



Sherman County Museum 7 / 08
Box 1248
Stratford, TX 79084

The Stratford Star

75 cents

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Toys Collected for Angel Tree

Happy State Bank and XIT Communications had collected toys for the Toy Drive to help with the Angel Tree Project. Shown above gathering all the toys together are Darla Anderson-XIT, Cindy Cummings with Happy State Bank and Lupe Durate with XIT.



Local Banking Pioneer Retires after Incredible Career

By Bailey Naugle

Martha Mitts, senior vice president and trust officer of the First State Bank, is heading into retirement with a successful career and some amazing accomplishments under her belt.

Martha began her career in 1960, when she started at the bottom of the First State Bank of Stratford totem pole. She worked her way up through the ranks, revolutionizing banking along the way.

"I started on the lowest level where I did bookkeeping, filing and posting," she said. Over time Martha learned to be a teller and later was promoted to Secretary of the President. Early in the 1970s the First State Bank took a progressive step and applied for trust powers.

The powers came through and she established Stratford's first trust department, the only trust services in the Texas Panhandle outside of Amarillo. Today the trust department is in charge of assets in excess of \$30 million, and it is one of Martha's proudest accomplishments. "Trust services were needed in this area," she said, "In the early 70s customers wanted services closer to home."

As First State's customer base grew, it became clear that the bank had out grown their traditional posting system. In 1982 Martha teamed up with program writer, Phil Sorrell to come up with an innovative computer program. "I contributed the trust knowledge and he wrote the program," she explained.

The software, originally titled BancCorp, was a hit. By 1983 the software was marketed publicly and sold to trust departments worldwide.

Martha explained that the program has been revised, the rights to it have been sold several times, and the name has changed, but it is still commonly operated. "It has served us well, and they are still using it," she said.

Martha left her mark on other aspects of the banking industry as well. She underwent extensive training and held several offices on various bank related boards.

"I have to say I most liked being the chairman for the Community Bankers Committee of the Texas Bankers Association," said Martha.

Cont. on page 7

Duncan Chevrolet Acquires Dealership in Clayton, NM

By Bailey Naugle

Duncan Chevrolet of Stratford recently purchased Ethridge Chevrolet of Clayton, NM and is the process of transitioning the new dealership to Naugle Chevrolet.

"We were really interested in Ethridge Chevrolet because it is a small-town dealership. Everyone in our family is from a small town, and we love doing business in that type of atmosphere," said Howard.

The Naugles own and operate Duncan Chevrolet of Stratford which has been in their family since 1967 when Valerie's parents, Leonard and Martha Duncan, opened the dealership.

Howard explained, "I began working there as a parts manager when I was 20 years old. I took a real interest in it and worked my way up. When her parents were ready to retire, Valerie and I took the dealership over - exactly 25 years ago."

When he says "exactly 25 years ago," he means it literally.

The Naugles were scheduled to sign for ownership of Duncan Chevrolet on December 7, 1982. Valerie, who was pregnant with their third child, went into labor that day. The Naugles were unable to make their closing appointment that day, and winter

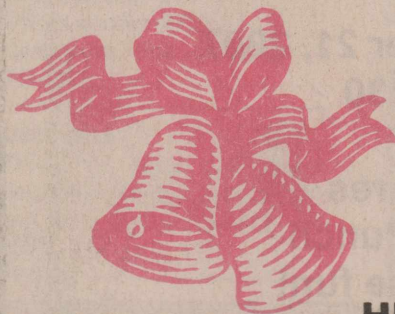
weather kept the family in Amarillo for four more days. They were finally able to sign the papers on December 12th, ironically the same day that they signed for Ethridge Chevrolet 25 years later.

The Naugles have managed to keep their business family run. Corey Naugle, Howard and Valerie's son, lives in Stratford where he will continue to work as the assistant manager of Duncan Chevrolet. Keisha Naugle-Holland, Howard and Valerie's daughter, and her husband Tommy Holland will be moving to Clayton to manage Ethridge Chevrolet.

"We want to bring a lot of energy along with some new services and technologies to Naugle Chevrolet," said Tommy Holland.

Those new services include longer hours of operation, a larger inventory of new units, walk-in service repairs, tire sales and warranties, and GM accessory

Cont. on page 3



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

MAKING YOUR INFORMATION COUNT

By Agriculture Commissioner Todd Staples

For many people, counting sheep is a sure-fire way of getting to sleep. However, for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, sheep - as well as cattle, horses, ostriches and acres of cotton, rice, grapes and citrus - are just some of the many items the agency will count for a complete look of Texas for the 2007 Census of Agriculture.

We can be proud Texas has one of the most diverse agricultural industries in the world, and the Census of Agriculture is an excellent opportunity for us to showcase the incredible array of commodities coming from our fields, pastures, orchards, vineyards and rangelands.

Cont. on page 5

Rodriguez Family Fund Set Up

A fund has been set up at First State Bank to help the family of Elizabeth Rodriguez who was in an accident on September 6, 2007 and passed away Friday November 23, 2007.

Presley Fund Set Up At Bank

A medical fund for the son of J.B. & Amanda Presley has been set up at the First State Bank of Stratford. For more information contact the First State Bank 396-5521.

End of Year Donations

The Stratford ISD Education Foundation would like to thank the many people of the community who have donated to the foundation this year. We would like to take this opportunity to remind you that without your donations the fulfillment of grants for the students of Stratford would not be possible. Please remember the foundation when you are thinking of making your end of year donations. You never know when your donation is going to touch the life of a child.

HUNTER'S SAFETY COURSE JAN. 11 & 12

By Susie Spurlock

Hunter's Safety Education Course will be offered January 11th and 12th in Stratford. The course has been rescheduled due to December weather conditions. Lee Morris of Dumas will be conducting the course open to all interested individuals age 12 and older.

The State of Texas requires that all individuals age 17 and older who plan to participate in any outdoor hunting activities to complete the safety education course.

The course will be conducted at the Sherman County Exhibit Building in Stratford from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. on Friday and 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Saturday. Cost of the class will be \$15.00 per person. For the course to be offered, the instructor has requested a minimum of 10 class participants.

Individuals who would like to register for the course may do so by calling the Sherman County Extension Office at 366-2122. Educational programs of the Texas Cooperative Extension are open to all citizens without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age, or national origin.

Late Planting Wheat Considerations

By David Graf

"Record-setting wheat prices and significantly increased input costs could have some producers asking whether planting wheat near Christmas is an option," said David Graf, Texas Cooperative Extension agriculture and natural resources agent for Sherman County.

Two long-term research studies indicate that, on average, producers can expect approximately a 40 percent decrease in yield for wheat planted in December or early January, versus an ideal planting date in early October, Graf said.

A five-year study (1996 to 2002) at the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station at Bushland conducted by Dr. Brent Bean, Extension agronomist, showed yield decreases ranged from 35

Cont. on page 5

Attention Readers:
We will only publish three issues in the month of December, 2007
Thursday, Dec. 6
Thursday, Dec. 13
Thursday, Dec. 20 (Christmas issue)
No issue for December 27th, 2007
Next issue Thursday, January 3, 2008

Weather Line
366-2000
Sponsored by
Stratford Grain & ADM/Alliance
Nutrition
Greg Wright - 7 days a week, updating as needed



FARMERS

Teacher of The Month

Linda Swain

December 2007

Thank you for your commitment to our kids!!

Diane, Patty, and Joanie



Teacher of the Month

Linda Swain was chosen as our December Teacher of the Month. She has been a dedicated teacher at Stratford Public Schools for 37 years. Be sure and thank her for all she does for our children.

Name: Linda Swain
Family: Husband: Jack - a veterinarian
Children: Ryan - a meat scientist in Mahwah, NJ
Brock - graduating with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree at Texas Tech
Hobbies: anything to do with animals - helping Jack, riding horses, stockshows; sports; reading; all get togethers with family
Grade: 5-6 Social Studies now (have taught self-contained 5th & 6th, & Math 5th & 6th)
How long have you taught?: 37 years in Stratford, 38 years total
Why did you become teacher?: "I enjoy working with people, especially children, so teaching was an easy choice for occupation."
Words of Wisdom: "Never give up on the kids - and be fair!"
What do you like best about teaching: "In Social Studies, when students get excited about historical events and are anxious to know what's happening next, I feel like I've reached them. Hopefully I have lit a fire within them to become curious about our world and how it affects each of us."

Obits

PATRICIA FAYE CLUCK BURLESON

GRUVER-- Patricia Faye Cluck; Burleson, 71, died, Thursday, Dec. 13, 2007.

Services were held at 11 a.m. Saturday December 15, 2007 in First Baptist Church of Gruver with the Rev. Scott Curry, Officiating. Burial will be in Gruver Cemetery by Boxwell Brothers Funeral. Home of Spearman.

Mrs. Burleson was born June 18, 1936, in Sherman County to Samuel and Faye Cluck. She graduated from Gruver High School in 1954 and Baylor University in 1958. She married Andy Burleson on Sept. 6, 1958, in Gruver. After her marriage she lived; in Gruver, Stratford and Amarillo. She taught 11 years at Sunrise Elementary and was a member of Paramount Baptist Church. In 2000, she moved back to Gruver.

Mrs. Burleson was a member of First Baptist Church of Gruver and a member of Women of Missions, past member of the Gruver Music Club, lifetime member of the Gruver PTA and was president for two terms, former board member and volunteer for the High Plains Baptist Hospital Auxiliary and Daughters of the American Revolution.

She was preceded in death by her parents and a brother, Del Cluck.

Survivors include her husband, Andy; three daughters, DeDe Cummins and husband Tim of Canyon, Marcy Tow and husband Scott of Garland and Esther Gibson and husband James of Bryan; two granddaughters,

Jessica McKenzie and husband Joel of Mesquite and Hayley Tow of Garland; two grandsons; Hogan Tow of Garland and

Andrew Cummins of Canyon; two sisters, Sammie Hurt of Amarillo, Mary Lou Mathews of Spearman; three sisters-in-law, Barbara Cluck of Gruver, Mona Jeffries of Gunter and Georgia Kern and husband Dennis of Amarillo; and four grandchildren.

The family suggests memorials be to Olivia's Angels, PO Box 950, Amarillo, TX 79105, Park Central Hope Fund, 701 Park Place, Amarillo, TX 79101 or Alzheimer's Association, 1400 Wallace Blvd., Amarillo, TX 79106.

Color, A Collection of Art By Barbra Dawkins

The Carson County Square House Museum is pleased to announce an exhibit by Barbra Dawkins, a resident of Dalhart, who specializes in portraits, flowers, landscapes and seascapes. The portraits include life scenes of people that we all treasure, grandchildren and characters who come along through our lives. Cousins received an Honorable Mention at the Tri-State Art Show in the spring of 2007. A landscape, Late Fall, also received an Honorable Mention at that show. Other award winners from shows at San Angelo, Santa Fe, and several Oklahoma shows will be on display.

Mrs. Dawkins is a member of many prestigious art associations including the Society of Impressionists, the Oil Painters of America, and has held exhibits in area banks and the Panhandle Art Center. She has taken workshops with Don Getz, Mike Mahon, Walter McCowan, Anita Betke and the Watercolor Society of America. She is currently exhibiting in Salado, Dalhart and Temple, Texas.

A reception will be held on Sunday, January 6, 2008 -2:30 to 4:00 p.m. in the Hazlewood Gallery to give the public a chance to talk to Barbra about her work. Gallery hours are Monday through Saturday, 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Sunday 1:00 to 5:00p.m.

For further information, please call (806)537-3524.

After School Movie Thursday

The Sherman County Public Library will be presenting the latest Harry Potter movie at the library on Thursday, December 20th at 4:00 p.m. The movie is rated PG-13 and the running time is approximately 2 hours and 19 minutes. If you have any questions call the library at 366-2200.

