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 KNOX COUNTY DISTRICT
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An evening of thanks and awards

Last Monday evening, 36 volunteer firemen from the Knox County Fire Department (KCFD) and several of their wives, gathered in the Knox City High School cafeteria for



Photo by Sherry Reid
 Fire Chief Domingo Garcia announces awards.

good food, fellowship, and an awards program which included an unannounced surprise.

Fire Chief Domingo Garcia was Master of Ceremonies and began the evening after the meal by introducing Rodney Burns of Frisco, Texas. Mr. Burn's property is west of Knox City, and consists of a home and several out-buildings, which were involved in the "Swenson fire" last summer that the KCFD responded to. Mr. Burns contributed \$15,000.00 to the Knox County Fire Department in appreciation of the "work" they did on his property during this huge fire. To quote Mr. Burns, "The reason I still have my place is because of the Knox County Fire Department." This contribution was recently applied to the purchase

of the Department's Fire Rescue Vehicle. Fire Chief Garcia presented Burns with a framed photo by Alex Ledesma of one of the raging drought fires of 2011, in appreciation of his gift.

After this presentation, Chief Garcia reported that his department had responded to 143 calls in 2011, the most in the 27year history of the Knox County Fire Department. Of those calls, 35 were landing zone calls for care flights in and out of the city where the landing area must be blocked off and traffic rerouted. Gas leaks accounted for 2 responses, 1 for a missing person, and 2 bee calls where cattle were being attacked. Last but certainly not least, there were 103 total fire calls.

As the evening went on,



Photo Sherry Reid
 Fire Chief Domingo Garcia presents awards and yearly Knox County Fire Department report.

Alvie Overmeyer received an award for responding to 88 calls, and Teddy Espinosa was recognized for making 33 out of the 34 meetings held this year. Officers announced were: Mascot-Brittany Gibson, granddaughter of fireman, Jackie Sanders. Captains named were Anthony

Atkins, Terry Butler, Jackie Sanders and Alvie Overmeyer. Chaplin of the Department is Bud Reynolds. "Skii", whose last name most Texas can't pronounce and this reporter can't spell, was named Sergeant at Arms. Officers named were Treasurer -Anthony Atkins, Vice

President-Teddy Espinosa, and President-Joe Nelson.

At the close of the meeting, a surprise announcement of an anonymous gift of \$10,000.00 was announced, which will be used toward repaying the City of Knox City for the financial help they gave in purchasing the Fire Rescue Vehicle.

Merry Christmas from the Knox City News!

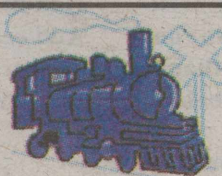


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SAMMIE'S KNOX CITY CORNER AND FINAL THOUGHTS

Monday was cold and wet, but very nice weather on our wheat.

You know this is our Christmas week and I want to start with wishing you a very Merry Christmas and thank God for all the wonderful miracles that he has done for

so many in our little community and especially for all our troops by bringing most of them home.

I received a phone call from Bobbie Minzer and she is so happy where she is but she wants every one to know how much she misses each of you in

Knox City, especially all her friends and wonderful neighbors that are still here. She is so grateful for her kids moving her close to them. We really miss her. Floyd and Penny and Tye have just been great with her. Keep them in your prayers.

Bobbie, we love you and miss you. Take good care of yourself and thank you for always thinking of us.

The Finley family is going through hard times right now. Their 9 month old baby is at Cook Children's Hospital with some very difficult times. Please keep them in your prayers and hopefully good news will come soon and the baby will recover.

I will be in touch with the churches and friends for prayers.

Phyllis Gaston is still in the hospital because of her infection after heart surgery. She is Nettie M. Watson's daughter. She is still at Hendrix hospital.

Friday evening I received word that Jessie Casillas from Seymour had passed away. He used to live here. He married Pearl Flores, the daughter of Anson Flores Senior and all their kids went to school here. This is a very hard time for all his family, so just keep them in your prayers.

Amanda Baker Adkin's grandfather also passed away this last week shortly after she had lost her grandmother, so they have a long process of healing ahead of them. We love you and we're here for you if there is anything we can do let us know.

Our holiday gift bags will go out this week on Wednesday and if you know someone in need, please contact me at any time and give me their

name and address. My guys have been a great help along with Dora Rios and Trish Shaver. I could not have done this on my own, so I really appreciate them from the bottom of my heart. They have done a great job. My thanks especially to all of you out there that have taken the time to go to Lawrence Bros and purchase a gift bag for us to make someone's holiday very special.

As we attended church Sunday, we had one of the most wonderful plays about Jesus' birth with all our young kids, students, and parents. They depicted what it might have been like for the birth of a king. Amy Schnable did such a wonderful job and the help she had was so great, she was at a loss for words in thanking them. It was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone who attended. They deserved all the praise for a job well done. It's so great to know that the young ones are blessed with talent and Miss Amy, you are a wonderful teacher and such a great inspiration to all our kids. It's hats off to all of you and may God keep blessing each of you. I know that every parent, grandparent and relative was very impressed by all their smiles during the performance. Such a great way to know the experiences of Christmas and praise to our King. With lots of thanks also to everyone behind the scenes.

We also had a great visit

with those who are in town for the holidays. Sandra Logsdon family was here and of course, Kristi King and the kids were in. It was great to see her come home because she is very much missed along with all our "come home families" for the holidays. Hope everyone has a safe journey back to their homes after the holiday. Your cargos are very precious.

This week on Friday we are in charge of doing our Christmas celebration at the care home and that is always a special time. Some of our care home patients may not have anyone else, so please if you feel like being a part of it, it will start at 4:00 pm. Joe and Janie Williams always do such a wonderful job. We can make a difference in a lonely life. If you are unable to come, please pray for them.

This week I have spread a little bit of cheer to all my loved ones and the people that I come in contact with during the last year who have needed a little help with illness expenses. A little bit of help goes a long way.

Monday morning and the rain is beautiful and cool weather probably makes you hurt, but hey, God is good. Remember when you're saying a blessing say one for all those who are sick, homeless or alone. Thank God for what we have.

God bless our troops
And each one of us.

Merry Christmas and
have a wonderful New
Year.
Sammie

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KCN OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Wednesday • 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. • Closed Thursday • Friday • 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

LOOKING AHEAD

December Alzheimer's Support Group Meeting Cancelled

The support group will resume their regular 4th Monday meetings on Monday, January 23rd - 3:00 pm at the Haskell County Extension Office located at 101 S. Avenue D in Haskell.

Caregivers, family members and friends of individuals with Alzheimer's or a related dementia, should consider attending these meetings that are open to anyone in Haskell County or the surrounding area. The monthly meetings offer a confidential environment where participants can share their concerns, support each other, and learn ways to cope with the challenges associated with long-term care giving.

For more information, you

may contact Jane Rowan, County Extension Agent/FCS at (940)864-2546 or Alzheimer's Association North Central Texas Chapter at (325) 672-2907 or 1-800-272-3900.

Childress Basketball Little Dribblers Tournament will be March 22-24, 2012

Boys and girls division \$65 per team. Deadline to enter is March 11. To sign up or if you have any questions, call Lisa Darter, 940-674-5401.

Blood Drive

The Knox County Hospital District, in conjunction with Meek Blood Center will hold a Blood Drive on Tuesday, December 27 from 1pm to 6pm in front of the Hospital. Please consider giving the Gift of Life this Holiday.

DAVID'S FISHING REPORT

Stamford Lake
12/17/11

Water Clarity:

Stained

Water Temperature:

46°

Bass were slow, but I had a few bites on bucktail jigs and plastic worms on wood next to rocky banks. Crappie were good around the old crappie dock at the marina. Catfish were slow.

God Bless and Good Fishin'



OBITUARY



BETTY KAY MONSEN

Betty Kay Monsen passed from this earthly life November 24, 2011 in Los Altos, California. Ms. Monsen was born in Knox City, Texas on August 18, 1935. She graduated in 1954 from O'Brien High School and from Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene in 1958.

Betty began her teaching career in Denver, Colorado and moved to the Sacramento, California area the

next year. She taught English and Spanish at the high school level. She, also, received her Master's degree during that time.

