



# THE KNOX COUNTY News-Courier



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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2015

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## Munday told to prioritize projects

By James McAfee  
The Knox County News-Courier

MUNDAY — Concerned citizens heard presentations by Leon Johnson of GKB, the financial advisor for the MCISD, and Joe Carlock and Kery Williams of DSA, a construction management firm, last Wednesday in regard to where to go next with possible plans for a bond election.

Johnson indicated that the time to consider a bond proposal was now because of the new wind farm proj-

ect east of Munday. He noted that a decision needed to be reached by Feb. 19 in order to get it on the ballot for May 7 election.

Johnson emphasized that priorities needed to be established about which projects were the most important.

Supt. Troy Parton asked participants to rank the projects so the board would know the priorities of the community.

The projects and estimated costs provided by DSA:

\* New gym, \$3.1 to \$4.6 million

\* Recrown, turf football field, \$1- \$1.3 million

\* Renovate existing science lab at secondary campus, \$55-\$60,000

\* Build a new science lab, \$330-\$350,000

\* New classroom addition at elementary to replace portable building, shelter for storms, \$850-\$950,000

\* New entryway for JH classrooms, \$15-\$20,000

\* Enclose walkways to JH, Ag science buildings, \$217-\$275,000

\* Resurface track, \$100-\$150,000

\* Band hall office, storage, \$175-

\$200,000

\* Elementary gym windows, HVAC, \$140-\$150,000

\* Single point entry for campuses, \$50-\$70,000

\* Campus security cameras, \$100,\$150,000

\* New security fencing, \$30-\$50,000

\* Elementary drop off, pickup area renovation, \$5-\$15,000

Parton noted another planning meeting would be held Jan. 7 when a committee chairman could be selected.

## Knox Notes

Please notify the News-Courier about your upcoming events. Emailed submissions to kcnnewsCourier@gmail are preferred. The deadline for inclusion will be the Friday before the following week's issue.

### Schedules for masses

The two Catholic churches have announced their schedules of masses for the holidays. St. Joseph's in Rhineland will have masses at 11 p.m. tonight, 8 a.m. on Friday, 6 p.m. on Dec. 31 and 8 a.m. on Jan. 1. Santa Rosa in Knox City will have masses at 9 p.m. tonight and 10 a.m. Jan. 1.

### Candlelight service

KNOX CITY — The First United Methodist church here will hold its Christmas eve candlelight service at 6:30 p.m. tonight.

## House passes budget and tax bills

Special to The News-Courier

WASHINGTON — U.S. Congressman Mac Thornberry (R-Clarendon) voted last week in support of the "Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes (PATH) Act of 2015" that passed the House by vote of 318-109 and the "Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016" that passed by a vote of 316-113.

"There are a number of good and important provisions for the country and for our area in these bills," said Thornberry. "While there are also a number of provisions that I support — and have voted for — that did not survive negotiations, many did."

Some of the chief provisions include:

Providing essential funding for our military;

Repealing the 40-year-old ban on exporting crude oil;

Limiting EPA funding to its lowest level since 2008;

Repealing the Country-of-Origin-Labeling (COOL) law that threatened to harm the beef and other livestock industries;

Extending and then phasing out the wind production

tax credit;

Delaying implementation of several provisions and taxes associated with Obamacare; and

Strengthening security of the Visa Waiver Program.

The PATH bill also made permanent over 20 tax provisions that Congress has been extending one year at a time, making it difficult for businesses and individuals to plan.

These permanent deductions include:

State and local sales tax deduction, which is important in states like Texas that do not have a state income tax;

Section 179 expensing for small businesses;

The Research and Development Tax Credit;

Charitable deduction for contributions of food inventory;

Many other tax provisions were extended for two or five years.

Finally, attached to the measure is a cybersecurity bill, similar to that recommended by the Cyber Security Task Force, which Thornberry chaired in 2011 and 2012.

## Thornberry favors visa waiver rules

Special to The News-Courier

WASHINGTON — U.S. Rep. Mac Thornberry, chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, said last week that strengthening the screening process for the visa waiver program is a step in the right direction, but it doesn't solve all of the challenges of protecting Americans from terrorist attacks.

"At the same time given what has happened ... a lot of people who are Europeans going to Iraq and Syria and then coming back to the European country and then being able to come here without a visa, that was a significant vulner-

ability," he said. "And actually a much bigger vulnerability than the refugee issue."

Strengthening the process doesn't address people in the country who through the Internet or other means are radicalized and then carry out terrorist attacks, he indicated.

A blanket ban on all Muslims — an option Republican presidential hopeful Donald Trump has put on the table — isn't the answer either, Thornberry said adding it is anti-American because it would be making a decision based on religion, something the Constitution doesn't allow.

## Coats, bikes for kids



Vonda Carter/The Knox County News-Courier

Tara Cottingham and Rhonda Cook of the Knox County Welfare show off coats that were given to deserving kids for Christmas. Plenty of bicycles were also given away in the Angel Tree program where Knox residents could donate gifts.

## Frank supports Rubio for president

WICHITA FALLS — State Rep. Jim Frank, who represents Knox County in Austin, announced in a news release last week that his choice for the Republican nomination for president is Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida.

Earlier in a town hall meeting in Knox City, he had mentioned he was leaning toward endorsing Rubio.

"It would be much safer politically to stay out of this race (as there is a very good chance that I will make some people angry)," Frank said. "That being said, I believe that this Presidential election is too important to spend it on the sidelines out of fear."

While saying that there is an amazing amount of talent in the Republican primary, Frank indicated his choice came down to two very strong candidates: Marco Rubio and Ted Cruz.

He said he picked Rubio over Cruz because "I believe he has a much stronger chance than Cruz of beating the Demo-

cratic nominee in the general election due to his high likeability and his location in the critical electoral state of Florida."

Frank said Rubio and Cruz were similar in many ways. "Not only are they articulate and smart, but they are both first-term senators that have personal stories that are woven from the very fabric of America," he said.

In the Wichita Falls Times and Record News, Frank said Donald Trump's immigration views may be conservative, but many of his other views were not.

"I do hope the eventual nominee is able to take advantage of Trump, (Ben) Carson and (Carly) Fiorina as advisors in some capacity as they are all brilliant in different areas," Frank said.

"Regardless of who wins the Republican nomination, it will be extremely important that everyone who cares about limited government work diligently to ensure a Republican victory in November," he added.

## DPS increases holiday patrols

Special to The News-Courier

AUSTIN — The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) will increase patrols for an eight-day period that includes both the Christmas and New Year holidays.

DPS troopers, as well as law enforcement across the state, will be patrolling roadways throughout the holiday weekends looking for drunk drivers, speeders, seat belt violators and other drivers who are endangering themselves and others.

"Drinking and driving is always a concern during the holidays, and these DPS patrols help by identifying impaired or reckless drivers who endanger the safety of the traveling public," said DPS Director Steven McCraw. "We urge Texans to do their part to save lives by always driving sober and adhering to all traffic laws."

DPS offices, including ones for driver licenses, closed at noon yesterday and will be closed until Monday.

## Correction

If you spot an error of fact, contact kcnnewsCourier@gmail.com.

## News on the go



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It is the mission of this newspaper to promote the rights of individualism in the American Declaration of Independence. The right of life, liberty and the ownership of property are the cornerstone of freedom. Government's sole purpose is to enhance our liberty and freedom.

Therefore, we hold every elected and appointed agent of government accountable to that standard.

**DEADLINES**

Advertising: Noon Mondays  
Editorial: 5 p.m. Mondays

**SUBSCRIPTIONS**

\$36 a year in the county  
\$42 a year outside the county



## Obituaries

### Virginia Jackson

Virginia Bess Jackson went to be with her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on Dec. 18, 2015. The funeral service was held Tuesday at Elmwood Funeral Home Chapel 5750 Hwy. 277 South, Abilene. Interment followed at Elmwood Memorial Park in Abilene.

Virginia Bess, as she was known to many, was born on July 14, 1921 in Munday to the late L.C. Guinn Sr. and Bessie Shaw Guinn.

She grew up in Munday and married Ray Jackson, a farmer from Goree. Ray preceded her to his heavenly home on July 2, 1981. They had five children, Waylan and wife Shirley; Bob and wife Gae; David and wife Margaret; Gwen and husband Gary; Janis and husband Owen. She leaves 13 grandchildren, 21 great grandchildren, and three great great grandchildren, and a son-in-law Terry



VIRGINIA JACKSON

plus many friends and neighbors. She was loved by many and was truly a Proverbs 31 wife and mother.

The family would like to give special thanks to all the nurses and caregivers that have given her special care throughout the last few years.

Online condolences and memories may be shared with the family at the obituary link [www.elmwoodfuneral.com](http://www.elmwoodfuneral.com)

### Colder weather for weekend

Special to The News-Courier

While Christmas in Knox County will be warmer than usual, colder weather and even rain is expected this weekend

A weather pattern linked with El Niño has turned winter upside-down across the country, bringing springlike warmth to the Northeast, a risk of tornadoes in the South and so much snow across the West that even skiing slopes have been overwhelmed.

Parts of the county are basking in above-average temperatures, especially east of the Mississippi and across the Northern Plains. Record warmth was expected on Christmas Eve along the

### Blue Bell back in stores

Blue Bell, the made-in-Texas ice cream, is finally back on the shelves in stores in Knox County. Blue Bell Creameries products in 23 states had been pulled in April because of listeria monocytogenes contamination

## Tech graduate



Alyssa Moore, daughter of Bob and Bernadette Moore of Rhineland, was among 2,547 students who graduated from Texas Tech University earlier this month. She graduated Summa Cum Laude with a 4.0 grade average with a bachelor's degree in Human Development and Family Studies.

## USDA closes payment loophole

Special to The News-Courier

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) finalized a rule to ensure that farm safety-net payments are issued only to active managers of farms that operate as joint ventures or general partnerships, consistent with the direction and authority provide by Congress in the 2014 Farm Bill. The action, which exempts family farm operations, closes a loophole where individuals who were not actively part of farm management still re-

ceived payments.

"The federal farm safety-net programs are designed to protect against unanticipated changes in the marketplace for those who actively share in the risk of that farming operation," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "To ensure that help goes to those who genuinely need it, such as America's farm families, the Farm Bill authorized USDA to close a loophole and limit payments from those not involved on a daily basis in nonfamily farm management."

Since 1987, the broad definition of "actively engaged" resulted in some general partnerships and joint ventures adding managers to the farming operation, qualifying for more payments, that did not substantially contribute to management. The rule applies to operations seeking more than one farm manager, and requires measure-

able, documented hours and key management activities each year. Some operations of certain sizes and complexity may be allowed up to three qualifying managers under limited conditions.

The changes apply to payments for 2016 and subsequent crop years for Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) Programs, Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP) and Marketing Loan Gains (MLG) realized via the Marketing Assistance Loan program.

As required by Congress, the new rule does not apply to family farms, or change regulations related to contributions of land, capital, equipment, or labor. The changes go into effect for the 2016 crop year for most farms. Farms that have already planted fall crops for 2016 have until the 2017 crop year to comply.

### Knox County Aging Center Menus

Menus for week of Dec. 28-Jan. 1  
Monday: Pork chops, black eyed peas, spinach, cornbread, dessert  
Tuesday: Pork roast, gravy, sweet potato, succotash, rolls, banana pudding  
Wednesday: Beef stew, cornbread, salad, dessert  
Thursday: Turkey sandwich, tomatoes, lettuce, broccoli salad  
Friday: Happy New Year

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**Christmas Eve – December 24th**  
Santa Rosa/Knox City – Mass at 9:00 PM with Carols beginning at 8:30 PM  
St. Joseph/Rhineland – Mass at 11:00 PM with Carols beginning at 10:45 PM

**Christmas Day- December 25th**  
St. Joseph/Rhineland – Mass at 8:00 AM

**New Year's Day**  
St. Joseph/Rhineland - Vigil Mass for New Year's Day Mass at 6:00 PM Dec. 31st  
St. Joseph/Rhineland – Mass at 8:00 AM January 1st  
Santa Rosa/Knox City- Mass at 10:00 AM January 1st

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## Benjamin News

By Gladene Green

Time is "winding down" toward Christmas, so if you have any last minute preparations to be made, better get at it!

