

Muleshoe Journal

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Muleshoe, Texas

50¢

December 15, 2005



Photograph by
Larry Thornton

County receives 'good news' about prisoner prescriptions

By Larry Thornton
Managing Editor

Bailey County's Commissioners Court received more "good news" from the Office on Aging during Monday's regular meeting as Debra Crabtree explained that state law will allow the sheriff's office to save a considerable amount on prisoner prescriptions.

Although Crabtree had initially requested that an item be placed on the court's agenda concerning passage of a related resolution, Crabtree announced at the start of the meeting that a state law had already been passed, which meant no action needed to be taken.

Previously, the sheriff's

department has had to pay full price for medications prescribed to prisoners. Now, pharmacies will only be able to charge at the

Crabtree suggests 'freezing' the elderly's county taxes...

Medicaid rate, a significant reduction, Crabtree said.

"Keep up the good news," Commissioner C.E. Grant said.

Similar comments were received from the other commissioners.

At its September meeting, Crabtree announced to the court that state law provided for the sheriff's department to pay for its prisoner's medical care at the Medicaid rate.

Crabtree also addressed the commissioners court about the county's Meals on Wheels program, and the needs of several elderly on the program's "north route."

Crabtree asked the commissioners to ride with her on the route in the next couple of weeks to get an idea about the economic

needs of the elderly, and to talk to them about the elderly's tax burden, and discuss the possibility of "freezing" the taxes for some elderly over 70 years of age.

"I want you to think about it... I want you to pray about it," she said. "This is the north route... it's my favorite because it's reality."

Crabtree spoke about one of the elderly, a gentleman almost 90 years of age, who lives in a house in Muleshoe without basic utilities.

"He asks for nothing," she said, "I've been asking for him."

In other business, the commissioners court:

- Authorized the County Treasurer Donna Kirk to move monies within the county budget to pay insurance claims until such time as the county's third party insurer reimburses the claims.

Kirk explained that the county's partial self-insurance fund has a balance of slightly more than \$53,000. However, an outstanding medical claim totals about \$95,000.

Continued on page 3.

A good time for young and old!

Bailey County hosted a party Thursday, inviting county residents, young and old alike, to join in their celebration of the holidays with food, friendship and entertainment.

MEDC's proposed bond policy to be rewritten

By Larry Thornton
Managing Editor

After lengthy discussion, the Muleshoe Economic Development Corporation's Board of Directors succeeded in making it's wishes known during Thursday's regular meeting, sending the proposed policy it had discussed at its November meeting back to the drawing boards of its attorney.

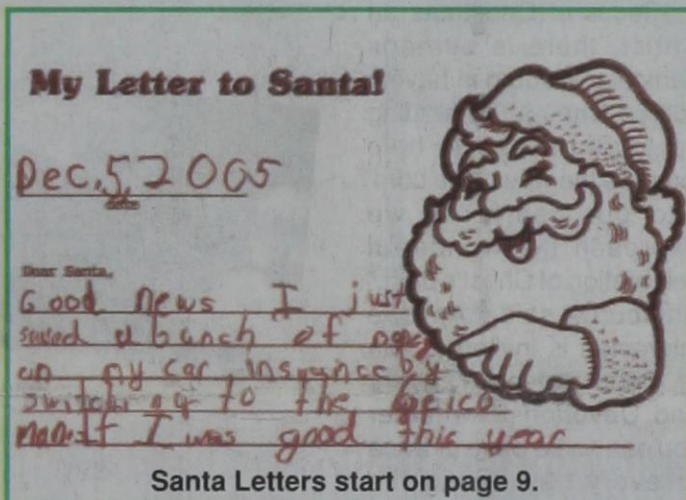
Although the board's attorney and financial advisor Alan Rhodes said the proposed policy — which would cover the MEDC's issuance of tax-exempt revenue bonds — wasn't intended to make the board do extra work, the

MEDC board members continued to express strong concerns about how portions of the policy were written.

City Manager David Brunson voiced agreement with Rhodes, calling the policy a "viable tool for development projects," especially in instances where other inducements can't be used, and noted that the issues that were

Continued on page 3.

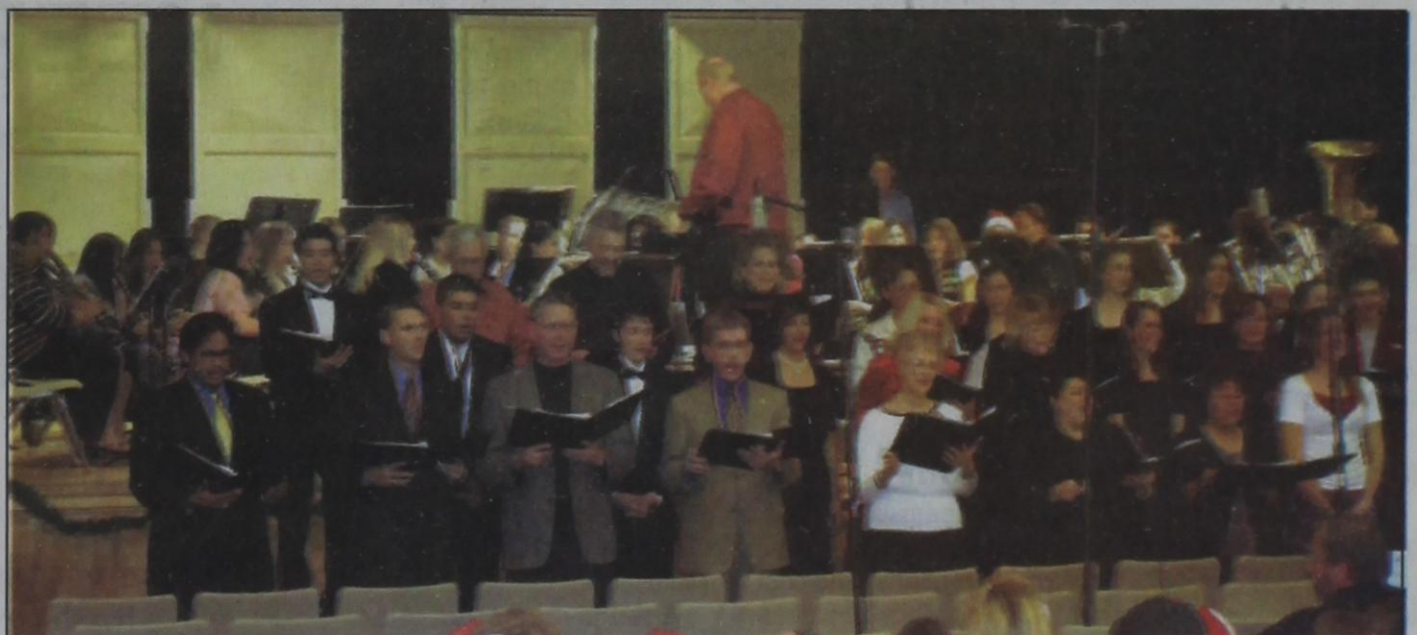
Pictured above, Ike Wilcox and his great-granddaughter Cheyane take part in the celebration at the Bailey County Courthouse.



Santa Letters start on page 9.