Merry
Christmas
&
Happy
New Year

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806-366-3522 303 N. Main Stratford, TX Mon.-Sat. 9-6 Sun 1-5

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9-7 9-2 Day
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Toys 25%-50% off as marked

Crafts, Floral, & greenery 50% off!

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Friday, December 21, 2007
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STRATFORD - DUMAS - DALHART

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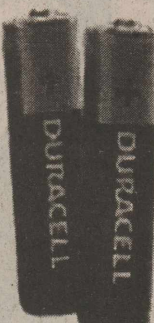
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BUY 12 GALLONS OF FRESH ALLSUP'S MILK... GET ONE FREE!

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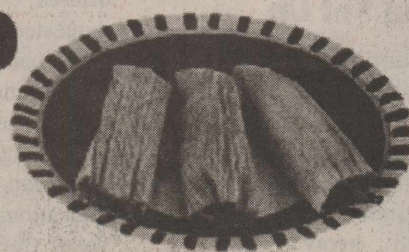
CLOVER HILL ASST. DANISH
AND A 16 OZ. COFFEE
OR CAPPUCCINO

99¢



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TAMALES

\$1.39



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ALLSUP'S WHEAT BREAD 99¢ EACH OR	2 for \$1.69
NYQUIL LIQUID 6 OZ.	\$4.99
SOFT'N GENTLE 4 ROLL	99¢
SO DRI PAPER TOWELS 1 ROLL PKG.	79¢

COMBO MEALS

COMBO NO. 1 BACON/EGG BISCUIT & 16 OZ. COFFEE	\$1.99
COMBO NO. 2 SAUSAGE/EGG BISCUIT & 16 OZ. COFFEE	\$1.99
COMBO NO. 3 BBQ SANDWICH & 32 OZ. TALLSUP	\$1.99
COMBO NO. 4 HOMESTYLE POPCORN CHICKEN & 32 OZ. TALLSUP	\$2.69
COMBO NO. 5 SPICY POPCORN CHICKEN & 32 OZ. TALLSUP	\$2.69

COMBO NO. 6 3 TAMALES, HOWLERS & 32 OZ. TALLSUP	\$2.59
COMBO NO. 7 2 HOT LINKS WITH BREAD & 32 OZ. TALLSUP	\$2.49
COMBO NO. 8 2 CORN DOGS & 32 OZ. TALLSUP	\$2.59
COMBO NO. 9 CHIMICHANGA & 32 OZ. TALLSUP	\$2.39
COMBO NO. 10 2 BEEF & BEAN BURRITOS & 32 OZ. TALLSUP	\$2.59

Duncan Chevrolet
Cont. from page 1

sales and installation. Starting January 2nd, Naugle Chevrolet will be open for sales and service from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm Monday through Friday, and 8:00 am to noon Saturday.

The Naugles and Hollands are looking forward to doing business in Clayton. They hope to make a smooth transition and to be successful at meeting the area's automotive needs.

"We are working on plans for a grand opening sometime in the New Year, but everybody should feel free to stop by anytime," said Tommy Holland. "Naugle Chevrolet is open for business, and we are really excited to start meeting the people of Clayton."

4-H SHOOTING SPORTS COACHES MEETING

By Susie Spurlock

Coaches for the 4-H Shooting Sports project will meet Thursday, January 3, 2007. The meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. at the County Extension Office in Stratford.

Coaches will receive updates on 4-H Connect registration program, dates for instructor certification training, and make plans for the weekly target practice sessions.

All adult volunteer coaches are asked to attend. For more information, contact the Sherman County Extension Office at 366-2122.

4-H Parent/Leaders Meeting January 10

By Susie Spurlock

The quarterly business meeting of the Sherman County 4-H Parent/Leaders Association will be Thursday, January 10 at 7:00 p.m. at the Sherman County Extension Office.

The organization is the booster club for the county 4-H program and all parents of 4-H members and volunteer leaders are invited to attend. Business items will include plans for the updates on fall and winter projects, plans for the food concession fund raiser, and plans for spring projects.

For more information, contact either Susie Spurlock or David Graf, Sherman County Extension Agents at 366-2122.



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Bedroom suits, mattresses, Living Room suits,
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Whitney Reese

Whitney Reese is a member of the lady elk basketball and cross country teams. She is a cast member for the one-act play and a member of the student council.

Duncan Chevrolet
PERFORMANCE
Student of the Week

www.duncanchevrolet.com

The Angel Tree Reception will be held on Thursday, December 20, 2007 at the Assembly of God church from 6:00 to 7:00 pm. Families approved for the Angel Tree will be notified by mail. Please bring approval letter with you to receive your gifts. Please call Ashley or Isabell at 396-5521 if you have any questions. Merry Christmas!!!

La reception para Arbol de Angeles sera el Jueves 20 de Diciembre del 2007 en la iglesia Asamblea de Dios de las 6:00 a las 7:00pm. Familias aprobadas para el Arbol de Angeles seran contactadas por correo. Por favor traigan las cartas con Uds. Para recibir sus regalos. Si tienen preguntas hablen a Ashley o Isabell a 396-5521.

Feliz Navidad!!!

First Assembly of God

Kevin Anderson, Pastor

921 Fulton

Sunday School 9:45 am

Morning Worship 10:45 am

Evening Worship 6:00 pm

Wed. Bible Study 7:00 pm

First Christian

Rev. Walter Reed

5th & Main

Sunday School 9:45 am (nursery)

Morning Worship 10:45 am (nursery)

No Sunday Evening Worship Service

Wed. Youth Choir 3:45 pm, Chi Rho 5 p.m.,

CYF 6 p.m., Bell Choir 6:50 p.m., Adult Choir 8 p.m.

First United Methodist

Rev. Gene Weinette

520 N. Main

Sunday School 9:20 am

Morning Worship 10:30 am

Junior High UMY 5:00 pm

Senior High UMY 6:00 pm

St. Joseph Catholic

Father Aleksy Kowalski

6th & Pearl

Rectory - 366 - 5687

Sunday morning: 9:00a.m. (English), 12 noon. (Spanish)

Service - Wed. Thurs. Fri.—6 p.m. Sat. 5 p.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Before Mass. or by appt.

Christian Formation Classes: K-6th Grade, Wed. afternoon

Jr. & Sr. High, Wed. - 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Church of Christ

Ernie Maiwald

N. 3rd & Chestnut

Sunday School 9:30 am

Morning Worship 10:30 am

Evening Worship 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday Bible Study - 7:00 p.m.

Heritage Bible Baptist

Pastor Rick Carter

302 S. Main - For More Info—call 396-2212

Morning Worship - 11 a.m.

Evening Service 6 p.m.

Wed. Service - 7:30 p.m.

First Baptist

Pastor Jason Stone

702 N. 3rd

Sun.—Coffee - 8:30 Sunday School - 9:30

Worship Service - 10:30

Wed. -Children—6:00, youth—7:00

La Mision Bautista

Mision Bautista

401 S. Wall 396-5376

Domingo-(Sunday)

Estuela Dominical 9:45 am

Miercoles (Wednesday)

Servicio De Adoracion 11:00 am

& Servicio De Oration 6:00 pm

Servicio De Adoracion 6:00 pm

Susninios Durante El Servicio.

Luke 2:9-11

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Templo Hispano Eben-Ezer
Pastor Roberto Frescas
205 N. Poplar - Hwy 287
Escuela Dominical 10 a.m.
Servicio De Adoracion 5 p.m.
Meir Co Les Serv De Ador 5 p.m.

Kerrick Community Church
Pastor Roy Harris
Community Building
Sunday Morning - 11:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening-6:00 p.m.
Prayer Meeting - 7:00 p.m. Wednesday

RETIREMENT Celebration

You are cordially invited To A Retirement Reception for

Martha Mitts

Thursday, December 20, 2007

1:00 P.M. to 4:30 P.M.

In the lobby of the First State Bank Stratford, Texas

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\$20.00 per (9 months)

College Rate

The Stratford Star

Box 8

1-806-366-5885

FAX-1-806-366-5885

Movies Beginning December 21

National Treasure 2
PG Nicholas Cage

Walk Hard:Dewey Cox Story
R John C Reilly

No Country for Old Men
R Tommie Lee Jones Josh Brolin

PS I Love You
PG-13 Hillary Swank

Alvin & the Chipmunks
PG (Animated)

I Am Legend
PG-13 Will Smith

This Christmas
PG-13 Loretta Devine Regina King

Enchanted
PG Amy Adams James Marsden

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Movies Beginning December 28

The Water Horse
PG Emily Watson Alex Etel

Aliens Vs Predator:Requiem
R Rette Aylesworth

National Treasure 2
PG Nicholas Cage

Walk Hard:Dewey Cox Story
R John C Reilly

No Country for Old Men
R Tommie Lee Jones Josh Brolin

PS I Love You
PG-13 Hillary Swank

Alvin & the Chipmunks
PG (Animated)

I Am Legend
PG-13 Will Smith

FRESH POPCORN EVERYDAY

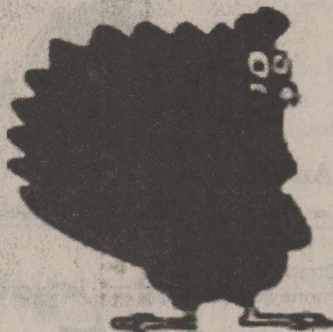
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It's time to cook turkeys again!!

More than ever we need to honor our service men and women and their families during the holidays. We'll be firing up the cookers on Thursday, December 20th at the same place as before - Wesley & Susie Spurlock's barn. If you know of a service man/woman's family in Sherman County email their names and addresses to lallen6423@aol.com or call 806/753-7979 and leave a message. If you'd like to donate turkeys, chickens, beef or any type of meat use the same email & phone number. The cooks will also be glad to deep fry or smoke your holiday meat for you.

15 Years, 4500 Babies In Dumas

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110 S. Bliss Monday-Thursday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Friday 8 a.m. - 12 noon



Open Houses



Xit Communications held their Christmas Open House on Friday, December 14, 2007. Shown above left to right are Russell Routon, Cathy Taylor, Darla Anderson and Lupe Duarte.



Vincent Insurance and Farm Service Agency held their Christmas Open House on Wednesday, December 12, 2007. Shown above left to right are Becky Hemphill, Michelle Lutes, Terry Smith, Sabrina Melton, Patti Vincent, Brent Spurlock, Kenton Kimball, BA Donelson and Janice Brown.

STRATFORD INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR SESSION December 13, 2007

The Stratford ISD board of Trustees met in regular session on Thursday, December 13, 2007. President Joe Reinart established a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 8:00 PM.

Board members present: Joe Reinart, Brent Spurlock, Patti Vincent, Barney Willborn, Greg Wright and DeWain Traylor.

Board members absent: Steve Hays

Guest present: Lynette Kautz and Dinah Horsford.

Mr. Hartsell led the invocation.

