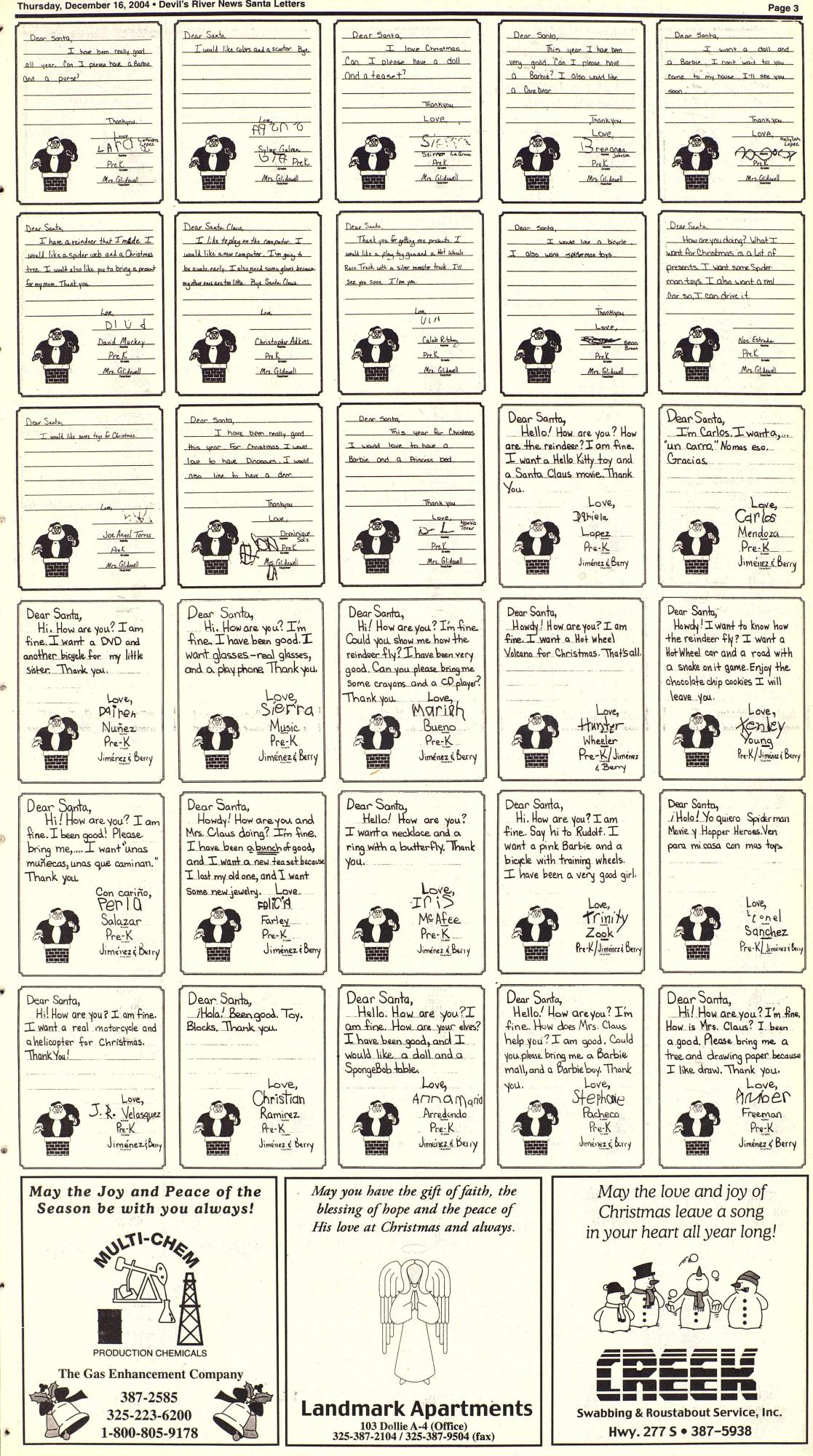
As the appeal process plays out for State Farm, Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst has asked Senate Business and Commerce Committee chairman Sen. Troy Fraser (R-Marble Falls) to look for ways to "further reduce the cost of homeowners insurance for the working families of Texas.'