Christmas concert held

Muleshoe ISD's Fine Arts Department hosted a Christmas concert Sunday, Dec. 11, showing off the vocal and instrumental skills of Muleshoe's students as well as celebrating the area's Christian heritage and history in song and music. Pictured to the right, the MISD Faculty and Community Choir joins with the High School Band as it performs the final numbers of the concert. Additional photographs on last page.



Local Weather

Thurs.
Mt. Sunny.... 48/19

Fri.
Showers..... 41/20

Sat.
Wtr. Mix..... 43/17

Sun.
Mt. Cloudy... 44/15

Mon.
Pt. Cloudy.... 41/8

Tue.
Mt. Sunny.... 38/12

Wed.
Sunny..... 47/13

From God's Holy Word

"And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth."

— John 1:14

Missed your paper?
Call the Journal
at 272-4536, between
8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m.

April's Christmas Doll

(As part of the Muleshoe Journal's effort to bring a bit of cheer to its readers during the Christmas season, the following serial story by Larry Thornton is being published.)

Part 3

Shortly after dawn, April's bus pulled into the station at Chicago. She'd spent the night riding, with Mrs. Bea clutched protectively in her arms, dreaming about home, her parents, and Arika the golden-haired doll with the pink sparkling dress.

As she stepped off the bus, April's stomach growled ferociously. The elderly gentleman who sat next to her on the bus had

given her a candy bar, which she reluctantly accepted out of hunger. Although her mother had warned her on many occasions about accepting gifts from strangers her growling stomach won her over.

The elderly gentleman had also questioned April about her mother, whom he had heard her tell the bus driver was already on board, but April did her best to respond politely without giving him the information he sought.

When she answered her father's questions in a similar manner, her father said she was being "diplomatic." She didn't know exactly what he meant, but figured it was the



best way to handle the gentleman's questions also.

Once she was off the bus, April stepped out of the path of foot traffic and looked around. She was trying to decide where to go when she suddenly felt a hand on her shoulder.

"This is her, officer," the elderly gentleman said. "She got on by herself in Oklahoma."

Seeing the police officer standing next to the elderly gentleman, April tried to pull away, dropping her backpack in the process and almost dropping Mrs. Bea.

"Hold on, girl," the officer said as he came to the gentleman's aid by picking April up by the waist. "No body's going to hurt you."

"Let me go! Let me go!" April screamed.

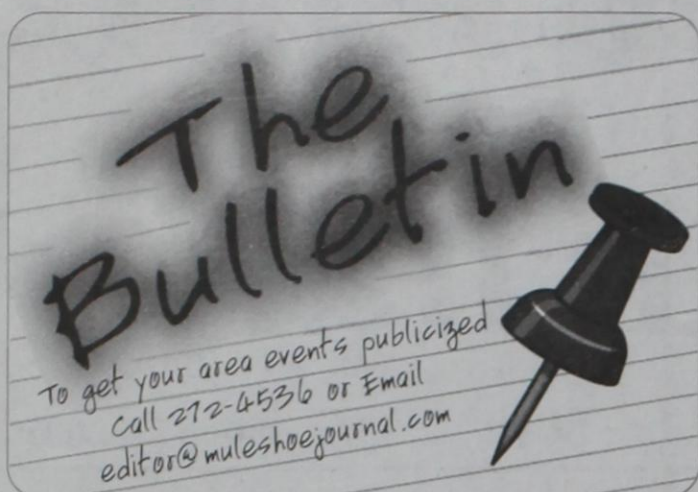
Up on the North Pole, Santa Claus was marshalling his forces in an effort to learn what could have happened to Mrs. Bea and Morris. All semblance of

a quiet inquiry had flown out the window with the realization that someone might have forcibly taken Morris and Mrs. Bea.

Christmas Eve was just over the horizon, but Santa pulled several of the elves from their assigned duties to assist in the search. Walruses sunning on passing ice floes were questioned and polar bears awakened from their deep winter sleep were queried, but no one knew what could have happened to the missing elf and doll.

In the final hours of the search, Santa's helpers left no stones unturned no

Continued on page 18.



Diabetes Support Group to meet

The Bailey County Diabetes Support Group will meet on Tuesday, Dec. 20, at 7 p.m. in the parlor of the Bailey County Coliseum. The program will be "Healthy Eating Tips for the Holidays." This program is free of charge to everyone interested. The Diabetes Support Group meets the third Tuesday of each month. For more information contact Mandi Seaton, Bailey County Extension agent — Family and Consumer Sciences, 306 West Second, Muleshoe, TX 79347, or call 806-272-4583.

Salvation Army bell ringers

Salvation Army bell ringers will be located at Lowe's Marketplace on West American Boulevard, according to Debbie Crabtree of the Bailey County Office on Aging. Proceeds collected by the bell ringers remain in Bailey County. Crabtree also noted that Lowe's has apple and pumpkin pies available for \$5 each, proceeds of which go to Meals on Wheels.

AA meeting

Those looking for help with problem drinking can do so at open AA meetings being held at 7 p.m. each Friday at the First United Methodist Church, at 507 W. 2nd, Muleshoe. Please use the west side entrance. For information about these meetings or AA in general call 806-965-2870

Financial seminar

First Baptist Church will be hosting Financial Peace University, a Dave Ramsey Financial Seminar, beginning Jan. 29. Orientation dates are Jan. 15 and 17 at 6 p.m., and classes start on Jan. 29 at 5 p.m. This is a 13-week study. Child care will be provided.

For more information or to reserve your seats call Tadd and Annie Young at 272-5883 or the First Baptist Church of Muleshoe's office at 272-4224, or contact Dave Ramsey at www.daveramsey.com

Annual Christmas Card Project

The annual Park View Christmas Card Project is under way. Individuals wishing to contribute may do so by making their check out to "Christmas Card Project," and sending them to Christmas Card Project, c/o Joyeline Costen, P.O. Box 202, Muleshoe, TX 79347, or Joy Stancell, c/o Park View Nursing Home, 1100 W. Ave. J, Muleshoe, TX 79347.

If you don't wish to mail your donation, it may also be left with Stancell at the nursing home, or at the banks in Muleshoe. There is a Dec. 16 deadline for donations.

EMT classes to be offered

Bailey County EMS will be holding EMT-B classes beginning Jan. 23, 2006. Students must be registered by Jan. 13. For more information contact Chris Thompson at 272-4390.

MHS Baseball team cook out

The Muleshoe High School baseball team will be holding a hamburger cook out Saturday, Dec. 17, from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m., at Carolyn's Christmas Creations. The cost is \$5 and will include a hamburger, chips, drink and desert. Tickets can be purchased at the door or from members of the baseball team.

Heritage Thrift Store needs donations

Last month, hundreds of people shopped at the Heritage Thrift Store and bought thousands of articles. The articles they bought came from your generous donations.

"Because the needs of our community have recently been so great, the store is extremely low on inventory. We need everything but, in particular, there is a need children's clothes — especially sleepwear, shoes and warm clothing," a Heritage Center representative says.

Bring donations to the thrift shop, at 402 S. Main in Muleshoe, Friday or Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

All proceeds from The Heritage Thrift Shop benefit the Muleshoe Heritage Center on West American Boulevard.

