

# Texoma Enterprise

Howe, Texas  
75459

December 24, 2011



# Merry Christmas



Christmas Letters

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## Howe's That

by Lana Rideout

## Recipe



Here is a note from one of the Letters to Santa published this week in the Howe section. "Do you like sending everyone presents cause I think it's exhausting." Be sure to read the Santa Letters; I am sure you will enjoy them. It's always interesting to see what new toys are out there.

Also the kids are wanting to know how Santa gets to all the homes around the world. I guess he has a lot of magic.

On another note, my daughter Susie and her husband have "adopted" some grandkids. Their children are 21 and 19; not quite ready for marriage and babies. I remember back when my children were in their late teens. Daughter Susie babysat for a close friend. If Susie was not available, I did a little babysitting and thought about what it would be like to have grandchildren.

I guess it helps to take care of young children while you wait for your real grandchildren. P.S. Dale and I are looking forward to the great-grandchildren, but we can wait a few more years.

### Cranberry Orange Relish

This colorful relish is more than a festive addition to your table. Tart and sweet, cranberry orange relish is the perfect complement to your Holiday turkey.

4 cups cranberries, washed and sorted  
2 large Navel (seedless) oranges  
3/4 cup sugar

Wash the cranberries well, picking through them to discard any soft berries. Peel the oranges and section, removing as much of the white membrane as possible. Roughly chop the orange peels and pulse a few times in a blender or food processor until pieces are fairly small.

Add the cranberries, orange sections and sugar to the blender, and pulse a few more times, scraping down the sides as necessary. Don't overdo it; this mixture should be chunky -- not liquified.

This relish is best when chilled for 24 hours before serving. Give it a few turns with a spoon before dishing it up. Makes 6 servings.

Prep time: 25 minutes; Cooking time: 0 minutes; Total time: 25 minutes .

Note: This relish will keep up to a week, covered, in the refrigerator. If you can't find seedless oranges, use ordinary oranges, but make sure you remove every seed. The best oranges should be plump, heavy for their size, and have a fairly thin skin.

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# Texoma Enterprise



Mrs. Duncan's 1st Grade

Dear Santa, Haw are you doing and haw are yr wambit? Thanc you for the ds. This yer I want two wii games and three ds gams. *Your Friend, Dalton Laisy*

Dear Santa, I have been very good so can I git a ds plect. Santa I like you so will you git me one plect? Thake you for the theges you got me last yere. *Your Friend, Madison Morrow*

Dear Santa, How is the Nrthpol? Can I plees have a puppy? I, been good. Can I please have a ds? And a dres? *Your Friend, Donna Mendoza*

Dear Santa, Are you having a good time? Please bring me good presense like a dsI and a wollit and a cowboy hat and a Texas Ranger jacket and a baseball gluve. *Your Friend, Bryan Crees*

Dear Santa, How are you and elvs and rian deer? I have been so good so can I have a ipod 2 ples? *Your Friend, Korben Kemp*

Dear Santa, Hi! I have been good all day. I want a doll howes and a snow glowe and I want water pante. *Your friend Faith Stallings*

Dear Santa, Ihoap yr dir are helthe? Have you been sick latle? I been good. Can you give me two rabitfrs? Have you seen ine poelrbers because I thank they are cuowt? *Your Friend, Jacob McGill*

Dear Santa, Howe are you? Santa and the dier. Can I have a wolite? *Your Friend, Kristopher Craig*

Dear Santa, How are you? I hope you are good. Can I get a D.s please and a lego uv the pirtsbeen and a wolti new will game. Thank you for the toys from last yere. How is your deers? *Your Friend, Daniel Gonzalez*

Dear Santa, How are your efs? I wht a mostrhive frl. Do you hav a deer that hav a red nose? I like krismis. *Your Friend, Kaidence Varnell*

Dear Santa, I want a new bike and a Scooder a puppie and a kitten. I will leave cooks and milk and I will leave food for your rainders. *Your Friend, Teagan Stubblefield*

Dear Santa, How are you? I was whundoring if you are ok because I didn't git sick and I have been good this year! Can I plese have a Transformour? I whant Octmis, Buble, by and mechron. *Your Friend, Zackery Petrea*

Dear Santa, May I have a barbeye bike and my big crimis tree and random stuf and my little Crismis tree? Haw do you get to all of the children all in one day? *Your Friend, Danielle Hargrove*