Mr. Gilliland gave the monthly recognition. It was as follows:

- The Stratford Elks ended their season with a loss to Idalou 20-7. They were Bi-District champs. Congratulations to the athletes and coaches on a great season.
- Carla Griffin was selected as the November Teacher of the month for Farmers Insurance.
- The ESL classes went to Coldwater Manor and honored the veterans there by giving them booklets that contained letters of appreciation and patriotic songs. Harletta Carthel is the ESL teacher for the Junior High and High School.
- The following athletes were named to the 2007 Academic All District:

Football

Braden Hamilton
Manuel Chavoya
Kaleb Horsford
Hunter Buckles
Corey Carter
Michael Frizzell
Sandro Gomez
Craig Kautz
Alex Martinez
Erik Ruiz
James Smith

Cross Country

Brianda Chavoya
Jessica Ibarra
Janeth Reyes
Kristen Crabtree
Yesenia Ibarra
Lucero Ortega

Vicente Rueda

Christian Alcalá
Roy Allen

- Dan Hembree's Cisco class assembled 6 computers for use in the Cisco classroom. These computers were purchased through a Perkins grant that Mr. Hartsell wrote. Students in that class are Hunter Buckles, Deborah Molina, Sinead Everett, Nick Chafee, Margarita Rocha, James Daniels, and Johnathon Jacquez.
- The Mary Allen Elementary conducted a canned food drive. The 3rd grade donated over 400 items for the drive. A total of 2200 items were donated. The High School student council delivered the items to the food pantry.
- The Elks and Lady Elks competed in the Sunray Basketball tournament on December 6 & 7th. Jordan Confer and Kaleb Horsford were named to the All Tournament teams.

Mr. Reinart read thank you notes for the employee banquet from ViAnn Reed, Linda Haynes, Misti McBryde and Jennifer Wells. He also read a thank you note from the Betty Brown family for flowers.

Mrs. McBryde gave the elementary report. She reported that the elementary has 6 new students this month. She passed out a list of all UIL participants and commended them on the efforts at the UIL meet. The list also included those who placed in an event and what place they received.

Mr. Gilliland expressed his thanks to Mrs. McBryde and Mr. Seward for being in charge of the Elementary/Junior High District UIL meet.

Mr. Seward gave the junior high report. He reported that the junior high enrollment has increased by four this month. Junior high basketball season is underway and all teams are improving each week. He passed out a list of UIL participants with the places that they received. The junior high was 4th overall. He reported that the 5th grade went to see The Nutcracker on Friday. Everyone was well behaved and they all had a good time. The junior high G/T group went to see The Blue Man Group on December 4th. Preparation for the TAKS tests continues.

Mr. Hartsell gave the high school report. He passed out the semester test schedule and the exemption policy. The high school enrollment is currently 175. He commended the students that were named to the Academic All district list. He explained to the board that these students had a 90 or above average for the 1st and 2nd six weeks. He reported on the upcoming events at the high school. Jayton Lawrence and Luke Haile made the All Region band and he commended these two students for their efforts. District basketball will begin on January 4th.

Mr. Gilliland gave the superintendent's report. The transportation cost was .89% for the month. He then gave the monthly budget summary. Monthly expenditures are at 21.77% and revenue collected at 73.80%. Tax Collections are at 75.30%. He then gave the quarterly investment report. SEE ATTACHMENT #1

Discussion was held on the TASB Winter Governance conference in February.

Brent Spurlock made the motion and Barney Willborn seconded to accept the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried 6-0.

The public hearing for the District AEIS report was postponed until the January board meeting.

Mrs. McBryde presented the Elementary Campus Improvement Plan. She briefly explained the document. She explained that Mrs. Davis' 4th grade students had a class

Cont. on page 5

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Ask the Geek

By Kevin McDonald

From My Inner Geek to Yours

The tree and the presents all sparkled with light.
My hard drive clicked once, then spun down for the night.
The kids were in bed but I knew they weren't sleeping.
My wife took a book to the bedroom for reading.

I sat in the dark of the room for a while.
Thinking back on the year I realized with a smile that
On one hand I'm glad that it's come to an end.
My mind raced with thoughts of the time that I spend.

For all of the PCs, the programs, the thumb drives,
The CDs and keyboards - devices of all size,
The Microsoft Windows I both love and hate,
And open-source software that makes life so great,

The viruses worming their way to our data,
The spyware that slows our computers and wait! there's the
Downloads and uploads and reloads and boat loads of
Junk in our mail like a dumpster exploded.

The things that I deal with each day after day and
I bet that you do in your own different way.
While the hustle and bustle of holiday seasons just
Add to the noise all around, for what reason?

It's nice that we've got all the toys and the gadgets,
But sometimes it's nice to escape all the racket and
Climb into bed for a "long winter's nap,"
Or at least a few hours away from-all that.

To remember the warmth of the covers at night,
And the smiles on the faces of loved ones who might
Still be with us - and those of the ones who have passed,
Since nothing electric/organic will last.

Nothing's more precious than these mindful moments,
Alone with our memories of those who mean most so
I hope you'll indulge yourself to them with cheer, and
From my Geek to yours, have a peaceful New Year.

To all of my readers and clients, I hope all of you enjoy a warm and relaxing holiday season, no matter what you celebrate or who you celebrate it with. It's been a long, tough year in our country, but it is finally creeping to an end. I'm looking forward to the cleansing "reboot" that the New Year will bring.

Kevin McDonald is a professional computer technician and novelist. He lives in Stratford with his wife children. He owns and operates Definition Computers: 806-366-7637. Email Kevin at askthegeek@definitioncomputers.com with your questions.

Attention Readers:

We will only publish three issues in the month of December, 2007
Thursday, Dec. 6
Thursday, Dec. 13
Thursday, Dec. 20 (Christmas issue)
No issue for December 27th, 2007
Next issue Thursday, January 3, 2008

SISD

Cont. from page 4

project of designing the cover of the plan. AJ Riffe's design was chosen. DeWain Traylor made the motion and Greg Wright seconded to accept the Mary Allen Elementary Campus Improvement plan as presented. Motion carried 6-0.

Mr. Seward presented the Junior High Campus Improvement Plan. Discussion was held on the plan. Barney Willborn made the motion and Brent Spurlock seconded to accept the plan as presented. Motion carried 6-0.

Mr. Hartsell presented the High School Campus Improvement Plan. He went over changes and additions to the plan. Patti Vincent made the motion and Brent Spurlock seconded to accept the High School Campus Improvement Plan as presented. Motion carried 6-0.

A short recess was taken at 8:51 PM

Mr. Gilliland presented the textbook committee. DeWain Traylor made the motion and Patti Vincent seconded to approve the list as presented. Motion carried 6-0.

Mr. Gilliland presented the District Parental Involvement Plan. Barney Willborn made the motion and Greg Wright seconded to accept the plan as presented. Motion carried 6-0.

Mr. Gilliland presented the High Qualified Teacher Plan for each campus. He explained that for campuses that have 100% staff high qualified that the plan is a "maintenance" plan. For campuses that are not 100% highly qualified, the plan is a "recruitment and retention" plan. Brent Spurlock made the motion and Patti Vincent seconded to accept the plans as presented. Motion carried 6-0.

Mr. Gilliland presented the West Texas Food Service Coop Interlocal Agreement. Patti Vincent made the motion and Barney Willborn seconded to approve the agreement. Motion carried 6-0. SEE ATTACHMENT #2

Joe Reinart read list of updated training hours for each board member. Each member was notified of training hours needed to fulfill the training requirement. Upcoming board training dates were discussed.

Mr. Gilliland presented the Dallam County Appraisal District Board ballot. Brent Spurlock made the motion by resolution to cast Stratford ISD's votes for Peggy Hawkins. Patti Vincent seconded. Motion carried 6-0.

Discussion was held on football bleacher and Mary Allen Elementary playground equipment proposals.

At 9:48 PM, the board adjourned to executive session pursuant to Texas Open Meeting Act Texas Government Code Section 551.074. The board reconvened open session at 11:00 PM.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:03 PM.

ATTENTION READERS

Editors Note: If you have someone serving in the military and would like to have someone's picture and address put in the paper, please leave it with us and we will put it in for you. We will be running the addresses and they will stay in every week. Call 366-5885 or fax to same number or e-mail stardm@xit.net

PFC Rendon, Cory
E/3-7 IN (4-3 BTB),
4BCT, 3ID
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Unit 40622
FOB Kalsu
APO AE 09312

BALAD IRAQ PVT
MCDANIEL NICHOLAS
ABTRY (all of above on one line)
1st PLT 1/9 FA
APOAE09391

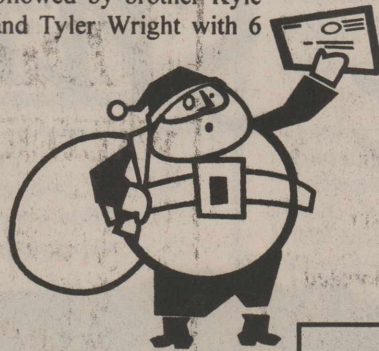
LCPL CROWL, CHANCE
B BTRY
1st BN 10th MAR
UNIT 73330
FPO AE 09509-3330

Brian Husmann
PT RP 4/3 ACR
Unit #6061
APO AE 09378

Basketball

The J.V. Elks lost 28-30 to Gruver on December 11, 2007. Bryce Cummings led in scoring with 11 points followed by Klinton Keener with 6 points and Justin Lanning with 5. On Friday, December 14, the Elks beat Sunray 39-30 with Bryce Cummings again leading the scoring with 14 points and Trevor Christian following with 9 points.

The Stratford Elks beat Gruver 36-31 on December 11. Sandro Gomez was high point with 9 points and Kyle Horsford followed with 7 points and Kaleb Horsford added 6 points. The Elks beat Sunray 39-30 on Friday, December 14. Kaleb Horsford led the Elks with 18 points followed by brother Kyle with 7 and Tyler Wright with 6 points.



ELK TALES

By Lynda Hauser

The 4th Grade performed their 4th grade musical on Monday, December 17.

In Mrs. Hartsell's English Classes we are studying *The Brothers Grimm*. We have been reading the original version of *Hansel and Gretel*. The students are now building and decorating gingerbread houses. Each individual house will be on display next week. Hopefully I will have some pictures of the finished gingerbread houses next week!

Mrs. Riffe's communication applications and public speaking courses had the opportunity to study about and then take part in a real interview process. B. A. Donelson and MariHoward Engelbrecht came to school to interview each student one on one. The questions were actual questions they might be asked during a college or job interview. The students were rated on their first impression, professional attire, body language, eye contact, communication skills and preparedness. Over 60 interviews were held during the course of the day. Mr. Donelson returned the following day to talk to the kids about how they did and to share advice and information that will help them for future interviews. The experience was very positive for everyone involved. Both Mrs. Riffe and her students want to say a big thank you to MariHoward and B.A. for spending the day with us and helping us to apply what we are learning in the classroom to a real world situation.

The One Act Play has held their first official rehearsal in which we cut and highlighted our scripts so that we can begin working on the play as soon as school begins again in January.

High school students will take Semester Tests this week. School will dismiss at 1:00 p.m. on Friday. No "Elk Tales" for 2 or 3 weeks because of the Christmas holidays.

"Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night." - Santa Claus

Information counts
Cont. from page 1

That's why it's important for everyone who receives a Census questionnaire to complete it and mail it in by the Feb. 4, 2008, deadline. Taking time to complete the questionnaire not only gives you the opportunity to provide a complete picture of Texas agriculture, but also to help shape the way agricultural policies can meet your changing needs. The Census is your voice in Texas, and you need to be heard. Federal lawmakers use Census data when developing agricultural and rural programs, and community planners rely on the information to determine local programs and services. Private companies also use Census data to decide where to locate operations.

The Texas Field Office of the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service conducts the Census in the Lone Star State every five years. Questionnaires will be mailed the last week in December and should be returned in the envelope provided. You also will be able to complete the questionnaire online through a secure Web site.

U.S. law requires a response from all producers who receive a Census questionnaire, even if you did not operate a farm or ranch in 2007. This same law also guarantees strict confidentiality of your information, which is not shared with any other state or federal agency.

For more information on the 2007 Census of Agriculture, contact the Texas Field Office at (800) 626-3142, or go to www.agcensus.usda.gov.

Be sure to make your information count.