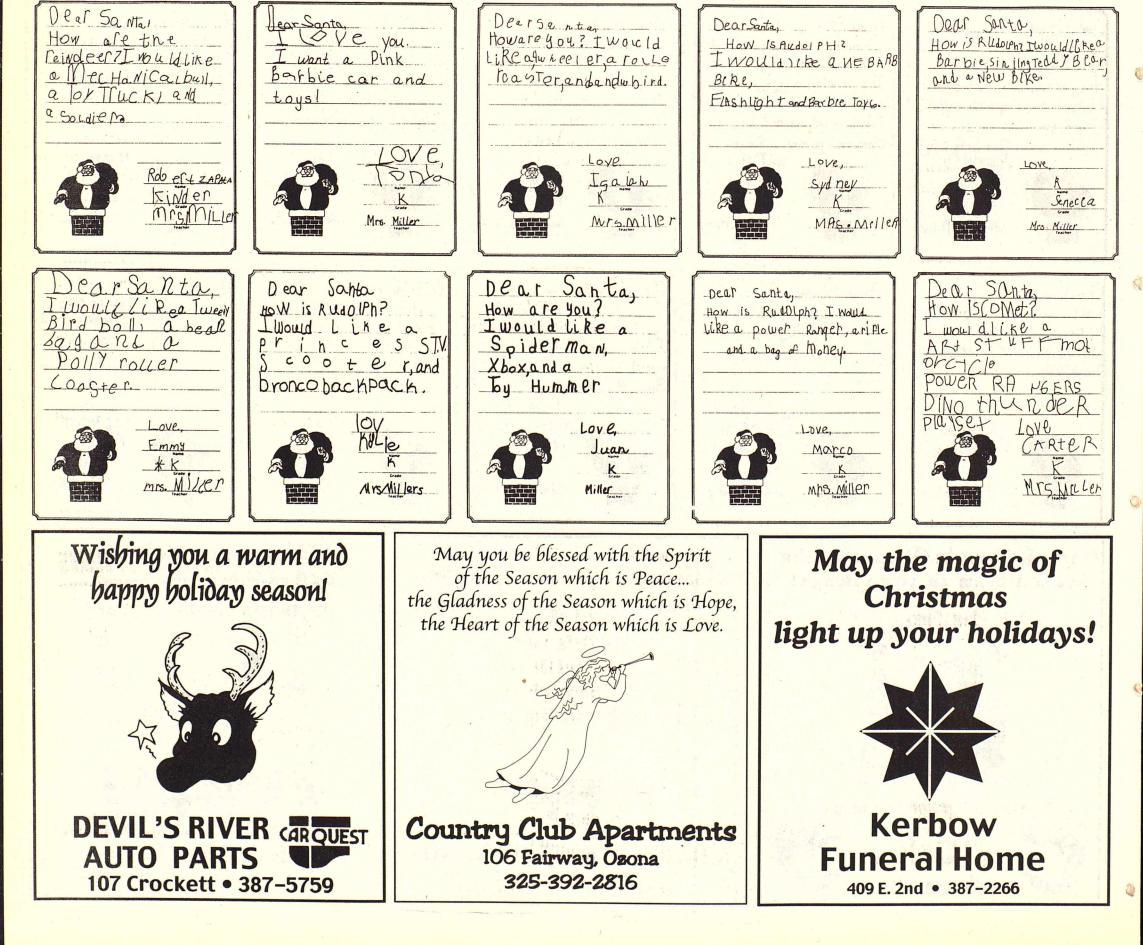


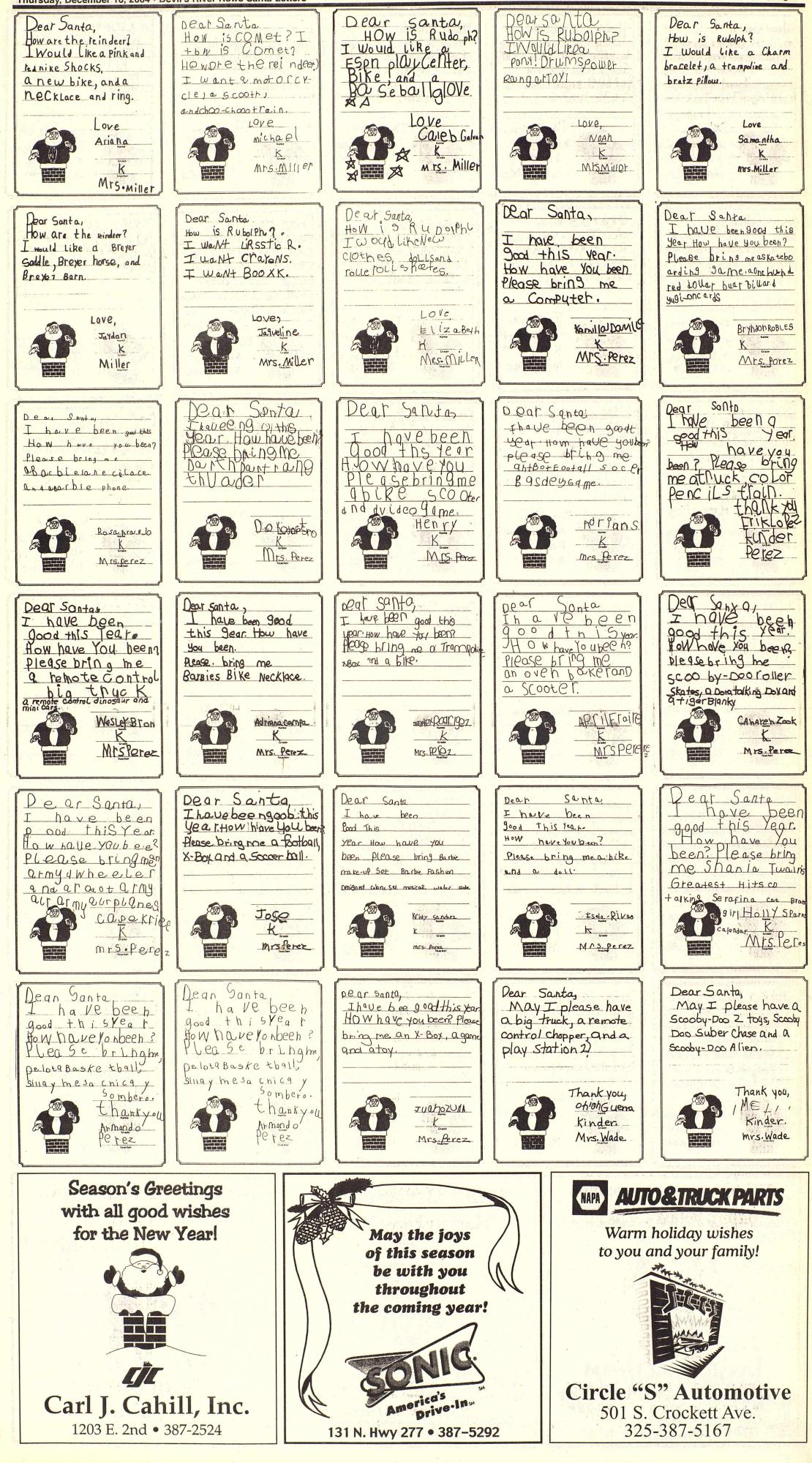






Thursday, December 16, 2004 • Devil's River News Santa Letters Page 4 Dear Santa Dear Santa, Dear Santa Dear Santa Deor Sonta L have been good. Would you PIEASE Thave been good. Wolly you please Hello! How are you doing? I have been good. I havo been good would you llesse Can I hug you when you come Would you please brins br/ng me a to see me on Christmas? I have bring me an the a shark Tale Play SPIDE FM IN GAMEA X box, Power ranger been good. I want a Migium car Aution 2 game S1/2 Gahda Dame Poweranger book and a fol. and a "Migium house That's all." crash Jame Ratchet commando and a S Bletman toy +ru(Love, 2amg n, and a *Yesenta* Love N INtendo Love Lor-Gandar LOPAN Gage Pre-K Angel Jacob K Jiménez & Derry Mrs Dutton K mrs Dutiton Detton Mrs Dutto pour Santa Thave been good Wo Wayouplea se by ing meabike anapiaystation Dedísanza. Dear Santa, L, have been good Decar Sallta, Dear Santa I have been good Thave deen good have been good. Would you prease A metal dete tpl, and a BUlleth Would you please bring-WOuld nov Please dring NOULD You Please me a Peilor grack mea gocarty-pox bring Nea and lotors. trampoune with a net, Love Gameboy, new tarrings LUV and bog rd. and a Playstation. OVe MICHAEL Love Joseph Tate Modition 5 KY K mr 