Dear Santa, Santa may I have a doll and a Purple nigan? I rele wat me toys! *Your Friend, Angie Burris*

Dear Santa, How are you? How is roodoff? Thank you for my codpilr. I love you. I've been good. Pleese give me a new Lugoona Moonstr Hiy. *Your Friend, Bettye DeLavan*

Dear Santa, How are you and the randirs? I hop you are not sick! I have been good. Ma I have boclgon. I will lev a lots of coces and milk! Ma I have you crds. *Your Friend, Caleb Fetzer Brown*

Dear Santa, How are yo Santa and the randers? I have been good. Can you ples get my a purple ese bake? Can you polese get my a knet four? I wul like a brown Tede ber. *Your Friend, Morghan Lamb*

Dear Santa, How are you Santa? I hope your getting redee Santa. I hope you can give me a new slide and a pijct friend plees. I will leev you milk and cucees. *Your Friend, Linda Segura*

Dear Santa, I want a tank, a legotrains, a helcoptr, a ship, a firetruk, and ples can we have snow? *Your Friend, Kolby Smith*

Dear Santa, How are you dowing? I wunt a intend 3ds. I hope I am nise. I wunt a I Pod for Chismast. How old you are? I am 7. I wunt i intenbo 3ds games. *Your Friend, Matthew Hayes*



## Other First Grade Santa Letters (teachers not listed)

Dear Santa, I want a dogs. I want a cats. I want a sopez. I want a fone. I want a gams. I want a Ipod. I want a mrat. I want a marr. I want a hists. I want a bobe. *Paige*

Dear Santa, How are you? How are your Reindeer? Merry Christmas! I want have a Horse books. Can I have a Horse sled? Can I have a black and white Horse? *Love, Chesnee*

Dear Santa Claus, How are you? I qute ustinBeve. I qute pone. I qute jresup. I qute part. I qute glasiprv. I qute jresit. I qute prsiv. I qute mune. I love you Santa. *Gabriell*

Dear Santa, Santa can you git me a sled and a wii for me. I want a now game it is Car2 game wii. Merry Christmas. *Love, Leo*

Dear Santa, How are you? I would like an Ipod, truck, and a toy fram. We wish a Merry Christmas. *Your friend, Luke*

Dear Santa, I want a bake sikeol from you will you gem from you for me and a i want a pool from you. This wute iwwant. *Love, Tinley*

Dear Santa, Merry Christmas. How are you? Santa? I have been good in school. I want A XBox 360 and A DSI and A ZooZoo pet set, Monstr truck and A Toy Big Truck and A Pull tadle. *Love, Trey*

Dear Santa, I ben Good. How are the reindeer. This is my list! Howe are you? I want a toy spidr and a pink dinos and a dinos book a toy bird and a toy cow can you bring me some cande and a wii and a doll and a snowman game and a toy cat and dog. I love you. *Love, Kaylee*

Dear Santa, I want a XBo360. I want a sidfon. *Love, Stone*

Dear Santa Claus, How are you? I want a horse that is plan black or plan white. And a zoo zoo pet with a hawe. I want the Baacker stove. I want a pant set. Merry Christmas! *Love, Kaylyn*

Dear Santa, How are your reindeer and Mrs. Claus? I love you. You are Nice. You are Verrey Nice. I'll make cookies for you. *Love, Ayaeh*

Dear Santa, I wut to have a new Glo Stics. I wut to have a new a reindeer. *Merry Christmas, Andrew*

Dear Santa, How are your elfs? Weat a ipod, tuck for chistmas and a row gam of for christmas and a pogo stick for Christmas too. An xbox600. Merry go. *Love, Cody*

Dear Santa, How are you Santa and youer elves. What reindeer are you having. Dear Santa I cant wati to see you next time. *Kelly*

Dear Santa, I want a pogo stick, Ipod tuch. Mario kort - 3DS, ZBoz 260, Red Dead undead, toy spiders. \$100,000.00, wii wiigames 3DS Games. *Love Dakota*

Dear Santa, How are wdr radeets who aigromme wad pod fo misstr sage, mi badman I wo a lgo frof *Love Jesus*

Dear Santa, I wut a toy barbe. I wunt a spidmen. I hope it snow. Bring Tony sum toys. *Louv Renee*