Betty was preceded in death by her parents Lewis and Delia Kay of O'Brien. She is survived by three sons, Monrad and wife Cindy of Thornton, Colorado, Kris and wife Nancy of Los Altos, California and Gerard of Long Beach, California, a sister Doris Kay Jones and husband, Don, of Wichita Falls, Texas, one niece Jamie Caldwell of Weinert, Texas, two nephews, Eddie Benham of Holliday, Texas and Jerry Jones of Wichita Falls, Texas, and four grandchildren.

Betty's memorial service was held in Roseville, California on December 10, 2011, and was attended by her sister and niece.

THANKS FOR READING!

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FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - Knox City

Thomas Carter, Pastor
Sunday School at 10:00 a.m. • Sunday Morning Worship at 11:00 a.m.
No Sunday Evening Service

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Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. • Sunday Morning Worship at 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Classes 5:00 p.m. • Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 p.m. Wednesday Prayer Warriors 6:00 p.m.

FOURSQUARE CHURCH - Knox City

Gary A. Schnable, Pastor
Sunday Morning Worship at 10:50 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship at 6 p.m. • Mid-Week, Wed. at 6:30 p.m.
Mens Prayer Breakfast 6:00 am. Wednesday Morning

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Father Charles Gorantla • Deacon Ben Vasquez
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LIBERTY COMMUNITY C.O.G.I.C. - Knox City

Gene Ward Jr., Pastor
Sunday School - 9:45 a.m. • Sunday Morning Services - 11 a.m.
Monday Evening Bible Study 6:00 p.m.

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Saturday Mass at 6 p.m. • Sunday Mass at 9 a.m.

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Sunday Worship at 9:30 a.m. • Sunday School at 10:30 a.m.

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Matt Harrington, Pastor
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Sunday Evening Worship at 6 p.m. • Mid-Week, Wed. at 6 p.m.

CHURCH OF CHRIST - Benjamin

Bible Study at 9 a.m. • Sunday Morning Worship at 10 a.m.

THE BELIEVERS' CHAPEL - Highway 222

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Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. • Sunday Morning Worship at 11 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship at 6 p.m., Mid-Week, Wed. at 6 p.m.
Sunday Mornings on KVRP 97.1 at 9:05 a.m.

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Rob Harrison, Pastor
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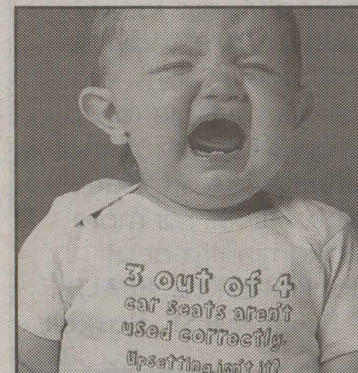
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Adrian Fletcher, Pastor

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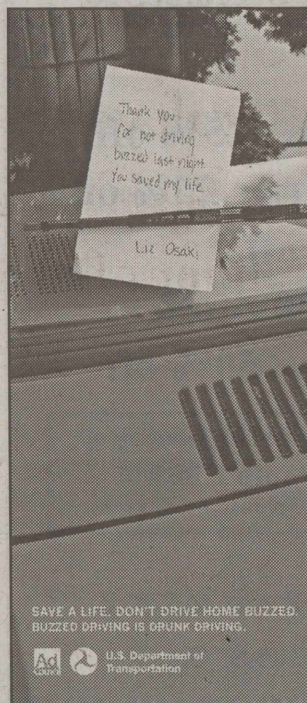
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Benjamin News

By Gladene Green

By Gladene Green

It's another wet, messy Monday, but promises are for better days ahead. And that will be a welcome change. However, we should never complain about the rain. I've always heard it said, "If it's not raining in Texas (& Knox County), we are needing it", and I guess that's pretty true.

Congratulations Moguls of Munday. You made us all proud on Thursday and though you didn't win on the scoreboard, you are all winners anyway! And what a treat to be able to play in Cowboy Stadium. From all accounts, that must have been an awesome experience. We look forward to the 2012 football season. It should be another good year for you.

REGARDING OUR ILL

Jan Carver came home Friday after a couple of weeks in HMC in Abilene and by-pass surgery. I talked to Stacia (her daughter) this afternoon and she said she had been doing well but today learned she has 4 blood clots in her arm. Of course, they are giving her shots and medication to dissolve them and she will be o.k., but right now that is a bit of a set back. Stacia lives at Wingate and will be here to help her out a few days.

Reyes Barrientez is home after gall bladder surgery a couple of weeks ago. She's doing fine and is getting ready for Christmas with her family on Saturday.

Our Benjamin friends in Munday Nursing Center, Kenneth and Jessie Roberts and Dutch Young are doing pretty well. They had their

Christmas party on Friday nite with family members joining in on the fun and from all I have heard, all the students really enjoyed it.

Another report on James Klutts. He's back at HMC in Abilene being taken there Saturday by ambulance. The problems seem to be heart related, but so far no definite diagnosis has been made.

Gene and Olivia Gloria's son-in-law, Andy Correll, who lives in Vernon, is still having some problems. Not working full time yet. (He's coach at Vernon High) and is still having headaches but progress continues and hopefully soon he will be able to resume his full time activities. I ask your prayers for all these friends.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

On Sunday night, the Church of Christ was almost full, as folks gathered for the annual Community Christmas Program. Tib Burnett recited a "cowboy poem" after the Methodist pastor, Tom Carter, gave the opening prayer and read some scripture. The Christmas story was then presented by the Children of the Community and the evening ended with a candlelight service and the congregation singing "Joy To The World". Troy Culpepper, pastor of First Baptist Church, dismissed the group with prayer and a reception followed in the fellowship hall and each child present received a bag of fruit and candy which delighted each of them.

HERE 'N THERE

Randi Johnson of Holi-

day is spending this week with her grandparents, Debi and Mike

Moorhouse and her brother, Dillon.

Lorene Powers spent a few days in Midland visiting and attending some much looked forward to holiday parties.

Debbie Stevenson of Clyde spent the weekend with her aunt, Betty Bohannon and family.

Jayden ad Jacee Holmes were in the play Sunday nite and their grandparents, Lexie and Kelly Williamson of Stamford, and Jennifer and Alan Holmes of O'Brien, were among the many grandparents who were here to see them perform. Other "out-of-towners" that I saw were Evelyn Slaggle of Seymour and her grandson of Whitharrell, and Faye Roberson of Red Springs.

Steve Conner of Big Spring visited relatives here on Thursday. He also visited his daughter, Blaine Neal and family in Seymour.

Finally, let me wish each and everyone a very blessed Christmas and continuing through the New Year. And if you travel, do be careful. There will be a lot of traffic on the road. Merry Christmas from my house to yours!!

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Knox
County
News on
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Merry Christmas

Dear Santa I would like...

Dear Santa Claus,

I want a Barbie House. My sister wants a pillow pet and I am going to get her one and she is going to get me a doll stroller. We are going to get our baby sister some

balls.

Does Rudolf's nose still shine bride red? Have a sage time delivering presents to the children.

I love you Santa, Lizzie

Dear Santa Claus,

I want a makeup and a fake cat, Barbie and car, new bike, new TV, a phone, and a color book and crayons. I want to get my baby sister bottles. Your reindeer are

pretty. Are you elves are helping you?

I love you, Railee

Dear Santa Claus,

Your elves are working hard; would you give them a break! Santa Clause, how is rs Clause doing at the North Pole?

We made a Rudolf and elf at school. I like to play in the block center. I want a portable PSP, a watch an X Box 360, toys, games for my Wii and Play Station #, a trampoline a basketball, and I want tools.

Your friend, Tristan

Dear Santa Claus,

I am five, I go to school. I play outside.

I want some WWE wrestling men action figures, IPOD, DS wrestling game, and shoes.

I love you, Nicholas

SANTA LETTERS
continued on page 7

"And the angel answered her. The Holy Spirt will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you, therefore the child to be born will be called holy the Son of God"
Luke 1:35

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Don't Trash Old Electronics

By Steve Skurnac

Electronics are once again dominating holiday shopping lists this season. In fact, analysts with the Consumer Electronics Association predict shoppers will spend six percent more on electronics this year compared to last – or about \$250 per consumer. And for every new laptop, tablet, phone, TV, gaming system and scores of other gadgets, an outdated device likely will be replaced. For those old electronics, the question is, “Now what?”

First off, do not throw replaced electronics in the trash. Electronic devices are comprised of a range of toxic components that can be harmful to human health and the environment if discarded in the same waste stream as the rest of your household garbage. Trashed electronics, or “e-waste,” contain heavy metals such as lead, mercury and cadmium, which can leach out of landfills and into groundwater or nearby waterways. The good news is that there are several alternatives for disposing of your e-waste, including reuse and recycling.