City Counsel meeting reset for Dec. 15

The Muleshoe City Council's meeting, originally scheduled for Monday, Dec. 12, at 5:30 p.m. was postponed due to the lack of a quorum, until today, Thursday, Dec. 15, at 11:30 a.m.

WorkSource GED Lab enrolling

The Muleshoe WorkSource GED Lab is currently enrolling for GED, ESL, College Prep, Improve Basic Skills, and Learn to Speak English instruction, provided by the Region 17 Education Service Center, 203 Main Street, Muleshoe. Contact Sharon Grant at 272-7540 or 5766 for additional information.

The GED Lab will be closed from Dec. 22 until Jan. 9.

MISD Class of 1986

The Muleshoe Class of 1986 will be holding an organizational meeting for its 20th class reunion on Thursday, Dec. 29, at 6:30 p.m., at Leal's. Class members who are interested in helping are asked to attend. For more information, contact Laurey (Grant) Riney at 806-285-7785.

Advent services set at 16th & D

On weekdays, Dec. 12-23, at 10 a.m. each day, Curtis Shelburne and the 16th & D Church of Christ invite anyone interested to share in some daily (and brief) times of Advent prayer and devotion.

Shelburne will lead each day in a brief time of devotional scripture reading and prayer designed to help prepare hearts for Christ's coming and remind Christians of what they are about to celebrate."

For centuries the season of Advent has been celebrated by many Christians as the first "season" of the Christian calendar.

"As Christians from many backgrounds work to keep the focus of Christmas on Christ, there is perhaps particular wisdom in having such a time as this leading up to Christmas to help 'prepare the way of the Lord' into our hearts as we approach the wonderful celebration of Christ's birth," Shelburne said. "Anyone interested is invited to join in these 'Advent Prayers and Devotions'—whether you can come once or twice or every day during the season!"

These devotions and prayers will take place in the sanctuary of the 16th & D Church of Christ each weekday at 10 a.m.

MAHD December meeting moved to Park View

The monthly meeting of the Muleshoe Area Hospital District, set for Thursday, Dec. 15, at 7 p.m., has been moved to the dining room at the Park View Nursing Care Center, 1100 W. Ave. J, Muleshoe.

Agenda items for this month's meeting include:

- Workman compensation insurance
- Bank depository
- Physician recruitment
- Voting system requirements
- South Plains education plan
- Collection policy and procedures
- Rural health clinic

SPC spring registration set

South Plains College will hold spring registration on Jan. 11 at the Levelland campus and Jan. 12 at the Reese campus. Spring classes begin Jan. 17.

Any students planning to register on these dates must contact Admission and Records to obtain a registration time permit. Students should bring the following items to registration: Time permit, a pen or pencil, photo identification, vehicle registration information and a form of payment for tuition and fees.

Online registration will continue until Jan. 9 for current students with pin numbers. Students can also register at the website www.southplainscollege.edu.

Late registration will be held Jan. 17-19. For more information or to obtain a time permit, contact the Levelland Admissions Office at 806-894-9611, ext. 2572 or the Reese Admissions Office at 806-885-3048, ext. 4660.



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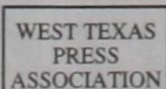
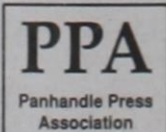
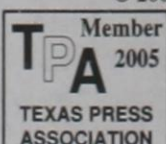
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Senior Citizen News

By Laverne Winn

We thoroughly enjoyed visiting with the many friends and supporters during our Open House on Wednesday, Dec. 7. Our sincere thanks to Ann Sinclair and Paul Chaisson for the beautiful music they shared with us during the open house.

We had a great group going to Lubbock on Monday, Dec. 12, to the play, *On Golden Pond*. We appreciate the Church of Christ for the use of their van, and the driver, Earl

Behrends. Everyone had a very enjoyable evening.

Remember! The senior Christmas Party will be Saturday, Dec. 17, beginning at 4 p.m.. There will be a pot luck supper, so bring your favorite dish, a white elephant gift (something you do not want, wrap it in a pretty package so some else wants it) and come join in the fun. W. T. and Pat Watson will entertain with their music.

Monday, Dec. 19, the United Blood Drive from Lubbock, will be at the

Center from 1 p.m. until 8 p.m. Everyone who can donate to this should try to be here. The center will be serving beans and cornbread, and all the trimmings, beginning at 5:30 p.m., for \$4 per serving.

Wednesday, Dec. 21, the birthday party for all seniors with birthdays in December will be at noon at the center. You should get a phone call if we have your intake sheets complete and know your birthday. Come and eat with us, and enjoy the party.

The center will be closed

on Monday, Dec. 26, so mark your calendars.

Menu for Dec. 19-23:

Monday, Dec 19—Brisket, au gratin potatoes, fried okra, pickles, wheat roll and cobbler.

Tuesday, Dec. 20 — Liver and onions, scalloped potatoes, spinach, cornbread and cobbler.

Wednesday, Dec. 21 — Turkey and cornbread dressing, gravy, green beans, wheat roll and pumpkin pie.

Thursday, Dec. 22 — Chicken ala king, mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables, salad, raisin bread and applesauce.

Friday, Dec. 23 — Fish, tater tots, peas and carrots, sliced tomatoes, hush puppies and fruit salad.



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Business After Hours set for Thursday

The Muleshoe Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture's Business After Hours gathering will be on Dec. 15, from 5-6 p.m., at Carolyn's Christmas Creations, 106 E. American Blvd. Refreshments will be served, and there will be door prizes.

Pictured on the left are Mark Beard, chamber board member, Carolyn Johnson, and Amy Young, chamber manager.

MEDC... Continued from page 1

troubling the board members could be delegated the city staff and its financial advisor.

However, the MEDC board members disagreed slightly, expressing concerns that the work detailed in the proposed policy would "bog down" both Janet Claborn, the MEDC director, and Brünson with work that could be better performed by project applicants prior to being their proposals to the MEDC.

At the board's November meeting, MEDC vice president Max King, referring to the proposed revenue bond policy, said, "We thought we were going

to be a conduit... I don't want to drive the boat."

"If the MEDC has to do all of this, there won't be a fee scheduled worth the time Janet would have to put into it," MEDC president Wanda Hooten said.

"We want them to have a lot of ducks in a row before they walk into our place," MEDC board member Mar Morton said.

"You're saying, if all of this is not present, don't bring it to us," Rhodes said.

Board members expressed agreement, but Hooten also pointed out that while the board didn't want to be involved in gathering the information it would still look carefully at the completed proposal packages it received. "We don't rubber stamp, or do things we don't understand," Hooten said.

At Thursday's meeting, the board approved passage of the proposed policy in regards to the Visser bond issuance, after Rhodes explained it was a required document for the package that would be going to the Governor's office and the Attorney General's office for review.

Commissioners... Continued on page 1.

"It's getting worse and worse," County Judge Sherri Harrison said about the county's efforts to reach representatives of the company formerly known as Icon Benefits Administrators of Lubbock.

"Is Icon in trouble?" Grant asked. He also asked if it was a matter the county should seek assistance with from the attorney general's office.

"We're partially self-insured," Commissioner Butch Vandiver said, "and we need to get out from under that."