Dear Santa, How are ? and Mrs Claus? How are ur reindeers? I want a JB. I want a 3DD2. I want a Zoo Zoo pet. I want a Wey. I want a Horse. I wanta sled. *Love, Jasukls*

Dear Santa, How are your reindeer? I want a ipod touch and a 3Ds. I'm a good boy. How is Mrs. Claus? I want games and a wii and a big jump rope and a xbox kennet and the last thig I want is a cumpuder. Merry Christmas. *Love, Alex*

Dear Santa, I hope you will get Me under my tree. Isa pare of my mom's boots and hello kitty toys and a zobbies! And Zoo Zoo hamsters and littlest pet shosp DSo we how do you get to ever home I the wrld? Osowe how is Mrs. Claus? Osowe how is your reindeer? Osowe i have wrouking horde in scool. I have been sweting!!! *Love, Breana*

Dear Santa, How are you doing. How are the randeer doing? I have been good. Can I please have the game bread bands? How is Mis Clos doing? *Love Brady MCollum*

Dear Santa, I will be good. I wunt a resuteng chruck. How are you and Mrs. Claus doing? How are yur rander doing? *Love, Landon Oswalt*

Dear Santa, How are you and the elvs doing. This year I want a Remte control car. Is Mis Claus doing well? Are the Randeers doing well? *Love, Carson Daniel*

Dear Santa, How are you doing. Pleass breing a wii? Please breing lagos. I have been good. *Love, Sergio Rico*

Dear Santa, What are you doing? I have been very very good. Would you please bring a tun tub? *Love, Ethan*

Dear Santa, How are you doying? I wate a wii game. How is Mrs. Clos? I am going to bake chocolate chip cookies for you. *Love, Audie Martin*

Dear Santa, Howe are the rundeer doing? Do they fly good. I have been tring to be very good. I would like to have a t.... *Love (Unable to read name)*

Dear Santa, I have been good. I would lik a transformers. How are the elfs working. I hope you like chocolate chip cookies. *Love, James Richards*

Dear Santa, I've bin good this yer. I whut a barn and a hoors. I whut a Whoodr bed and a Dsi. Thank you for the barbe car. *Love, Taylor Reynolds*

Dear Santa, How are the reindeer doing? I've bee vere good. I whont to have a ril kittin for Christmas. *Love, Jordan Brumer*

Dear Santa, How are you dooenig? I am being good. Ples brenig me a route toy and a Hello Kitty bubl bath toy. *Love, Ariana Ross*

Dear Santa, Can you ples give me a eiert socdr and seats? How are the randers dowing? *Love, Emma Sutherland*

Dear Santa, I have been good. Will you get me a brbe. How are the elvs doeg? Thack you for the tegrbell set. *Love, Jalie Hill*

Dear Santa, How are the ils? Are the radeers ok fou Chismis? I wod like a DS and a journal. *Love Kaiden Martin*

Dear Santa, May I have a paru of skates. May I hav cstoy dog. I have been good. How aed the Elvs and the ranteern? *Love, Dabney Heny*

Dear Santa, How are you doieg? How are the elfs doeing? How is Mrs Clos doeing? Can I please have a purse for Christmas? *Love, Christina Harper*

Dear Santa, I was a good boy. How are your randeers doing? I wunt to have a toy store and I wunt to have supr Marlo 3D ende. *Love, Connor Martin*

Dear Santa, How are you doeig? Ples bie my a wii. I want a pool. I have been good. How are the lefs? *Love, Antonio Tapia*

Dear Santa, I will make you a gigbread man. I have been good. How or you. How or the els? Plese get me a baby. *Love, Edith Hernandez*

Dear Santa, How are the efs? Are they wrcen a lot? How are your redes doeg? I've been good. I wut a Legos cnet 4. *Connor Gauntt*

Dear Santa, I have been good. Can I have 2 tron Toys and Thomas train? How is Mrs. Claus doing? I have been good. *Love, Kaden Dunn*



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## Garner's 1st Grade

Dear Santa, How are you doing? I hope the reindeer are doing good. I want a new doll, and a new hors and a new elf. Thak you for the hors that I goat at Christmas last year. *Love, Britton Burt*

*Dear Santa, How are you? I hope that Mrs. Claus, is doing well. I hope that the reindeer are doing well. I hope the elves are well. I will make sure that I leave cookies and leav mik and cars. I would like a new dog and a new kitten. Love Tate Harvey*