One ideal method that is in keeping with the holiday spirit is to find a local community electronics recycling fund-raiser to properly dispose of your outdated electronics while helping to raise funds for a local organization. With the current economic climate most nonprofits, schools and other organizations are

experiencing harder times. Not only will recycling benefit an organization in need, but the environment as well by diverting the e-waste from the landfill. Visit us.simsrecycling.com/ events or contact your favorite nonprofit or other charitable organization to find an event near you.

Another option is to look into electronics take-back programs. Many electronics retailers, like Best Buy or Staples, will accept your e-waste for free or a small handling fee, regardless of brand or condition. Several manufacturers, too, will take back retired products, although these take-back programs vary in terms of fees and conditions. A quick internet search of your local electronics retailer or manufacturers' recycling policy will provide instructions for their take-back process.

Many cities' waste management divisions also have electronics recycling programs, though opportunities differ in size and scope. Some municipalities have designated e-waste collection sites, while others might host periodic events to collect e-waste. Typically municipalities contract with third-party e-waste recyclers that process the collected material on behalf of the city. Check your city's website to learn about opportunities to drop off your e-waste or have it collected.

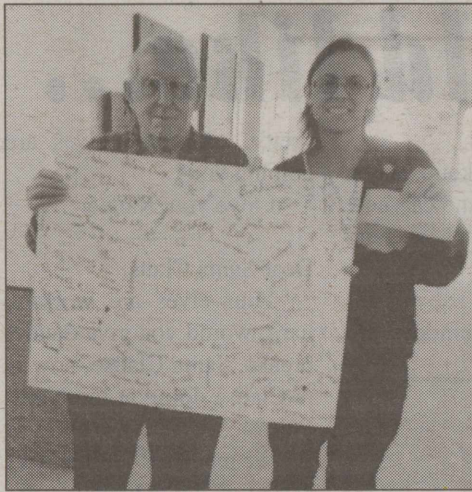
Finally, consumers should look to see if e-waste recycling companies, such as those that contract with cities, have a facility nearby. These companies usually contract with organizations and businesses to handle large volumes of e-waste, but many welcome materials directly

from individuals. Depending on the company, some accept electronics at their local facility at any time, some have designated days for public drop-off and others host periodic collection events with local partners.

Unfortunately, however, there are some bad seeds in the e-waste recycling industry. Individuals, municipalities and businesses should take several important steps before selecting a recycler, thereby ensuring their e-waste is properly managed. For example, make sure the recycler is either Responsible Recycler (R2) or e-Stewards certified, which is one indicator that the recycler is adhering to environmental best practices. Also, even if you think your electronic device has been cleared of personal data, be sure the recycler offers data destruction compliant with the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to make certain all data is wiped clean.

Lastly, ask with whom a recycler does business. Some recyclers don't actually handle the recycling of equipment and only collect the material for recycling. Not knowing exactly where your electronics are being recycled could put you—and the environment—at risk. The best recyclers are those that “own the lifecycle,” offering a complete range of remarketing and recycling services internally, thereby eliminating reliance on subcontractors, and thus improving accountability and security.

This holiday season when you are making room for your new electronic devices, remember there are plenty of homes for your old ones, but the garbage is not one of them.



James Sage, Brazos Valley Care Home resident and Amanda Duke of the Knox City/O'Brien PTO, hold a poster of elementary student signatures wishing a Merry Christmas to everyone at the Brazos Valley Care Home. In a letter to Santa, one student wished “Santa” would bring gifts for the Care Home residents. That's when the PTO became involved and made the decision to donate \$150.00 to Brazos Valley to be used as was needed for the residents

Photo By Sandra Logsdon

Merry Christmas!

CITIZENS BANK, N.A.
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 EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

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SANTA LETTERS continued from page 5

Dear Santa Claus,

I want a Mermaid Barbie and shoes for Christmas. God will protect the reindeer.

I am five and I go to school at Mrs. Urbanczyk's class.

I love you, Jamie

Dear Santa,

I am 5 and I go to Knox City schools. I want a gun with a scope with scope, a remote control truck, and walkie talkies.

Your friend, Jayden

Dear Santa Claus,

I want an IPOD and I want four reindeer (Rudolph and Blitzen and two others). I also want a ladybug pillow pet and a pet blue bear (not real).

I love you, Corbin

Dear Santa Claus,

My name is Douglas and I want a Go-Kart, treasure chest, a dirt bike, and a reindeer.

I made an elf and a reindeer head that are hanging at school. I go to school at Knox City and sometimes I get a card change when I get in trouble.

Your friend, Douglas

Dear Santa,

I want a folder, motorcycle, and a motorcycle track. Hopefully you and your elf have a great Christmas.

Love, Devin

Dear Santa,

I want three things I hope you can give it to me. Sky Landers, 3DS and a bike.

Sincerely, Samuel Barnard

Dear Santa,

Thank you for presents from last year. How are things going in the North Pole? Is Dudoph gliding

Dear Santa,

I want three things I hope you can give it to me. Sky Landers, 3DS and a bike.

Sincerely, Samuel Barnard

Dear Santa,

Thank you for presents from last year. How are things going in the North Pole? Is Dudoph gliding you? I would like to have a Xbox Kinect, a ipad, and a Netendo DS game and delevor stuff for poor kids and money and take them clothes that they can wear to school. Merry Christmas!!!

Love, Angelica Gutierrez

Dear Santa,

I hope I have the best Christmas ever. These are somethings that I want. A PSP, a connect box, Mario Kart seven game for my ds I

hope your reindeers are doing better Does Rudolphs nose still glow? I bet so. The only thing I want for Christmas is the best Christmas. Please can I have that present? How are you and Mrs. Claus? I wish I could go over there. That's what I want for Christmas. Please with a cherry on top.

Sincerely, Tres Frausto

Dear Santa,

I love the dog you gave me last year. So I have to wishes. One is to have a Ipad touch. It will help me do math and wrighting easier. My second wish is to have 10,000 dollors for the ophanige. I know this season is about thanks. My only two wishes is all I aske for Santa. I just want everyone to have the best Christmas. With all my heart I belive in you. I bet

Jesus would be happy about the 10,000 dollars. Have the best Christmas ever!

Love your best friend, Elyen Barnum

Dear Santa,

I would like an American Doll with clothes. My name is Gracie! P.S. My sister Eren would like a mini tricycle. I love you Santa Claus!

Gracie Howeth

Dear Santa,

I want ipad blaster, remote control truck and a exploders 20 500 and how are you raindeer doing? I bet thar doing good. I have got a kitty her name is Isibelly and are Nony is coming down her from Marbank. Lat Christmas I had lots of fun. I thank this year is going to be great. My birthday is ob Christmas day. How many elvs do you

have? Do h you have 100 elvs? Mary Christmas Santa and your elvs and raindeer and happy birthday to Jesus.

Your friend, Benjamin Goodnight

Hi Santa,

How haf you been? I would like a bike, cable and P.S.P. That's all I want for Christmas.

Mason Magna

Dear Santa,

How are you I hope you can bring me 2 things. Ipad, sign language poster, easy bke over. I want to give poor people so they can live a perfect for them. I need 300,00,00,00 dallors to help. Bye

Sencerly: Tanner Strickland

Dear Santa

How are you doing? I have three things that you could get me, first they very important present, I want an Ipad. With that I could play it all day long. Second I want to have 1,000 dollars to give to the hospital. And last I really don't need all these two things, but could you try to get this one. It is MAKE UP!

Love, Chelsey Castorena

Dear Santa,

I want a Ds, s box 360, ipad. How are the reindeers up there? How are the elves up there? Santa I want a pitchere of Rudolph for my brother Tomas. Santa my brother is nauhegy.

Your friend, Kiberly McGavock

SANTA LETTERS continued on page 8

Home for Christmas

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship



December 24, 2011
5:00 P.M.