THE STRATFORD STAR
CHRISTMAS EDITION
Thursday, December 20, 2007
Page 5

Late Planting
Cont. from page 1

percent to 100 percent with late-planted wheat. The research also indicated 60 lbs of seed per acre statistically yielded the same as higher seeding rates, even up to 150 lbs per acre.

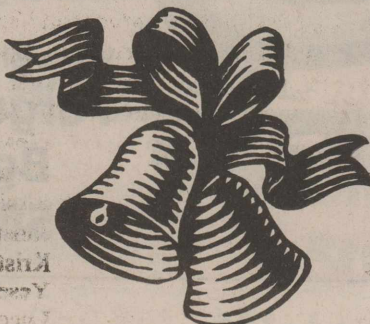
However, Bean suggests, planting 90 lbs of seed to insure a good stand and to possibly offset the lack of time for tillering. Other considerations should include high quality seed, seed treatments and taking care not to plant too deep in order to shorten emergence time. Graf also cited a similar seven-year dryland study conducted by Dr. Merle Witt, Kansas Agricultural Experiment Station in Garden City, Kansas. From 1985 to 1991, Dr. Witt found grain yield was reduced on average 38 percent; this was for

wheat planted in late December or early January, versus an optimal date of Oct. 1.

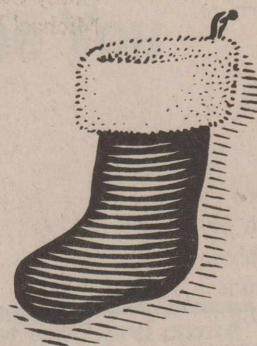
The study also found wheat delayed for planting until January suffered a 45 percent decline in yield. These reductions were associated with a delayed, shorter grain-filling period, declines in seed size and test weight, and fewer number of heads and kernels per plant and per square foot.

"Keep in mind that these yield estimates are averages over several years," Bean said. With the right spring, grain yield may not be reduced that much compared to an optimum planting date. On the other hand, in some years wheat may not yield enough to harvest. "No doubt most producers have grain drills cleaned and put up for the winter," Graf said, "but unprecedented prices in the wheat market may be causing producers to speculate on late-emerging wheat or considering late-planted wheat."

"You may want to leave the drill still," he said, "It might be best to work closely with your broker or marketing guru in making this decision."



Merry
Christmas
&
Happy
New Year



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Kautz Wins

Craig Kautz won Breed Champion with his White OPB at the State Fair of Texas and he also won Reserve Breed Champion at the Tri-State Fair with the same breed. Shown with Craig are his parents, Jeff and Lynette Kautz and brother Josh, on right.



The Christmas Band Concert was held Thursday, December 13, 2007. Bands performing Christmas selections were the 6th grade band and Jr. High band, under the direction of Kathryn Smith and the Stratford High School Band, shown above under the direction of Eldric Shanks.

**Stratford Grain will be
closing at 5 p.m.
Friday, December 21st.
We will re-open on
Wednesday December 26th
Remember to get your feed before
5 p.m. Friday, Dec. 21st**

Hats Off To A New Year

...And to our customers, too!

For all the little things you do,
Our hats are off to each of you
For giving us so much to
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We wish you a wonderful 2008!

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THE STRATFORD STAR
CHRISTMAS EDITION
Thursday, December 20, 2007
Page 7

..The Best Salesperson Around

Help Wanted

Circle H Animal health is looking for dependable, hard-working, motivated individuals to work on our weigh day crews. If you would like a part-time job 2-4 days per month or would like to supplement your current income with a second job, we've got the job for you! Great pay! Stop by to fill out an application or bring your resume. Open 805 M-F. 3216 HWY 54 E. in Dalhart. 12-6-tfn

Help Wanted: Feeders, Tractor drivers, truck drivers, milkers, cow pushers, comparable pay & benefits. Come by office to pick up application. Aurora Organic Dairy-5490 Co. Rd. Y. For more information call 769-4447. 1-17-c-4x

For Sale

For Sale or Lease 212 N. Poplar 40' by 60' office building. Call 806-679-5585 11-1-tfn

For Sale or Lease-Morten Building, 54' x 72' x 16. 396-2305 6-22-tfn

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6 storm windows-2'4"x4'6"
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Contact: Jim Bob @366-5914 or 753-7814 12-20-c

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Tires, Tool boxes, Grill guards, headache racks, cars, pickups, SUV's and more. Duncan Chevrolet 366-5557. 12-6-tfn

To Give Away

Christmas puppies to give away! Mixed breed mama & lab daddy. 1 female 3 males 753-4556 evenings daytime 366-3522. 12-20-c

For Rent

2 BR apartments, close to school, new appliances. \$425-450 month, plus deposit, tenant to pay utilities. 806-244-3418 10-4-tfn

Services

If you need someone to care for your pet over the holidays, we have the answer. Mark Hand will care for your pet while you are away. Call 366-3678 to set-up a time. 12-20-c

SPICY SIZZLING SHRIMP
(Serves 4-5 as an appetizer, 2-3 as an entrée. Double the recipe if you have more guests.)

- 1 lb medium raw shrimp (16-20)
 - 1/4 cup fresh lemon juice
 - 1 teaspoon honey
 - 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
 - 1 1/2 tablespoons fresh ginger, finely minced
 - 1 teaspoon garlic, finely minced
 - 3/4 teaspoon ground cumin
 - 1/4 teaspoon ground coriander
 - 1/2 teaspoon paprika
 - 1/4 teaspoon ground cardamom
 - 1 whole star anise, crushed with back of a spoon (optional)
 - 1/2 teaspoon salt
 - 1/4 teaspoon black pepper
 - 1/4 teaspoon red pepper flakes
- Optional garnish: sliced jicama, lemon wedges, chili powder

Peel and de-vein the shrimp, leaving tails on. Mix the lemon juice, honey and oil in a mixing bowl. Add next 10 ingredients (spices) and shrimp; stir gently to distribute well. Cover and marinate 2-3 hours in refrigerator.

Prepare a medium-hot barbecue fire or preheat broiler to high. Drain shrimp briefly and distribute evenly on oiled grill (or broiler pan, if using oven). Grill or broil 2-3 minutes, turning once or twice, just until shrimp curl up and are pink throughout. Do not overcook. Serve heaped on a platter, surrounded with slices of peeled jicama and lemon, both sprinkled with chili powder. These are tasty any time of year.

For more pairing tidbits, please visit www.alicewhite.com.

Houses for Sale

House for Sale: 311 S. Chestnut Call 366-3506. 12-20-c

For Sale: Country Living, 15 miles from Stratford, 25 from Dalhart, 4000 plus living, 4 bedrooms, 3 bath, formal dining, oak flooring, basement, 40 x 50 insulated shop. All rooms extra large. Call 366-3233 for appointment. See pictures @ Shermancountytx.org 6-28-tfn

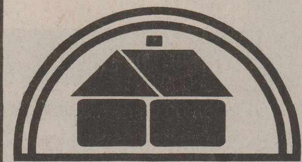
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E-mail: adrem@adremland.com
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Commercial Property, 207 Texas Ave., Stratford 80 x 80 shop with 4.4 acres located on Dalhart Highway, 2 16' overhead doors with office space. \$129,000.

NEW LISTING! For sale by owner. 314 S. Fulton. 1662 total sq. ft. 3 bed/2bath. CH&A. Single garage/double driveway. Large deck. Cash back at closing incentive. Will show by appt. 806-683-2553. 8-9-tfn



Great New Listing!
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Residential Property

14433 Hwy 287 Stratford \$127,500
4/2 1997 Saturn Manufactured Home on 24 acres. Cthdl. Ceiling, wood burning f.p. in Living room. Kitchen has island with eating bar, pantry, and built-in desk. Master bath has walk-in shower, dbl. sinks, and garden tub. 4 car Quonset garage w/ elec. Barn with 220, & 2 addtl. Quonsets on concrete slabs.

1207 Division St. Stratford \$81,950
A must see! 2/1.5/1 home with vinyl & carpet throughout. New roof in Aug. 2007. Storm cellar. Lg. detached garage/shop with living quarters & 1/2 bath.

408 N. 8th. Stratford \$85,000
Room & more Room! In this 3/1.75/1 home w/ office or 4th bedroom. Dining w/built-in corner hutch. Bedrooms with walk-in closets. Vinyl & carpet throughout home. Utility room. Fenced backyard, Wood deck, storm windows & doors, and storage building.

402 N. 8th Stratford \$20,000
2/1 Home on Lg corner lot. Wall heater, evaporative cooler, and gas stove in kitchen.

Commercial Property
501 S. Poplar Stratford \$29,900
Commercial Building with lobby area, 3 offices, 2 bathrooms, & shop With 10x12 overhead door. It has approx. 1,776 sq. ft.

301 N. Poplar Stratford \$275,000
NICE! NICE! NICE! 60x100 Commercial Building on huge lot. Building has several overhead doors, showroom, office, and handicap accessible restroom.

Acreage \$640,700
Approx. 640.7 Acres w/ dbl. wide mobile home and 2 car detached garage just South of Stratford.

Legal Notice

No. 2132
Estate of Esther Y. Johnson, Deceased in the County Court of Sherman County, Texas.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that, on December 4, 2007 letters testamentary upon the Estate of Esther Y. Johnson, Deceased, were issued by the County Court of Sherman County, Texas, to H.H. (Jack) Johnson, III, Jesse R. Johnson and James David Johnson as Co-independent Executors. The post office address of H.H. (Jack) Johnson, III, Jesse R. Johnson and James David Johnson is c/o Jack Johnson, P.O. Box 87, of Texhoma, Oklahoma 73949. All persons having claims against said estate are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

H.H. (Jack) Johnson, III, Co-Independent Executor of the Estate of Esther Y. Johnson, Deceased

Jesse R. Johnson, Co-Independent Executor of the Estate of Esther Y. Johnson, Deceased.

James David Johnson, Co-Independent Executor of the Estate of Esther Y. Johnson, Deceased.

Published in the Stratford Star, Thursday, December 20, 2007.

Study Club Begins Cookbook Sales

Prospectus Study Club has begun selling their newest cookbook. It is called "Favorites from Our Table". It is a hard cover, three ring binder style cookbook and sells for \$14.00. Contact any Study Club member or visit Sandy at the Library. Please call 366-2772 with any questions.

Banking Pioneer Cont. from page 1

"I really enjoyed representing smaller, community banking," she said. Her professional accomplishments are of particular merit because at that time there were very few women on the executive office level. "Martha was one of the first women to achieve that level of success in the banking industry. She was truly a pioneer," said BA Donelson, chairman of First State Bank's Board of Directors.

Martha also made a personal impact in her community. In 2006 she was honored as Stratford's citizen of the year. She was the charter president of the Women's Division Stratford Chamber of Commerce, and a charter member of both the Sherman County Older Texans and the Stratford Area Foundation. Martha was one of the first female elders at the First Christian Church of Stratford, and she is the acting president of the Stratford Investment Group. She has contributed to other organizations including the Prospectus Study Club and the Texas Federated Women's Clubs.

Martha is looking forward to traveling and spending more time with her family once she retires, but there are aspects of her work that she will miss.

"It has been a marvelous, rewarding career. It is such an interesting industry," she said, "I'll miss the people most of all. I've had good co-workers. I'll miss them, but they'll carry on and do well."

Everyone is invited to the First State Bank on Thursday, December 20th between 1:00 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. for a retirement reception honoring Martha and all of her accomplishments.