*Dear Santa, I hope you and Mrs. Claus are oky and the deers and the elfs are oky too. I hope you have a grat Christmas. I likede the cop car that you got me last year. Wute I reele want is a DS and G gomes and a new bike. Love, Zander Toner*

Dear Santa, How are you? I want four reel dogs. I want a dirt bike. I will leav you sparkly cookies and oats for your reindeer. *Love, Hunter Hance*

Dear Santa, How are you? I hop you are gud. Are the rader and Mrs Cloz gud? I would wut a dog and I wut a new bacpac and a tv. *Love, Matthew Bearden*

Dear Santa, I bet that you like chochet chip cookies. I hop that Mrs. Clos is oky. I wud like a pet frog and larg helicopter. *Love, Coltin Little*

Dear Santa, How are the elves and Mrs. Claus, and you? I wood like a new TV, a puppy, and a new Barbie. I wood like a new skooder and a new note pad too. *Love, Keira Robertson*

*Dear Santa, I hope efre one is doing well. I liked the Creoe set you gave me last year. I want Phineis and Freb across the 2nd Dumishin the videogame. I will be shr to leve you cookies and milk and carits for the RaneDeer. Love, Ryan Hough*

Dear Santa, How are you? I would like an ulechrit scoodr and a new car. Plese trie to put it in the drivwae. There is wun mort hang a Nintindo 3Ds. Ples gat m these thangs. *Love Marcus Smith*

Dear Santa, How are you? I hope the elves and The rainyDeer are good. I will want a toy motrsikl are acan. *Love, Eli Lewis*

*Dear Santa, How are the elves, Miss Clau? Will you get me 2 rabbit furs, a dert bike and a carat? Love, Cody McGill*



Dear Santa, How are you doing? I hope the reindeers are okay and Mrs. Clas is okay. I hope the elfs are okay too. I want a Nerfgun and a Truck and Legos. *Love, Jacob Upchurch*

Dear Santa, I liked the toys you gave me last year at Christmas. Thes yer I hope ticke browny cookies, thae are duleses. Thes yen I hope you give me toys! Sky landers, Spy Rose Adventer 3DS, Spy goggle, Spy Wath Finn McMistll RC, grive up t wolle. *Love, Ethan Stouc*

Dear Santa, How are you? I hope you have a Merry Christmas! Thak you for the givfd. I want a toy that lets you decorate a shoe. I will leve you ches. *Love, Samantha Lowder*

Dear Santa, How are you doing? I hope the elves. Mrs. Claus, and the reindeer are all doing well! Thank you for the cammra I got last year. I would like a Keepon, boots, a toy truck and a Ginypig. I would also like a Jewlery making kit, and a blizerd making kit. *Love, Janna Nitchman*

*Dear Santa, How are you? I hope you have a good year. I hope Mrs. Claus is good too. I would like a Pingun pillow pet and a Hello Kitty Dream House and a new bike. I would also like an American doll and a Longhorns pillow pet and a Zoo Zoo pet with the catte. I will leav you cookies and milk. Love, Jentrie Doty*

*Dear Santa, How are your elves? How are your reindeer? How is Mrs. Claus? How are you? I really like that TV that you braut me last year. I would like a new Make up set and a new bike and helmet. I would also like a new pear of boots and stompeez's. Love, Mackenzie Bryant*

*Dear Santa, How are you? I hope you are good this year. For Christmas I Want a pink bike and laptop and mp3 and bacpak. Love Vel*

*Dear Santa, I hope your elves are doing good and you and Mrs. Claus. I hope you can bring a game for the DS that is called Star Wars. Love, Yair Ayala*

## Mrs. Bryant's 2nd Grade

*Dear Santa, I want to have a Ant Farm songs and a Bratz toy and a little pony. Sincerely, Michelle Caballer*

Dear Santa, I want a dsi. I think I have been good this year. I want a dsi and some cd's and a cd player and jewelry and a computer too. I hope I have a good xmas this year with my new dog Abby and I hope I love my new stuff on xmas. *Love, Ashley Crees*

*Dear Santa, Please get me a 36.5 and Xbox 360 and a gameboy charger and a lego Batman games for my playstation2 and a lego Batman lego men and a lego Robin and a playstation 3 and a new bike and a BenTen toy and a ninjago guy named Zane and Jay and Nya and cole please! Sincerely, Ethan Tindell*