5 Dutt mts Dutton ANDTEW mrs. putta Mrs Dutton Dear Sorta DearSanta Deastt Dear Santa, Dear Sonta, I have been good IL UVEENgoos I have been good Would you please Dring Me a I have been and I have been god Would you plande bring Would you please bring Wouldwouplease brings Me a PLAYStation would you please bring pew blke nea me a mame, Action Figares Sweats, Newbike a 20-90 we liking dg Folding Choviv powerancel (Humer, and bike, and a Playstahon 2, and a Motor Scooler Hart. Remote ControlTruck Transformer Ninjatures Ref hic toris. Del Alean Love Love LOVO Victoria. Pablo Kobie Aaron K K K Gante Dutten Mrs. Dutton mrs. pute on MEDUN Mrs Dutton Santa A DEarsahta Dear Santas pearsanta, Dear Dear sonte How is come to I would I have bee good IHQVEbeen I have been Would you good How is Rudo h? good Please Nould you Pleasebring. LISTOYBULL that ISMYSISE, do would, Ine allow House Barbes tordin+bike with a ne bring MCQ A O ME CANPLE Poixlough whot where Is Car OY MO TORE TOLO man on it and toy GUITOFCION roletrockand Jeer. ter, a real dog and POWEr rongers. Cap a real Kitty. Love, Lovesin Jasm ne Colton Silia Rafael RAND K Mrs. Miller K Tithe mrs. Miller MASDitte





Dear

Dear Sanzas

eagen Johnson

Mrs. Wade

T hankyou

Ancel

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Mrs. Wode

Kunder.

Dear Santas

Clues?