Cards of Thanks

We would like to thank everyone for the calls, cards, thoughts and especially the prayers we have received this year. Between the birth of our son Matthew in September and Jesse's testing, diagnosis and eventual surgery for thyroid cancer in October, it has been an extremely eventful year for our family. Throughout everything, we were blessed by knowing that our friends in Stratford were constantly praying for us. Those prayers have been answered and we blessed and happy to say that we got our Christmas present early when Jesse's doctors declared him cancer-free last week. We know this is truly the power of prayer at work. Thank you again so much. Words cannot say it enough. God bless each and every one of you and Merry Christmas.

Jesse, Crystal, Jacob, Thomas and Matthew Mariscal

The Weather, no problem, hamburgers and all the fixin-great desserts and a great crowd for the Elerick dinner Sunday, December 9th. Thanks to shoe who supplied everything and those so generous with giving-all of the churches who kept Jason & family in their prayers before and during surgery and since! Cause Stratford is a very concerned, loving town. Wouldn't want to live anywhere else. Stratford is my home and the Jason Elericks and a special thanks to those who worked!

JA Lasley

Stratford's response to the Jason Elerick fundraiser lunch was tremendous. Thanks to everyone that attended the lunch and contributed so graciously. Thanks to the following businesses for contributing toward the lunch: Vincent Insurance, Alien Insurance, Farm Bureau, Bain Tire, Personal Touch, Let's Make Arrangements, Allsups, Express Lanes, First State Bank, Happy State Bank, Ben Franklin, Stratford Grain, Stratford Feedyard, Brown's Meat Locker, Walter Lasley Feedyard, Dettle's Feedyard, A&I, Moore's Grocery, Acquisitions, XIT, Great Lengths, Red Door, and Frito Lay. A special thanks to our cooks, Jeff Kautz, Lawrence Aguilar & Deryll Perrin. Stratford is a very caring community - your response to this fundraiser was proof of that. It took everyone to make this such a wonderful success: the businesses, the fundraiser committee, the cooks and all the individual contributions of money and/or desserts. Again, thanks to all of you.

Marty Bain & Karen Perrin Elerick Fundraiser Co-chairs



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

4th Annual Southwest Beef Symposium set for Jan. 16-17 in Roswell

ROSWELL, N.M. - For the fourth time in as many years, Texas and New Mexico Cooperative Extension agencies will hold their annual "Southwest Beef Symposium." This year's meeting is set for Jan. 16-17 at the Roswell Convention Center.

Dr. Bruce Carpenter, Texas Cooperative Extension livestock specialist at Fort Stockton, said the symposium is tailored for southwestern beef producers. The event centers on three educational sessions and a trade show. It alternates between locations in West Texas and eastern New Mexico.

"This year, the first session will target controlling ranch costs," Carpenter said. "Extension specialists from Texas, New Mexico and Oklahoma will team up to address cost management strategies, and some ways to help soften the effects of inflated feed and fuel prices on extensive, range-based, ranching operations."

The second day will address current topics and how emerging issues may affect how future business is done back at the ranch, he said.

"The audience will hear from key industry leaders about the status of U.S. beefs access to foreign markets, the 'greening of America' and how environmentally conscious consumers influence beef production," Carpenter said. This session will end with a summary

of the status of non-fed beef (cull cow) production and marketing in the U.S.

The final session deals with managing calf health beyond the ranch. Beef producers, feeders and veterinarians will talk about what calf health means and how to manage it - even when things don't go as planned, Carpenter said.

Individual registration is \$50 and includes a prime rib dinner, lunch, refreshments and printed proceedings. For planning purposes, pre-registration by Jan. 3 would be appreciated.

For more information call Carpenter at 432-336-8585 or Clay Mathis at New Mexico State University at 505-646-8022. A schedule of events and speaker information, as well as registration materials and lodging information, can be found at <http://cahe.nmsu.edu/ces/swbeef>

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Dear Santa

Two Visits from Santa Clause

By J.J. Williams

We grew up on the family farm some six miles from Lebanon, Indiana, in the house where my father was born. It turned out that I would be the first of five boys. My next brother Leon, was only 22 months younger than myself. I was born 3 days after Christmas, he was born on Halloween, and we were partners in mischief.

Dad, who everybody called Jake, was a jovial, stout, heavy-set, plump, farmer/preacher who helped Santa every year by playing Santa Clause, complete with suit, beard, black shiny boots, harness and bells for the imaginary reindeer, a booming voice, and a hearty Ho Ho Ho, for church or school occasions. We knew that there was a real Santa Clause because Dad was his 'helper', kind of a subordinate clause, if you will.

The kids on the bus and at school were telling us that there really wasn't a Santa and we would wink at each other because we knew differently, but the seed of doubt had been planted. I was 11, soon to be twelve, Leon was 10, and this was to be the year that we got our first mode of transportation, BICYCLES. We could hardly wait for the days to go by.

The ground was covered with a foot of snow; we were 'house-bound' and had been recruited to help get ready for the big Christmas dinner. Grand parents, cousins, and neighbors, the Jackson's, would be there and you could sense the excitement in the air. The smell of baking cookies, pies, cakes, ham and turkey filled the house. Our assignment was to sweep the floors, dust, make up the beds with fresh linens, and clean up in general, along with the dreaded chore of, *watching the babies*, our four and 1/2 year old brother Dick, and our almost 2 year old brother Ronnie, who could tear up the Christmas tree or shred packages at an alarming rate of speed. Between yelling at Dick and Ronnie, working at our chores, running errands for mom, crying kids, and being scolded for what Dick and Ron were tearing up, somewhere the 'Christmas spirit' got lost and pandemonium had set in. Leon and I were 'catching' it and throwing it right back.

Mom told us that Santa was watching and that we weren't going to get *anything* if we didn't 'straighten up'. Leon and I were even quarreling about who did what, when suddenly there was an awful scuffle coming from the old enclosed back porch/well house and we could hear Dad yelling, "No, you're not going to take those boys' presents from under the tree! They've worked hard this year." The scuffle continued with a deeper voice booming, "Those boys are going to lose their presents if they aren't better than they've been lately!" As we tried to get to the back door window where the argument was escalating, Mom strategically blocked our flight to the door and exclaimed as she peered out, "Oh my Lord, Dad had to throw Santa out the door to keep him from taking back your presents." As Dad came in the kitchen door, out of breath, and holding something red in his hand you could have hung ornaments on our protruding wide eyes. Upon examination, dad had ripped off the pocket of Santa's coat and seemingly just noticing what he'd done, he panted, "Oh no, I've ripped Santa's coat trying to protect your presents."

We were much better boys for the remainder of that day and there was one more day to go to get to Christmas Eve. That night, we said our prayers for everybody and were especially sure to mention Santa's, and to forgive us for being so ungrateful.

The next day we tried to be so good that it hurt, but we had come to the realization that getting bicycles was probably out of the question and that we should be glad that Dad had saved what presents we had left under the tree. That probably was the longest day of our lives. Questions of, "What time is it?", "When are the rest of the people coming?", "When is dinner?", "Do you think Santa will come back tonight?", and "Are we being good?", were asked dozens of times.

At last, the guests came, dinner was eaten and as twilight faded, snow began to fall in big fat flakes. In no time the depth grew another 6" on top of the foot which we already had. The grown-ups visited and we tried to watch for Santa through frosted windows, often turning to each other wondering about the ultimate unasked questions, "Will Santa come, and will we get some bicycles?" Another hour went by and the snow was still coming down steadily. There was talk of the possibility that Santa might get lost in the dense snow or be forced down by icing on his sled from some of the grown-ups. This only added to our discomfort and we thought that it might be possible that they'd have to call off Christmas.

"Listen", said Leon, "I think I hear sleigh bells." It was so quiet that we could hear our hearts beating. "Yea, I hear them too!" and in the next instant we heard that distinctive, "Ho Ho Ho", from the front yard. The sounds of the reindeer stomping and the bells ringing in short, sharp bursts as the deer shook off the snow.

"It's him," we both said together. And at that, the front door was opened by Mom and that not so jolly elf burst through the door asking where Johnny and Leon were. We got quite a lecture about goodness and love and we repented right then and there. The next question was, "Where is the pocket of my Coat? Mrs. Clause was very unhappy about that little mishap?" To our surprise, Dad very sheepishly handed it to him with a heart felt apology. That blew our theory that it could be dad in that suit. We whispered, "It's Glen Jackson,"...but he's sitting right over there! Leon got close enough to tug on his beard and it was real!

We promised to be good in the following year and he said that he had something for us then, and with that he went back outside and brought in two shiny new bicycles. He turned and went back outside to yell at his reindeer, calling them by name, and the sound of sleigh bells diminished into the night. It stopped snowing a few moments after he left and the rest of the evening was a reflection upon the last few days.

The next morning we decided to either prove or disprove his existence so we went out front to see his tracks. There were several small hoof prints and two thin lines, one on each side of those tracks. We followed these tracks about 50 feet and they disappeared. You draw your own conclusion. As for us, we still feel the blessing that "Santa Clause" had on us all those years ago.

Dear Santa,

I've been a good mom all year. I've fed, cleaned and cuddled my children on demand visited the doctor's office more than my doctor and sold sixty-two cases of candy bars to raise money to plant a shade tree on the school playground. I was hoping you could spread my list out over several Christmases, since I had to write this letter with my son's red crayon, on the back of a receipt in the laundry room between cycles, and who knows when I'll find anymore free time in the next 18 years.

Here are my Christmas wishes:

I'd like a pair of legs that don't ache (in any color, except purple, which I already have and arms that don't hurt or flap in the breeze, but are strong enough to pull my screaming child out of the candy aisle in the grocery store. I'd also like a waist, since I lost mine somewhere in the seventh month of my last pregnancy. If you're hauling big ticket items this year I'd like fingerprint resistant windows and a radio that only plays adult music, a television that doesn't broadcast any programs containing talking animals, and a refrigerator with a secret compartment behind the crisper where I can hide to talk on the phone. On the practical side, I could use a talking doll that says, 'Yes, Mommy' to boost my Parental confidence, along with two kids who don't fight and three pairs of jeans that will zip all the way up without the use of power tools. I could also use a recording of

Tibetan monks chanting 'Don't eat in the living room and Take your hands off your brother,' because my voice seems to be just out of my children's hearing range and can only be heard by the dog. If it's too late to find any of these products, I'd settle for enough time to brush my teeth and comb my hair in the same morning, or the luxury of eating food warmer than room temperature without it being served in a Styrofoam container. If you don't mind, I could also use a few 'Christmas miracles' to brighten the holiday season. Would it be too much trouble to declare ketchup a vegetable? It will clear my Conscience immensely. It would be helpful if you could coerce my children to help around the house without demanding payment as if they were the bosses of an organized crime family.

Well, Santa, the buzzer on the dryer is calling and my son saw my feet under the laundry room door. I think he wants his crayon back. Have a safe trip and remember to leave your wet boots by the door and come in and dry off so you don't catch cold.

Help yourself to cookies on the table but don't eat too many or leave crumbs on the carpet. Yours Always, MOM...

P.S. One more thing...you can cancel all my requests if you can keep my children young enough to believe in Santa.

*Santa has asked that this gets passed on to all the mommies you know *

Dear Santa Claus,

I like a I pod I like my toy we will give you cookies and milk. I like you to bring me a blanket horse.

Love Victor

Dear Santa,

How are you? I have been good. I love Santa much. I want a jeep for Christmas. And you are my friend. I wish I can go to the North Pole.

Lydia

Dear Santa,

How are you? I have been good.

Mason Barnett

Santa,

Please bring a baby pincess, a big and big yellow bus like Alexa's and a cycle for Poppy. Thank you.

Love, Bug Salazar

Dear Santa,

I have been a really good girl. Please bring me some work boots, a pink present, and a beauty shop. I will leave you some snickerdoodles! Thank you Santa.