*Dear Santa, I would like a Dsi. I would like dsi games to go with it. I would like Barbie dolls. I would like Justin Bieber stuff. I would like makeup stuff. I would like new movies and books. Sincerely, Ramie Mosse*

*Dear Santa, I am learning a lot today. I know math, reading, language arts. I want a new Xbox 360 games, toys, Pencils, legos, abek markurs, Movies, Dallas Cowboy dvd collection, Cowboy Calencdar, New ornaments. Cowboys T shirt, Dallas Mavericks movie collection. I've been a good boy. Love, Conner Recold*

*Dear Santa, I would like a DSI for Christmas. Also I would like the game Radakai. I want a 30s also a will and a Xbox 360. Your friend, Blain Nuncio*

*Dear Santa, I want a playstation3. I would like also to get Assassin Creed Revolution and Assassin Creed. I wish you a good Christmas. I would like to have the new Harry Potter Lego game. Love, Gavin Richardson*

*Dear Santa, I am learning a lot of hard thins. I want a pellet gun and a playstashin and a go-cart. Your friend Hagen York*

*Dear Santa, I want Xbox 360 games and movies and some lego Indiana Jones sets and James bond 007 golden eee for wii and a pocet nife and other wii games to. You are a great man Sawta clause. Senzerly Ethan Conrad.*

Dear Santa, You're the nicest guy I Know but will you come a little Favor I want everyone to have a good chistmas. I want a dock or Itoy scorpion for spiderman, harry, carnasge, sandman, captain amerce, a spickeman3 lego set, Indiana Jones lego set, black cops the game for playstaion3, spiderman4 the game, spiderman edge of time t he games. *Love Jaden Bryant*

Dear Santa, I want a Xbox 360, games, tranformers, and pogostick Boyo. *Your friend Christian Moody*

*Dear Santa, For Christmas I want a bike, a Dsi, a bookshelf, a laptop, new cloths, new shoes, a new jacket, a psp, a playstation, posters, new books, a desk. I wonder how you are doing. I hope I get a lot of presents. How old are you? Can you say hi to the elves for me? Sincerely, Jaicob Husband*

Dear Santa, Santa, I want a shotgun a rell one and 3ds and a Xbox controller and a bord game and a nerfgun. *Love Jaryn Grisham*

*Dear Santa, May I have a girl friend and a ninja and a real Elf and a real car? May I have Gavin Trinity Wii game please? Sincerley, Caleb Seancey*

Dear Santa, I want a black bicycle. I want a pretend machine gun I want toys. I want machine Bwer Rangers books, and shoes and a back pack I wanta Jacket and a Christmas tree. I want clothes I want a DS. *Stanley Bik*

*Dear Santa, I would like all the Monster High dolls and a guitar, mimi computer, a mikerphone. More D.S. games. And more! I would like a real Elf, And a real car! And Gavin Wrapped in a present. Sincerely, Trinity Williams*

Dear Santa, I would like Lego harry potter video game, Air swimmers, pop the pig Bat Cave and others, Jhonny skull and zombie land. *Love, Talen Miller*

Dear Santa, How are you doing? What I for Christmas is some lego sets, a gold necklace, and a real pet dog. How is Mrs. Claus? How is the raindeer? Signed, *Caleb Madison*

Dear Santa, How are you? How are your reindeer? May I have a guitar, camira, Phones, hamster, and a bow? Wonder how it feels to ride a sled. I also wonder if Mrs. Clause just fine. Do you like sending everyone presents cause I think it's exhausting. *Your loving friend, Lindsay Hymel*

*Dear Santa, How are you doing? I'm doing good. For Christmas I would like to get a G.I. Joe. I would also like an Xbox 360 and the Ravin Rabbits. I would like a Game Boy and a 3DS. Sincerely, Justin Whitaker*

Dear Santa, How is Rudolph? How are you Santa? How is Mrs. Claus? How are your elfs? I like you Santa. I hope you nuber get sick. I hope no one of the elfs do. Here a list ... 1 A happy naper please. 2 A black dress, crown, shoes, -- high heels -- caler black please. *Your friend, Cierra Brussow*