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Dear zahtoz

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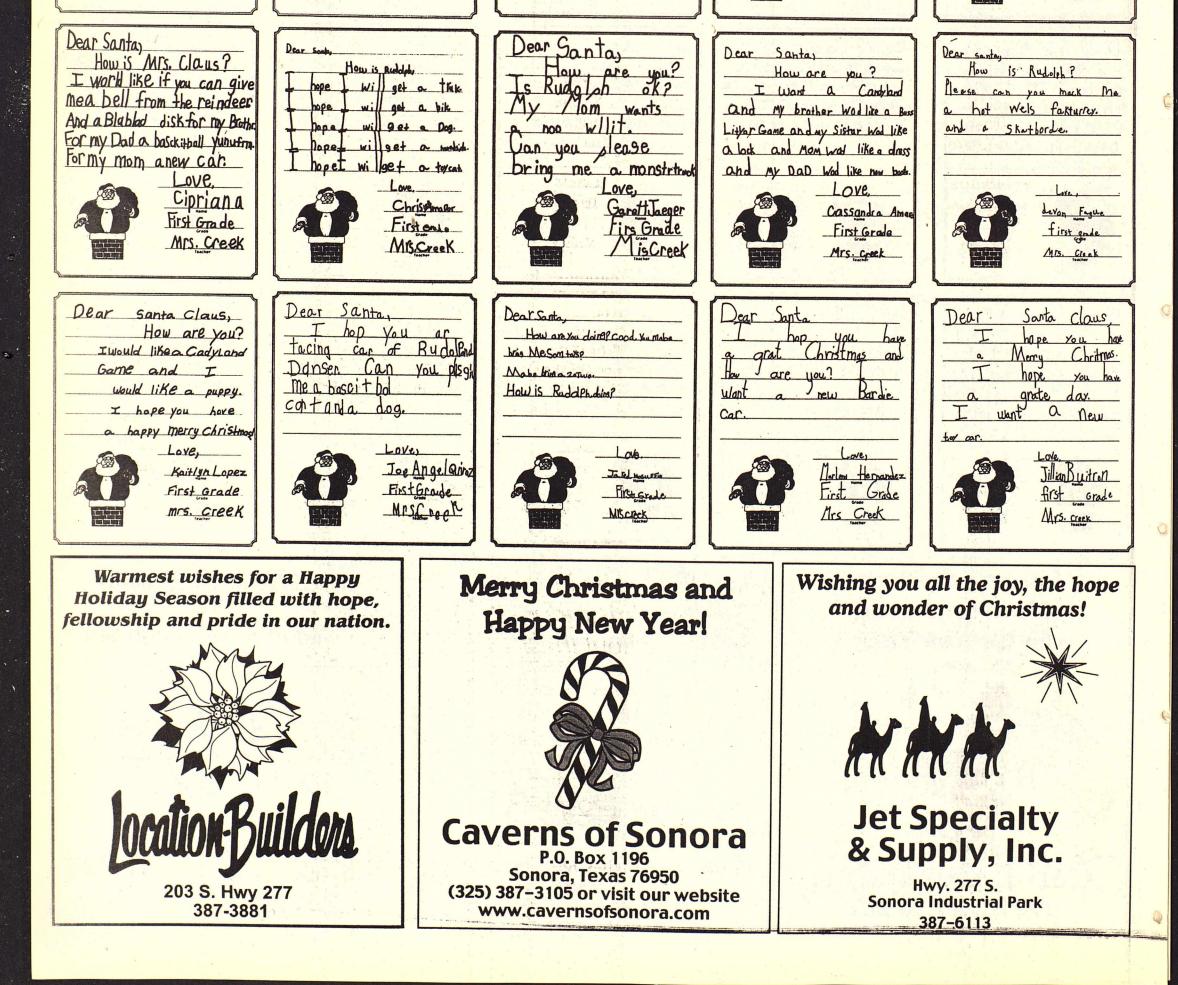
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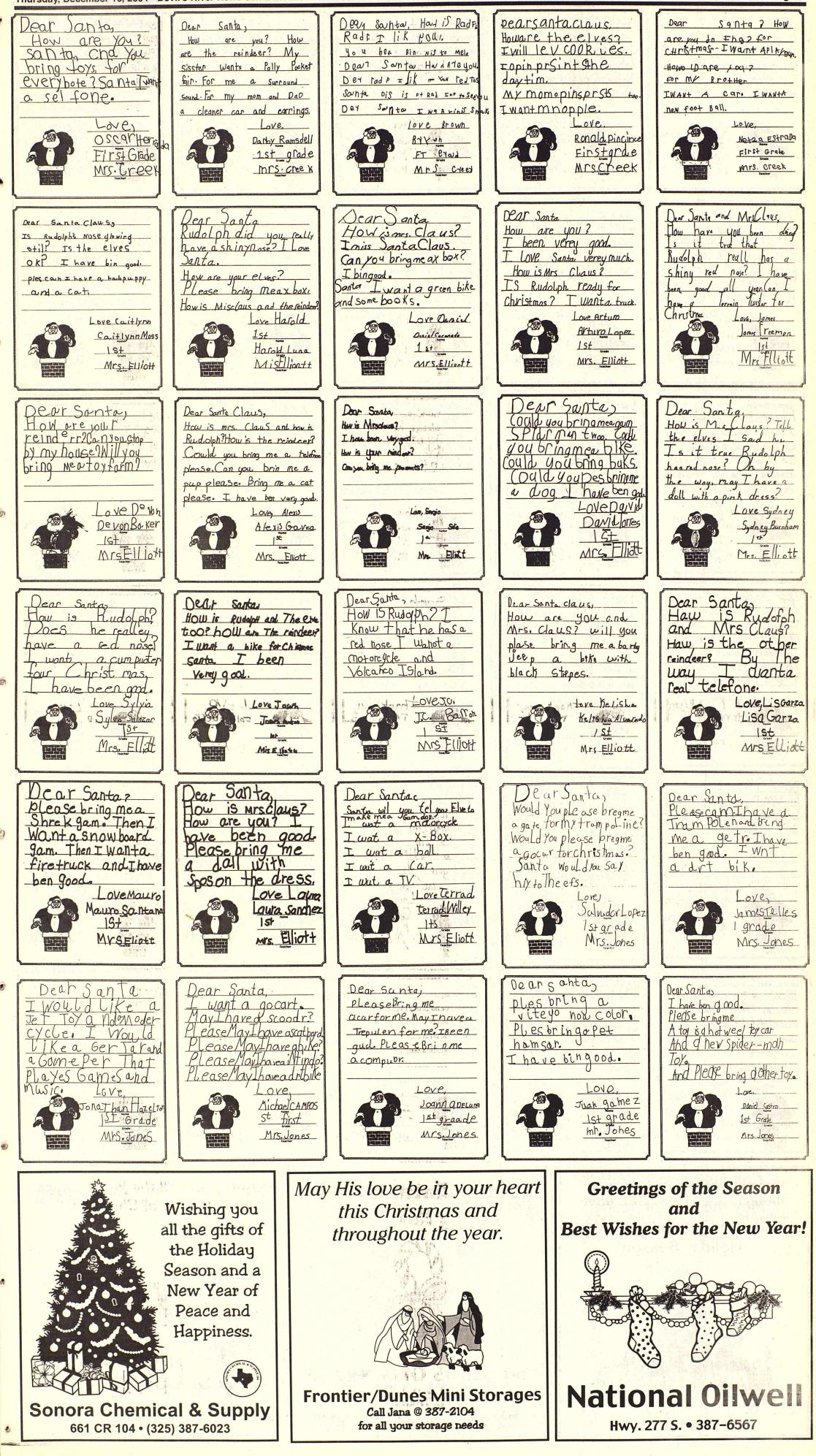
Deer sente Mey I please have Q en opper direction Dear Sahta, Dear Santas Dear Santa, May I please have a toy Rocket, Swords, and Legos? ney I Please have a new Barbbe jeels May I please have May I PI, ease Coyote phone Barbie phone and a spider Man Joy Stick? Slug Bug, and an da truck? Batbit postet ~. Clothes? Thankyou, Corben Kinder Thank you I hankyous Thank you, Thank you, Christopher Castr kate un Lipham Juan Aignel Jimones Jenalyra kinder. Kinder. Kinder. Kinder Mrs. Wad Mrs. Wade mrs. wade Mrs. Wale Mrr. Wape Dogh Schta Mac I Plas Hav O GUNS, DVD AND GUNP Dear Santa, Dear Santas Dear Santa May I pleas have a remotecont Rol May I please have May I please have May I please have Sour sprays a giant Candy bars and a Care Bears a parbies a parbie any 4 Wheeler Ande ascoster with Lout_ and a Barbie Leep? training wheels, rac Unecar, Barbie dotte with clothes, a new collar for Peaches? hank Thank you ThankTou mankyou GAAYCOCK CE H Jessi Cafaretes Bethany Aguero BiaharFay KINDR. Kinder. Kinder Kinder. mrs. W9de Mrs. Wade Mrs. Wade Mrs. Wade Dear Sahtas Dean santa, near santa. Der santa Mali Please have May I Please have Montey, arocking May I please have a Hello Kitty Bike A L Cap Frog B Ke LP OUP F May I please have May I please have a a radios clothes; couboy hat books andates? aby elephan to excessive and a baby doll? hopses and a vittle hoburFemily and ball Mermaid Mouber Thank you