- Approve the minutes from the Nov. 14 regular meeting and the Nov. 17 special meeting.

- Approved the county treasurer's report from October 2005.

- Approved in-county travel forms.

- Ratified the county judge's signature accepting an emergency management grant from the State of Texas.

- Authorized the judge to sign a service renewal agreement for the county's victim information notification program in the district clerk's office, as well as a related annual maintenance grant contract.

- Received a report from the Bailey County Extension Office agents.

Letter to the Editor

Remember the 1964 earthquake?

To the Editor:

After hearing about the devastation caused by the recent earthquake in Pakistan, my brother, Carl Knott, who lived in Morton in 1964, was reminded of the power of the earthquake that occurred in Anchorage, Alaska that year.

The earthquake caused many irrigation wells to "sand in" around Morton, Muleshoe, Littlefield and surrounding towns.

This occurrence never made the news, but many West Texas farmers were affected by that Alaskan earthquake.

My brother would like to know if any more "oldtimers" out there remember that.

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For wrath killeth the foolish man,
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— Job 5:2

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The mouth of a righteous man is
a well of life: but violence
covereth the mouth of the wicked.
— Proverbs 10:11

In the multitude of words there
wanteth not sin: but he that
refraineth his lips is wise.
— Proverbs 10:19

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This is a dramatized version of facts taken from the Book of Exodus intending to show some of the customs of these ancient and traditional times.

MOSES AND PLAGUES OF EGYPT
MOSES HAVING THROWN HIS STAFF ON THE FLOOR TO CHANGE IT INTO A SNAKE, PHARAOH COMMANDS HIS PRIESTS TO DO LIKEWISE, NOW...

SEE! THE GODS OF EGYPT ALSO HAVE POWER!

THY GOD HATH NO MORE POWER THAN MY GODS!

BEHOLD!

AND THE SERPENT OF MOSES' STAFF, IN A FLASH, DEVOURS ALL THE SNAKES THAT THE PRIESTS OF EGYPT HAVE PRODUCED!

Next Week HARDENED HEART!

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Obituaries

Evelyn L. Milam

Services for Evelyn L. Milam, 84, were held on Dec. 10 the First Baptist Church of Sudan with the Rev. Robert Roecher officiating. Burial followed in the Sudan Cemetery.

Milam died on Dec. 7, 2005, in Lubbock. She was born in Memphis on Feb. 12, 1921, and moved with her parents, John K. and Bessie Lee Harper Milam, to a Bailey County stock farm 10 miles west of Sudan in February 1923.

She graduated from Sudan High School in 1938. Milam had a BA, degree from WTA & M University, an MA degree from Texas Tech and a Ph.D. from the University of Wyoming.

Her professional experience included teaching and counseling in Texas Public Schools including Pampa in the panhandle of Texas, Director of Admissions for Austin College, Sherman,



Evelyn L. Milam and professor of Psychology and Education at Austin College. She was also a member of the American Association of University women.

Survivors include a brother and sister-in-law — J.K. Jr. and Mary Foster Milam of Tulia; two nephews, one niece and four great-nephews.

Memorials may be sent to the First Baptist Church of Sudan, Hwy. 303, Sudan TX 79371; or Opportunity Plan Inc., P.O. Box 1035, Canyon, TX 79015-1035 or to a favorite charity.

Donald Layman

A church service for Donald Layman, 86, of Earth, was held Monday, Dec. 12, at the First Baptist Church of Earth with the Rev. Jeff Hucceby officiating. Burial followed in Earth Memorial Cemetery.

Layman died on Friday, Dec. 9, 2005, in his residence. He was born on Nov. 1, 1919, in the Springlake community, and married Mamie Vaughn in Earth on July 21, 1940. His wife and a son, Gary, preceded him in death.

Layman was a life time resident of the Earth Community. He was a

mechanic, and a member of the First Baptist Church of Earth.

He helped organize the Earth Fire Department and was a member of the Earth Roping Club.

Survivors include his sons — Truman Layman of Earth, Don Layman of Seminole and Troy Layman of Lubbock; a sister — Arlyne Ashley of Earth; a brother — L. G. Layman of Littlefield; 11 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

Memorials may be sent to the First Baptist Church of Earth or the Earth Fire Department.

Virgie Perry

A graveside service for Virgie Perry, 87, of Muleshoe was held on Dec. 10 at Bailey County Cemetery with Frank Parker of Muleshoe officiating.

Perry died on Dec. 8, 2005, in Muleshoe Area Medical Center. She was born on July, 28, 1918, in

Marlow, Okla., and had lived in Muleshoe since 1933, after moving from Marlow. Perry was a member of the First Baptist Church of Progress.

She was preceded in death by her father and mother, Harrison and Lillian Perry. She had no survivors.

Flores memorial fund set up

A memorial fund for Linda Flores has been established at Muleshoe State Bank to help with the cost of her funeral.

Flores, a former jailer with the Bailey County Sheriff's Department, died on Dec. 13.

Wildlife Refuge News

The arrival of cold weather has increased the sandhill crane count on Muleshoe NWR. On Dec. 13, there were nearly 60,000 cranes. An additional 60,000 cranes were using Baileyboro Lake.

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Merry Christmas from Aramark

MISD students, faculty and staff received a tasty treat recently from the Aramark staff at the MISD cafeteria, who baked and decorated a holiday pastry that was several tables long to express their appreciation.



Students of the Week

The Watson Junior High Students of the Week for the week of Dec. 12 are, from left to right: Front row — Juan Loreda, Griselda Segura and Hector Granados; back row — Sabrina Chavez, Arturo Zubia and Lindsay Meeves.

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Hospital Report

The following list of admissions to the Muleshoe Area Medical Center has been released:

- Dec. 6 — Joyce Hunter
- Dec. 7 — No report
- Dec. 8 — Jose Andrade, Mark Espinoza, and Karina Rocha.
- Dec. 9 — Trisa Wentz
- Dec. 10 — No report
- Dec. 11 — Carolyn Owens.

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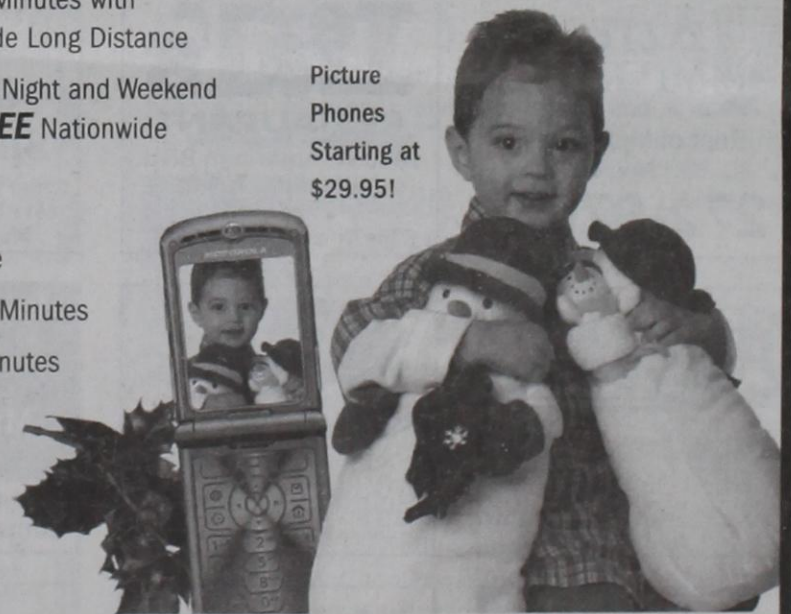
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Sports

Lady Hornets 'no match' for Lady Mules

By Delton Wilhite
Sportswriter

The Tulia Lady Hornets were no match for the Lady Mule trapping defense and the offense it created. The lady Mules dumped the visiting Hornets 51-43 Tuesday night. The Lady Mules played in the Abernathy Shootout over the weekend.