Most Wanted List for Santa

- "Day Spring" Christmas Cards
- "Vintage Wrap" head bands
- Home fragrance by Claive Burke, potpourri spray. & oils
- Nothing says "Welcome" like the "Taste of Aspen Tea".
- Candies have been added to the "Wanted List":
"Texas Brags", toffee & praline on a stick, rich milk chocolate, golden pecans & honey caramel.
- "Boots" by Wyman Meinzer
- "Southern Plains Bison", a new book
- New "City Life" blouses & tops

* A FREE Beanie Baby is given with each purchase *

All credit cards accepted
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Art Stall & Frames
114 Central St. Knox City

"AND IT SHALL BE SAID IN
THAT DAY, LO, THIS IS OUR
GOD, WE HAVE WAITED
FOR HIM, WE WILL BE GLAD
& REJOICE IN HIS SALVATION."
-ISAIAH 25:9

MERRY
CHRISTMAS



FROM:

BEN & MAY VASQUEZ
AND ALL OF US AT BURRITO EXPRESS

SANTA LETTERS continued from page 7

Dear Santa,

I want to tell you thanks for the stuff last year. Plus I love the mittens you gave me last year. I want to wish for three things. 1. Ipod 2. Covers for Ipod 3. Giving poor people money.

Love, Melanie Ruiz
P.S. Your the Best

Dear Santa,

How has it been in the North Pole? How have you been doing? I bet the elves are busy. I wood lick t have a wonderful Christmas and clothes for poor people. Have a wonderful Christmas.

The best 3rd grader,
Deziery Navarrette

Dear Santa,

Thank you for bringing the thing you brought last year. This year will you bring me three things? I want 600\$ for the homeless people and poor people. My last present I want the new basketball game. Have a Merry Christmas and watch out for them nody kids.

From, Michael Short

First Grade Santa Letters -
Mrs. Hall's Class

Dear Santa,

I've been a good girl this year. I would like a Barbie house for all my barbies some new jewiley , and an western belt with lots of bling I would also like a justin Beiber poster for my room I will have lost of coolues and milk waiting for you.

Kylee Roberts

Dear Santa,

Thank you so much for last year's presents. This year I would like to have new DS games. I would also like a big art set with markers, crayons and lots of paper. Last, I would love Miranda Lamberts new CD.

Riley Paige Carver

Dear Santa,

I have been good. I wod like a horse for Crismis and a train for Crismis, a trapalen, and a puppy. Ples give my sister a barby plane. I love you Santa.

Ross Strickland

Dear Santa,

My name is Bethany Jayne Casillas and I'm 7 years old and go to Knox City Elemenrhy. I like to help my mommy cook, and I like to go fishing with my Dad. I have two dogs Akira, and Sarah, and one brother named Caleb a brat. I was nice this year. I have lots of new friends. For Christmas please bring me a American Girl Doll, cupcake maker, Justin Bieber CD, and Cars 2 the movie. Thank you very much for presents. I like Christmas. Have a good Christmas.

Bethany Casillas

Dear Santa,

For Chrstmas I want a pink DSi, Bieber Clothes. for my baby sister just get her heapers sence she has been bad and I guess my mom and dad money sence they need it.

Gabby Espinal

SANTA LETTERS
continued on page 10

MERRY
CHRISTMAS!

Booe Commercial
Roofing Inc.

710 E G Street Munday, TX.

422-4500

800-829-7850



TxDOT to begin project in Knox City

CHILDRESS – The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) held a preconstruction meeting on Thursday, December 15, 2011 at the Knox City, City Hall in Knox City to discuss a project to install new sidewalks on SH 6 from SH 222 to the west city limits of Knox City.

The contractor for this \$2.4 million project is R.K. Hall of Paris, TX. The length of this project is 1.212 miles long with 173 working days or 11 months of barricades scheduled, weather permitting.

Depending on the weather, SH 6 will shut

down during concrete paving from January through March. Barricades are scheduled to be set January 9, 2012. Detours will be set up one block off of SH 6 on each side all the way through town. The stop signs will be removed at the intersection of SH 6 and SH 222 traffic will be free flowing for now.

The project manager for R.K. Hall is Dennis Johnson and project managers for TxDOT are Rickey Gonzales and Greg Urbanczyk.

For more information contact Barbara Seal, Public Information Officer (940)937-7288.

Commissioner's Court holds meeting

BE IT REMEMBERED on the 14th day of November, 2011, there was conducted a **REGULAR** Meeting of the Honorable Commissioners' Court of Knox County, Texas, at the Courthouse thereof, in the City of Benjamin, Texas for the purpose of transacting any and all business that may lawfully be brought before the same.

THE COURT MET AT: 1:30 p.m. the 14th day of November, 2011.

Knox County Judge Travis Floyd, called the Regular Meeting to order at 1:31 p.m. Commissioners Urbanczyk, Birkenfeld, Griffith and McCown were present. Also attending were County & District Clerk Annette Offutt, County Treasurer Rosie Ake, County Court Coordinator Michelle Esquivel, Cheryl Daniel Aging Services Director, County Community Development Director Jimi Coplen, Pam Reed 911 Director, County Extension Agent Lorrie Coop, County Attorney Lina Trevino, The Court considered the following matters posted and filed for Record in the office of the County Clerk November 9, 2011, addendum filed November 10, 2011.

Commissioner McCown made the motion seconded

by Commissioner Birkenfeld to approve the minutes of the Regular Session held October 10, 2011, and of the Special Sessions held October 20, 2011, and November 4, 2011. The motion passed five to zero.

After discussing the issue concerning the purchase of the Munday Precinct Barn, the issue was tabled until a later date.

The Court recognized Sheriff Homstad for The Certificate of Compliance issued by The Texas Commission on Jail Standards. The Certificate of Compliance demonstrates his outstanding leadership and the diligent work of his staff in complying with the minimum jail standards. In addition, this achievement is a direct result of his office's commitment to excellence and is an example of dedication and professionalism in maintaining a safe, secure, and sanitary facility. Providing the essential budgetary support for jail operations is also imperative to achieving compliance, and the Knox County Commis-

sioner's Court was also commended for their vital support of jail operation.

Commissioner Urbanczyk made the motion to go into Executive Session to consider and discuss the Supervisor position salary issues at 911 and to consider making an offer for the Munday precinct barn; Commissioner Birkenfeld seconded the motion, all agreed.

Judge Floyd called the Regular Session back to order; Commissioner Griffith made the motion seconded by Commissioner Birkenfeld to pay the new 911 Supervisor the same salary that the previous Supervisor had made. The motion passed five to zero.

Commissioner Birkenfeld made the motion to make an offer for the Munday Precinct

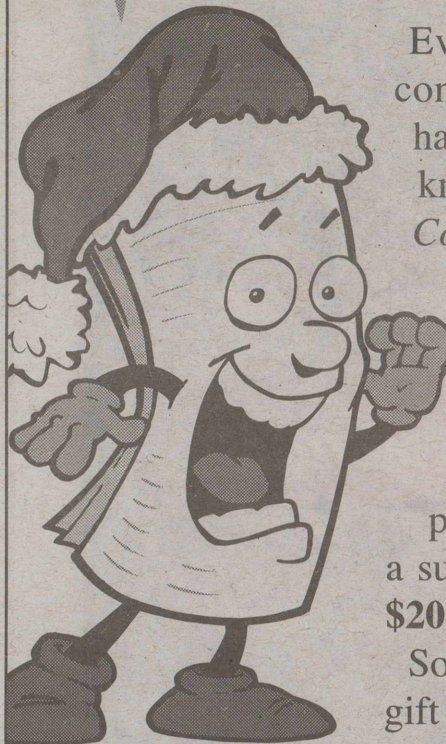
COMMISSIONERS
continued on page 19

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SANTA LETTERS continued from page 8

Dear Santa,

I would like Wii games and DSi if not I will buy it then and a Motorcycle and my sister wants a board to write on. Tyler wants a basketball goal. I have tried to be good. Thank you for the toys last year.

Love,
Gage Morrow

Dear Santa,

I would like and X-box with racing games, an electric guitar, a toy train with tracks, boots and spurs, and a toy shot gun. Thank you Santa. Be careful when delivering gifts on Christmas.

Xavien Patterson

Dear Santa,

I will want a computer for Christmas.

Becca Ruiz

Dear Santa,

There are a few things that I'm asking for this year! The first thing on my list is an

Ipod touch. Second thing on my list is a new bed spread for my bed. please make it a worm one. and the last thing Im asking for is a flat screen Tv. Have a fun trip with the reindeer!

Emili B. Sanders

Dear Santa,

This year for Christmas I would like a new TanKa, a Bat, horse, cars, wii, police toys.