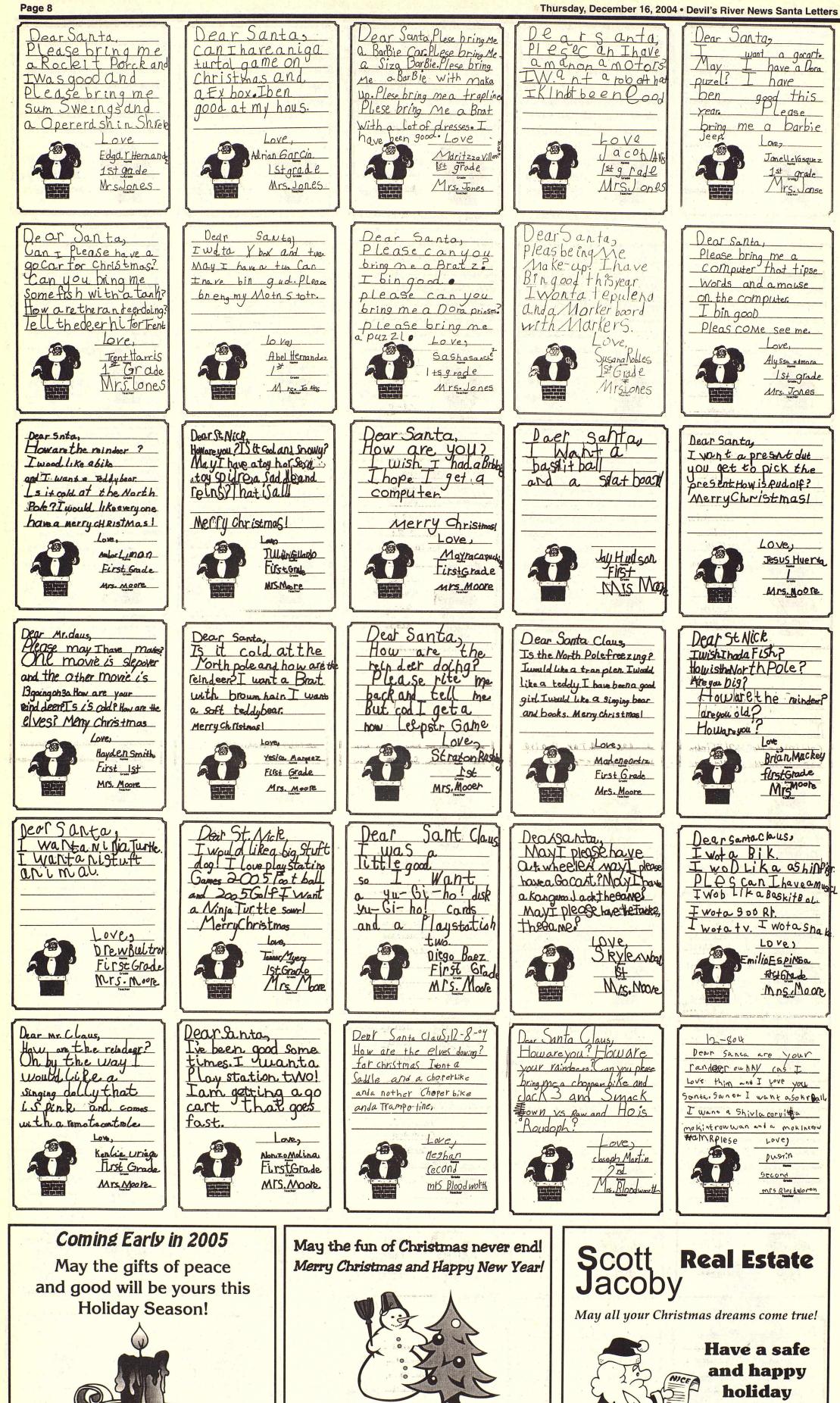


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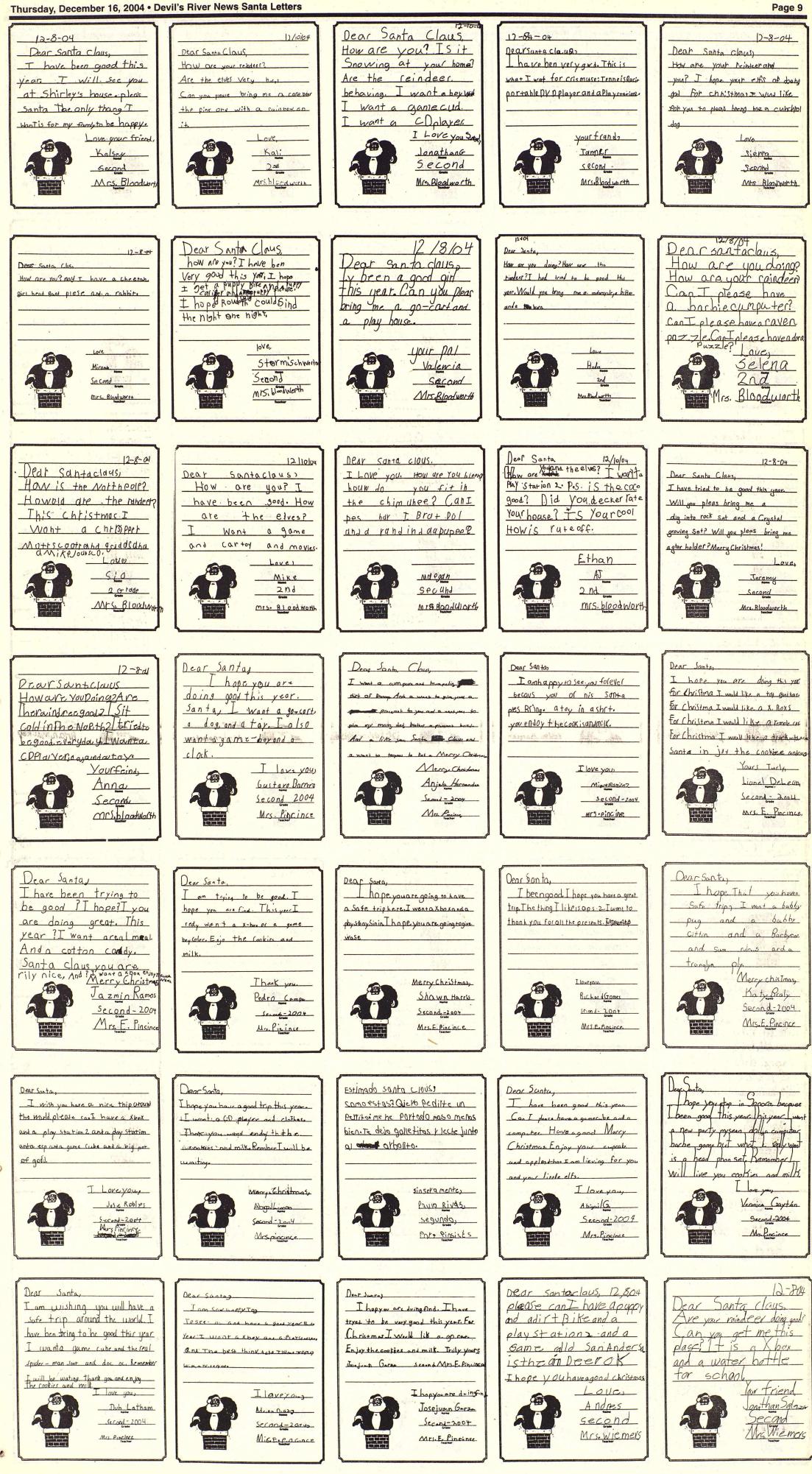