I am slowly getting my "stuff" all done, although I'm sure at the last minute I will realize that I have forgotten something. I always do.

The weather is nice, and my friend Ken on Channel 6 says it may be nice all week. I hope so. I'm not a white Christmas person. I love the pleasant, balmy days. That makes traveling easier for everyone, and also, everyone is not "cooped up" in the house (if they want to get out).

### Here 'n there

There is very little news this week. Guess everyone is staying home waiting for the holidays. Next week should be pretty full of comings and goings.

Judy and Randolph Barnett had over the weekend guests his son Rusty and family—wife Alice, son Pete, and daughter Elisia, who is attending Texas A&M. Rusty and his family live at Katy, but will be moving to Australia in mid January for about three years. Their

work makes the move necessary. So, Judy said, "Maybe we will get to go to Australia and visit them while they are there." That would be a wonderful experience, I suspect. Rusty and Alice went to Alice's parents in Tulia for a day or so before returning home.

Bobby Clawson of Gustine spent a couple of days last week here with his sister Irene Reed.

Keith Conner of Midland visited his dad Bud Conner last Saturday night. They had come to Knox City to have an early Christmas with Pam's family, the Cokers, at the new home of her brother and family, the Justin Cokers. Keith said he and Pam, daughter Stephanie Brannon and family, and son, Casey Conner and family planned to go to Keith and Pam's place in Ruidoso, where they will spend Christmas in the mountains. Sounds like a fun time to me.

I talked to Susan Cartwright last week and they were expecting their kids, Matthew and family of Abilene, Ashley and family of Pottsboro, and Lucas, who lives in the Metroplex, this past weekend for a before Christmas get together. She said she would probably spend

Christmas day with her mom Mary Welch in the Munday Nursing Center.

My great granddaughter Randi is doing pretty well following her tonsillectomy last Wednesday. She developed a slight infection a day or so after, but that's pretty well taken care of now, so she's feeling much better.

I saw Ronnie White last week. He and City Manager Kim Sealy are busy trying to get new water lines laid. He said they sure could use some volunteers with the project, so if you don't have anything else to do, you might offer a little helping hand.

I visited with Pam Duke one day last week, and she's doing quite well following her hip replacement a couple of weeks ago.

She was scheduled to go back this week to see her doctor. Of course, she's hoping for a good report.

As I close today, I want to wish each and every one of my readers a very Merry Christmas and a safe New Year's Eve—and the rest of 2016.

I appreciate you all and the kind words regarding this weekly column, and I will try to keep at it a while longer.

## Gavilon Grain elevator of year

Special to The News-Courier

AMARILLO – The Texas Wheat Producers Board (TWPB) selected Gavilon Grain, LLC – Wichita Falls as the 2015 Texas Wheat Elevator of the Year. Gavilon Grain – Wichita Falls was opened in 2009 and has been managed by manager Chris Fryer since 2011. The operation currently services producers across the Rolling Plains at five satellite locations including: Benjamin, Knox City, Crowell, Red Springs and Gilliland.

Between the five satellite offices, the company purchases close to 2 million bushels of wheat yearly, while also securing a small supply of grain sorghum.



## Knox will get new DPS trooper

Special to The News-Courier

AUSTIN – Knox County is expected to get one of the 102 new highway patrol troopers who graduated here recently.

"DPS troopers are part of a select group of officers with a proud history in Texas," said Gov. Greg Abbott. "The troopers will leave here today with the opportunity to write a new chapter in the history of public service for the citizens of our state, and an opportunity to leave marks that will make a difference for generations to come. All of Texas joins me in thanking today's graduates and their families for their service and their sacrifice in keeping Texas safe."

The new troopers will report

to duty stations across Texas in the coming weeks and spend the first six months in on-the-job training.

"Each of you has worked tirelessly during the past six months – shaping and molding yourselves to earn the title of Texas Highway Patrol Troopers, and I want to congratulate you on your outstanding accomplishments while at the DPS Academy," said PSC Chair Cynthia Leon. "Today you have rightfully been given the tremendous honor and responsibility of serving the residents of this great state, and I am proud to welcome you into the DPS family."

The troopers began the 23-week training academy in July. Instruction covered more than

100 subjects, including counterterrorism, traffic and criminal law, arrest and control procedures, accident reconstruction, first aid and Spanish. They also received training in use of force, communication skills, firearms, driving, criminal interdiction, cultural diversity and physical fitness.

"Today DPS is honored to add these 102 highly qualified and dedicated new officers to our law enforcement ranks, and we are deeply appreciative of the sacrifices each of you has already made to become Texas Highway Patrol Troopers," said Director Steven McCraw. "Having risen to the challenge of months-long training and instruction, these courageous men and women will be in-

dispensable in carrying on the department's mission to protect and serve Texas."

As part of the recruits' community service project, they raised more than \$11,000 for a variety of efforts, including an elementary school and assisting DPS families in need.

DPS is currently accepting applications for recruit classes scheduled for 2016. The next application deadline is Jan. 27 for the class beginning July 10. To apply or for more information about joining the Texas Department of Public Safety,

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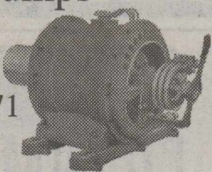
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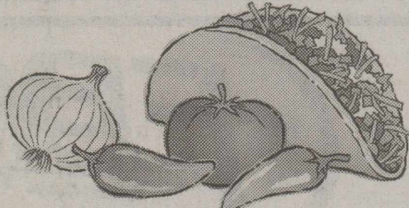
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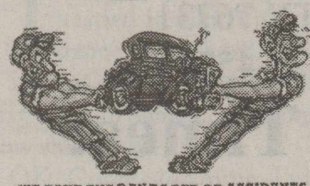


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## Six Hounds named to 8-1 A first team

Special to The News-Courier

KNOX CITY — Sam Schnable and Christian Abila, juniors at Knox City High School, made the 8-1A all-district first teams on both sides of the ball—Schnable as a utility player on defense and a wide receiver on offense and Abila as a special teams player and as a defensive lineman.

Seniors Ryan Heard and Skylar Neill were first team offensive picks as a utility back and tight end, respectively while junior Zack Overmyer and senior Elias

Nevarez were linebacker and safety picks.

Sophomore Brady Hawkins and junior Trey Ledesma were second team picks as utility back and center while Abila and Nevarez joined them on the second team as quarterback and running back.

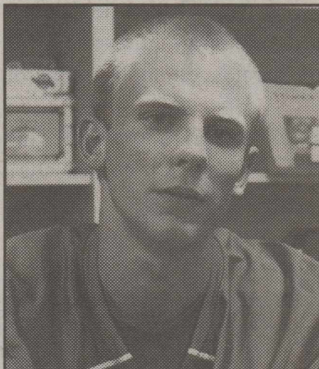
Hawkins and Heard were named to second team defense as nose guard and defensive lineman.

Crowell, the state runnerup after two earlier state titles, dominated the all-district selections as Steven Perez and

Daniel Clark were the defensive and offensive MVPs and freshman Skyler Hayes the newcomer of the year. Julian Menchaca of Aspermont was coach of the year.

Perez was also the defensive MVP for Region 2, Division I and on the all-state team.

Knox City's Schnable was a first team defensive all-region selection as a utility player while Heard and Neill were second team picks on offense and Abila and Nevarez second team defensive picks.



SHELDON BATY

## Baty advances to UIL state

Special to The News-Courier

KNOX CITY — Sheldon Baty, a KCHS senior, placed second in the District 7-1A UIL academic contest here earlier in the month to earn a spot in the state Congress (debate) competition Jan. 11-13 in Austin.

Katelyn Baker finished fourth and will be an alternate for state while McKayla Bailey placed fifth.

Baty was third in number sense and the KC team placed second.

Baty was fourth in math and the team second.

Dustin Ledesma and Ryan Heard finished second in chemistry and physics. The KC science team was fourth.

Finishing third in current events was Trey Ledesma of Knox City. The team was also third.

## Houndettes fall to Seymour

Special to The News-Courier

KNOX CITY — The Knox City Houndettes suffered a 58-34 setback to Seymour last week before taking time off for the Christmas holiday.

Coach Dylan Ballard said the Lady Panthers "shot lights out" while the Houndettes "shot very poorly" in falling to 5-9 for the season.

Seymour led 17-10 after the first period and extended the advantage to 27-14 at halftime and 45-25 after three periods.

Kaylie Steele led the Houndettes with 10 points.

The Houndettes' next action will be Dec. 28-29 in the Jayton Tournament when they play Whitharral, Haskell and Lorenzo.

## Greyhounds off to 13-4 start

Special to The News-Courier

KNOX CITY — The Knox City Greyhounds took a 13-4 record and a 20th ranking in Class 1A into the Christmas break.

Included was a seven-point win over the Munday Moguls in the Jayton Tournament.

The Greyhounds return to action Jan. 1 against Newcastle before starting District 7-1A play Jan. 5 at Paducah



Sheri Baty/The Knox County News-Courier

Kaylie Steele and Samantha Lewis are shown in action against Seymour and Aspermont.



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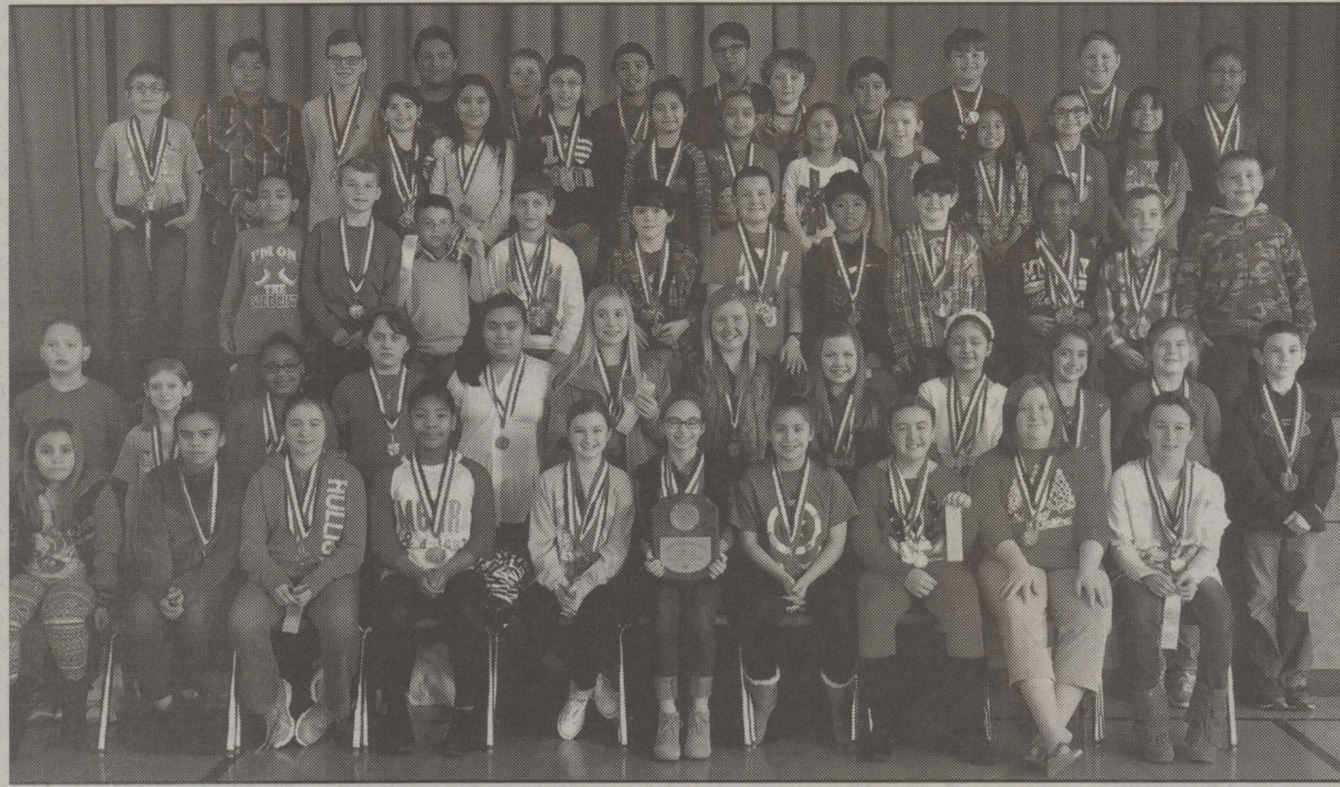
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# Munday wins 8-1A elementary academic title 4-H retreat Jan. 8-10



Special to The News-Courier

**MUNDAY** — Munday claimed the District 8-1A UIL academic championship held earlier this month at the Munday Elementary School, totalling 1,382.6 points. Totals for the other schools were Chillithe, 530.3; Northside, 245; Harrold, 231; Crowell, 220; and Benjamin, 203.