Thank u,
Mario

Dear Santa,

What I want for Christmas is an ipod and a fourwheeler. I thank you for all the presents you gave me last year. They were all good. Don't forget the presents for all my friends. I wish you and Jesus a happy birthday. You and him are the best! Don't forget the people at the South Pole and don't forget my sister. I can tell you she's on the nice list. I think she's the best sister ever in the world. So please can you bring two gifts. They really sound good. I am giving all of my heart for you can come.

Sincerely, Gabriel Ruiz

Dear Santa,

I want a doll house with barbies, Leapfrog and have a happy Merry Christmas Santa Claus.

Your Friend, Kiyannah Gonzales

Dear Santa,

I would really like two things. Call of duty black opps and Xbox 360 connect. I think my sisters would like girl stuff, but I still have two people left. It's my mo and dad. They need a bigger tv, a new bed, football stuff and some beautiful decorations.

Love, Anthony Martinez

Dear Santa,

I would like a BD DSI and a present for my Dad and mom. I would like a hot tub and a wonderful Christmas for everyone.

Love, Betheny Ledesma

SANTA LETTERS
continued on page 11



*From all of us... To all of you.
May your Christmas wishes all come true.*

First National Bank

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1011 E MAIN AVE KNOX
CITY, TX 79529
(940) 658-3511

*May the peace and hope of
Christ's birth
be with you now and in the days ahead...*

SANTA LETTERS continued from page 10

Dear Santa,

I would like \$9,000 dollars for people that need help. Also, I would like 2 month brake for every student. Santa, I would just like every body to at least have on gift, I would not want any body to go without. Santa I would also like a two shock collars for my dogs.

Your friend,
Carson Carver

Dear Santa,

I would like a lot of stuff that you get me and thank you for bringing me those presents last year. I know that you won't forgite. Nowbody in the hole intire world and don't forgite me, my mom, my brother, my little brother, my sister, then y other sister. My nephew, don't' forgit my sister in law and brother in law and cousins. Don't forgite my unkle and my ant, my grandpa and don't forgit the pare people I help pore people because they need stuff. Santa, do you know about Christmas? I do! It's about Jesus because it's his biryhday. That's why we have Christmas and we all beliee in Jensus and God. I hope you have a great day giving presents. I hope you bring me presents. I will live you

milk, cookies and carrots. Can you bring me a shiny bell from the North Pole? And how does the north pole look like? Can you bring me a picture so I can know how it look like? I don't have a chimney but would you stell bring me my presents?

Love, Adriana Garcia

Dear Santa,

I wish I had a DSI to play with. So I am not always bord, but anyways I would love to see the real Santa that would make me happy, but my little brother wants a set of Toy Story stuff. Well back to my story, I also want a new baby doll.

Love, Brittany Casillas

Dear Santa,

I like giving thanks Santa When you have time for one more present, can you give me an IPAD 2? Can I go to the North Pole with you and Mrs Claus? Nicholas wants a WWE Wrestler and Izaiah loves Mickey the House so can you give him a big Mickey? Don't forget my mom, dad, and Grandma's. Santa do you shrink your big bag? Do you have to start making toys right after January 1st? Santa and I really want a game for the Wii called Sandlot Sluggers. I

want a Dallas Cowboys hat. Do y ou ever play with y our elves. Don't forget about my dog Cookie.

Love, Gilbert Trevino

Dear Santa Claws,

How have you been with Mrs. Claws? I want an Ipad 2 drum set and a big ramp fore my bike. How have roudof been? I hope he is having fun gliding your sleigh. I bet it is fun.

Your friend, Tyler De-LosRios

Dear Santa,

It's Christas again and time to make my list. I think I've been good, just don't as my parents. Take my word! This Christmas I would like a dog, a compound bow to go hunting with my Dad. I want Red Rudempx for my PS3 and a spy copter, a computer and don't forget my family.

Marrey Christmas, Jacob Gonzales

2nd Grade

Dear Santa, I hope you are filing good at the north

pole with miss clos and the rander. For christemiss I wood lick a mpthee plar and rolrbads and a eseback uven also my oneu swimming pool and a flat scrin tv. I hope you have a good trip and I forgot something to say. I want my own bedroom. I hope you love dlevringe presens.

Love, Teresa Carmona

Dear Santa, Hello i hope that you are having fun ate the nothpole. I want for Chrismas is a malasiel and i want a xbox 360 for my brother. I hope that em being good a school. Wen you go to my house ther will be Cola and oriyos for you. I hope that you have a good Chrismus Santa. Love, Jonathan Martinez

Dear, Santa, Hellow I hope you are having a good time at the noth pole and how are your elfs doing at the north pole and I would like an dirt bike on Christmas I would like a forwiller, and a football and a new swim-

SANTA LETTERS
continued on page 13

Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year!

**PENMAN
SERVICES LTD.**

609 East Main Street Knox City, TX 79529
(940) 658-3513

MERRY CHRISTMAS

TO MY FRIENDS AND FAMILY.

I WISH MY CUSTOMERS A VERY

MERRY NEW YEAR

Blossoms Boutique

800 E. Main Knox City, TX



I will honor
Christmas in
my heart, and
keep it all the
year.

Jerry's Plumbing
Heating & Air Conditioning

200 E Main

Merry
Christmas
to all!