They fell to the Sweetwater Mustangs in the opening round. The Mustangs used a strong inside game to out run the Lady Mules 51-37. The Lady Mules met the Dimmitt Bobbies for the third time this season in the consolation bracket.

The Lady Mules continued their domination of the Bobbies with a 62-21 win. Nazareth met the Lady Mules in the consolation finals and unreeled a 12-point run in the opening period to take a 12-2 lead.

The Lady Mules cranked up their defense a few notches and held Nazareth scoreless for the final four minutes of the opening period. The Lady Mules fought their way back to tie the game at 25-25 with eight minutes to play. Nazareth edged out the Lady Mules in the final period to take the game 33-32.

The Lady Mules stifling defense shook Tulia early and the Lady Mules opened a 7-0 lead in the games first four minutes. Tulia did not score until the 3:39 mark. Ashley Dickson scored nine in the opening quarter that included a one minute burst when she made a cork screw lay-up and an old fashion three-point play.

Kyra Kimbrough drained an eight-foot jumper to open the second frame that gave the Lady Mules a 20-6 advantage. Tulia battled back before the half ended to cut the Lady Mule lead to 26-19.

Dickson got an assist with a laser pass inside to Kate Lepard on the blocks. Lepard hit the turn around jumper. Brandi Wood scored inside and Lepard capped a six-point run to begin the third frame and stretched the lead to 32-19.

JV Lady Mules...

Continued from page 6.

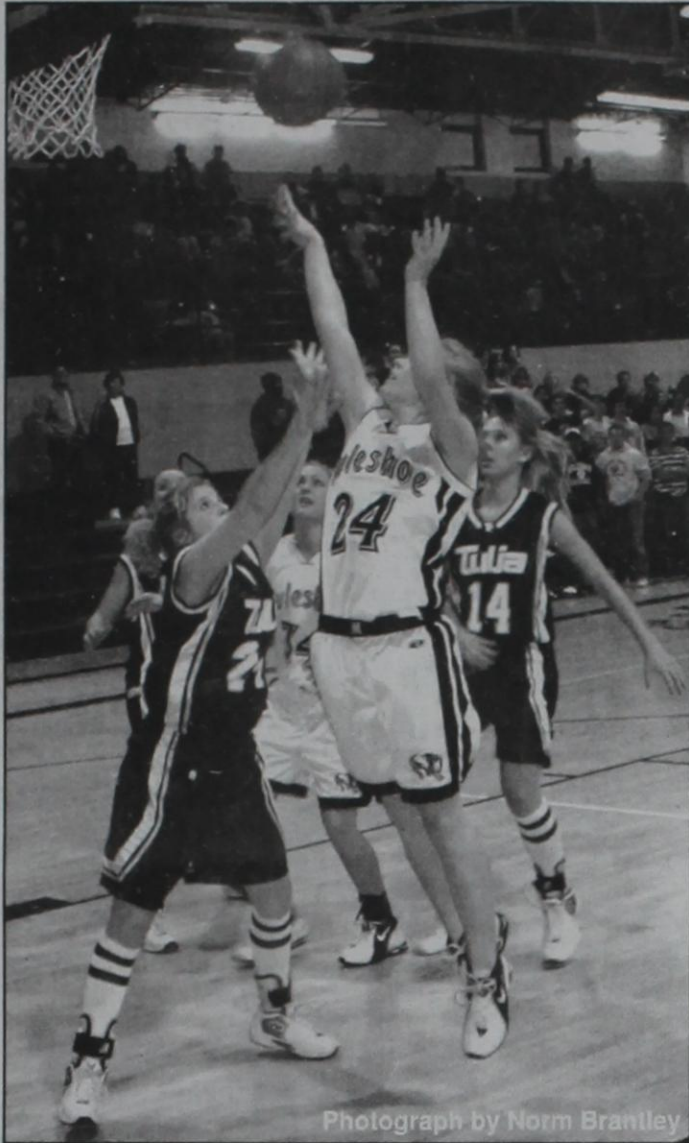
run alive. Reyna flipped Tipps the ball as she raced through the defense on a delayed break. Tipps lay-up fell through to push the lead to 15-8. The Lady Mule defense did not allow a Hornet bucket for four and half minutes of the period.

Gabby Agundis found Barker open on the blocks. Barker spun and dropped in the short jumper to give the Lady Mules a nine-point lead. After a Tulia bucket Smith was fouled on drive to the hoop. Smith converted one of her free throws.

Reyna swiped a Hornet pass and went all the way for a hoop to give the Lady Mules a comfortable 20-12 lead at the half. The Lady Mules pushed the margin to 30-17 in the third period.

Tulia caught fire in the final frame and swarmed the bucket to drop in 19 points. Tipps converted two of three from the line and Agundis made a bucket and went four for four from the line to keep the Lady Mules on top.

Tipps led the Lady Mules with 14 points and Agundis dropped in eight. Barker added six points, Grumbles had four points and Reyna, Smith and Withrow chipped in two apiece.



Photograph by Norm Brantley

Ashley Dickson shoots during the recent game against the Tulia Lady Hornets.

Kyra Kimbrough hit from the elbow and Kasey Wood drove the baseline for a bucket. Dickson dropped a half-court pass in Irma Torres arms on a break. Torres fought her way through a foul for the bucket and completed the three-point play to end the third period with the Lady Mules leading 43-30.

Tulia try to battle back in the final frame but it was too little to late. B. Wood led the Lady Mules with 13 points and Lepard and Dickson dropped in 11 apiece. Kimbrough added nine, Torres three and K. Wood and Cholov Hernandez chipped in two each.

The Lady Mules hung close to Sweetwater in the opening period and only trailed 13-11 at the first quarter break. The Mustangs out muscled the Lady Mules through the next three periods.

B. Wood set the scoring pace with 12 points, Lepard dropped in eight and K. Wood made seven. Kimbrough made five points, Dickson four and Hernandez chipped in one.

The Lady Mules took their frustration out on the Dimmitt Bobbies and ran out to a 17-6 first period lead. The Bobbies made a run at the Lady Mules and only trailed 26-18 at the intermission.

The second half was all Lady Mules as they out scored the Bobbies 36-8. The Lady Mules held the Bobbies to a single point in the final eight minutes. Dickson led the Lady Mules with 19 points that included two 3-pointers and Kimbrough had 12 points all in the second half. B. Wood had nine, Lepard eight and Torres made five. Hernandez dropped in four points, Amberlee Steinbock three and K. Wood chipped in two.