Winners from Munday Elementary School were:

4th Art: 1. Dalaney Leija, 2. Sanaiya Mathis, 5. Caremy Ledesma. Team: 1.

5th Art: 2. Stephanie Scott, 3. Conner Moore. Team: 1.

6th Art: 1. Julie Valk, 2. Manny Nunez, 5. Catalina Perry. Team: 1.

6th Calculator: 1. Justin Tidwell, 2. tie Karley Myers, Julie Valk. Team: 1.

2nd Chess Puzzles: 1. Elijah Estrada, 3. Hunter Urbanczyk. Team: 1.

3rd Chess Puzzles: 2. Talan Collins, 4. Desiree Carrasco, 6. Ann'Elyse Clark. Team: 2.

4th Chess Puzzles: 1. Kayton Shahan, 2. D'Keydren Toliver, 4. Stetson Blair. Team: 1.

5th Chess Puzzles: 1. Hunter Jagers, 3. Conner Moore, 5. Alondra Gonzalez. Team 1.

6th Chess Puzzles: 3. Karley Myers. Team: 3

2nd Creative Writing: 1. Haiden Bowman, 2. Hunter Urbanczyk, 4. Elijah Estrada

5th Dictionary Skills: 1. Cheney Thompson, 2. Stephanie Scott, 3. Brice Thompson. Team: 1.

6th Dictionary Skills: 1. Allie Willison, 2. Chris Rodriguez, 3. Joe Jasso. Team: 1.

6th Editorial Writing: 1. Karley Myers, 2. Andrea Nunez, 3rd Catalina Perry

6th Impromptu Speaking: 1. Catalina Perry, 2. Justin Tidwell, 3. Ellie Oustad

5th Listening- 5. Brice Thompson. Team: 3.

6th Listening: 2. Anyce Swearengin, 44. Chris Wiggington, 6. Leisa Beauchamp. Team: 1.

5th Maps, Graphs and Charts: 1. Hunter Jagers, 6. Conner Moore. Team: 1.

6th Maps, Graphs and Charts: 2. Karley Myers, 4. Ellie Oustad, 6. Allie Willison. Team: 1.

6th Mathematics-: 2. Karley Myers, 3. Allie Willison, 5. Manny Nunez. Team: 1.

6th Modern Oratory- 1. Allie Willison, 2. Karley Myers\

3rd Music Memory: 1. Kierslynn Macken, 3r. Abby Aguilar, 4. Bayley Lyles, Team: 1.

4th Music Memory: 1. Kayton Shahan, 2. D'Keydren Toliver, 3. Brooklyn Rodriguez, Team: 1.1

5th Music Memory: 2. Leigha Purseley, 6. tie Alondra Gonzalez and Bryson Wilson. Team: 2.

6th Music Memory: 5. Joe Jasso. Team 3.

4th Number Sense: 1. Kayton Shahan, 2. Brooklyn Rodriguez, 3. D'Keydren Toliver. Team 1.

5th Number Sense-: 1. Conner Moore, 2. Jaxon Bowman, 3. Stephanie

Scott, Team: 1.

6th Number Sense: 1. Karley Myers, 2. Allie Willison, 3. Justin Tidwell. Team: 1.

4th Oral Reading: 3. Kyson Latham, 4 Dalaney Leija, 5. Jacklyn Diaz

5th Oral Reading: 1. Jaxon Bowman, 3. Brice Thompson, 5. Stephanie Scott

6th Oral Reading: 1. Allie Willison, 2. Paola Llamas

3rd Ready Writing: 3. Kierslynn Macken

4th Ready Writing: 1. Kayton Shahan, 2. Caremy Ledesma

5th Ready Writing: 1. Stephanie Scott, 3. Hunter Jagers, 4. Cheney Thompson

6th Ready Writing: 1. Allie Willison, 2. Ellie Oustad, 3. Karley Myers

5th Social Studies: 1. Hunter Jagers. Team: 3.

6th Social Studies: 2. Dejan Thomas, 4. Leisa Beauchamp. Team: 1.

3rd Spelling: 1. Kierslynn Macken, 3. Mackinzi Castille, 5. Talan Collins. Team: 1.

4th Spelling: 1. Melissa Carmona, 2. D'Keydren Toliver, 4. Kayton Shahan. Team: 1.

5th Spelling: 1. Cheney Thompson, 3. Stephanie Scott, 6. Brice Thompson. Team: 1.

6th Spelling: 1. Allie Willison, 2. Joe Jasso, 3. Karley Myers. Team: 1.

2nd Storytelling: 1. Luke Latham, 2. Amrie Loftin

3rd Storytelling: 2. Talan Collins, 3. Mackinzi Castille, 5. Kierslynn Macken

Special to The News-Courier

**BROWNWOOD** — 4-H members in grades 8-12 and adult leaders will have an opportunity to hone their leadership skills during several 4-H programs at the 2016 Teen Leadership Retreat Jan.8-10 at the Texas 4-H Conference Center near Brownwood.

Mark Carroll, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service 4-H youth specialist and conference center program director, said: "Participants learn leadership skills through workshops and hands-on

learning experiences."

Carroll said the retreat allows participating youth to explore new or revised projects and curricula they can implement in their respective counties.

"This year's program will focus on increasing knowledge in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, or STEM, leadership, the Share the Fun program and wildlife," he said. Registration is \$115 for youth and \$85 for adults, Registration continued through Dec. 31.

# Mogulettes fall to Notre Dame

Special to The News-Courier

**MUNDAY** — The Munday Mogulettes dropped a 39-26 decision to Wichita Falls Notre Dame last Friday before taking time off the court for the Christmas holiday.

The Wichita Falls team broke open a tight game with a 13-4 advantage in the second period to assume a 20-10 half-time lead.

Kimberly Shahan led the Mogulettes with 12 points.

The Mogulettes (5-12) were scheduled to return to action Dec. 28-29 at the Anson tournament. They will then close out non-district play against Petrolia and Quanah before opening District 8-1A play.

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# 2015 Knox County News-Courier Christmas Edition



Dear Santa Claus,  
My name is Brooklyn Rodriguez. I am 9 years old. I live in Munday. On Christmas Eve I'm going to leave you cookies and milk. For Christmas my brothers want Madden 16, NBA 2K 16, and my sister wants guitar hero. I want a board game, new books, and clothes. My brothers want Madden 16 and NBA 2K 16 because they get bored and they like to play against each other. My sister wants Guitar hero so, that she can play it. For Christmas I want board games. I want board games because I want to play with my brothers and sister. I want new books because I like reading. I also want new clothes because I need some. I like Christmas because of presents.

Dear Santa,  
My name is Caremy and I live in Munday, Tx I'm 10 years old and my favorite holiday is Christmas because when people get to spend time with family and friends. What I really want for Christmas is a gift card to Bath and Body Works. I have been loving that store and so far I have 9 items, I also want to buy seasonal items. I would also like a play store gift card for \$50. I really want that so I can buy "Minecraft pc". So I can play with people all around the world. Also I want to do amazing challenges that I can not do in "Minecraft pc". The last thing I want is another "Elf on a Shelf" and I will name +

Dear St. Nicholas,  
My name is Daniela Nunez. I am nine years old I live in the country. I am not going to be here. I am going to be in Mexico for Christmas. I am going to give some cookies for El Nino Dios and carrots for his reindeer. I want some stuff for my god parents because they are like my real parents and they love me so much. My pappy wants a semi truck for Christmas. My mammy wants a iPhone6 for Christmas. Yulisa wants a computer for Christmas.

I want lots things but I am only going to tell you two things. I want Games and clothing for Christmas.  
Love, Daniela Nunez  
P.S. there will be cookies waiting for you.

Dear Santa Claus,  
My name is Victoria. I am 7 years old. I live in Munday. This year, I have been really good. I would like it if you could bring me: Barbie dream House, an American Girl doll, and a Belle doll.  
Thank you and Merry Christmas, Victoria Garcia

Dear Santa Claus,  
My name is Landon. I am 6 years old. I live in Munday. This year, I have been really good. I would like it if you could bring me: fone, minecraft, stuffed animals, and Bantmtoy.

Thank you and Merry Christmas, Landon Stephens

Dear Santa Claus,  
My name is Carlieana. I am 6 years old. I live in Goree. This year, I have been really good. I would like it if you could bring me: a scooter, A Kindle, and a LaLaLoopsy Doll.  
Thank you and Merry Christmas, Carlieana Castorena

Dear Santa Claus,  
My name is Christiana D. I am 6 years old. I live in Munday Moguls. This year, I have been really good. I would like it if you could bring me: tablet, Barbie house, play Doy, iPad, and an elf doll.  
Thank you and Merry Christmas, Christiana D.

Dear Santa Claus,  
My name is Ivan. I am 6 years old. I live in Munday. This year, I have been really good. I would like it if you could bring me: new shoes, and \$77.

Thank you and Merry Christmas, Ivan Garcia

Dear Santa Claus,  
My name is Loran. I am 6 years old. I live in Rhineland. This year, I have been really good. I would like it if you could bring me: real fone, I Pad, scooter. Bike, hi heel shoes.

Thank you and Merry Christmas, Loran Miranda

Dear Santa Claus,  
My name is Israel Perez, Jr. I am 7 years old. I live in Munday. This year, I have been really good. I would like it if you could bring me: tablet, Phena, monstertruck.  
Thank you and Merry Christmas, Israel

Dear Santa Claus,  
My name is Natalie M. I am 6 years old. I live in Rhineland. This year, I have been really good. I would like it if you could bring me: a game called minecraft story, and a phone.  
Thank you and Merry Christmas, Natalie Miranda

Dear Santa Claus,  
My name is Israel C. I am 7 years old. I live in Munday. This year, I have been really good. I would like it if you could bring me: green bike, Xbox4, and some games, and \$30, and a4wheeler.  
Thank you and Merry Christmas, Istael C.

Dear Santa Claus,  
My name is Marion. I am 7 years old. I live in Goree. This year, I have been really good. I would like it if you could bring me: \$20, Barbie house, Monster High School.  
Thank you and Merry Christmas, Marion

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**SANTA**  
From Page 6

Pieface, rich money, La La Loopsy, Baking oven, and a La La Loopsybaby, Playdoh campfire.