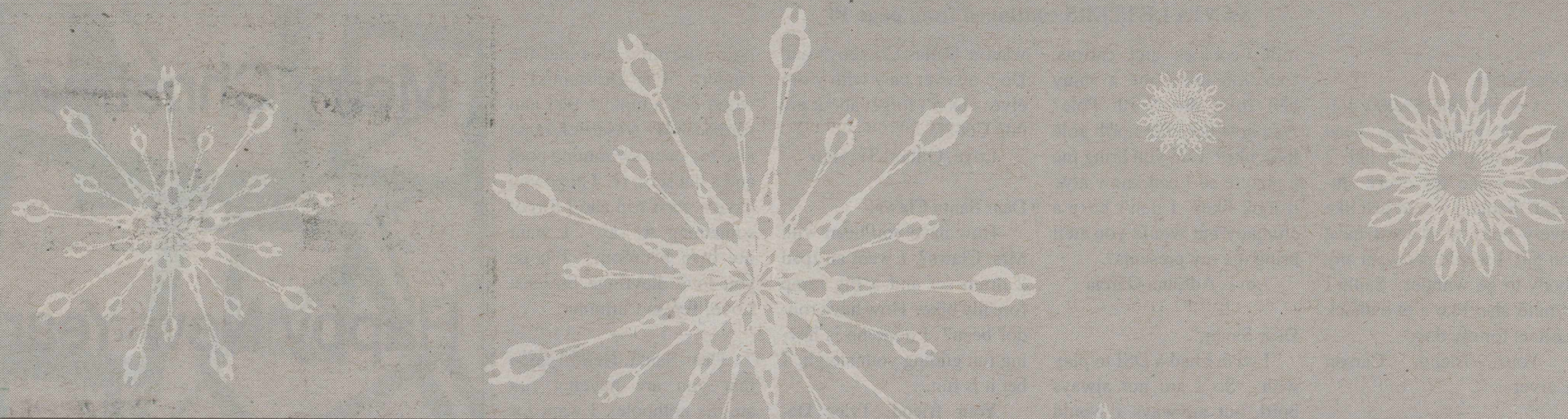


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MERRY CHRISTMAS

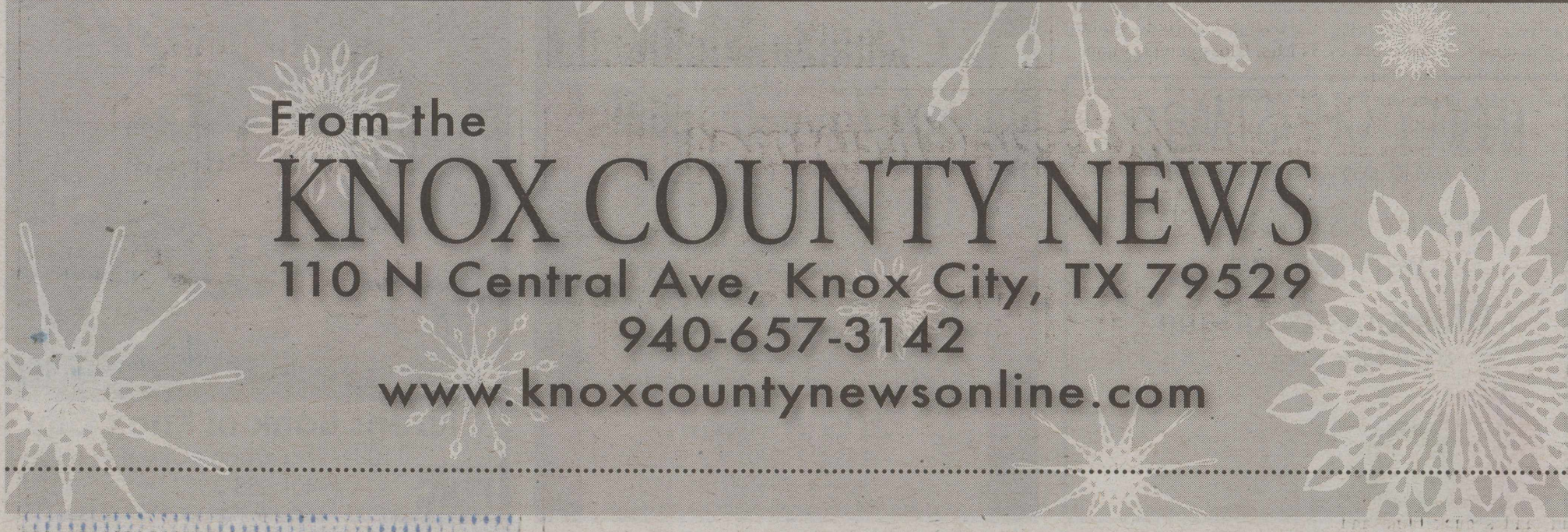
From the

KNOX COUNTY NEWS

110 N Central Ave, Knox City, TX 79529

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www.knoxcountynews.com



SANTA LETTERS continued from page 11

ming pool. Merry Christ-
mas, Kobe Roberts

Dear, Santa Claus, Hel-
low how are you doing at
the North Pole? Hope your
doing great. What I want for
Christmas isn't barbie dolls. I
like barbie dolls that's why I
asked because I like barbie
dolls and I like Christmas
and what else I want for
Christmas is a barbie house.
That goes with the barbie
dolls. I hope you enjoy your
cookies and milk. And I
hope you have a great time.
Love, Briana Contreras

Dear Sata, Hello how are
you and your raindeer doing?
What I want four Chistmas
is some bakugan and some
lego ninja go stuff. I hope
you have good cookeis and
milk. Love, Daniel Duke

Dear Santa, I am good to-
day. How are you dowing?
Last chrismis I saw Rudolf.
I want four chrismis is a
cass game and 1 more thing
is to be your frend many
chrimeses. I love you so
member look at my athr list.
Ho Ho Ho! Love, Matthew
Jimenez

Dear Santa, Hello how
is you crew? I have been
relly good this year. This is
what I whant for chrimes- a
bunny or a big barbey hous
that coms with barbeys and
I want a Santa claus slay
with all of the render. Injoy
all of your cookies- and mil-
ke. Mery Chrimes! Love,
Saige Turner

Dear Santa, Hello. How
are you and your elfs and
Mrs. Claus doing? My
teacher is nise. My friends
are great. This is what I
want. I want a 22 Hornet,
a 17 HMR, doe sent, a knife
case, a deer stand, a duck
call, and a duck blind and

a 357 rifle Braekover with
Amo and a 243 rifle Braek-
over. Enjoy you snacks.
Love, Woody Stiewert

Dear Santa, Hello! How
are you and your raindeer,
elfs, and Mrs. Claus doing?
I hope yall are doing fine. I
can't wate till Cristmas. It
is my favorit moth because
you get peresents. This year
can you bring me a monster
high doll with purple hair be-
cause I love them. Engouy
derlivering presents. Love,
Ashten Pepper

Dear St. Nick, Hello, how
is your crew? I want a new
bike and a new Angry Bird.
And a Jurrassic Park movie.
And a toy monster truck.
And books about sharks and
movies about sharks. And
new tools like saws, screw-
drivers, and hammers, and a
real gun. And a tellascope.
Have a Merry Christmas.
Love, Gannon Pryor

Dear Santa, Hi, I woud
like for Cristams is a sinsy
and a pupy and a girl for-
willer and a stuff anml. It
is a graf. Have a good time.
Love, Aulbry Patterson

Dear Santa, Hello Santa.
Is Mrs. Closs good? I hope

she is good. How are you
doing in the nouth pool? I
hope you can get me and my
brother a littel dog and a lit-
tel cat to and a Ipod to. And
a new pool. And a new boll.
I hope you have a good time.
Love, Sabrina Sanchez

Santa Claus, How are you
diwing? How are your ran-
deer doowing? Well I won't
a gam. Thiar are fore gams.
halow rech, halow three and
halow two and halowfore
and I won't MW3 that stans

fore Mardern waerfar three.
Have a good Mary Crismis.
Love, Tristian Estrada

Dear Santa, I help you
are doing good. Checon ev-
erybody for me. I wood like
for Chrissmiss is a football
sintsy and a sintsy for me
mom and a noo woch for my
dad. Ceck on the rane dere
for me. Love, Nathaniel
Dickson

**SANTA LETTERS
continued on page 16**



Warm Christmas wishes at our door!
Knox City Florist
940-657-3581 • 106 North Central Ave Knox City, TX 79529



**Happy
Holidays
from the
staff at**

*Deck the
Halls
with Boughs
of Holly!*

**Dillon
Greenhouse**



*Merry Christmas
from Stan & Donna*

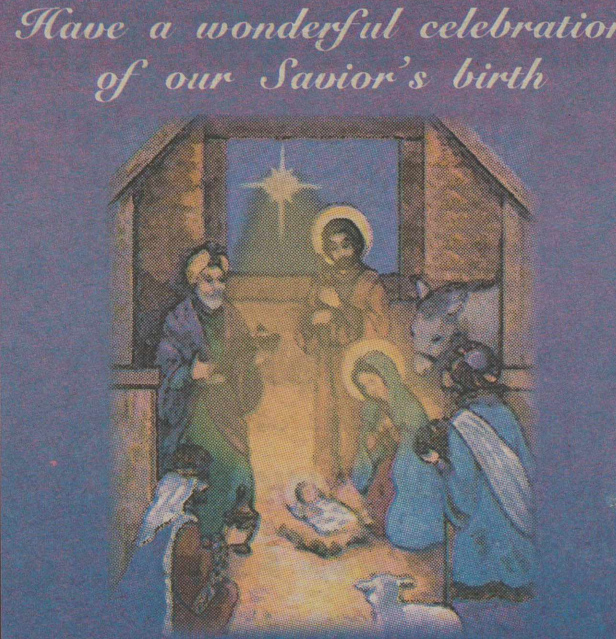
Air Ag
(940) 658-3744
11810 Highway 6 • Knox City, TX 79529

Merry Christmas
from Bobby, Doug, Barbara & Angie

Capital Farm Credit

151 S. Munday Ave. Munday, Texas
(940) 422-4323

*Have a wonderful celebration
of our Savior's birth*



*Abundant Life Church
Pastor Tex Cox, Melesha, Kailee,
Kinslee, Corbin & Colton*

*If you look for Me
at Christmas*

you won't need a special star —

I'm no longer just in Bethlehem,

I'm right there where you are.

You may not be aware of Me

amid the celebrations —

You'll have to look beyond the stores

and all the decorations.

But if you take a moment

from your list of things to do

And listen to your heart, you'll find

I'm waiting there for you.

You're the one I want to be with,

you're the reason that I came,

And you'll find Me in the stillness

as I'm whispering your name.

Love,

Jesus

Poem submitted by
Monette Vincent.

NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

at the Wooden Nickel

Saturday, December 31, 2011

7:00 PM Till the Ball Drops

Open to the Public

All you can eat Black-eyed Peas &

Tea, Lemonade, coffee-\$10⁰⁰

LIVE MUSIC BY

"DOUBLE LUCK"

Dance, sing, play, visit, have a good time.

(The Band Does Accept Tips!)