Comfort Inn of Sonora 311 N. Hwy. 277

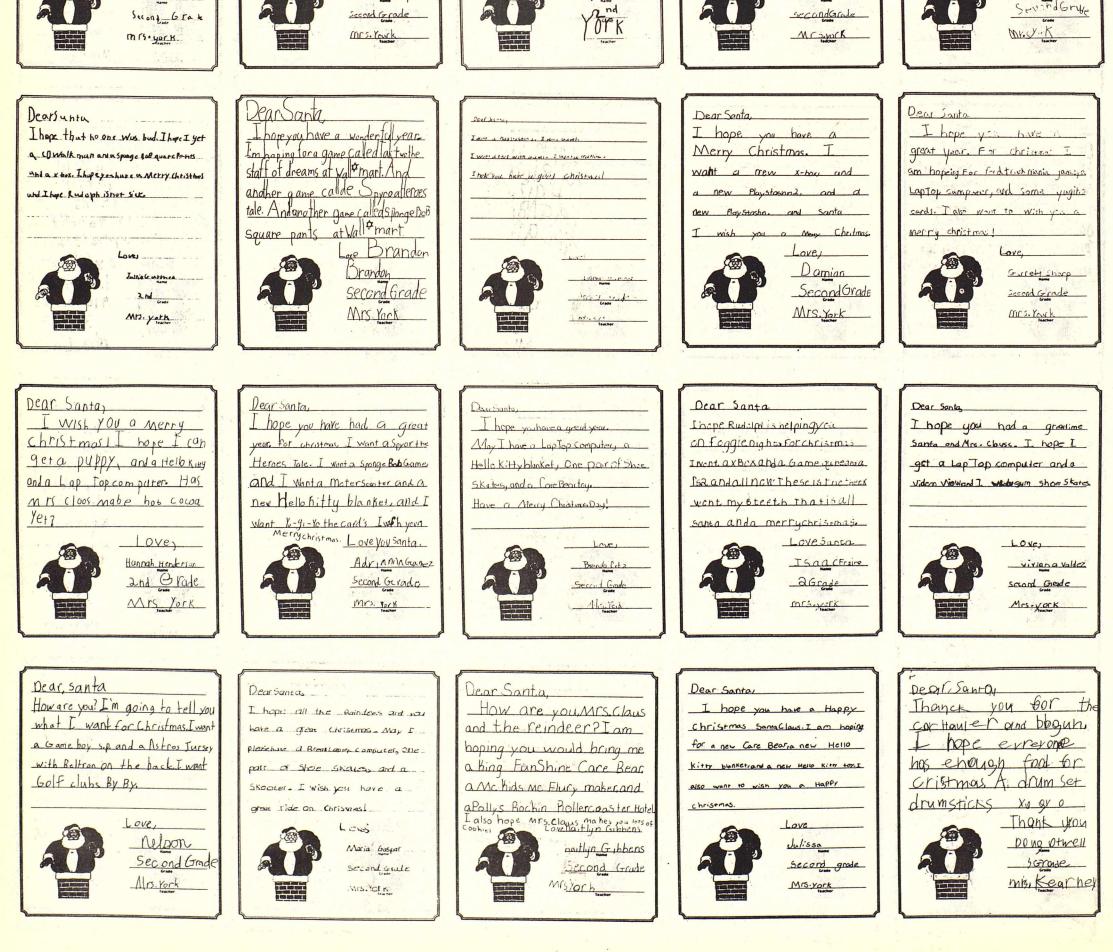
Rafter W Feed 201 Cedar St. • 387-3042

season!