Love, Klaire Walden Age 2 1/2

Dear Santa,

I have tried to be good, but it has been very very hard! I would like a doctor baby, bed for my baby, bouncer, stroller. My pop wants a hippopotamus. I will leave you some milk & cookies.

Love Sarah Bench

Dear Santa

How are you? I have been good. I want a desk and a chair and stuff like Katlin. A little bit of makeup and a lot of toys.

Shaylee Audrain

Dear Santa

I want a baby with a car seat and a baby bed and I want some food the babies. I also want plates and napkins and pretend apples and bananas for the babies.

I have been very good. I love you Santa Clause,

Rese Schoonover

Dear Santa

I like rudolf tell him I like him. I want a roboreptile for Christmas. Thank you for my presents last year. I have been a Super duper good boy. My mom and dad and sister have been good I think too.

From Brody

Dear Santa Clause

Thank you for my presents all of these past years. This year I want a tech pup. How is Mrs. Claus doing? Tell her I said hi. I hope you like the Christmas cookies my brother, mom, dad, and I made you. Have a good Christmas Santa. I have been extra good this year. Tell Mrs. Claus to have a good Christmas. Pese tell Rudolf to have a good Christmas too.

Thank you

Jaycie

Santa Clause,

This year I have been a good girl when I am sleeping. My Meme and Poppa think that I am a perfect angel. My Mommie and Daddy think that I could be better. Please bring me princess high heels, princess dress, and a princess crown. I would also like earrings, rings and bracelets. I want some new makeup chapstick. A new basketball and goal at my new house, a baby doll, Barbies and some big trucks to play in the dirt. I know it is a lot for not being good all the time, but I'll try to be better next year. Don't forget my Mommie and Daddy and my dogs Taco and Belle. Bring my Granice something too, she has been really good.

I will leave cookies and milk for you.

Love,

Blakelee Michele Sladek, Age 3

Dear Santa,

My name is Kaydence Lea and I have been a very sweet girl this year. For my first Christmas, I would like a TMX Elmo, a V. Smile Baby, building blocks from my Aunt MeMe and a soft baby doll from my Aunt Sasha in NYC. A big box full of paper would be fun also!

Milk and cookies will be waiting... All my love, Kaydence Lea McCracken (8 months)

Dear Santa,

How are you? I have been good. I want a MP3. I want some toys. I want a hoolahoop. I want a Borbie. I want a ball.

Adamaris Castro

Dear Santa,

My name is Slate Anderton. I want a Batman suit, a black cowboy hat like my daddys, the grinch DVD. I know you watch us through the lights because our brother Derrek told us you did, So I no I've been good most of the time. I didn't mean to cut my sister LaShala hair but my mom fixed it. We will leave cookies and milk for you and some hay for the reindeers.

Slate Anderton.

Dear Santa,

I have been a very good boy, just a little rough around the edges. I would like to have anything that makes noise or anything I can push around. Please bring me a Christmas tree I can touch, my Mommy won't let me play with hers. Thank you for the gifts.

Tripp Hudson

Dear Santa,

I am 4 years old. I am good most of the time except when I drive my Getgaw crazy. When I get bigger I want to be a Stratford Elk Cheerleader. I love to play with my babies. I would like some new babies. I hope you are doing well and have a safe trip delivering toys to all the other children.

Merry Christmas Holly Peanut Sladek

Dear Santa,

How are the reindeer? Are they getting ready for the trip? I hope I have made the nice list this year. I would like to ask you for a singing machine so I can sing like Hannah Montana and I also want an American Girl look alike doll. I think that is all, oh and I almost forgot about my brother. He would like a Green Tractor like my Dad's. Thanks Santa, we will leave some cookies for you.

Love,

Ashton Lavake

'TIS THE SEASON...



...To let you know how much we appreciate and value folks like you!

Here's hoping all of you enjoy a season filled with much happiness, beauty and enlightenment. We look forward to seeing you again soon.

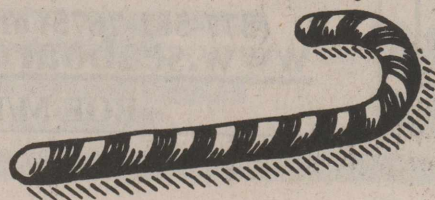
Keener Oil



It's Beginning To Look A Lot Like Christmas!

Here's hoping your holiday is filled to the rafters With peace and joy and the sound of laughter And when the trimmings all come down, May good fortune hang around!

Stratford Hospital District
Coldwater Manor
Stratford Family Medical Clinic
Stratford Emergency Medical Services



Dear Santa,
How are you? I have been good. I want for Christmas a football and a football helmet and a xbox 360 but I want lots of games. I want Spiderman 3 and cars.

Your friend
Carlos Gonzalez

Dear Santa,
How are you? I have been good. I want a play dog that walks and barx. I love Santa!

Remie Jane Seward

Dear Santa,
How are you. I want a football and sholder pads and a helmet and a xbox 360 and a playstahun and a dortbord and a dirtbike and forwheeler and I want som more games and a surfbord and a raymastereou pants and som shoes.

DJ DeAnda

Dear Santa,
How are you? I have been good. I want a ipod and a message chair and a basketball and a football and a gumball musheen.

Parker McKinney

Dear Santa,
How are you? I have been good. I want a MP3.

Eugenia Almendarez

Dear Santa,
How are you? I have been good at home. I want a bike. I love you Santa. MERRY CHRISTMAS.

Jennifer Torres

Dear Santa,
I have been gad. I want a Mantrs truck. I want a fat Bo. I want a simitruck. I want a spashep. I want a gassleng. I want a yo-yo.

Love,
Oscar Ortega

Dear Santa,
I have been good. I went wun haws and a l. Biysikle.

Love,
Alexandra

Dir Satu Claus,
I have been good. I want a spidermen football. I want a hshhoos in I wtwilees. I want a bluestrfooboll. I want a basckuboll. I want a hoo spidermemwbaxn.

Luv Satu
Andy cambyath

Dear Santa,
I have been good. I want a football klos and pans and hat and transformers, all uf the transformers. And all uf the presens. Sant haw hose yor renders fly.

Love,
Saul

Dear Santa Claus,
How are you? How are the reindeers? What kind of cookies do you like? I don't know about you but, I like Chocolate Chip, with milk! Santa, I would really like to have a red shuffle iPod for Christmas from you! Thank you! Merry Christmas!

Sincerely,
Nicolle Lay!

Dear Santa
My name is LaShala Janne Anderton. I want a Beach Barbie, a yellow Belle Dress, and a crown & necklace. I try to be nice most of the time & not fight with Slate my brother. My brother Derrek told us you watch us through the lights so I try to be good. We will leave you cookies and Milk and hay for the reindeers.

LaShala Anderton

Dear Santa to Santa North Pole,
Thank you for the Ds with games is fun. I hope you give me the game 2008. I hope you give me a coloring book. My brother wants a PS3

Franky Olmos

Dear Santa Claus,
How are you doing and how are your reindeer doing and roodoff better be good I hope the elves do. This Christmas I want a mortisikle and some waslers and a psp and that is ol of it and don't go to sleep and drive safly.

Julio

Dear Santa Claus,
How are you doing? I'm doing good. How is Ms. Claus? I'm going to leave you a lot of cookies and milk. What I want for Christmas is a doll of High School Musical 2. I want Gabriela and Troy.

Sincerely,
Stephanie

Dear Santa,
How ya doing? How are the elvs and reindeer doing. When you come this year I am going to set out cookies and milk. It will be a fun Christmas! I want a helemet and pads a bike lock. And last I want roolerblades!

Love,
Katie

Dear Santa Claus,
My name is Kyfar. How are you and your reindeers Santa? My big sister doesn't belive in you but I do. Santa have you ever falled off the rufe. Sorry I asked you that mean question. For Christmas I would want a Bratz doll and a Hanna Montana doll too.

Yours truly,
Kyfar Ontiveros

Dear Santa,
How are you and the reindeer. Is Mrs. Claus doing all right. Do you still have roodof. Are Elfs relly small. For Christmas I would like a Wii and a jack in the box. I will lay out some milk and cookies for you and Mrs. Claus.

Your friend,
Zorro Daniels
P.S. I have been good and bad.

Dear Santa,
For chremes I wop a drtbike, xbox 360, Ipod, air riles, new shape, new checkbook, new bike, pentball game, latonp, razzre, new football past, new football pas, new helmes.

Cole

Dear Santa,
How are you and your reindeer. I am going to ask my mom to make cookies for you. I will tell my mom to put carrots outside for your reindeer. For X-mas I want a stuffed reindeer. I want the game of dogs, cats, and horses on the Nintindo ds.

Love,
Amanda

Dear Santa,
How are you doing? I hope you are feeling the very best you can feel. What kind of cookies do you like? I hope you like sugar cookies and oreos. How are the reindeer? What do the reindeer like to eat? Santa I would really like a John Wayne movie, a knife, and some GI Joes. Also I would like a Razer cellphone.

Yours truly,
Bret Barnard

Dear Santa Claus,
For Christmas I want a Bratz laptop and a Bratz radio.

Audrey Snider

Dear Santa,
I would like optimist prime armata. The blue exoforce and the Transformers Energon minicons there peace sword. I will leave extra chocolaty milk and cookies.

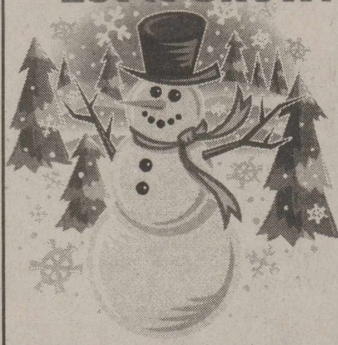
Love,
Gunner James (goodone)
Hartsell

P.S. Merry Christmas.

Dear Santa,
What I want this year is a new bike, a new skateboard, a hamster and a guinea pig, eye clops, a pokemon game, a family guy movie, the simpsons, a resiling game, a cros, a scouter, a t.v., a pensil bos, a bed, a fone, a game boy.

Andrew

Let It Snow...
Let It Snow...
Let It Snow!

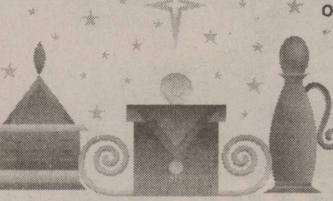


Brrr... It may be cold outside, but our hearts are warmed when we think about all the good times we've shared with you this past year! Merry Christmas!

Hair
Creations

Wishing You A Gifted Season

May all the riches of the holiday season be yours, and may you enjoy much prosperity and success in the year to come. We truly cherish the precious gift of your friendship. Thanks!



C & D
Body Shop

Dear Santa,
How are you doing Santa? How are your reindeer doing and the elves. This Christmas I want Smackdown vs Raw 2008 the newuiest thing ring with vetfhardy and Sheldon gehvarman, more wrestlers. Were probably going to leave cookies and milk for you.

Sicerly
Tylor

Dear Santa,
How are you? I am fine if you want to know how I am. Now I am finally nine! How are reindeers today? Do you like penut butter cookies or choclete chip? And do you want hot coco or milk. I mite haved a lot of quetians but I know you have a lot of answets. How many cookies do you eat each year? I'll leave a wole plate of cookies out this year. Are you allergic to anything because I don't want to make your sick. All I want is a teranyac all-in-1 game table and a video camera.

Yours truly,
Russell Spurlock



STRAIGHT FROM THE HEARTH!

Our hearts are all aglow...
When we think of the people that we know —
Our friends, our neighbors, our customers, too
Because we owe our success to each one you.

STRATFORD FLYING SERVICE

Happy
Holidays!