Thank you and Merry Christmas, Lexi Collins Brooke

Dear Santa,  
My name is Nicolas. I am ten years old. I am in 4th grade. I live in Munday, Texas. I was a good boy. I was nice to my friends. I was nice to my family. On Wednesday I going to put up my Christmas tree and the lights. Santa please put Christmas present under my Christmas tree. I want something for Christmas I want a game that calls Battle Fort and super hero smasher. My brother wants a game that is called Call of Duty and Halo 5. I promise I will give you milk and cookie. Merry Christmas Santa!  
Love!  
Nicolas Hernandez

Dear Santa,  
how are Rudolph and the other reindeer? I have been really good this year. I am in 2nd grade and my teachers make sure I am always on my best behavior. For Christmas I would like a youth 20-gauge shotgun, Real Tree hunting boots, a red Rocket fishing rod, and a camera. Thanks for my gifts from last year. I hope you have an awesome Christmas. You deserve it! Have a safe trip!  
Love, Haiden Bowman

Dear Santa,  
I still believe in you! Some people say you are not real but I don't belev them. For cristmis may I have a surprise present? I really want the rest of the Ramona book seris. May I please get an i-pad? I really want a barby set to.  
Love, Lainece

Dear Santa,  
Hy. Haw do you mack toys? Wold you bring me a nif, tols, a cumpis, and gald shos.  
Love, Aidenn

Dear Santa,  
I love your slay. Wow your bell is shinee. I lik to have Skylendr Sloopr Chrg, Xbox 360 gams. Happy golle Crismis Santa.  
Love, Tyler

Dear Santa,  
Happy Holidays! I stil bleev in Santa. I want this stuf Santa that yuor bringing me. I want chakos and teetex camru and a esl with driy iras mrkars. How are you Santa?  
Love, Addisyn

Dear Santa,  
Merry Christmas how are you and Mrs. Claws and the raindeers and the elfs. Hay are the raindeers hungrey because we are goin to leave food for them and milk and cookeis for you. And Santa may I please have a Ipod and for the little things can I have a pocket nife and a tool box.  
Love, Will

Dear Santa,  
Happy Holiday Santa. How is Mis. Cos. I have wun of ur elf. It is fun. Pess can I have for cesmes a monstr high doll it is big and legos and a sik kik and a big car.  
Love, Gabby

Dear Santa,  
Happy Holidays! Santa you have a nice elf and a nice rander. Santa how are you doing santa and mrs. Clas. Rodof is fun and the others randers. But Santa you are the best. May I have a toy mashean and a tree house. May I plesse have a lerning book and a leap frog and a spanish book. Thank you Santa  
Love, Naveah

Dear Santa,  
Ho ho ho Mere Cismas. Santa I lic yor pants and yor lethr jackit. Ma I hav ples er hox droon and a wolcing dinusur from tobe. Ma I ples hav a Sky-landrs soopr chrg car. Can I hav a mincraft lego set? Ma I ples hav a Cismas soolr dansr. You should tri sum good oreoz.  
Love, Evan

Dear Santa,  
My name is Sanaiya. I'm nine years old. This year I was as good as I could be. I lied a little but is that ok? Sorry I lied but it's hard not to. Here is the good part I want a AG hair brush, easy bake oven refills, bike and laptop.  
I might make you cookies.

Thank you  
Love, Sanaiya

Dear Santa,  
My name is Dalney Leija. I'm

9 yrs old I live in Munday, Texas. I love how you fly around town and drop off presents to kids. This Christmas I would like an Ipad. I would like an Ipad because I can download Mindcraft on it. I can play with Caremy on Mindcraft in her world. Also I can download many other games. I want a large one so I can see every thing. I want a cute case with it also. This year I also want an Ipod for my sister. So she won't steal mine. She can download games that she can not download on her phone. Can that come with a cute case too? She loves cute cases on her phone. If you really get this letter I'd like to tell you, "Thank you Santa"  
Love, Dalney Leija

Dear Santa,  
My name is D'Keydren I live in Munday, TX. I want a Millennium Falcon and four-wheeler for Christmas. I will leave you chocolate candy and cookies (I'm not trying to bribe you). A millennium falcon for Christmas would be totally rad! It shoots cannons and has lasers that glow. It can destroy Darth Vader!  
I would also like a four-wheeler so that I can do awesome stunts!!! I would drive it on 2 wheels in circles!!! Now last but not least do donuts and hit ramps!!!! Santa now you know what I want for Christmas. I hope you can get me this for Christmas.  
Love, D'Keydren

Dear Santa,  
This year I think I have been nice. One good thing I did this year was help mom around the house. One way I improved this year was to try to learn more and listen more. This year I want a toy helicopter and toy tran. This year I need more clothes and shoes. I'd like to wear more warmer clothes. And I'd like to read more books.  
Love from, Logan Brown

Dear Santa,  
This year I think I have been nice. One good thing I did this year was to listen not goof off. This year I want remote control airplane. This year I need watch. I'd like to wear car shirt. And I'd like to read Christmas books.  
Love from, Nathan Martinez

Dear Santa,  
This year I think I have been nice. One good thing I did this year was helped other people out with something. One way I improved this year was getting

Dear Santa,  
This year I think I have been nice. One good thing I did this year was help my mom with my baby bruthr. One way I improved this year was I improved my graeds. This year I want a mini I Pad. This year I need KC Cheerleading Suit. I'd like to wear a pig shirt that says I Love Texas. And I'd like to read one fish two fish red fish blue fish and green eggs and ham  
Love from, Keely Coker

Dear Santa,  
This year I think I have been nice. One good thing I did this year was playing. One way I improved this year was coloring. This year I want an xbox 360. This year I need new pants. I'd like to wear new shoes. And I'd like to read Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reinder.  
Love from, Moses Dena

Dear Santa,  
This year I think I have been nice. One good thing I did this year was help my mom take care of my litle brother. One way I improved this year was I been working good on my school grades. This year I want a yoyo and a bike. This year I need a new jacket. I'd like to wear more warmer clothes. And I'd like to read a new Dr. Suess.  
Love from, Bailey Espinosa

Dear Santa,  
This year I think I have been nice. One good thing I did this year was improving in my classes. One way I improved this year was to listene. This year I want a Barbie van. This year I need cowgirl boots and belt. I'd like to wear pants. And I'd like to read books.  
Love from, Mia Flores

Dear Santa,  
This year I think I have been nice. One good thing I did this year was respect teacher. One way I improved this year was to listen not goof off. This year I want remote control airplane. This year I need watch. I'd like to wear car shirt. And I'd like to read Christmas books.  
Love from, Taylor Rae Soto

Dear Santa,  
This year I think I have been nice. One good thing I did this year was helped other people out with something. One way I improved this year was getting

along with other people. This year I want a phone. This year I need more cloths. I'd like to wear more warmer dresses. And I'd like to read more Bare books.  
Love from, Kendall Roberson

Dear Santa,  
This year I think I have been nice. One good thing I did this year was I got baptised. One way I improved this year was I got better at reading. This year I want a live Dinosaurs. This year I need harder books to read. I'd like to wear dinosaur shirt. And I'd like to read dinosaur books.  
Love from, Chase Rowland

Dear Santa,  
This year I think I have been nice. One good thing I did this year was help my dad mow yards. One way I improved this year was being good. This year I want fast remote car. This year I need turkey. I'd like to wear Skechers. And I'd like to read about fast cars.  
Love from, Samuel Ruiz

Dear Santa,  
This year I think I have been nice. One good thing I did this year was I help my mom. One way I improved this year was helping my mom do the dish-ing. This year I want a Barbie dream house. This year I need shoe. I'd like to wear shirts. And I'd like to read Santa books.  
Love from, Ximena Samano

Dear Santa,  
This year I think I have been nice. One good thing I did this year was help my teacher. One way I improved I improved my reading and writing. This year I want a toy horse. This year I need msome new cloths. I'd like to wear hats. And I'd like to read Dr. Suess books.  
Love from, Winter Shoe-make

Dear Santa,  
This year I think I have been nice. One good thing I did this year was spelling. One way I improved this year was got along with others. This year I want a computer. This year I need a bathroom. I'd like to wear a dress. And I'd like to read a book.  
Love from, Taylor Rae Soto

Dear Santa,  
This year I think I have been nice. One good thing I did this year was I be nice to people and

play. One way I improved this year was I listen to mom. This year I want a baby doll. This year I need doc mcstuffins play set. I'd like to wear boots. And I'd like to read Princess books.  
Love from, Aaliyah Thomas

Dear Santa,  
This year I think I have been nice. One good thing I did this year was help others. One way I improved this year was reed-ing. This year I want a play hous. This year I need drum. I'd like to wear jamees. And I'd like to read about pigs.  
Love from, Grayson Utley

Dear Santa,  
This year I think I have been nice. One good thing I did this year was listening. One way I improved this year was think-ing. For Christmas, I want an electric scooter, and I need a puppy. I'd like to wear a Charlie Brown shirt and I'd like to read Pete the Cat.  
Love From, Joel Contreras

Dear Santa,  
This year I think I have been nice. One good thing I did this year was cleaning up my room. One way I improved this year was in Reading—I've already made it to 20 points in AR! For Christmas, I want a drum set, and I need a new bike. I'd like to wear some brown fringe boots, and I'd like to read Mal's Spell Book.  
Love From, Jaylee Lowe

Dear Santa,  
This year I think I have been nice. One good thing I did this year was to take out the trash. One way I improved this year was by being good. For Christmas, I want an Easy Bake Oven. I need some clothes and shoes. I'd like to wear a dress and I'd like to read a Dr. Seuss Book.  
Love From, Crystal Sanchez

Dear Santa,  
I love you. This year I think I have been nice. One good thing I did this year was try to listen to my parents. One way I improved this year was helping my parents with my baby brother. For Christmas, I want a big Elsa Palace. I need some nice warm clothes. I'd like to wear a red dress, and I'd like to read a Frozen Story Book.  
Love From, Shyann Sales

See SANTA, Page 8

**We wish you a Merry Christmas**



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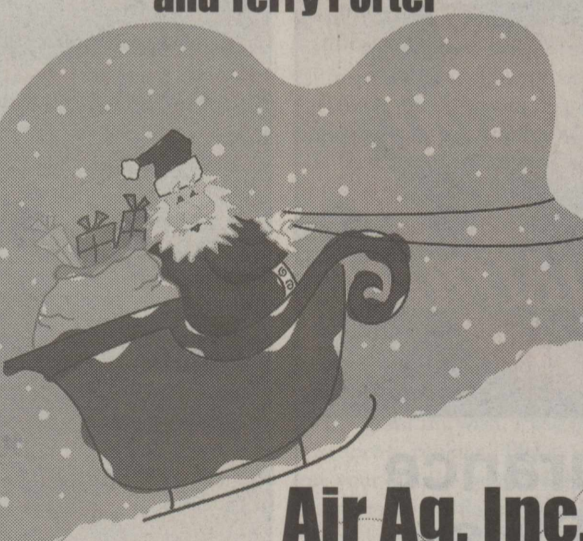
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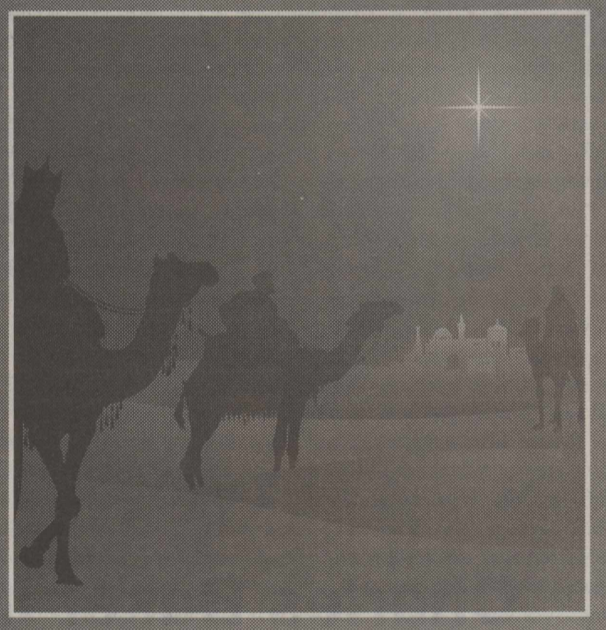
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**SANTA**  
From Page 7

Dear Santa,  
This year I think I have been nice. One good thing I did this year was helping Mom do the dishes. One way I improved this year was in school. For Christmas, I want a new X-Box Alive. I need some clothes. I'd like to wear a Ninja Turtle Shirt and I'd like to read Shark Books.  
Love From, C.J. Nicholson