The Lady Mules took their fans on a roller coaster ride in the consolation finals against the Swiftettes of Nazareth. B. Wood controlled the opening tip and the Lady Mules set up their motion offense.

Hernandez made the pass to B. Wood as she broke down the lane for a lay-up. Nazareth went on a scoring run that lasted three minutes and ended with the Swiftettes leading 12-2. The Lady Mules shut down Nazareth the final

three and half minutes of the frame.

Hernandez grabbed a defensive rebound and made the outlet pass to K. Wood streaking down the floor for a lay-up to end the period with the Lady Mules trailing 12-4.

Hernandez broke down the base line and was fouled shooting. She made both charity tosses to break the scoring ice in the second frame.

The Lady Mules kept up the defensive pressure and held Nazareth to eight points in quarter and cut the Swiftette lead to 20-17.

Dickson got the rally stated with a trey. Hernandez felt the double team on the blocks and kicked the ball outside to Dickson behind the arc. Later

in the frame Dickson muscled her way down the baseline and got a one-hander to fall from six foot.

B. Wood hit as the clock went under two minutes and Hernandez finished a break as the Lady Mules clawed their way back. B. Wood grabbed a long carom and stuck it in as the half ended with the Lady Mules only trailing 20-17.

The second half began with the Lady Mules tightening up their stingy defense. B. Wood scored on an in bound play to make it a one-point game. Kimbrough dropped in a long deuce to give the Lady Mules a 21-20 lead with four and half minutes left in the period.

Nazareth answered with a trey to regain the lead. Kimbrough dropped in a 10-foot jumper to knot the game at 23-23. A pair of free throws gave Nazareth the lead with 2:24 left in the period.

Dickson chased down a long offensive rebound and got B. Wood the ball on the blocks. She made the turn round jumper to knot the game with two minutes left. The Swiftettes could not get an uncontested shot during the final two minutes and were called for a charge as the time ran out with the score tied 25-25.

The lead changed five times in the first five minutes of the final quarter. The Lady Mules missed some scoring opportunities during the game but their intense defensive effort made this their best game of the season.

B. Wood led the Lady Mule scoring with 15 points and Dickson had five. Kimbrough and Hernandez made four each and K. Wood and Torres chipped in two each.

The Lady Mules hosted Dimmitt Tuesday night and travel to Morton Friday. The Lady Mules host Hereford Dec. 20 before taking a short Christmas break.

Additional Mules sports stories on page 17

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Christmas Is Only As Strong As Its Weakest Link

I don't usually think of Christmas and chains as going together, unless I'm reading about the ponderously-chained Ghost of Christmas Past who so terrorized old Ebenezer Scrooge! But I believe this to be true: Christmas is a "chain" which is only as strong as its weakest link.

If Christmas deals only with lights and tinsel, egg nog and poinsettias (all of which I enjoy very much, I hope you understand), and

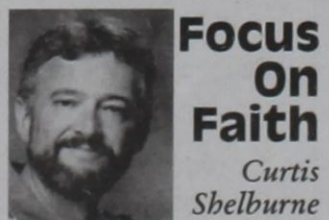
only with sales and not souls, presents and not His Presence, holiday cheer but not lifelong Joy...

If Christmas has to do only with Jingle Bells and nothing to do with "God with us," well, then, Christmas is not up to the task of making a real difference in our lives, and it's just one more momentary diversion for the despairing, one more false hope for people who know no hope, and it certainly won't make much difference in life, or in death, or in anything at all very real or substantial.

But if Christmas, and all that is best about this good season, points to real light and hope, glimmering reflections from the Father of Lights, the Giver of Joy, the Sender of the very best Gift, then the Christ of Christmas can use this time of celebration to point us to light that truly is stronger than darkness, hope that is genuinely stronger than despair, and life that is ultimately and infinitely stronger than death.

Then we discover that the Light of Christmas is real indeed because He is real, and life is far more substantial than death.

Then Christmas means something beautiful and wonderful and real. And Christmas joy can and will last forever.



Focus On Faith
Curtis Shelburne

the Yuletide joy and peace, love and good will, we sing about are just artificial twinkles and largely illusory light, then Christmas is a weak and pathetic thing which can't possibly stand the test of life and time and which will fade a long time before the January sales (and credit card bills) end.

If Christmas has to do only with parties and good times, but nothing to do with hospital rooms and disgusting diagnoses...

If Christmas has to do only with smiles and "Merry Christmases" and nothing to do with hope at a graveside...

If Christmas has to do

Curtis Shelburne is minister of the 16th & D Church of Christ in Muleshoe.

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Newspaper Fun!
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Where's Wing?
 Can you find him?

Christmas is Coming!

Ooooo, look at all the festive decorations!

Christmas is coming! Every week there is something to do to get ready for the holidays. I just finished making Christmas cards with photos on them for my family and friends. Right now I am hanging this wreath I made on the barn door. Symbols of the holidays are all around us. Candles show light and warmth, bells joyously peal, and poinsettias brighten up rooms.

Color in everything.

Can you find and circle at least 10 words that begin with the letter 'c'?

Holiday Symbols!

Read the clues below to fill in the puzzle with symbols of Christmas!

DOWN

- gift bringer
- burned chunk of wood
- ring in Christmas with these
- kind of tree decorated at Christmas
- people kiss under this
- lighted to show warmth and joy
- written holiday greetings

ACROSS

- heavenly messengers
- town where Christ was born
- carried the Kings
- tree decorations
- three of them brought gifts
- ring of greens
- marked the place in the sky
- birth of Jesus Christ
- songs
- favorite Christmas flower

Word Box

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Hark! The Herald Angels Sing...

Many voices and musical instruments are used to make all the beautiful carols that we hear everywhere. Can you fill in the names of the instruments that are missing from the lines of these Christmas songs?

- I played my _____ for Him pa rum pum pum pum -
 I played my best for Him pa rum pum pum pum -
- With little tin _____ and little toy _____,
 Rooty-toot-toots and rummy-tum-tums,
 Santa Claus is coming to town.
- It came upon a midnight clear,
 That glorious song of old,
 From angels bending near the earth
 To touch their _____ of gold;
- Jingle _____, jingle _____, jingle all the way!

Pa rum pum pum pum...