Experiencing Him In The Unexpected



Photos by Sandra Logsdon

By Amy Schnable

What a Celebration! More than a few baskets of candies & cookies have been prepared for delivery. A couple of Christmas concerts have been attended. By now several hours of shopping, whether it be for food or gift giving, have stolen time from the calendar. In the middle of all that, I'm certain I am not the only one that wanted to shout from the roof tops, "Stop! I just want to experience the peace that supposedly accompanies this Blessed and wonderful season!" You know, that same peace they talk about in all

the festive cards sent to family and friends across the miles? Oh yeah, I forgot to mention the permanent callous from addressing countless envelopes ~ sigh

Flip the calendar back a few pages to say, October. The conversation went something like, "Everyone is so busy. Who wants to drag their kids to one more play practice when we are still in the middle of football season? Let's just pass on a presentation this year." I was just having a really hard time finding that Christmas Spirit & held off as long as I could. Wouldn't you know it? I get

an e-mail from a great website I use for kids church advertising a "one practice children's pageant" What!?! I had never heard of that in my twenty-plus years of ministry. Had this person ever even worked with kids? They're kind of like 'herding flies'!!! With one click of the mouse I was hooked and the race was on, since it WAS the middle of November.

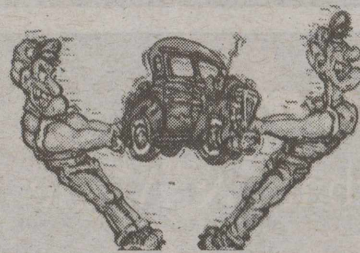
Parts were assigned to kids & adults alike, a few staging things ordered. Some costumes went for repairs and several hundred yards of twine were braided into headbands for all those tiny shepherds. All the stars were learning new lyrics to the tune of "twinkle, twinkle little star" to turn it into "wondrous star" and Christmas star". Besides a few 15-20 minute practices during kids church, the night of the "one rehearsal" arrived. Things really were going unbelievably well...until one little

shepherd had a mis-step that ended up in a trip to the ER due to a medical issue. Praise the Lord everything turned out fine for this budding actor and the practice that I left in the hands of some very capable ladies!

This past Sunday as we began to worship, my thoughts were, "hold on for just another hour and all this craziness will be over". Little did I know, (but don't know why I wasn't expecting it - He always shows up in amazing ways!) God had a present for me that morning! Things were rolling along, and out comes one amazing, 5th grade young man, singing "O Holy Night". That's when the Lord Broke my heart for the things that Bless His heart! If I had stubbornly, drug my heels on what I wanted (or didn't want) it would have robbed all involved of giving a wonderful gift to not only **EXPERIENCING HIM** continued on page 15

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GOD'S PROMISES

Why We Need Jesus Hebrews 13:8 / Jeremiah 29:11-13

By Jerry Vincent, First Baptist Church

I hope that no one reading this would deny the fact that we need Jesus. I believe the older we grow in the Lord, the more we realize that.

At this special time of year, we probably think even more about the Savior who came as a gift to us that first Christmas so many years ago. I'd like to share three reasons as to why we need Jesus.

#1 Because we have a past. We cannot go back, but Jesus can. I have a past, and you have a past. Being truthful, some pasts may be more "shady" than others. But, we must remember: SIN IS SIN. We must confess our sin and move forward. We, who were saved early in life, are fortunate to have perhaps escaped some very hard sins. Yet, we had to be saved, just the same as a hardened criminal.

The Word tells us, "Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever." When we were saved, it amounted to a new beginning for us. New beginnings are sometimes hard to come by. For example, there is a young man who formerly played sports in a neighboring county before moving to the Dallas area. He got in with "the wrong crowd" and is now in jail, facing a prison sentence. A fellow pastor recently visited that young man, and heard him make a heart-breaking statement. He said, "I just want to go back to _____ and play football."

That possibly will never happen for him.

But Jesus can walk into those places, wipe the slate clean, and give a new beginning.

As a farm kid, each spring was a new

beginning, but with Jesus, we only need ONE new beginning.

#2 Because you need a friend. It is true, Jesus KNOWS the worst about us, yet he BELIEVES the best. Nothing can be hidden from God. Oh, we try to hide things, but he is all-seeing. A friend is a person who sees our faults and loves us anyway. Someone has said, "To have a friend, you must be a friend." It has also been said, "If in this lifetime, you have ONE best friend, you are truly blessed." A best friend sticks with you regardless.

I want you to know that Jesus will be your best friend. He sees you, not as you are, but as what you will be when he gets through with you. Now, that's a friend! A friend always sees the best.

#3 Because He holds the future.

Trustworthy acquaintances are very scarce sometimes in this life. In Jesus' hands, you are safe and secure; today, tomorrow, and for all eternity.

Jeremiah 29:11 says, "For I know the thoughts, that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end." The NIV says, "For I know the plans I have for you."

Now a question: "Do we always fulfill the plans God has for us? That could be argued both ways, yes and no. I will give you my thoughts, then you can determine your own thoughts on the matter.

No, I doubt that we do. The Word teaches that "it's not His will that any should perish, but that all should be saved." But, we know that all are saved. For we who answered when the

Holy Spirit called and are saved, then the answer is "Yes" I believe we experience His ultimate plans for us. That plan is to spend eternity with Him.

But, those who refuse to heed His call, then "No", I don't believe they experience His plans for their lives.

Well, then, it is easy to see "why we need Jesus." He is our ONLY HOPE, and that is preached and sung about often during the holiday season.

What a wonderful time to reach out and accept the best gift you could ever receive: JESUS.

God bless you and have a very blessed Christmas.

EXPERIENCING HIM continued from page 14

everyone that attended, but most importantly, back to the Lord. He is the one that imparts giftings & talent into each one of us. He is the one that in the middle of it all, CAN and DOES bring that peace and hope that we can experience in this Christmas season and through out the entire year. As you walk through these next few weeks and into the New Year, take it from me. Don't get caught up in the "have to's" of the season, but take the time to think about the why of your actions and know that you can experience His grace, His peace, and His love when the focus of everything you do stays on Him. Yes...I experienced the amazing power of His presence and love that ushered me into the joys of Christmas!!!

First Baptist Church Enjoys Annual Hayride

By Monette Vincent

On Wednesday night, December 14th, First Baptist Church of Knox City enjoyed an annual tradition. They met in the fellowship hall for a chili, cornbread, and Frito pie supper, then loaded up on the trailer for a "caroling hayride". Due to the recent drought, hay was hard to come by, but that did not dampen the spirits or hinder the hayride. They just put chairs, regular folding chairs for the adults and smaller chairs for the children into the trailer and called it a "caroling chair-ride" instead.

There were about 30 attending the chili supper, and 25 "brave souls" going out into the cool night to take part in the "chair-ride". As the pickup pulled the carolers through town, they sang merrily and loudly. Their first stop of the night was the Brazos Valley Care Home where they filed in singing and shared several familiar Christmas songs with the residents who were waiting for their



visit. They made stops at various houses throughout Knox City, as well as at the drive-thru at Bud's Café, and joyfully sang at each stop and all along the way.

After the caroling, they returned to the church fellowship hall, where there awaited hot chocolate, hot tea, apple cider and more desserts. Much fun was had by all, and they would like to invite you to mark your calendars to join them next year.



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Merry
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to all!**

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SANTA LETTERS continued from page 13

Dear Santa
For Christmas I would like
a cup cake maker, nail stuff, I
pod couer Justin bebieer post-

er, a tv bed, laptop, clothes
nals.
Ella Hunter

Dear Santa,
My name is Orlando I
have been a good boy so
could you please stop at my
house and Bring me a ps3
and Bring me a callof Duty
game and a racing game and
a mortal kombat vs Dc uni-
verse. Thank you.
Orlando Telles

Dear Santa,
My name is Lezi Lo-
pez. I live with my brother
and mom and dad. What I
want for Christmas is a lap-
top. I would also like have
some barbies and games to
**SANTA LETTERS
continued on page 17**

Because of the babe born on Christmas Day... may your Christmas be filled with his love and may your new year be filled with his abundant grace.

Today in the town of David a savior has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord.
LUKE 2:11

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SANTA LETTERS continued from page 16

play. I could like to have a new bike too. Would like to have some boots that would go good with pants. Have a very merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

Lexi Lopez

I would like an x box 360 and the games. I also would like a nitendo 3Ds with the games. The last thing that I would like is a transformer game.

Kwame Collins

My name is Alicia Glitter Vintendo DS clothes 7-8 shoes-2 pants 7-8 I have a sister Naveah she is 3 she would like to get clothes size 3-4 shoes 9 any toy you would like to leave. Thank you.

Alicia Martinez

Dear Santa,

I want Justin Bieber bed. I want a Justin Bieber toys. I want a Justin Bieber clothes. I want a Justin Bieber jacket. I want a Justin Bieber shirt.