Dear Santa,  
This year I think I have been nice. One good thing I did this year was putting my dog in the cage. One way I improved this year was in Reading. For Christmas, I want an X-Box and I need some new shoes. I'd like to wear a scary T-Shirt. I'd like to read all of the books.  
Love From, Mason Nichols

Dear Santa,  
This year I think I have been half naughty and half nice. One good thing I did this year was doing my chores once. One way I improved was listening more. For Christmas, I want a new X-Box. This year, I need a job. I'd like to wear a motorcycle jacket and I would like to read a Santa book.  
Love From, Xavier Flye

Dear Santa,  
This year I think I have been nice. One good thing I did this year was being nice. One way I improved this year was in Phonics. For Christmas, I want a popcorn maker and I need some jammies. I'd like to wear some Converse black sparkle shoes, and I'd like to read some Anna and Elsa books.  
Love From, Eren Howeth

Dear Santa,  
This year I think I have been nice. One good thing I did this year was helping Mom cook. One way I improved is that I am more creative. For Christmas, I want an X-Box One and games. I need some snow boots. I would like to wear a Gingerbread sweater, and I would like to read Elf on the Shelf.  
Love From, Jaidev Casarez

Dear Santa,  
This year I think I have been nice. One thing I did well this year was doing my work. One way I have improved this year

is in Reading. For Christmas, I want a puppy. I need a sweater. I'd like to wear some new clothes, and I'd like to read about sea animals.  
Love From, Maya Castillo

Dear Santa,  
This year, I think I have been nice. One good thing I did this year was being nice to my friends. One way I improved this year is that I can read! For Christmas, I want an American Doll with a horse. I need a Christmas tree in my room. I'd like to wear new clothes, and I'd like to read about elephants and mermaids.  
Love From, Kateleigh Carr

Dear Santa,  
This year, I think I have been nice. One good thing I did this year was doing my chores. One way I improved this year was being good. For Christmas, I want Lego Minecraft. I need a new bike. I'd like to wear some Under Armour, and I'd like to read about Minecraft.  
Love From, Jace Trevino

Dear Santa,  
This year I think I have been nice. One good thing I did this year was being nice to my teacher. One way I improved this year was being good. For Christmas, I want an Elsa Doll House. I need some clothes. I'd like to wear high heels and I'd like to read Frozen.  
Love From, Miley Arrieta

Dear Santa,  
My name is Romina. I am 10 years old. How are you doing? How is Mrs. Claus doing? How are the elves doing? For Christmas this year I would like some converse shoes, a leather jacket, pants and shirts. Oh!, and a Nutcracker. Converse are awesome. They are my favorite shoes because of how the color looks. I have 7 pairs of shoes. I will use my shoes with my pants and shirts. Even I want uggs. They are comfy. I even want candy for me and my brother and Olaf. I even want an elf on the shelf. Even I want candy for my mom and dad.  
I will be waiting for you. Sincerely, Romina Martinez  
P.S. I will leave you cookies and milk.

Dear Santa,  
My name is Isaac. I live in Munday, but I will be in Wichita Falls with my dad. I am 10 years old and I am in the fourth grade. I would like to have a Wii U. I have listened to my parents. My brother, sister and I would like to have a Dareway. I want a Wii U because they are AWESOME! I want it to play with my friends and family. I want it because it has like a little tablet. You can make your own person and go to different games. I want a Dareway because it is like a scooter that you can control like a bike. It has a holder for your phone. It is also safe for children to ride on. I will give you some cookies and some warm milk. I will leave your reindeer some food too.  
From Isaac

Dear Santa,  
Hello Santa my name is Julie

I am 9 years old and I just love Christmas because of the twinkling white snow! The best part of Christmas is you get to open presents.  
Oh and the joy that everybody has It makes my day! My brothers would love a workout kit and a play station 4. I would absolutely love a flutter fly fairy and a fur real pet horse. What I would like to do on Christmas is eat pancakes or pop tarts. My mom would absolutely love a brand new kitchen aid!  
Love, Julie

Dear St. Nicholas,  
Are you ready for Christmas? I hope you are having a good time! I have indeed been good. I have a list of things I want. Here they are: Madden 16, NBA 2K16, and Beats headphones. I have been wanting these things for a while. Thank you for being everywhere watching.  
Your most favorite, Kayton Shahan  
PS: I will leave you cookies and milk!

Dear Santa,  
I want two coloring books. I want a lots of cars, a pickup and a trailer. I want a remote control dirt bike and a remote control car. I also want a tablet. I listen to my teacher, my mom and my dad. I love you so much.  
Love, Reece

Dear Santa,  
I want a pickup with a trailer and a dirt bike inside. I want a remote control monster truck and a remote control dirt bike. I have done all my work. Make sure my dog is okay because I like him.  
Love, Taven

Dear Santa,  
I want a trailer and a truck. I want a tablet. I want a whole bunch of cars. I did my work at school.  
Love your friend, Donavan.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a puppy. I would take good care of it. I want an iPad and a phone. I am good and I listen to my teacher.  
Love your friend, Khloe

Dear Santa,  
I really want a Wii and I really want a dinosaur digging set so I can dig for bones. And I want a crystal digging set. And I really, really, want a science set so I can do science. I've been

good this year!  
Love, Tatum

Dear Santa,  
I want Elsa blocks, Peppa Pig blocks, and Brave blocks. And I want a Barbie doll set and a karaoke machine. And I want a snow machine. I love you and I have been a good girl.  
Love, Braelyn

Dear Santa,  
I love you! I want a Peppa block set and a Spongebob jump rope and a Barbie set and a bubble bubble and Hello Kitty bubbles. Did you know Braelyn is coming to my house? I'm on the nice list. I'm gonna make you a present.  
Love, Addison

Dear Santa,  
I want a cat and a dog and a rabbit and a frog. And I want a pink present and a Barbie. Merry Christmas!  
Love, Nataly

Dear Santa,  
I hope all of yo are good this yir. Four the first toy I want is zoomer kitty. and phone and zoomer dog and a special ponye and a computer and stuffed animals of you and of roudolf. and a tramplng. I want a stuffed animals to. Paly toys for all my frinds. We will leave you cookies and milk and moybe a toy.  
Avery Abila

Dear Santa,  
I hope you and the rainerd have a holly jolly Christmas and I hope you get to give all the presents the want but heres what I want for the Navy to be safe. Clothes. A pony, ugg boots. Shopkins. But I understand if you can't get all of that I just want to have a holly jolly Christmas, and to never ever have a bad day.  
Thanks Santa Claus, Jaiden Alligood

Dear Santa,  
Christmas is my favorite holiday. I wish Christmas was everyday. Christmas is the best holiday ever! I like the presents, the Christmas trees it's awesome. This is what I want bunches, PS4, Xbox one and an elf on the shelf. I hope you can make all of it.  
Sincerely, Coltan Cox

Dear Santa,  
Did you have a great year this

Dear Santa,  
I want to see you santa and roodof the red nos. I love you Santa and I won't Iron man gloves and a phone and can I see blitsin ples ples and I see him and can I have a tablit and a xbox 360 remote and can I see one of the elf ples ples and a chess board.  
Octavious Guzman

Dear Santa  
I hop you come back to the house so I won't a wreslers, a playstation 3, and new shoes and go cart 360 and a trampoline.  
Be careful on your trip, Gene Hicks

Dear Santa,  
How are you and your rander? This year I want a mc2 doll, kindle fire, a stuffed puppy, Barbie baby set, and last, to spend time with family.  
Love, Gaby Martinez

Dear Santa  
How or you. I can't wat for you to giv me sum presins. I like your reindeer. I won't to see Blisin Ples can I. I want a monster hiw doll, cloth (10-12), volly ball, coloring set, exbox, a puppe to and a doll sat, a pone.  
Love, Lilianna Mordica

Dear Santa,  
Thanks for my elf on the shelf. Her name is arel. Any way can you giv me a horse, boots, saddle, computer and leather Jacket.  
I love you santa!!! Kamryn Pepper

Dear Santa  
I Hope you come saftly. And I will give you and your rainerd cookes and milk. and I hope you have a good year. and will you show me Blizen and Ruodolf the red nose reindeer. And I want a trampoline, and a phone, and a art set, and a computer and orbeez-crush.  
Love, Kaylee Rowan

Dear Santa  
I hope you are ready for Christmas this year. How are the reindeers doing? I have been good at school this year. I have

See SANTA, Page 9

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**SANTA**  
From Page 8

been listening to my mom this year. This year I want an Ipad, a basketball, a football, a football glove and an elf on my shelf. I wish you have a happy day and your gonna eat good stuff for Christmas-cookies and milk.  
Alex Rubio

Dear Santa  
I hope you had a lovely year. Santa guess what I want a computer. Tell roodoff Jacelynn said hey thank you for all of the presents you gave me. This is what I want for Christmas. Some shoes please Santa and close's please Santa. Barbie please Santa and a phone please. And have a wonderful Christmas.  
I love you Santa, Roodoff the red nose rain dear, Jacelynn Sanders

Dear Santa Claus,  
My name is Luke Bowman. I am 5 years old and in Pre-K this year. I think I've been a pretty good little boy (just don't ask my brothers for their opinion)! For Christmas this year, I would like a toy reindeer, a police car I can hop in and drive, and a Paw Patrol Marshall pillow. Thanks for the zip line and horse you gave me last year. They have been LOTS of fun! We will leave you a snack by our tree. Have a safe flight.  
Love, Luke

Dear Santa,  
How are Rudolph and the other reindeer? I have been really good this year. I am in 2nd grade and my teachers make sure I am always on my best behavior. For Christmas, I would like a youth 20-gauge shotgun, some RealTree hunting boots, a red Rocket fishing rod, and a camera. Thanks for my gift from last year. I hope you have an awesome Christmas. You deserve it! Have a safe trip!  
Love, Haiden

Dear Saint Nick,  
I hope you have enjoyed your time off and are ready to get back in the swing of things. I have tried really hard to stay out of trouble and not let my brothers aggravate me. For Christmas, I would really like an Xbox, a Farming Simulator game, and doctor stuff (that I promise I won't use on my brothers).

Thanks for my presents from last year. Fly safe!  
Love, Jaxon

Dear, SAATA  
I would like a new game for my xBox 360 cold Splat for Crismis.  
From, Jerry

Dear Santa  
How small are your elves. People tell me that they have a elf on a shelf. They tell me that if someone touch it the magic will go away. Merry Christmas Santa oh and I love you Santa  
From Kaleb Herrera

Dere Santa, how are the reindeer?  
I looked for my elf this morning but I didn't see him. I bet he'll come tommaro. Does your slay have magig or do the reindeer just pull it with there magic? I hope you like the cookies and I hope your reindeer lik the oats. From Hudson Love Santa

Dear, Santa  
How much magic do you have? How much elves do you have? How much rain deer do you have? How do your raindeer pull the slay of hevly presents? How much presents do you make each year? I wish to know if the story of roodalf is real or not.  
Love Alexis

Dear Santa,  
How are your elves doing? For cristmas I would like pokemon like cards, books, and pajamas. Also I want you to know that lot of people have Christmas spirit. Santa also I would like the new skylanders superchargers. I would also like the movie jrasic world. Also the puppy place books. I would also like some of the hank the cowdog books. I would also like the movie canderella. Also Santa thank you for having joy happiness and most of all spirit. Thank you for giving toys to kids who don't and some one day I will give toys to people who don't.  
From Electra  
To Santa

Dear Santa,  
How are you doing? For Cris-tmas I want the book Red Dog and some puppy place books like Stella, Boomer, and Suger, Gummi, and Lollipop and maybe Liberty. Also I want a horse how to draw book and an easle that stands up on its owen and

has a chalk board on its other side. Also I want a stuff horse.  
Yours truly, Carver

To Santa  
From Triston  
Dear Santa  
For Christmas I would like Kryptic coloration paint Ball gun and please Santa let it com with paint Ball's please santa. Also Santa may I have some mor 22 bullets please Santa and can I have a new bebe gun for Christmas Santa please. That's all I want for Christmas is the tings on this list Santa so can you please have your elf's make at least one thing on this list please Santa I will never lose fath in you Santa.