In the field and in the square,
The signs of Christmas are
everywhere ... bells are ringing
and children sing of the hope
and joy the season brings
And if you look up in the night,
You might see Santa's team in
flight but our most favorite
thing of all is the chance to give
our thanks to all!

Wishing you and yours the very
best this holiday season.

Walter Lasley
& Sons

Jingle Bells...
Jingle Bells...
Jingle All The Way

Hope your holiday leaves you laughing every day!

It's been a joy to serve you and we look forward to sharing more good times together in the year ahead.

Sherman
County
Farm
Bureau
Leonda
Fedric

May God Bless Your
Home This Holiday Season

Wherever you live, may you be
Visited by faith, love and good fortune
In the year to come.
We feel blessed to have so many
Good customers and friends.
Thank you for visiting us.

First State Bank



Merry Christmas



HAPPY STATE BANK
AND TRUST COMPANY

and now entering our 100th

Happy, New Year!

www.happybank.com

Dear Santa,
How are you and your reindeer doing. My cousin doesn't believe in you but I do believe in you. Santa have you ever fell off the roof and have you ever got stuck in a chimney. Can I have a skateboard and a bratz laptop. Can I also have a bratz mini van. My brother mite get me a rabbit. My stepdad won't let me have a cat.
Love,
Ella Monique Godsey

Dear Santa,
I have been good. I want a Brats and a Little Brats haws and a bighsiki. Santa I am glad you come at Christmas.
Love,
Astrid Valenzuela

Dear Santa,
I have been good. I want a laptop and a telescope. You reindeer are neat.
Love
Elizabeth

Dear Santa,
I can't wait for Christmas! Please bring me a Groovy Girl with blonde hair, Groovy Girl stuff. I have been good in Kindergarten. Have a good flight Rudolph the red nose reindeer and the rest of you!
Hi Mrs. Claus!
Love,
Kenlee McBryde - Age 6

Dear Santa,
I have bee good. I want a pet like a cat or a dog. I want a tescop. How do your reindr fly?
Love
Kali

Dear Santa,
I have been gud. I want a Star and a bells and a reindeer.
Love,
Aide

Dear Santa Claus,
How are you? How are your reindeer? How are your hardworking elves? Have you ever fallen off a roof or gotten stuch in the chimney? Sorry I asked you that mean question. For Christmas I would like whatever you bring me, just nothing that is girl stuff.
Yours truly,
Franciso Barajas

Dear Santa,
I have been good. I want a barby baby bag in cusheh. Thank you for cuming. Haw are your reindeers?
Love
Katelin

Dear Santa,
My name is Hadlee Grace and I am four years old. I live on Butler Street in Stratford. I have been a very good girl, and have been working really hard in school. I hope that you will bring me a few presents this year! I would like to have a Leap Frog Computer, a real megaphone (with my name on it) and a drum set. My brother Ethan would like to have an iPod Nano. My big sister Courtenay would like to have something too—but she prefers cash. Please bring Bayer some new doggie toys. I will leave a snack by the fireplace on Christmas Eve. What is your favorite kind of cookies? You can let me know when I visit you at the bank on the 21st. Can't wait to see you! Merry Christmas to you and Mrs. Clause, all the elves, and your reindeers!
Love,
Hadlee

Dear Santa Claus,
Thank you for the cor. He gave me a ps3. I am giving my brother and sister a present. I like Santa.
Love
Brenda

Dear Santa,
I would like a Brat Doll with a Horse, and clothes, stuff for my real Horse. See you at Christmas.
Love you,
Yancie Franklin

Dear Santa Claus,
Thank you four the guitar Santa. Haw is the elves Santa, can you give my sister a model doll, my mom a sweater and my dad a coat and me a coupter.
Love,
Skye Bravo

Dear Santa,
I have been a good girl. Would you bring me a basketball goal and some new clothes and some new tennis shoes.
Love
Cambri Cummings

Dear Santa Claus,
Thank you for the Skydanzar Mermadia and how is Rudolph and the other reindeers? And I want a butterscotch.
Love
Lupita Henderson

Dear Santa,
I want a transformer, a fake reindeer, and a psp that opens like Benj has, and two shirts. I saw a fake santa at the parade...I knew he was fake cuz his beard was coming off. I told mom about it. I'll see you on Christmas evening and I'll see your sled and when you're gone I won't see your sled.
Love,
Tyson Brooks

Dear Santa Claus,
Thank you for the Skydanzar Mermadia and how is Rudolph and the other reindeers? And I want a butterscotch.
Love
Lupita Henderson

Dear Santa,
I want a Barbie house and a holiday Barbie. I have been good this year. I will bring you some milk and cookies.
Love
Allie

Dear Santa Claus,
Thank you for the cool scoter you gave me. How is Mrs. Claus. I would like a cooker for Christmas. Sata would you give my sisters and broter my broter gams for Xbox and sisters a dolls.
Love,
Xenia Fracoorozco

Dear Santa,
I want a Barbie house and a holiday Barbie. I have been good this year. I will bring you some milk and cookies.
Love
Allie

Dear Santa,
Thank you for the movie of Cheetah girls, how is Rudolph this Christmas. I baby born and I want a Hannah Montana game.
Eimy Mendoza

Dear Santa,
Thank you for the cool scoter you gave me. How is Mrs. Claus. I would like a cooker for Christmas. Sata would you give my sisters and broter my broter gams for Xbox and sisters a dolls.
Love,
Xenia Fracoorozco

Dear Santa,
Thank you for the cool scoter you gave me. How is Mrs. Claus. I would like a cooker for Christmas. Sata would you give my sisters and broter my broter gams for Xbox and sisters a dolls.
Love,
Xenia Fracoorozco

Merry Christmas & Many Thanks!

At the most joyous time of the year, We'd like to publish our best wishes here along with our thanks and gratitude, too 'cause we wouldn't be here without all of you!

Bain Tire Co.

Pile On The CHEER!



Wishing everyone all good things, plus all the gifts the season brings! Merry Christmas and many thanks for your business this year.

Moore's Food Pride



WITH RESOUNDING THANKS AT THE HOLIDAYS

Bells are ringing and we'd like to say, May you enjoy a grand holiday And before the holiday is through, We'd like to chime in with thanks to each one of you!

Smith Agency

A MERRY GOOD TIME!



Here's hoping the season brings you much warmth, love and joy.

Great Length's Salon



**Joy
Peace
Happiness
Harmony
Health
Prosperity**

Here's hoping your holiday delivers it all. Merry Christmas!

**Elk
Pharmacy**

Catch The Spirit!



We're counting our blessings this Christmas and your friendship is at the top of the list.

With best wishes to all our neighbors this beautiful holiday season.

We look forward to seeing you again soon.

Stratford Feedyard

HALLELUJAH!



From our family to yours, go our best wishes and our sincerest thanks for your friendship, generosity and support.

Stratford Grain Co.

Dear Santa,
I will geve you hot cholit. I will geve you some cookies too and milk. I want an rc helukopter. I woud like a veidocomerd and a charger for my motersickle Please Santa!

Dear Santa Claus,
Merry Christmas! How have you been doing? I hope your doing well. You shure do have a lot of houses that you have to go to. Juest in case you forget my house address it's northwest second street, Stratford, TX. All I want for Christmas is cloths for my baby doll and \$1000 for me to get Emma the American girl doll and for my dad I want a outside roud map of texas for my mom I want well a pretty dress and a dimond neckles. Or juest forget about the money and can you please put them in there stockings for me please (thanks). Ather thing I want is well you've been wathing me and seeing what I want if you put all that stuff out for me and the stuff I want for my family I'll leave an echto cookey out for you our what every we have. Well that's all for now Merry Christmas! P.S. Can you bring a cerbreis.

Dear Santa,
I would like a sandbox please. My brother would like a basketball goal please.

Love,
Lilia Barton Trayler

Dear Santa,
How ar you? Have you had a good year. I hope so. How ar your rander. So how is Mrs. Claus. I hope she is good. How is the elfs. I hope thear good. I know the elfs are good because they know that you are a good mane.

Love,
Matthew Arnold

Dear Santa,
Please bring me a David Ortiz jersey, the Boston Red Sox World Series baseball card set, and Madden 08 Football game.

Thanks Kade
P.S. Will you bring my dog Jet a bone?

Dear Santa,
I want a bike for Christmas. Come to my house the 22nd of December. We will be at Papa and DoeDoe's on Christmas. Thanks for being Santa.

Love,
Carlee, Stacy, and Eddie

Dear Santa Claus,
I want a new brats doll and a Bella dancereella pop star. I all ready have the Bella dancereella a cheerleading. And a fake chichen. And a large princess set and a hana Montana CD whith the head phones and a wig stand and the wig. And my hole family to gather around the tree and sing Christmas songs. And us to be a family again. And lots of present for my hole family.

Love,
Alejandra Rosales

Dear Santa Claus,
For Christmas I would like a game cube this year. I tried the best espeshely with my brother. We try to do are best we never make her mad.

Love,
Sonia Lopez

Dear Santa Claus,
Thank you for the presents these past years. This year I want a typewriter. I have been extra good this year! I hope I'm on the good list, instead of the bad list. You have been watching over me. And I hope that you put my name on the great list. I appreciate the presents you have sent me every December 25th.

Love,
Layne Burr

Dear Santa,
I have been good. I want mack and batman and a car.

Love,
Fernando Garcia

Dear Santa Claus,
Has Roodof an Mrs. Claus. Cresme Bratz Kimashel wrestler. Thank you for the presents you give me.

Love,
Lupe

Dear Santa Claus,
Than you for the baby brats. Thank you elves Mrs. Claus I like you I love Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus.

Love,
Emily Anna Barajas

Dear Santa,
Thank you for the presents. This year I would like a skateboard and have havoc helli laser battleturn ut arand and a new netene wii.

Love,
Caden Blankenship

Dear Santa Claus,
How is rodolf Santa? Please bring me a explosion s praoy paint and a bell Santa and a clubhouse.

Love,
Matt Smith

Dear Santa Claus,
I wunt a play and I wunt a pet and I wunt a pst ps3. I hope you give me the game 2008.

Love,
Justin

Dear Santa Claus,
Thank you for the cash register Dora. How is Rudolph? I hope I get a Ipod. I hope me and my brother a good Christmas.

Love,
Natalia Reta

Dear Santa,
I want a laptop, guitars, xbox 360, bulldog, football shirt of Texas Longhorns, and a good hamster and a good guinea pig.

Love,
Angel Guerra

Dear Santa Claus,
Please bring me a present. I want bag of Bratz that have paint in it and I also want a necklace and a bracelet and a doll of Bratz. And a box of lots of stuff. And I also want a movie of the little care bears. And I want a high school musical CD.

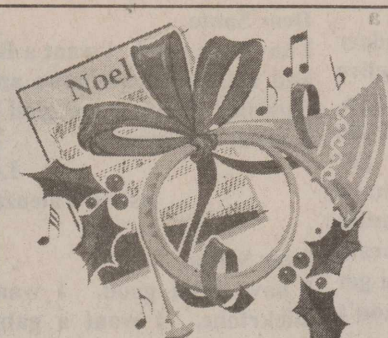
Love,
Lori Martinez

Dear Santa Claus,
I want Danny Phamton game, and t map game playstation 3 transform and the badgis and a lit saver into.

Love,
Donlsia

Dear Santa,
How are the raindeer doing? How is Mrs. Claus doing? Do you like cookie and milk? May I have more playstation 2 games. Can you bring a intindo DS for my sister please?

Love,
Alexander



Here's hoping your holiday season hits all the high notes.
It's been a privilege and a pleasure serving you this past year.
Merry Christmas!

Ivy Insurance Agency

Hope It Plays Your Way!



With Our Compliments
At Christmas

Another great Christmas is in the bag - wondering how we know? Because having friends and neighbors like you, always makes it so!