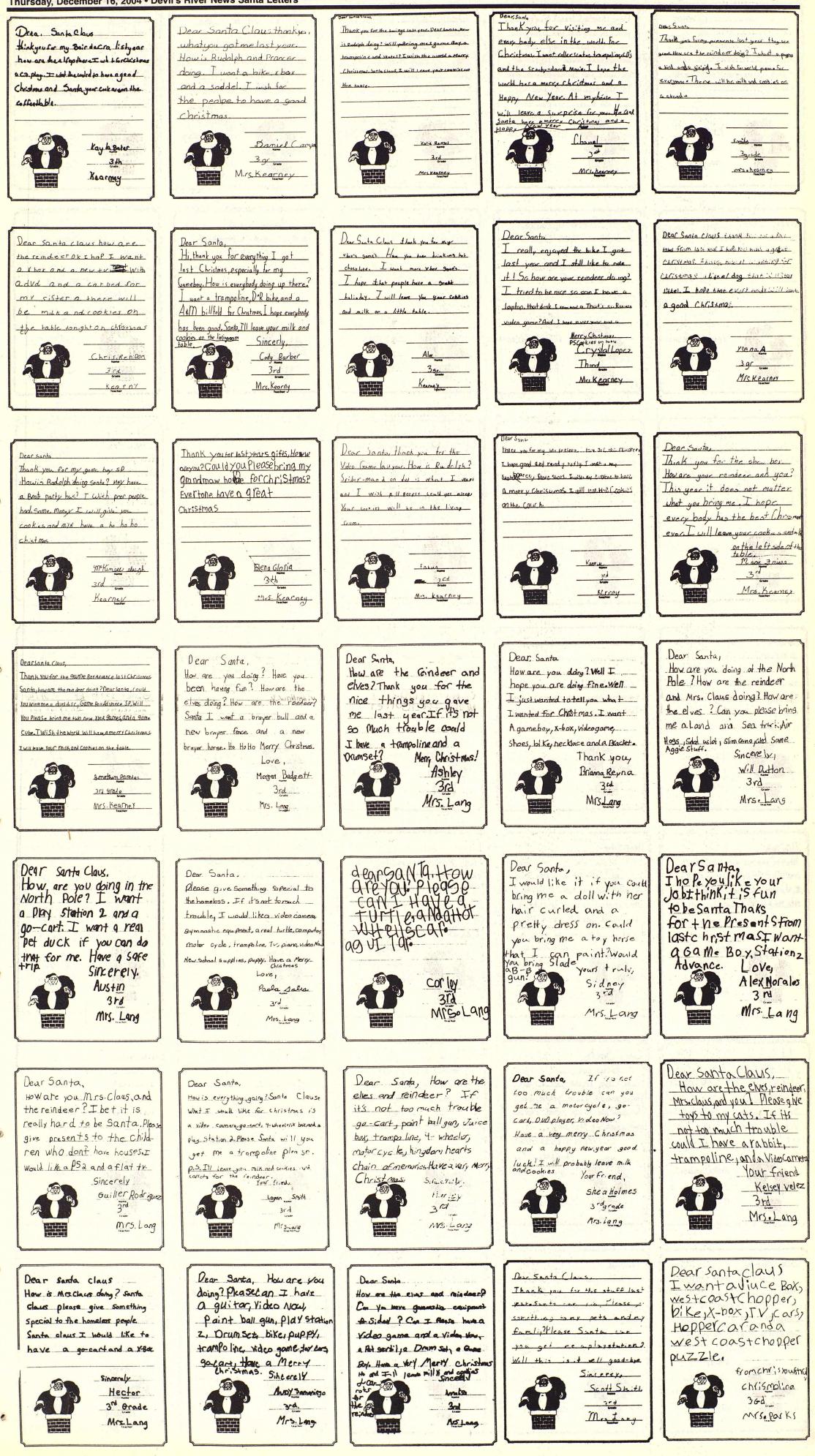
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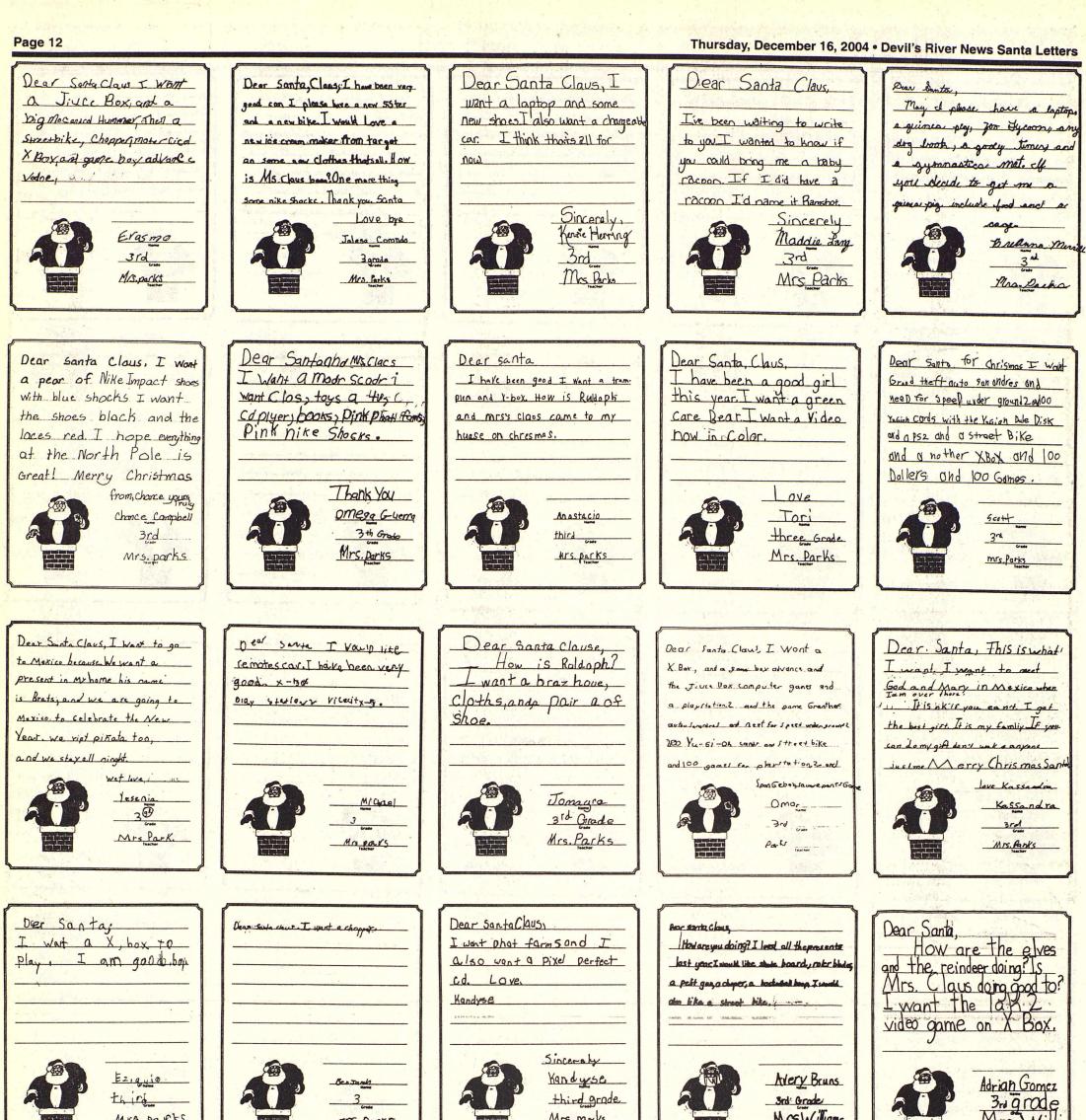