Dear Santa  
Hi, my name is Liliana am 10 years old I live in Mundy Texas. On Christmas, I will decorate cookies, and I will go with my dad for four days. This year I want books to read because I like to read to myself, a computer so I can send letters to you, and lots of toys. My favrote books are about stars. I love stars! I get to dream of stars when I read about them. I play with them and I look at them in the sky. My favorite Computer game is cooking game, because I like games, am going to get a computer. I want to have fun with my family by playing games. I want to be a, elf for Christmas, so I can be an elf. I want to dance like a ballerina to show my family. I always dream of dancing like a ballerina.  
Sincerely, Liliana

Dear Santa,  
My name is Luis, I live in Munday, TX. What I want for Christmas is a Viper toy Helicopter and Play store card with \$50. I will leave chocolate chip cookies for you.

A Viper toy is a helicopter with four blades in each corner. I will tie a camera to it and prank brother and sisters. I will play with my brother too, and fly it around my house. I want a play store card with \$50 in it to buy games that cost money like goat simulator. I will waste some on Monster Legends for gems. I will probably spend some on minecraft to be VIP+.  
Love, Luis

Dear Santa,  
My name is Mason. I am in

the 4th grade. For Christmas this year I would like Power Rangers toys, Star Wars games, Lego Marvel and any other toys. Please remember to bring my mom, dad and brothers a gift too.  
P.S. I will leave you a lot of cookies and milk.  
Thank you Santa, Mason

Dear Santa,  
My name is Melissa I'm 9 years old. I live in Munday, Texas. I'm in 4th grade. I've been good most of the time. I've never been bad, kinda. Please put presents under our tree. If we don't have a Christmas tree, leave it on the couch. I really want Attack of the Morro dragon Lego set, FNAF plushies, Descendants 11' doll of Carlos. Attack of the Morro dragon the Lego set I always wanted it. It costs like \$69.79. I know it costs a lot but I want to know if your elves will build it. I would build it if I could. I would not sleep until I finish it no matter what, not even ice cream could stop me. I would always play with it even with my other Lego mini figures. Also, I really, really want this is the FNAF plushies they sell them on Ebay and other sites but they are expensive. I will play with them like when I'm in the restaurant. I will always sleep with them to make the monsters go away. The Descendants doll 11' carlos is pretty cool, but if I don't get it, I won't be mad. I'm just going to cry a little. I'm just kidding. But, I really wish I will get it. Don't worry we will actually give you milk and cookies and, bonus, DONUTS. I hope you really get me all that stuff. I really do hope so.  
Love, Melissa Carmona

Dear Santa,  
I want a reindeer for my Elf on the Shelf. Can I have a hot chocolate maker? Please, can I have a dart board? This is the last one, I would like a new stocking.  
Sincerely, Campbell Corcoran

Dear Santa,  
I want an Elf on the Shelf. I want an Ipod mini. I will name my elf Darla. I want five itunes cards with \$30 on each card. I would like a real crystal bracelet.  
Sincerely, Zenaída

Dear Santa,  
I really liked my presents last year, but I need more. I would like some 3D mascara more than anything. You need to talk to your elves. They're making big messes in my house. My mom is getting very mad at your elf. I would like you to save me some cookies too. Oh, and try not to break the roof when you land on it. I do know I want a mini four wheeler. I also need some earrings and cowboy boots. This time, don't stick your feet in the boots before you leave them off for me. Last time, I had to spray air freshener in them. I need some games and clothes too. The clothes better be cute, and the games better be the good ones.  
Sincerely, Mackinzi

Dear Santa,  
Can you please get me a trained, brown greyhound puppy? Please do not make it a toy. If you grant my wish, I will give you extra cookies. Please tell me your favorite type of cookie. Please tell Snowflake I miss her a lot. I really love her. I have been very good. I have got no checks. My mom wants some bracelets, and please get her a

new ring. My dad would like a new basketball goal and a new truck.  
Love, Ann'Elyse

Dear Santa,  
I love my Elf on the Shelf, but I want a crane machine. I would love the presents you gave me last year. Instead of us talking about presents, how is Mrs. Clause doing? Don't worry about getting me clothes; my mom makes sure I have cute clothes. I love you.  
Love, Bayley Lyles

Dear Santa,  
I want a new BB gun for Christmas and some more games. My mom wants some candies. I want a new Nerf gun and a new X- box as well. I'd also really like a new TV. I want a new shot gun too. I want some board games. I want a new bike. I want a Play Station 4. I want a basketball.  
Love, Colton

Dear Santa,  
I really appreciate what you gave me these past years, but last year you sent me a trampoline and you sent two of the same parts. I think we still need the other half. So please, send me that other half. This year I have a lot of things I want from you. Here are some of them: Real Pony, Lego set for girls, a cheerleader suit, a big pool, my own TV, a new bed, iPod case, tablet, and computer, a big jar of cherries, candy cane tic tacks, gumball machine, and candy. I am going to as my mom for a Nerf gun, so you don't have to get me that. Those are the presents I would like.  
Love, Kiki

Dear Santa,  
I want an Elf on a Shelf. I want lots of doll clothes, maybe some boy clothes for my dolls. I want a big trampoline. I want a Lala Loopsy bake oven. I want Cool Sewing. I want a Barbie sewing clothes for my dolls. I want a Bead-o-Gems. I want a little girl puppy. I want new shoes and clothes too.  
Love, Alexis

Dear Santa,  
I want an Elf on the Shelf. I want a four wheeler. I want a game called Battlefield. I want a game called Madden 16. Please send earrings and a diamond for my mom. I want an X-box. I want a Nerf gun, too.  
Love, Jacob

Dear Santa,  
I want a new trampoline. I would also like Plants vs. Zombies Garden Warfare game. Can I have a drone too? I want Call of Duty Black Ops 3 and Splatoon for Play Station 3. I would like two remote control cars. Can I also have a DS3? Santa, can I have a puppy Santa. I'd call him Blitzen. I would love a happy Christmas. Can I have a robot that can turn into a dinosaur and an i-Pod phone?  
Love, Aaron

Dear Santa,  
I want a new four wheeler and a piece of candy. Most of all, though, I want a stove that is on the TV. I want I want a dog for Christmas. I want an Elf on the Shelf. I want an Ipad. I want a bicycle please Santa. Santa, I would really like all of these toys. Plus, I'd like makeup.  
Love, Baleria Gonzalez

Dear Santa,  
I want an Elf on the Shelf for Christmas. The second thing I

want is a cotton candy maker. I want a baby puppy that is pretty. I would love a Noby. If you would like, I will put out brownies or cookies and some milk. If you like pretzels with chocolate, I can also put some of those out too.  
Love, Christina Zavala

Dear Santa,  
I want more than your elves can make. I want a gumball machine because I'm gonna blow a bubble to Mars. Cool, right? I want a flat screen TV because I want to watch cartoons, not half an episode. Also, I could watch YouTube with it. I want a drum set. It will sound good to my ears, but not my parents. I want an Ipad that turns into an Iphone. I know that's too much money, but you don't have money, and anyway you have elves that make your toys. I want a house. Make it in my backyard please. In my house there will be no rules. I want a robot so that when we play baseball, my team can win. I'd also like some Hexbugs because they can crawl, climb, and fly! I want the Eiffel Tower because I will climb it. I would climb until I could see the Statue of Liberty! I want a chocolate sundae too. Please make it as big as the world! I want half of the Dr. Pepper factory too. I want it so I can give it all away and drink as much of it as possible. Finally, I would like a pot of gold so I can buy a lot of presents.  
Love, Talan

Dear Santa,  
I want an Elf on the Shelf. I want a bike and some toys. I want a trampoline. Can you also bring me a best friend and put them under the tree? Can you get me a little car that goes 10 speeds. I also want computers and a hamster. I want a map of the United States too!  
Love, Thomas Castorena


Dear Santa,  
I want a Flicker, Elf on the Shelf, Make-a-Monster, Christmas charms, Goobies, Lala Loopsy, nail polish, a sewing kit, mini bakers, the "Grinch" movie, and a cotton candy machine.  
Sincerely, Abigail

Dear Santa,  
I want a girl Elf on the Shelf. I would also like a dry erase board with dry erase markers. I want an American girl doll with glasses like me. I would like a Nerf bow and arrow. I want an Easy Bake Oven. I want a computer for myself. I want a scooter. I also want teacher things. I want an ice cream machine. I would also like a real phone. I would like a globe of the earth. I would like a Monster High Died Lox High School. I want a cotton candy maker. I want a Leap Pad. I want a Leap Pad watch. I want an Experiment Place.  
Love, Itxel

Dear Santa,  
I would like a hot chocolate machine with marshmallows. I would also like a dream house and a chocolate pen. If you do not know what it is, look it up on Google. I would also like a Glow Wobble Bubble Ball and some Bead-o-Gems. Add some new boots to that. Give me a hundred dollar bill please. And last but not least, give me a Zoomer Kitten.  
Sincerely, Evelyn


See SANTA, Page 10

*Merry Christmas peace and good will to all men*



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Ryan, Tara, Emily, Dustin, Eryn



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# SANTA

From Page 9

Dear Santa,  
Thank you for your presents last year. I want a PSP, a phone, and an Xbox. I would also like a bike. I want some money too. I have been good so I deserve presents. I would also like an Elf on the Shelf to have a snowball fight with.  
Love, Marcus

Dear Santa,  
I want a phone. I want Hot Wheels. I want a PS4, a PS3, and an Xbox 360. I want cool cars. I want an electric car too.  
Love, AJ

Dear Santa,  
I want a phone. I want a guitar. I want a new President for our country. I want a new bike. I want to thank you for the Nerf Ball too. I deserve an Elf on the Shelf. I will share it with my sisters too. I will put it somewhere, like on the TV or on the top of the couch.  
Love, Natalie

Dear Santa,  
I want an elf. I want a big truck with a hopper bottom. I want a phone; also, I need an iPod. I need a watch. I want Xbox 1. I want a dirt bike. I want 12 posters. I want a football jacket. I want a \$100 bill. Please can I have a full pink dress for Ms. Cuba too.  
Love, Trey

Dear Santa,  
I want two new Xbox games and some new shoes and clothes. Please give me a new football. If you give me all of that I will give you cupcakes and milk.  
Love, Mance  
P.S.- How is Mrs. Claus doing?

Dear Santa,  
Santa, how are your reindeer? I hope your sleigh doesn't break down. This Christmas, I want Madden16, NBA16, Black Ops 3, a hard drive for XBOX 360, Minecraft, a go-cart, and a dirt bike.  
Love, your friend,  
Caleb Arrieta

Dear Santa,  
How are Prancer and Vixen? I will put more chocolate chips in the cookies if I can. I love Snowflake. I hope she comes soon. I really want a bow with arrows. I want a target too, please. I also want Indian stuff. I want a holder for the bow too, please.  
Love, Briley Barnard

Dear Santa,  
Have you gotten all of the presents yet? I hope you did. I am so excited to see what you got me. Is it a kitten? I hope it is. My sister lost her cat. Are the reindeer okay? We made you eggnog cookies. Do you want chocolate or white milk? We have both. We have maple-bacon cookies, too.  
Love, Brittany Duhon

Dear Santa Claus,  
How are the reindeer? I hope your sleigh doesn't break down. How are the elves? Are they getting ready for Christmas? Oh! I forgot I want a Big Tab Nab. Oh I forgot, I will give you ginger bread cookies and milk. And I want a blue gun because my Dad has one and I am all alone at the house. My sister, Mom, and I want a little Husky puppy and that's it.  
Your Friend, Cielo Sanchez  
P.S. DON'T GIVE ME COAL!