Merry Christmas and many thanks for your loyal support.

MORRISON FUNERAL DIRECTORS

With Special Thanks
To Our Customers

Wishing you and your kin a string of glad tidings at this festive time of year.
For your support we are sincerely indebted, and for your friendship we are truly blessed.

Long's Ben Franklin

At This Season Of Giving.

We'd like to give you our best wishes along with our thanks for giving us your support this past year.

We hope Santa delivers an abundance of glad tidings, good fortune and merriment to your doorstep.
Have a great holiday!


Stevenson & Sons Pest Control

With Thanks For Your Generous Support

MAY YOU AND YOUR FAMILY ENJOY ALL THE BEAUTY AND WONDER OF THE HOLIDAY SEASON. PLEASE KNOW THAT OUR BEST WISHES ARE WITH YOU AT THIS SPECIAL TIME OF YEAR.

PERSONAL TOUCH

Go For It... It's Christmas!



May everything you've been wishing for come your way this holiday season.
We thank you for brightening up our year with your visits.

**Modern Woodmen of America
Walt Berry**

HATS OFF TO OUR CUSTOMERS!

We wouldn't be here without your support. With sincere thanks and best wishes to all of you for a spectacular holiday season.

A & I Parts Center

Delivering Our Best



To all our readers, advertisers, friends and associates go our best wishes for a season filled with good news and good times. Your support makes it all worthwhile.
Happy Holidays and many thanks!

The Stratford Star

Dear Santa
For Christmas, I want a new bike and a bratz dolls and a Barbie doll and a baby doll. I ben good this year and I want a pet hamster and the movie Alvin and the chipmunks and the movie Sherek the 3rd. Atd the little princess and the princess chair. And high school musical two and a computer.
Desureo Juarez

Dear Santa,
Can you bring me a romote control monster truck and a x-box and a play station 3.
Blake Rios

Dear Santa,
For Christmas I would like a guitar case and an amp.
Colten Lanning

Dear Santa Claus,
This year I want a techno pup for Christmas. I have been good this year. I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Tell Dasher, Dancer, Vixen, Comit, Cupid, Donner, Blittsen, and Rudolph to have a Merry Christmas and a happy new year, too. Tell Mrs. Claus to have a good Christmas and a Happy New Year.
From,
Jaycie Wheeler

Dear Santa,
Do you lik cookies caus I am going to give you some milk with them and I want a MP3 and is Roodoff nose is very shiny how about Mrs. Claus is she so peerty. Do you now all of the names of th reindeer, there is dancer and vics and prancer and coment and roodoff the red nose rainer.
Love,
Marina

Dear Santa Claus,
How are you doing? Are the elves good? Are the reindeer getting ready go outside in the cold? What I want for Christmas is laptop and hunting overalls so I can send emails to my family and I can go hunting with my dad.
Love,
Wyatt Dushay

Dear Santa Claus,
I always wanted a raindeer can you please give me a raindeer and I will keep some cookies and some milk so that you could eat. Santa I will always will belive in you.
From,
Nancy

Dear Santa Claus,
Do you hate some reindeer? Do some reindeer hate you? For Christmas I want a dirt bike, mini footballs.
From,
Fernando

Dear Santa Clause,
How is Mrs. Clause and the reindeers. How big are the elf. For Chrismas, I wold like to have a labtop, a xbox 360, Gauter hore, Gauter, and a new room.
Yours truly,
Raeleigh

Dear Santa Claus,
How are you doing were do you put roodoff the red nose reindeer at and the other reindeers at and where are the other one and I'll tell you what for Xmas I want Bret Hart and Shawn Micheal and new shoes and black boots, hell in a cell, elamation chaber, the steel cage, DX shirt, DX necklese undertakers shirt.
Love,
Juan

Dear Santa Claus,
How is the deers I want to now them. I want a muick in my room like a drum pormbble. I will have cookies and milk. How are you doing Santa Claus. Thank you to yo for bring a doll the other year. Say hi to roof tell have a nice Chrismas. I love your show a lot so by we we'll talk again help me Santa Claus.
Love,
Erika Flores Marquez

Dear Santa,
I want a Wii and wii game ben ten O how is roodof. I hope he's ok with his nose is he sik if he's not then good I like roodof so Santa and my other present is a spider man moken chole game and two wheeler skatbord. Is it chroo if the elfs are reely majek if they are cool and I like evvrythang at the north pole ever scay skoobee dooby doo.
(no name)

Dear Santa,
You need to get the elfs realy busy and becuas it's getting to be about 26 more days until Christmas. What I want for Christmas is an ipod. I want one, but mother says that they cost too much money, so I was guessing if you could get me one. Can you?
Sincerely,
Karina Henderson

Dear Santa,
What I want for Crismis is an eyepod and an toy horis and what I wad like the most is a kite and I wish that you a good cismis.
Sincerely, nice
Brianda Rahea

Dear Santa,
Thank you for all the great presents you brought me last Christmas. I really enjoyed the bratz doll the most. I hope you get a good nap before Christmas. How are you doing? Can you say hi to Mrs. Claus? Can you also say hi to Roudough the red nose reindeer and say hi to the ELVES, This year I really want Heeles and if you can also
I want a Hannah Montana Dance Mat that comes with a wig and it also comes with a microphone. I will leave you some milk and some cookies.
Love,
Brenda Luque

Dear Santa,
I have been good. I want all the transorns. Then I wood like a ull. Then I wood like all the books of all the plants. How does your ranedeers fly?
Love,
Luis

Dear Santa,
I have been gud. I want soktar pads. I want a mottro transformor. I want a nintindo wii. I want bumbo bee. I want a visr for my hanoot. I like your reindeer.
Love,
Landan

Dear Santa,
How have you been? Did you have a good summer? Are your reindeer ready to fly? Hope you will come to town.
Your friend,
Tristan

Dear Santa Claus,
How is your reindeer feeling? How is Mrs. Claus feeling? For Christmas I want Guiter Hero 3, a new football helmet, 4 wheeler.
Gage

Dear Santa Claus,
Hi, my name is Cheyenne I just wanted to wright to you and tell you what I whant for Chrismis. What I whant for Chrismas is a brats scooder and a little box with mackup and a little book that will lock. O ya I forgot to ask you how is the randeer and elfs.
Thank you
Love,
Cheyenne

Dear Santa,
I want to know what your doing because I'm not doing that fine my mom want's us to have present's for us she wants a big touch for my little brother okay well yea I'm doing fine. Santa, I would like an Ipod, those big horses that show on tv, a bike, a cd of kids bop 12, new shoes size 1, clothes size 9, a jacker, notepad with sponge bob, some socks can I have those little cars that we can drive for my little brother, can I have some school stuff to play school, some crayons, a movie of shrek the third, a teddy bear of ruddofe.
Love,
Daniela

Dear Santa Claus,
I want a pare of skating shous, bebratz, rans, halter, saddl, brat, belt, close, rope, hat, lipstick, pallamenow, combe, pencils.
Kylie

Dear Santa,
My MeMe says I'm on the "Nice List". So, I think I want a Dora kitchen and a rocking horse. I'll leave you milk & cookies.
Love,
Taylyn McKae Cisneros

Dear Santa,
Just wondering you're doing and is Rouldolph doing ok to because I heard he has a skin thing going on. Tell Comet I said hi. I want 2 microphones for my band and a base guitar with flames on it.
Your friend,
Enonch

Dear Santa,
How are you doing? How are the elves doing? I hope the reindeer are doing good. Santa can you get me labtop. Please
(no name)

Waiting For Santa



Wishing you all the creature comforts for a perfect holiday season. We couldn't have asked for better friends than you.

Jerry & Margaret Ewers

ALL THE BEST AT CHRISTMAS

Here's hoping your holiday season is as special to you as you are to us. For your generous support we offer our thanks and best wishes for a happy and prosperous New Year.

W & C Land Co.
Wesley, Cindy & Mark Miller

Be Of Good Cheer!

Nothing makes us gladder than to spend the holiday season right here among our neighbors and friends, and nothing makes us feel more blessed than to know we have your loyal support.

Let's Make Arrangements
Elk Junction

**Joy
Peace
Happiness
Harmony
Health
Prosperity**

Here's hoping your holiday delivers it all.
Merry Christmas!

**ELK
PHARMACY**

...And to all a good night!

Merry Christmas

May you and your loved ones revel in the delights of this wonderful season and may you enjoy many fond memories for a long time to come. Happy Holiday!

**Marjory Munden
CPA**

Peace On Earth

...And joy to you, our neighbors and friends, this holiday season. For the goodwill you've shown toward us, we are deeply grateful.

**Melton
Welding**

Christmas Greetings & Heartfelt Thanks

Wishing you a bounty of glad tidings and all the joy your heart can hold. It's been a pleasure serving you this past year.

**Vincent
Insurance**

Christmas Or Looking Good!

To all our valued clients and their families we offer our sincere gratitude along with our best wishes for the very best holiday season, ever!

Merry Christmas!
**Head To Toe
Viola & Ruby**

Holiday Greetings

With warm wishes and gratitude for your support this past year. We really appreciate your stopping here.

**Stratford Auto
Electric**

WISHING YOU A MODEL YEAR!

As another year hits the road, we'd like to acknowledge all the people who have been key to our success and wish you all a very, very merry season and a truly memorable year.

Thanks for your valued business and we look forward to seeing you again in the new year.

**Duncan Chevrolet
&
Naugle Chevrolet**

IN THIS HOLY SEASON



*May the light of his love
shine down upon you and
your family during this
season of enlightenment,
and may the true meaning
of the yuletide reside with
you at Christmas.*

Project Christmas Card

**Proceeds of the project go for the continued
improvement of the Sherman County Library**

Claudine Allen
Kathie Altman
John & Suzanne Ashley
Marty Bain, Lindsay & Kelsey Stein
Steve, Sandy, & Allison Baskin
Mattie Baskin
Elwyn & Joanna Bass
Dwight & Mary Brooks
Richie & Linda Sue Brotherton
David & Janice Brown
Oline Caraway
Hoyes & Terri Carter
Rex & Bernice Christian
Dick & Barbara Chumley
Bill & Mary Jo Cox
Louise Dettle
Joyce & Les Dodson
B. A. & LeRayne Donelson
Doris Dyess
Ronnie & Marihoward Engelbrecht
Joe & Jean Everett
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Steve, Brenda & Jordan Johnson
Jay & Arnita Lane
Doug & Joyce McBryde
Marylou & Mike McDaniel

Eddie, Stacy, & Carlee Metcalf
Bill & Kay Mires
Mel & Martha Mitts
Marjory Munden
Harold & Judy Oquin
Kenneth & Beverly Pemberton
Steve & Tana Pemberton
Selma Pendleton
Si & Sharon Perkins
Marjorie Pilch
Elsie Pickens
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Gerald & Jessie Preston
A.E. Pronger, Jr.
The Bill Reeds
Bill & Kathy Riffe
Mary Riffe
Wanda Riffe
Duane & Marty Robertson
Sherman County E. E. Council
Brent, Laurie, Mary Ann & Russell Spurlock
Wesley, Susie, Walter & Jenny Spurlock
Wendell & Nelda Stacy
Bess Stone
Marcella Sutton
Jack, Linda, Ryan & Brock Swain
John, Terri, Trisha & Todd Teig
Sandy & Ellen Tillery
Jean Turner
Patti & Connor Vincent
Mary Lou Walden
J.J. & Judy Williams
Oscar & Bobbie Wilson
John & Sharon Wilson
Archie & Lorene Wright
Jack & Wendolyn Vincent

Total \$2655.00

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The Stratford Star & Prospectus Study Club**