Thursday, December 16, 2004 • Devil's River News Santa Letters 12-8-04 12-8-04 12-8-04 12-8-04 12-8-04 Jear Santa Claus. Depor santa clas, Dear Santo Clous, Dear Santa Claus, Degr Santa; for Chrismas How are you? How are How are you doing? I would Can I please have a patcher How is Mrs SADTA - Clause? I have Been can Your elves Joing? How is you Gut life a mini + rampolige, I have bee good of you and an elve. Also some a Good wirl This is want I would me a Rudolph with hes shiny auitar and a Batz so can I have sum note cardy cloths please. A book of Like for chrisimas a Brazz Dady, suitcase, and nose? Cant pleashave a directions how to make things and sum clothes Dora Doll, and a Kareake Machine. Safurey Bratz, DVDs Lights Alive? a diatk Your Friends I love you, Love, Love, Halle Madison Wolfe Destary Love Audrey Victoria Second Second Second Second second Grade Mrs.wiemers Mrs. Wiemers Mrs wieners Mrs. wich crs Mrs. Miemers Deor Santa Clou.S. Dear Santa Claus, 12-8-04 Dear Santa Chus, 12-8-04 Dear santa claus: 12-8-04 howareyou! This HOW :5 Foundary & I.M. Bin O. 9002 BOY SO COA YOU Bring how are you? Howare the cires? I whant a Dear Santa Clauso How is the riendeer? YeoRihaverinideto beosgood of icon. I have been good allyear Bike and Sume Candy and a lunch box. How is rudo ph? mea ESCLade and Himmer Thankyou for the Stuff 1024 Santa how is your white doing? This yearingy alike year Plese Bring me a Tea Ohd O- Chopper Bick Have O-How is the evers! I would apuppy Metrorist Serand o groove girl car HOPPY MERRY likes Keydoard micronhoe and Masi Kour Frend Ch RIST Mas. clrums. and lip Skick. chasp. Love yourforend, lovz, chase MCKayla Michael Alexa 2ordde second SECON Sec and Rnd Mrs. winob wimers Swinds Mrs. Winers Mrs. Winers 12-8-04 12/10/04 12 18/04 Dear Satay 12-804 Dear Santa Clause, Dear Santes Dear Santa, Dear santa clouis, Has Mrs Claus and rudolph How are you? This year thave How is Rudof doing? can I How are voll? I whant How are you? Is It snewing been good for chistmas at the north Pole! been very good. I would like a placeas have a Yomha Dram a bike ana motor - scootere and may I prase have a Rackin Roller pet cat that is all I want for Set and a blak with movis of santa claus and toys. Please can voy get mea conster Hotel, and a moter scooter, christmasthis year Thank you! red ritting South pole Chopper Bike and a H two and a care Bear. I bo not care which Thank you Santa clause! Sweter and a Skate bord helmet Hummer and a Xbex happynousday. Cure bear you give me. I LOVE You. Your Friend, I Love you. Love Love Love Lisette Fthan Hunter Rigoberto haci Lewis Second Secand Second record Sclandbrade Wiemers Mrs. wiemer Mrs. Wiemers. Missin Mrs. winers)ears n+" Jearsson, Dear Santa Dear Santa Der Santa) I Hope Youhare had A I wish Youhavergoal Christma I hope you have a. Thopeyou have had agreat How are you and Mrs class great years Lanhoping for Puppy Loing? I was wishing for a LD great year. For christma: I time. I hope Iget a motor scanter, and Spongeber Student Paris am hopeing For Fridtrick Minnia janicia I hopeIget shoes skates, and Warkman, Spange BOB Spratepaors rigt Ma Gametisat Walt Spibe The mony on to proprayer. I hove Laptop comparer, and some wight? Video Noul S ant HellCopter - Man > Sumi Su . a > Ih : A Juh ves you a ne mis class. 17 & cards. I also want to wish you at did Cars Hogy New Year. Merry christmas! ove, overes. I love you) Love, Love, Marker Pres. Fr. ue Jes, Telles Listia Liveria Gurrett Sharp



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Mrs. Will Mra parks Mrs. parks Mrs.Williams Mrs. Darry Dear Sonta, Dear Seat Dear Santa Dear Santa Dear Santa How are your reis der ding and Mrsclaus How are your reindeer? Is How are you and mostly How are your reindeer How are you and Mrs. Claus the weather cold? I snudolph and chees? I hope they are great in the are your rine door and elfy doing doing? Thank you for my presents bust and the reindeer doing? I say good or bad? This Christmas Kerth pole How is the unather ? I bet it's good? I hope so. Thank you for year and my dog. They were great. What thank you for the presents you gave I would like a new video game that Cold . Thanky ou for the horbis basethal last My playstation last year. It is I want for Christmas 15 a Texadargme last year. This year I wanta year I mally approviate it. This your I and the cool. This year I would like is called Need for Spendunder ground horn short and pillow, jewelry, and a CD of Britney spears, a stereo, and also a make up bay and a motor schooler picase. 2, and a new street bike, Anew torigan x box and a Mohrsoppler a motor scoter. Merry Christmas Thanks, Merry Christma Love, new walk men-Lory Jose Longonia Forrah type smith Miranda Perez Briana Molinae 354 3rd 3rd Gode 3 nd 3ª Grade Mrs. Willams Mrs. Williams Mrs. Willames Mrs. Williams Mrs. Williams_ Dear Santa, Dear Santa, Dear Santa, Dear Santa, Dear Santa, Howare the reinder How are now ? How are you and miss claus How are your Reideer? How are the pin deer How has the Weather I'm fine. Thank you for all How is mosclaus? I want a truty reindeer, elvest I wan tacatanda mis dous and you. I would been of the North Pole? the presents you're given metwaty shot gun, peterbilt a lift cit play stastion 2. Thank-you Ar lost year. like a new vides gone. The Will you please bring Luculd like two pairs of earings and a new miny chapper. nome is grand That site Have a merry Christmas. me a playstation 27 Will and anochloce please. Thank-you for the presents! san Andres . I upd also like mataraxching meagamentith Merry Christmas a red and that constrat with nitros. Love, Glenna Stanley Graytan Trini Guema DANTEL . NICAR Kassandra gaye manne 3rd Bed 314 Third 3rd ma williams Maswilliams Mrs.Williams Mrs. Williams ms willins Dear Santos Dear Sonta Dear Santa Dear Santa Pear Sonta How are you and MSG Her are your Reindear a your elves How are your reindeer and How is Mrs. Claus ? Thankyon for all my How is mrs. claus in the north pole Are Claus doing? Howare your reinder? doing? For christmiss I want a flat Ball and your elves? I would be a new football presents that you gave me last year. the elfs working hard Tell Rud lph I sailthin Thank you for my presents last ye an a new bite thigs frail the presents bot and a bastetball goal Will you also get This year I would like a backetball boop so I will tell you what I want this year. I want an X box and a dell herer your. Love, I can protise badettall. I would like a draw me a Xbox and a mushi pillowy I want my puppy privarese, a coton candy I all also want a stere and a Juan tons of money and a big screen with a corrier that goes on mushe. I also vant a smore maker. make up set please. your soulders. I also would the I.V., oh and a two storg have Love a twenty two. Love, Joni Valería Juan Hernandez Kimberly Joni Casey Kylie Love 3Grode 3rd 3rd Grade 3rd grade 3rd NIS. Williams Mrs Williams Mrs. Willares Mrs. Williams Mrs. Williams