Dear Santa,  
How are your family and your reindeer, like Rudolph, Dasher, Prancer, Dancer, Blitzen, Comet, Cupid, Dohner, and Vixen. Can you buy me a XBOX 360? I will give you your favorite cookies and milk. I do too, they're good, especially when you dip the cookies in the milk they just soggy in there. If you come to my house, my door will be open because I don't have a chimney. The door is always there. You'll have a note too. If your wife comes with you and your reindeer, they'll have a present from me too. We're friends so you owe me, I owe you. You'll have your stuff because we're friends. We have a lot in common every year.  
Sincerely, Devin Guillory

Dear Santa,  
How are you? How are the reindeer? Does Rudolph's nose really glow? Don't tell the other reindeer! Shh! Don't tell them! I will tell my mom to put more chocolate chips in your cookies this year. I want the newest iPod, a green one please? I also want a computer. Can I get a touch screen one please? Can I have those German chocolates my Uncle Nick gave to me that one year? Can I have some more Descendants, Ever After High, and Monster High dolls? And just in case the other reindeer see my letter: I love Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Comet, Cupid, Donner, Blitzen, and Vixen.  
Love, Emilee Maynard  
P.S. Don't Give Me Coal, Please!

Dear Santa,  
How is your family and the reindeer? Santa, all I want is XBOX 360 games. I would like a play station3 and games for it. Some of the games I really would like are WWE2K16 and Black Ops 3. I would also like a trampoline, a bb gun, a golf cart and a car.  
Love, Lane Hicks

Dear Santa,  
How are you and Mrs. Claus? This year for Christmas I would like the newest iPod please. Can I have some jewelry in my stocking? Say "hi" to the reindeer for me.  
Love, Lizzie Martinez

Dear Santa,  
I already know you are watching me. Oh just to remind you my name is Raehanna Hardeman and of course you know my parents. I just wanted you to know that I know you exist. Well I'm going to start listing the things I would like you to bring down with you to give to me. Well I have a lot that I am going to be listing so I hope you can remember them all. The first thing that I would love you to bring me is my own phone because my sister al-

Thanks for all the presents. You're the best Santa in the world. Also, does Rudolph's nose glow? This year I'm going to put more chocolate in your cookies. This is what I want. Please get it for me. I want Nerf gun, air soft gun, and a trampoline.  
Your friend, Ryan Shaver

Dear Santa  
How are the reindeer? I hope they are ready for this year's trip. This is what I want for Christmas. I would like an NFL Sixteen game. I also would like a basketball. A real NFL football would be awesome too. The whole football pads, helmet, and cleats would be nice.  
Love, Tristin Baxter

Dear Santa,  
Thank you for all the presents you gave me in the past. I hope you were okay with the Oreos last year. We didn't have time to make chocolate chip cookies. I hope the reindeer are in good health and you are too. Do you ever get any gifts from Mrs. Claus? If you don't mind I'm going to tell you what I want: a Hermione's Time Turner necklace, Harry Potter Firebolt Broom stick, marauders map, Sirius Black's wand, PS4 with Black Ops 3, clothes, Starwars Nerf gun, Airsoft gun, The Harry Potter book Series, Golden Snitch necklace, Hogwarts Express Lego Set, Starwars Lego set, a new phone charger, a X-wing model space craft, Airsoft mask, Airsoft bb's, Harry Potter Wand, Model Titanic ship. Whew! That's all I want.  
Thank you, Wyatt Casillas

Dear Santa,  
How are your Reindeer, Comet, Dasher, Vixen, Rudolph, Donner, Dancer, Prancer, Cupid, and Blitzen? How are you and Mrs. Claus? I hope you have a good Christmas. I will leave you and Mrs. Claus some milk and cookies. I hope you like the cookies and milk. I would like a bike for Christmas and a go-cart.  
Your friend, Madison Espinosa

Dear Santa Claus,  
How are the Elves, the reindeer, the North Pole, and the snow? This year I want a North Face jacket hoodie with green writing, and some nice Nike shoes. I'd like a phone with any kind of case, or something else. If you can get this it will be the best day of my life and awesome too.  
Sincerely, Nicholas Trevino

Dear Santa,  
I already know you are watching me. Oh just to remind you my name is Raehanna Hardeman and of course you know my parents. I just wanted you to know that I know you exist. Well I'm going to start listing the things I would like you to bring down with you to give to me. Well I have a lot that I am going to be listing so I hope you can remember them all. The first thing that I would love you to bring me is my own phone because my sister al-

ready has one and my mom won't buy me one. If you bring me my own phone I would take care of it and I would try not to drop it. Santa I would like it if you bring me an Elf on the Shelf because last year in my teacher's room Mrs. Cuba we had one and he did amazing things that you wouldn't believe. I would also would like if you bring me an Anti-Gravity pen. I would like it because they write at any angle and they are supposed to float in the air. One more favor Santa can you bring us some money to go visit our family in Minnesota. I know it is a lot to ask but really I miss my family up there and they say that they miss us to very much. They said that they want us to go up there. So I hope that you can do that humongous favor Santa  
Ps. if you can can you bring me some money. Please.  
Sincerely, Raehanna

Dear Santa,  
I have been good this year. I want a phone and a puppy and a doll with a bottle. I need some pajamas and a bike.  
Love, Cheyenne Guzman

Dear Santa,  
I have been good this year. I want a game picture watch and a bunk bed. I need a robot, Santa Clause to bring me presents.  
Love, Lane Head

Dear Santa,  
I have been good this year. I want a toy helicopter and dinosaurs. I need jeans, pajamas and some new mittens.  
Love, Khyler Vasquez

Dear Santa,  
I have been good this year. I want a Barbie House, play yarn and flower toys. I need more clothes.  
Love, Cynthia Rowan

Dear Santa,  
I have been good this year. I want a Ninja Turtle play set. I need tennis shoes.  
Love, Camden Swanson

Dear Santa,  
I have been good this year. I want a pink play computer and a toy car. I need some new p.j.'s.  
Love, CodyRae Hunter

Dear Santa,  
I have been good this year. I want fake money and a toy truck with a trailer. I need a hat, gloves and a toboggan.  
Love, Izaiiah Trevino

Dear Santa,  
I have been good this year. I want a cash register. I need a baby brother, shoes, clothes.  
Love, Maelley Evans

Dear Santa,  
I have been good this year. I want a baby stroller for my dolls. I need some bath toys and smelly soaps for my hair.  
Love, Kadence Addington

Dear Santa,  
I live in Munday TX. I am

10 years old. I am so excited about Christmas. I can't wait for Christmas to be here. For this year I am going to want an iPhone six full of games. I am going to want a tablet so I can play on and download games. I am also going to want a tablet. I want a tablet so I can watch videos and play games after school. I also want all of the nerf guns. I want nerf guns so I can play with them sometime when I don't have anything to play with. Movies like sponge out of water the little rascals something like that. I want movies because I am going to have collection of movies. I also want movies because I can watch them whenever I want to.  
Love, Rafael

Dear Santa  
My name is Ta'nya Lara. I am six years old. I Love your elfs. I Love your randere. I chriye my best to be Good. I need coats and clo and snowboos and socks and glubs and snowhat and a blackite. I what a barbie 8 and barbie house 3 of them. I am going to Leev you milk and cookes.  
Love, Ta'nya

Dear Santa,  
My name is Colton Blair. I am six years old. I liv in Mundaye. I love your efs. I'm trying to bee on the nis list. I need skinny jeans. I wood like a dirtbike pless. I whood like to com to the Norrth Pole.  
Love, Colton

Dear Santa,  
My name is CJ Carrasco. I am 6 years old. When you come i will have some ceres for rander. This Chrismis I need peesu too sher with my Mom. I want a pow rangrs. I want a dinochrs mags-ord. I have been nise. I want to see Santa.  
Love, CJ

Dear Santa,  
My name is Natalie Ramirez. I am 6 years old. I live in gore. I hopp Roodof is not sick. This Crismas I ned shoos. I want a Zoomr City and an XBOX 1#. I bin good this yir. I hope you don't forget Roodof. I will eve sum ckeris and cookese and sum melk. I hope you don't forget Pensr becuz Roodof and Pensr.  
Love, Natalie

Dear Santa,  
My name is AJ Ibarra. I am 7 years old. I lve in Rouchestr. Santa I like your shop. I been good. I need soos. I want a Briyint 88 jersey from the Cowboys and a Spiderman toy. I am leeving cookes and milk and cerits.

Luve, AJ  
Dear Santa,  
My name is Rachel Hernandez. I am 7 years old. I live in Munday, Texist. I love!! Your elfs. I been good. I want a unqkorn. I love Mis Closz. I need socks. I want makeup. I will levae you some corrts and some milk and coooks.  
Love, Rachel

Dear Santa,  
My name is Harley Phillips. I am 6. I live in Munday. I love Santa. I been good. I need a brown blackite. I want makeup. I like Mis Klos.  
Love, Harley

Dear Santa,  
My name is Kiyryn Wilson. I am 8. I live in Goree. I love yor elfs. Its all most my brthday. I am trying to be on the nis list. I ned to get socks. I want a remote cruncher car, sky piper, nerf gun, and ten rme gis. I like your randeer.  
Love, Kiyryn

Dear Santa,  
My name is Trey Mathis. I am 7 years old. I live in Muday. I love your evivs. I am trying to be nise. I need some shoes. I want and Xbox 360. I want a motrsickle. I will leev you some cookeys and milk.  
Love, Trey

Dear Santa,  
My name is Ethan Walker. I am 6 years old. I live in Goree. I love your sla. I am chring too be good. I ned shoos. I want a ben 10 wach, to be 10 years old, and an Xbox 1. I am goege too leve you cooese in milk.  
Love, Ethan

Dear Santa,  
My name is Olivia Myers. I am 6 years old. I live in Rinelind. I love you. I have been triing to bee on the good list. I need som blackit. I want a stuff rabbit. I am going to make you sum kookees and milk.  
Love, Olivia

Dear Santa,  
My name is Kaleigh Garvin. I am 6 years old. I live in Munda. I hop you and your reindeer are doing well. This Christmas I need a blanckit. I want a Santa toyu and a tooyu cat and a tooyu dog and a babee whith a botool.

See SANTA, Page 11

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**The Garden Bug**

**Live tree care**

- Store the live tree outside in a shady, wind-free area. Select its permanent outside spot and dig the hole before the ground freezes. Keep the soil from the hole covered and dry.
- Check for critters on the trunk and branches before bringing inside, then set the tree up in a cool area away from heat sources. Keep the root ball lightly moist. Decorate your beautiful live tree!
- On a mild day, remove decorations and root coverings and place the tree into its hole, with the base of the trunk at ground level. Fill in with the dry soil from the hole. Mulch around its base, and water well. Protect the young tree from harsh winds. — Brenda Weaver

Source: www.missouri botanicalgarden.org, www.bhg.com

**THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE**

How precious is Your lovingkindness, O God!  
and the children of men take refuge  
in the shadow of Your wings.  
They drink their fill of the abundance  
of Your house; and You give  
them to drink of the river  
of Your delights.  
For with You is the fountain  
of life; in Your light we see light.

PSALM 36: 7-9

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# The 501 Running water for Christmas



It's the night before Christmas; I'm nestled in bed. Visions of plumbing dance in my head.

It's not easy to put plumbing in the context of Christmas, but sometimes that's how things work out.

OK. Confession time. I'm the one who chose to tackle plumbing at yuletide. I wanted to surprise my husband with hot water in the farmhouse bathroom that's been in the throes of a decade-long remodeling.



HANABA  
MUNN  
WELCH

Knowing I had a couple of days to get it done, I enlisted help from my seamstress, Terri. Believe it or not, she's got a plumber's brain, at least compared to mine. That means I'm the one who goes under the house. She gives me advice and

hands me stuff. If you've never been under a house, maybe you live on a slab. You miss a lot. A pier-and-beam house sits atop a space that's like another universe. If you're a human (you probably are) and you go there, you invade a dark domain that belongs to other creatures -- skunks, raccoons, packrats and spiders. And sometimes fleas. You're trespassing.