Alize Morelos

Dear Santa,

I've been good year I would like a desk, sume curs, My on room, pupplys and dolls. I will leave milke and cookies. Love your friend.

Devon Lane Martinez

Dear Santa,

My name is Zoe Ann I am 7 years old. I have been a very good girl this year and I would really like a trampoline, a happy napper, and a Barbie doll house. Please and thanks.

Zoe Reid

Dear Santa,

My name is Celeste Carmona. I live in Knox City. I am 5 years old. I like that you bring us presents and toys! I would like an Easy Bake Oven, a new Barbie doll, Zombie brains, new clothes, and paint. I will make you

cookies and milk and leave them on the table.

Love, Celeste

Dear Santa,

My name is Lane Hicks. I am 5 years old. I live in Knox City. I have been a good boy I would like a pogo stick and a skateboard. I want a Batman tent so I can sleep in it. I would also like a big bouncy ball that you can sit on, a sleeping bag, and a new swimming pool. I will leave some cookies and milk in the

kitchen.

Love, Lane

Dear Santa,

My name is Calen Rogers. I am 5 years old. I live in the country. I would like a Slushy Magic, new tools to fix things because one of mine got broken, and dinosaurs. I will leave cookies and chocolate milk on the counter.

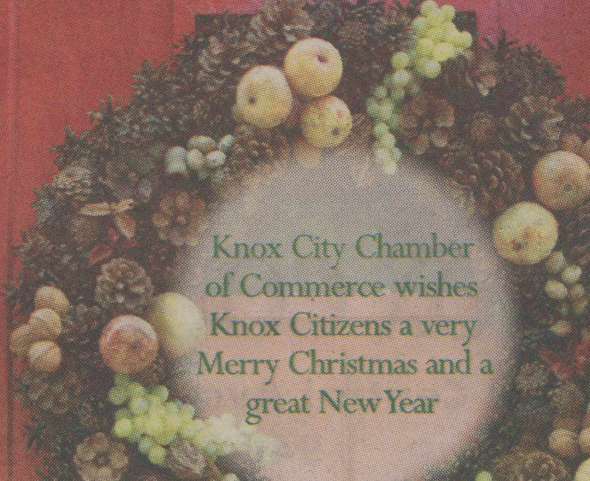
Love, Calen

SANTA LETTERS continued on page 20



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KNOX COUNTY NEWS

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Producers Need to Watch Margins

By Blair Fannin b-fannin@tamuk.edu 979.845.2259

BRYAN - Farmers will need to manage margins closely in 2012 as commodity prices fluctuate with U.S. and European economic developments, according to a Texas AgriLife Extension Service economist.

Dr. Jason Johnson, AgriLife Extension economist from Stephenville, told producers at the recent Texas Plant Protection Association conference in Bryan that fundamental data suggests strong prices for agricultural commodities in 2012.

Drought, which cut back storage stocks of many major commodities, coupled with rising demand for food to feed a growing global population, suggest a continued bull market for crop prices heading into the new year.

Johnson said U.S. corn stocks are the tightest since 1996.

"This bodes well for supportive prices going into 2012," he said. "What happens is scarcity brings out the fear and greed factor in everyone. There's high volatility right now with regards to the commodity."

During 2011, Johnson said, the December corn futures contract price fluctuated from approximately \$4 per bushel to

above \$7 per bushel.

"Managing that variability becomes the challenge," he said.

To manage risk, Johnson said, the real safety net for farmers is crop insurance.

Producers need to look at what is the guaranteed dollar per acre with various crop insurance alternatives and determine "the upside potential from there."

"Managing input prices is so important since fertilizer prices have tripled over the last 10 years," Johnson said. "You need to manage margins."

Marketing the commodity is only half of the equation. Rising input costs can eat away any expected profits if equal attention is not paid to controlling them."

Johnson also focused on the outlook for energy heading into 2012. He said West

Texas Intermediate crude oil prices are projected at \$98 per barrel and natural gas prices are forecast to increase by 3 percent.

"Ultimately, the forecast for agricultural commodity prices translates into real estate values," he said.

Johnson said the Dallas Federal Reserve Bank conducts a survey of agricultural lenders. Recent data indicated Texas cropland increased by 5.3 per-

cent over the previous year "in terms of value," he said.

"There is lots of investment going into crop real estate," he said. "Hedge funds are putting money into this because of increasing commodity prices and diversification away from other asset classes like bonds, stocks and precious metals."

"What I encourage is developing and sticking to a marketing plan. Pick some times of the year that would be advantageous to market insured crops to protect yourself from rising input costs and other variability in the marketplace."

COMMISSIONERS continued from page 9

Barn; Commissioner Urbanczyk seconded the motion, it passed five to zero. Upon a motion made by Commissioner Birkenfeld seconded by Commissioner Griffith the board voted unanimously to accept the Appraisal Boards decision on their Employees Retirement plan.

The Extension Activity Report, Aging Services Report, 911 Report, Knox County Visioning Team, and Road and Bridge Report required no activity.

Commissioner McCown made the motion to approve Financials, Budget and pay the bills for October, 2011; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Griffith, the motion passed five to zero.

After discussing the issue concerning bids on the

bridge on (no further copy followed).

There being no further business to come before the Court Commissioner Urbanczyk made the motion to adjourn seconded by Commissioner Birkenfeld, all agreed. The meeting of the Court was adjourned.

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Beets

Whole Wheat Bread
Mandarin Oranges

Wednesday Dec. 28

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Cornbread

Peaches

Thursday, Dec. 29

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Friday, Dec. 30

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SANTA LETTERS continued from page 17

Dear Santa,

Hi! My name is Valeria Zavala. I saw you at the mall in Wichita Falls. I am 6 years old and live in Munday, Tx. I would like an ipod, a TV, and an iphone. I have been really good. I will leave you cookies and strawberry milk.

Love, Valeria

Dear Santa,

My name is Emilee Abila. I am 5 years old. I live in Knox City. I would like a new Barbie doll with hair extensions, a Justin Bieber doll, a Nintendo DS. Snow boots, cowgirl boots, a painting set, and diamond earrings. I will leave milk

and cookies for you in the living room on the little table. I also need a new toothbrush and a new dress that is baby blue.

Love, Emilee

Dear Santa,

My name is Cielo Sanchez. I live in Knox City. I am 5. I would like a painting kit, a coloring book, and a Princes doll. I will leave cookies and milk for you by the Christmas tree.

Love, Cielo

Dear Santa,

I am Ryan Shaver. I am 6 years old. I live on Southeast 3rd street. I love you Santa. I would like a go

cart, Angry Birds pillow and sheets, an Angry Bird night light, and Zombie stuff. I will leave you cookies and milk under the Christmas tree where you can find them. I have been good. My brother, John, and sister, Emily have been good too.

Love, Ryan

Dear Santa,

My name is Caleb Arrieta. I live in Knox City. I am 6 years old. How are your reindeer. How are your elves doing? I haven't been good all the time, but will you bring me a toy? I would like a new bike, a Playstation 2, Xbox 360, a new game for my Wii, and

a Texas Tech football. I will leave cookies and milk for you on the table.

Love, Caleb

Dear Santa,

My name is Jaydon Paul. I am 5 years old. I live in Knox City. I have been a good boy. I would like a horse and a trailer that I can hook up to my tractor. I would like a remote control repo truck and a John Deer Motorized tractor and trailer. I would also like a new room for me and my brother Chris. I will leave tamales and milk for you on my black table. I am going to sleep in the living room so you can see me sleeping.

Love, Jaydon Paul

Dear Santa,

My name is Andres Lopez. I live with m parents and sister. What I would like for Christmas is a new bike, a game to play, and a new computer. I would like to have my grandma and other family to come spend Christmas with us this year. Have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Love, Andres

Dear Santa,

My name is Madison Espinosa. I am 6. I live by the country. I saw you at my house when you were passing presents out last year! I

would like a Nintendo DS XL, a pillow pet a Justin Bieber doll, a hula hoop, a purple bike, and some clothes. My sister Bailey wants a little bike. I will leave cookies and tea on the table.

Love, Madison

Dear Santa,

My name is Briley Cayd Barnard. I am 5 years old. I live in Knox City. I would like a Doggie Do game, a Blizzard maker, Barbie dolls & Barbie clothes, a Barbie doll house & car, and a snow white Christmas! I am going to leave you cookies and milk by the Christmas tree.

Love, Briley

Have a Blessed Holiday

Christ is reason
for the season

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Christ the Lord

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