Christmas Shapes and Shadows

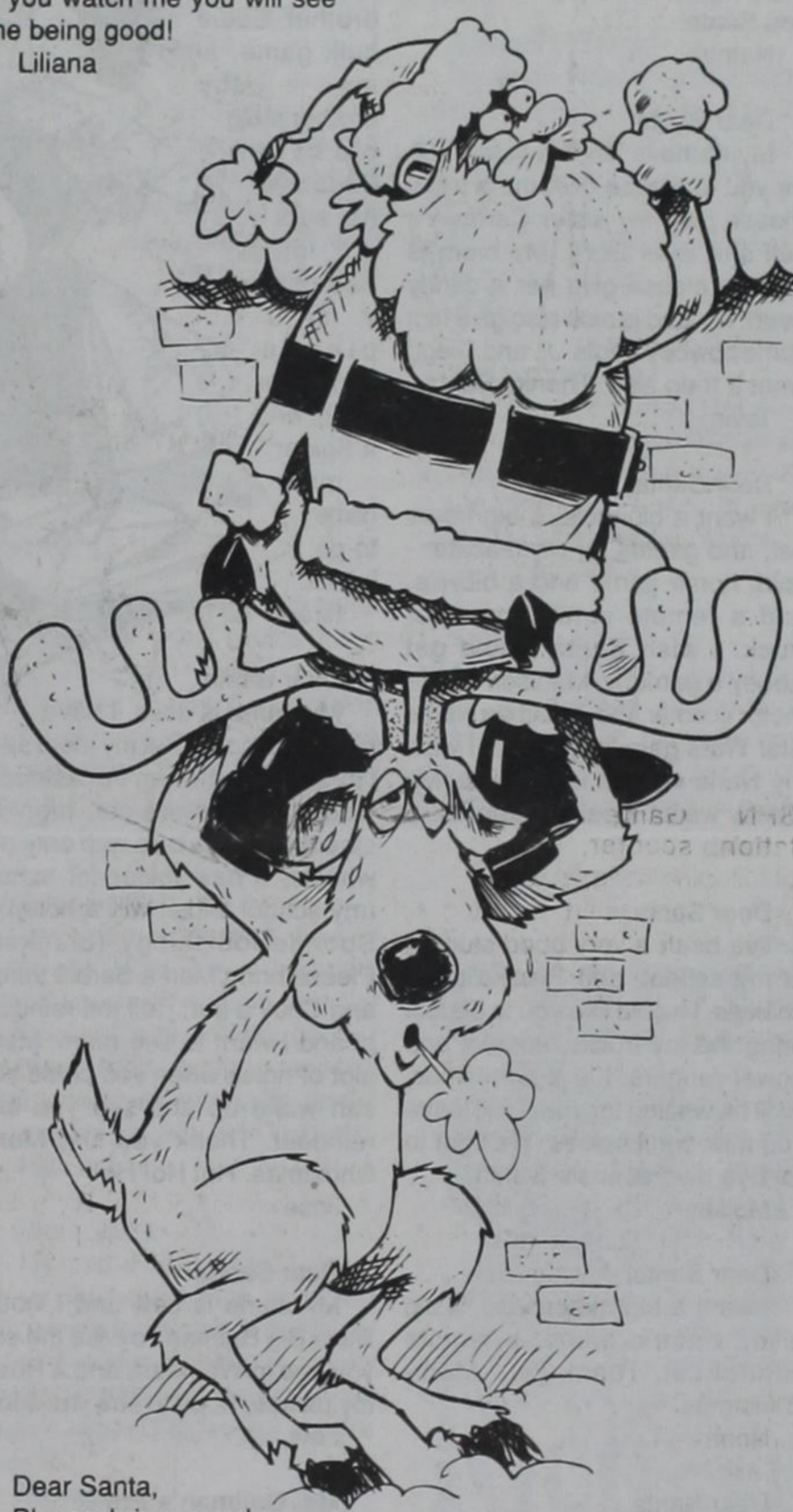
Study the shapes and shadows of these Christmas symbols and decorations. How many can you name?

-
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Newspaper Fun! Created by Annimills © 2005