Anyway, halfway through the current plumbing challenge, I did what I always do. I told my husband what I'd gotten into. He couldn't exactly tell me to stop, not with the water cut off. It was almost like

having his blessing when he didn't scold me for getting in over my head, literally. I guess that's one way to describe crawling flat on your stomach through a maze of cobwebs, gas pipes and water pipes -- some abandoned, some not -- amid tooth-punctured soft drink cans left by rats. How did my daddy ever manage to contort his almost six-foot frame to make it though the trap door in the closet? I can still see him in his striped overalls, disappearing into the unknown, usually to shim up a place in the floor to make it level for my mother. Truth be told, he liked things level too, even if it meant going under the house.

Moi, I can live with sloping floors, but I'm not happy if there's no hot water. If a trip under the house is what it takes to install the requisite pipes, I'll go there. All I have to do is mentally prepare for the adventure, involve a cohort, breathe some PVC pipe cement and don an anti-flea bandana.

When you have to do something like go under a house, the trick is to look ahead. You tell yourself stuff like how nice it is you won't be there forever. And how wonderful it will be to have hot water. And how appreciative your spouse will be.

In the context of New Age philosophies, I think that look-ahead technique is a tenet officially called "visualization." They think they invented it. In the context of Christmas, it's just how you talk yourself into going under the house.

This time there were no fleas. Call it one more Christmas miracle. And considering my plumbing skills, so is the running hot water.

## State Football Champs

**Class 6A**  
Galena Park North Shore 21, Austin Westlake 14, ot  
Katy 34, Lake Travis 7  
**Class 5A**  
Richmond George Ranch 56, Mansfield Lake Ridge 0  
Cedar Park 22, Frisco Lone Star 6  
**Class 4A**  
Waco LaVega 33, Argyle 31

West Orange Stark 22, Celina 3  
**Class 3A**  
Brock 43, Cameron Yoe 33  
Waskom 33, Franklin 21  
**Class 2A**  
Canadian 61, Refugio 20  
Bremond 35, Albany 20  
**Class 1A,**  
Abbott 40, Crowell 30  
Richland Springs 72, Follett 26

## Hunter safety course set Jan. 9

Special to The News-Courier

QUANAH — Copper Breaks State Park will offer the state-approved hunter safety course at 9 a. m. on Saturday, Jan. 9, according to Wendell Barberee, lead ranger and instructor at the park. The course is required by

law for all hunters born after Sept. 2, 1971.

Proof of course completion must accompany hunting licenses.

Participation is by reservation only. Younger hunters should be accompanied by an adult.

A non-refundable advance

payment of \$15 is required to sign up for the class. Park admission of \$2 for adults is waived for participants, but camping and other fees will apply.

It is recommended that participants bring a sack lunch as there will only be a short lunch break.

## A&M student studying falls by seniors

Special to The News-Courier

COLLEGE STATION — By the time you have finished reading this paragraph, an elderly adult in the United States will have fallen and be treated for an injury. In the next 30 minutes, at least one senior adult in the country will die from a fall.

Ashley Fox, a Texas A&M senior majoring in health and kinesiology from Helotes, has been intrigued about falls since her freshman year when she volunteered in nursing homes and assisted living facilities.

It's an area of study that she knows will likely affect her one day — it's been proven that 1 of 3 adults age 65 or older will fall at least once this year, and more than half of people 80 or older will fall in that same time span.

Fox, with the help of Health and Kinesiology Professor Carl Gabbard, is looking into how reach-related actions contribute to falls. Senior adults often fall when they try to reach for an object they believe is within their grasp, but they do not accurately plan their motor movements.

"As people age, it is more difficult to mentally plan out body movements. This impacts a person's ability to decide if an

object is within their reach or not," she explains.

"In other words, an elderly person's intentions do not always match his or her capabilities. Weak motor planning can prevent a person from determining actions his or her body needs in order to perform a task."

She says that many people fall as a result of an incorrect shift or transfer of their body weight, such as leaning too far. They lose their balance, and the result is a fall, often a serious one.

"If we can use motor imagery methods to re-train the brain on how to plan movement actions in older adults, we might be able to lessen the number of falls. This is critical because falls are one of the leading causes of death among older adults," she stresses.

Fox is working with senior adults in retirement communities using a motor imagery training program she has written to help older adults improve their movement and motor abilities. She has already had a paper published in *The Journal of Novel Physiotherapies* and her work was featured in two volumes of *Explorations*, a Texas A&M publication detailing undergraduate research.

## Christmas play in KC



Sheri Baby/The Knox County News-Courier

Knox City Elementary students shown performing Christmas play.

We wish you a Merry Christmas!

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Love, Kandis, Cory, Hudson, Elliette and Everley

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Texas Department of Transportation



## Mac's Views

## Remembering Christmas from the past

Let me start by wishing everyone a "Merry Christmas," a greeting originated in Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol." Scrooge complained at first about everyone using the greeting, but in the end, he proclaimed, "A Merry Christmas to everyone."

I'm proud of the way it seems even more people have the "giving spirit" at this time of the year. It's very evident here in Knox County as residents responded in the welfare board's Angel Tree program, providing gifts for children who might not have otherwise had a special Christmas to remember.



JAMES  
MCAFEE

I just wish that more of us would continue to show this kindness and love for one another throughout the rest of the year.

On a personal note, I extend a special "thank you" to the lady from Munday who found my wallet at Dollar General last Friday and turned it in to Police Chief Chris Mendoza. It was back before I even missed it.

I sent out an e-mail earlier in the month, asking readers to share some of their favorite Christmas memories and will now share them with you.

The Christmas that Becky Offutt remembers best was the one in 1984. "That was when Munday won the state championship game two days before Christmas," she recalled. "Our son Dent was a junior in high school. We had a pretty scrappy team, but never dreamed we would win it all. Somehow we found the time to put our tree up early in December, but never got it decorated until a couple of days before Christmas. We had a great group of mothers of football players and each victory brought about more excitement and projects. All the moms met every afternoon and came up with ideas of decorating the town, the fieldhouse and any other place we could think of. We worked on rhymes to go on Burma Shave signs and food to leave at the field house. We even painted Mogul footprints at midnight in the freezing cold. So, you can see all of our time was consumed with football. I don't know how I ever got any shopping or cooking done. Dan's parents rode with us to every out of town game, so stopping to shop was out of the question. Some how, the gifts were bought and wrapped, the tree was finally decorated and Christmas dinner was enjoyed by all. However, I'm sure football was the topic of conversation at the dinner table."

Karen Longan also shared a few of her memories. "There were always Christmas drawings on the City Hall lawn," she recalled. "Citizens received tickets from each merchant based on the amount of their purchases. They would sign their names on the back and place them in containers at each business which would bring them to the big "hopper" on the day of the drawings. Names were drawn and gifts from different merchants and also cash prizes were awarded. I remember when my mother won a lovely scarf and brown gloves from Clarice's Dress Shop. It was a very festive time and people would shop local businesses both before and after the event."

She also remembered the iconic nativity scene at the First Methodist Church and Christmas choirs with white robes, bows, and



sometimes angel wings. "My mother would bake pumpkin bread and candy and wrap it bright colored paper" she added. "We would travel around town handing it out to shut-ins or elderly people who had few family members in Munday. Mother worked as a nurse for years and she always visited her favorite "patients" in this way. My dad would also give mother money to help some family for Christmas. He had a very soft spot for widows and orphans, possibly because he grew up in a home where he had to work as a child to help pay the bills for himself, his mother, and his two brothers and sister."

Longan also recalled how she and Bill would load up the car and drive to Seymour to her grandparents' house on Christmas eve. "I know it was hard on Santa, but he somehow got all the kids toys there by Christmas morning," she said. "My parents, my grandparents, and my family all spent the night under one roof. What I remember about my grandparents' big old house is that in the rooms that were rarely used you could see your breath. Mam-moe King would heat bricks in the gas stove just before we kids were going to bed. She would then wrap the bricks in a blanket and place them towards the foot of the bed between the sheets. We kids would run and pile into the bed and place our feet against the blanket. It would soon heat the whole bed."

Dan Offutt recalls big Christmas programs when he was in junior high. "There were four football players that organized a quartet," he recalled, "I just loved to hear them sing. Almost every kid in high school was in choir and they sang many old favorite Christmas carols while the high school stage band played rocking Christmas tunes. Almost everyone in town came. Every seat was full. They were all impressed with all the talent in Munday High School."

Sandy King's favorite Christmas memory came in 1953 or 1954.

"Munday merchants always had some type of drawing in order to get shoppers in their store" she recalled. "On Saturday afternoons during the month of December, drawings were held on the square and of course, we never missed this event. Perry Bros., one of our local variety stores, was giving away this small organ. Oh, I really wanted that organ! As luck would have it, that Saturday afternoon my name was called - and it was a Christmas I'll never forget!"

Troy Linticum recalls a Christmas when he was only four when he lived on a farm near Waco and believed in Santa Claus. "I saw this truck in a magazine and showed a picture of it to my mom, saying that's what I wanted Santa to bring me. I got it on Christmas eve. It had two lights on the front. I took it to bed with me. Under the covers in the dark, I had the lights on. When I got up the next morning, the lights didn't work. New batteries solved that problem."

I hope even more readers will share their Christmas memories with me in the future.

## The Paperboy

It's Christmas!

As a parent, it is our job to try and make Christmas special for our children.

If you are someone who never really experienced the kind of holidays you see in the Christmas movies, it doesn't mean you can't try and make it magical now.

A few weeks ago my wife had it on the Hallmark Channel and we ended up watching about four Christmas movies. You



know what, every single one of them had a happy ending.

I hope your holidays have a happy ending and I especially hope your children have a merry Christmas.

To you individuals that donate your time or money to things like Toys for Tots and the Salvation Army, you are incredible!

CHRIS  
BLACKBURN I see you ringing the bell. I see you loading gifts for little ones. I see you giving money and toys.

We live in a country where people make a difference for one another. I'd put the U.S. up against any country in the world in terms of generosity.

Any country that can be that generous can figure out a way to put petty things aside and get along. We need to make a better effort in the future to unite as a people despite the stuff being preached from the talking heads.

To all of you that decorate your homes and businesses for Christmas, I would like to say thank you.

Many places rely on volunteers to decorate public places and I tip my hat to you.

Regardless if it's a single house in the country or an entire city park, I want you to know that your efforts always make a difference to this big kid and help keep me in the Christmas spirit!

How fast has 2015 gone?

It's Christmas people!

Probably most of us reflect on the past year during the holidays and when I do, it amazes me how fast it went. And of course, as we all know, the older you get, the faster the year goes.

I've yet to figure out a way to slow time down, but I do realize that we can all make sure our time is quality time.

I encourage all you parents and grandparents to take a positive mindset to your families and make this a Christmas where your family feels love and a true bond.

If you're in a family that perhaps has some grudges with other family members, set that aside and see the good. Re-ignite relationships and give some hugs.

With the years getting shorter and shorter, our chances of ever getting a rough relationship right are fleeting.

In April of 2010, the state of Texas fell into drought. For the first time since that date, Texas is now officially out of the drought. Thank the Lord!

Most of the state received rains that absolutely crushed their yearly average. Lakes across Texas and Western Oklahoma benefited greatly from the needed moisture. Most of the lakes in the area mentioned are at or above their norm. Others went from empty to having an abundance of water.

Overall, regardless of what happened weatherwise or economically, the rains were the biggest thing in 2015 and changed the outlook for the future and the moods of the recipients.

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Chris Blackburn serves as CEO at Blackburn Media Group, proud owner of The Red River Sun, The Floyd County Hesperian-Beacon, The Knox County News-Courier and The Post Dispatch. He can be reached by email at [chris@blackburnmediagroup.com](mailto:chris@blackburnmediagroup.com) and you can follow him on Twitter@WCSBlackburn.

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a very  
Merry  
Christmas!

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