Letters To Santa

- Dear Santa,
I hope I am on your nice list. I will put out cookies for you. Would you give me a beebie gun. Another thing I want for Christmas is a bike. The third thing I want for Christmas is a PS2 with a Ratchet and Clank game. The fourth thing I want is a sled. I wish you a Merry Christmas I wish you a Merry Christmas so give me your cash. (P.S. only one dollar please.)
J.J.
- Dear Santa,
I have good news, I've saved a lot on my sleigh insurance by switching to Geico. I have been extra good boy and I hope you bring me some presents. The first thing I would like is a Mocantrol Air plane. The second thing I would like is a dirt bike. The last thing I would like is an art set. Put a peace of coal in my sister's stocking.
James
- Dear Santa,
Hi Santa I hope you don't get sick so be careful. The first thing I want is a 410 shotgun. The second thing I want is camouflage pants because my old ones won't fit. The last thing is a camouflage cap with a Texas Tech on it.
Cade
- Ms. Brantley PPCD class**
Dear Santa,
Please bring me a car and a truck. I would like a donosaur.
Nathan
- Dear Santa,
I would like a phone to call my mom and dad. Please bring me cars and trucks. Please bring my brothers some trucks.
Steven
- Dear Santa,
Please bring me a car and a motorcycle. I would like a truck.
Mark
- Dear Santa,
Please bring me a baseball. I would like a Puffgirl and candy.
Emili
- Dear Santa,
Please bring me a motorcycle and a horse. I would like a go-cart and a cowboy hat.
Ryann
- Dear Santa,
I want a T-Time game. I would like a Hulk. Aaron wants a big boy toy. My baby brother would like a spiderman toy.
Andrew
- Dear Santa,
I would like a baby doll and a bottle for her to drink out of. I would like a stroller for my baby doll.
Skyeler
- Dear Santa,
I would like a bike and a ball. Please bring me a hat and a puppy.
Christian
- Dear Santa,
Please bring me some blocks. I would like a ball and a car.
Ethan
- Dear Santa,
I would like a baby doll. Please bring me a teddy bear. My brothers would like a hammer.
Haleigh
- Ms. Stevens' Pre-K PPCD class**
Dear Santa,
I want an alligator. I want a race car, and a snake. I want a rope to tie my real horse. I want a little dog named "Mickey." I also want a big toy horse with a little toy horse and a cage to put them in. A toy cow to go with the horses. I love my mom and dad!
(Yo quiero un lagartijo. Yo quiero un carro de carreras y una vibora. Yo quiero un pazo para mi caballo. Quiero un lero que se llame "Mickey." Tambien quiero un caballo grande con un caballo chiquito y una huala para ponerlos. Una vaca de juguete para que este con los caballos. You quier a mi mamá y papá.)
Gerardo
- Dear Santa,
I would like some play-doh. I Love my momma! I would also like
- a spiderman web shooter. I am going to be a good boy.
(Me gustaria tener play-doh. Yo quiero a mi mamá! Tambien me gustaria tener un spiderman web shooter. Voy hacer un beun niño.)
Francisco
- Dear Santa,
I want a toy. I like to play with blocks. I also like to play with balls. I want to just see you! I like to color and write on paper. Thank you!
(Yo quiero un juguete. Me gusta jugar con los bloques. Tambien me gusta jugar con pelotas. Lo unico que quiero es verte. Me gusta pintar y escribir en papel.
Gracias.)
Angel
- Dear Santa,
Toys please. I've been a good boy. I clean my room. I love my Gamma. I want a red toy. I like lego blocks.
(Jugetes, por favor. Yo soy un buen niño. Yo limpio mi cuarto. Yo quiero a mi Abuelita. Yo quiero un juguete rojo. You quiero unos Lego Blocks.)
Enrique
- Ms. Whitworth's Pre-K class**
Dear Santa,
My name is Zara. I want you to bring me a Barbie and ice cream. I also want a Bear from the store. I can play the the teddy.
Zara
- Dear Santa,
I want a baseball. I want a toy truck and a train. I would like a book. I would read this book by myself.
Anthony
- Dear Santa,
My name is Allison. I want a white baby. I will walk her around in my baby stroller. I also want a bear and a ball. I want a drum so I can play it at my house. I want a rocking horse too.
Allison
- Dear Santa,
My name is Allison. I have been very good. Would you please bring me a doll, some paints, books, table and chair for my room, radio players, some clothes, a toy house cleaning set. Thank you Santa. I will leave milk and cookies for you.
Allison
- Dear Santa,
I want a Dora doll. I want a toy house. I want toys for my baby sister and I want a baseball bat. I want a boll and a basketball.
Lilly
- Dear Santa,
My name is Leonel. For Christmas, a train and a big motorcycle would be a very good present. For my daddy I would like to have a baseball bat and ball. For my sister bring her a computer. For my mom I would like a big, big house. I don't need a lot. Thanks.
Leonel
- Dear Santa,
I have been good this year. I wish you could bring me a easy bake real meal oven, a CD player to have in the car and hear songs and watch movies and a Hover Copter. I wish to see you for Christmas.
Joel
- Dear Santa,
How are you Santa? I would like for Christmas a big dump truck, a hummer, a batman booster controlled car, and maybe a robot. And a dinosaur. For my puppy Tiger and Lobo a big bone and RJ wants a batman booster car. Be careful on your trip Santa!
Gregry
- Dear Santa,
I want an S.P.D. robot. I would like a new Power Ranger Robot. I want a car that can fly off of a plane!
Ethan
- Dear Santa,
May I please have a X-Box and a bike and a power ranger for my baby brother. Also I want to get my daddy a chicken and my mommy some hair clips. I am being a good boy so I can get these things. Thank you Santa.
Isajah
- Dear Santa,
For Christmas I want a Thomas and friends train set, the Hulk and Thomas and friends movie. A Spongebob for my brother and a Barbie for my sister.
Anthony
- Dear Santa,
My name is Jason. I have been good. Would you bring me a motorcycle, an airplane, a candyman, an ice cream man and a baseball. Can you come to my house? Thank you.
Jason
- Dear Santa,
My name is Francisco and I would like for Santa to bring me a new bike, a bear, a kite and a string for the kite. For my little brother I would like a train set, a bear and a calendar for my mom and dad. Thank you.
Francisco
- Dear Santa,
My name is Liliana and I want these things for Christmas: blocks, small presents, candy and candy canes. Thank you.
Liliana
- Dear Santa,
My name is Sarah. I want you to bring me a Barbie car, a doll, a bear, a dog, a rabbit. I also want a toy tiger. Thank you.
Sarah
- Ms. Cain's Pre-K class**
Dear Santa,
I have been very good this year. Would you please bring me a real dog, a power ranger and a dinosaur and robot.
Daniel
- Dear Santa,
I have tried to be the best I could. Would you bring me a Bratz, a horse, a princess, a purple power ranger and a cat and dog. Thank you!
Jariana
- Dear Santa,
This is Brian talking. I would like you to bring me a yellow gun (big) and a blue gun (big) and something big. I love you!
Ean
- Dear Santa,
I help my mom and try to be very good. I want a game boy advanced, a robot, a dog puppet and a notebook.
Kayla
- Dear Santa,
I have really been good this year. I would like a guitar, an orange book, a U.S. flag and some drawing paper. Will you please bring me these toys?
Christopher
- Dear Santa,
I have been good. I want a red power ranger, a robot and a bear. Do you like to ride in your sleigh?
Giovanni
- Dear Santa,
I have been good! I would like Bratz, a notebook, a book about Santa, a Barbie and a U.S. flag. I would like to hug you, Santa. I would like to ride in your sleigh.
Kierra
- Dear Santa,
I would like to fly with you. I would like a jeep and a city and a bike. I have been good.
Jessica
- Dear Santa,
Guess what? I have been good. I mean it! I would like a horse, a cat, a pink power ranger and a dog.
Maria
- Dear Santa,
I have been good. Not like before. I would like food to play with, a Cinderella dress, a Barbie and a car. I would like some tape.
Emma
- Dear Santa,
I can be good. I have been good and I will keep being good. I have done a lot of good things. Will you please bring me a pink power ranger, a princess dress and a real horse. Thank you Santa for the guitar you gave me last year and the microphone. I am 5 years old
- now and my name is Citlalli.
Citlalli
- Dear Santa
Please bring me a U.S. and Texas flag. I would like a baseball bat, blocks like we have at school and a belt with a horse on it.
Jaret
- Dear Santa;
I would like a motorcycle, a fire truck, a toy truck and an ox.
Isaiah
- Dear Santa,
I would like a real bunny, a power ranger (pink), and a picture of my family. It's O.K. to give them to me because I have been good.
Michelle
- Dear Santa,
I would like a princess clothes for a princess doll, lipstick, and a Barbie. I want some candy, too. If you watch me you will see me being good!
Liliana
- Dear Santa,
I want a goldfish. Bring me a Barbie. I want clothes.
Nikole
- Dear Santa,
I want you to bring me real food (pizza, cake, peanuts). Bring me a Dora bed. My sister wants a doll and a monkey.
Felicity
- Dear Santa,
Buy my sister some dolls and a new bottle. Buy me a ninja, a Spiderman, and a new Play Station with one control. I want new clothes for my mom for work. For my mom's brother, who lives in Friona, I want a new Play Station.
Raul
- Dear Santa,
Buy me a Barbie house. Buy me a little pony.
Malie
- Dear Santa,
Me llame Michelle. Yo quero que me mande un mono, una bolsa y un caballo. Quiero un oso para jugar, y tambien una Barbie.
Michelle
- Dear Santa,
Quiero un caballo, un oso y una muñeca. También quiero un dulce de caramelo.
Celeste
- Dear Santa,
Could you send me a Brat, a Barbie, a football and other toys.
Cassandra
- Dear Santa,
Gustaria que me enviara ropa, un vestido y una corona.
Nalley
- Dear Santa,
Quiero que me mande una muñeca y un arbol de Navidad. Tambien me gustaria un changito, puedo jugar con el.
Maria
- Dear Santa,
Yo quiero un libro y un perrito.
Bianca
- Dear Santa,
Quiero un tren, un caballo, un payaso y un barco, con el barco y lo pondre en el agua.
Irvin
- Dear Santa,
Me gustaria que me traiga una casita, para jugar con mi monas, tambien una computadora.
Leslie
- Dear Santa,
Please bring me a motorcycle. If you have time come to my house.
Julian
- Dear Santa,
I would like for you to bring me a horse, a teddy bear, a car, a bat and ball and a clown. I also want a bear and candy.
Ileana
- Dear Santa,
Please a car. I will drive this car everywhere.
Adrian
- Dear Santa,
I want a Barbie doll, Dora and a star. I would give my mommy the star. I also want a bear (oso) y una pluma so I can draw a sun.
Nicole
- Dear Santa,
I would like for you to send me a train, a boat, a bear, a football player, a horn (to make noises). I also want a car and another baseball.
Manuel
- Dear Santa,
Yo quiero que me mande un oso, una mona, un caballo.
Reina
- Dear Santa,
Quiero un juguete de bebé, un bibirón para mi muñeca, y un juguete de coyote. También una computadora de Barbie.
Karina
- Dear Santa,
Hola como estas? Yo bien,



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