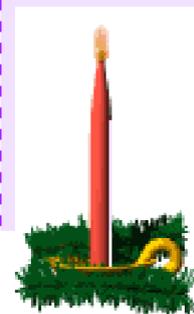
Dear Santa, How are you and Mrs. Clalus doing? How is Rudolph and the elf's doing? I making you cookies. Heres what I want for Christmas. 1. Laptop 2. Rollerblades. 3. electric guitar. 4. electric skooter. 5. Bow and arrow. 6. Hot wheels video 7. Video plane. 8. Spy watch. 9. I pad 2. 10. Super Maio Bros. 11. Bb pistol. 12. Paintball gun. 13. Range finder. 14. RC car. *Luke Catching*

Dear Santa, Hi! How are the Reindeer? What I want for Christmas is a Hex skylander and a sunburn skylander and a cemo skylander and a cender sklander and a lego ningeogo ice dragon and zane and ted s game foselflighters chapeons. Be safe! *Love, Alyssa Sharp*

Dear Santa, How are the reindeer? How are you and Mrs. Claus? Santa, there are the top 5 things I want. 1. Moshling ds zoo. 2. real puppy. 3. Big Time rushed. 4. more shoes. 5. Go-Go My walking pet. Tell Mrs. Claus and the elf's I said Hi. By the way save some cookies for Mrs. Claus and the Elf's. Your friend, Zoey Moore

*Dear Santa, How are you doing? How are your reindeer and how is Mrs. Claus? I want four Christmas is a PS3 and a 3DS and a black Wii and a new Wiumats and the new Xbox 360? From Ryan Murphy to Santa Claus*

Dear Santa, I am nice and good Santa. I want a egogar, Sentinel crime transformers, and the new bakugan. How are you? I want to eat breakfast with you. I can't wait till Christmas. I am excited! To see you soon. *Kevin Bateman*



## Mrs. Onstott 2nd Grade

Dear Santa, How are you? How are your reindeer? How is Mrs. Claus? My brother has been a tiny bit nauty. I want the wall tracks. My brother wants Dr. Dreadfuls Xombilab. How are your elves? The second grade elf was on Mrs. Onstott's care then at the tabel then on the floor and when we went to the room it was gone. Tell everyone I said hi. *Your friend, Austin Jones*

*Dear Santa, How are you and your reindeer doing? How is Mrs. Claus doing to? Can I have a lap top with games. I would also like a 3DS with mairo kart 7. I would love a ipod touch. I would like a wii conchrolor and a wheel conchrolor to. Your Friend, Luke Lopez*

*Dear Santa, Hi! How are the Reindeer? How is Mrs. Claus doing? What are the Effs doing? Are you redy for Chrstrmas? I mit leav some cookies and I mite leav some carrots for the Reinder. Love Emma Harvey*

Dear Santa, How are you doing? How ar your reindeer doing? I want a DS for Christmas and also I want a lap top and also a black wii. I am going to lieve you some milk and also some cookies and also a bottle of water. Have a great Christmas day. I hope I see you this year. *Your friend, Luis Gonzales*





## Mrs. Wilson's 2nd Grade

Dear Santa, Thank you for the presents you gave me. How are you doing, well I am good. How is Mrs. Claus? Do you have a baby? May I have a massage chair. If no, I would like an Ipad. Can't I take care of Dixie? It would be nice to meet you. It would be nice to meet both of you. **Your Friend, Caytie**

**Dear Santa, Thank you for the presents last year. How are Mrs. Claus and you doing? How are you doings at the North pole? Does anybody bring you present? This year I want a bike for Crhistma please. I want a basketball please. I want an Iphone Please. I want an Ipad for Crhismas. Your Friend Colby Hopper**

**Dear Santa, How did you become Santa? Thank you for my baby sister. I am sad because my mom and dad split up.I hope you are having the greatest Christmas ever. I need socks and I need an scrf. I want an X box 360 and X box 360 game wipe out. I would like purple and Ipad 4. Your friend, Paige**

**Dear Santa, How a you and the reindeer and Mrs. Santa claus? Will you please give me a puppy for Christmas? Also I want a game a cat a Doll a pool a bike, and a baby sister. I am sorry I was bad. Your friend, Zaniyah**

**Dear Santa, How are your reindeer doing. How is mrs. claus doing. I want to have a good Christmas. Your friend, Riley**

Dear Santa, How are you and Mrs. Claus. Thank you for all the toys you gave me on Christmas. I love you. Hope you have a good Christmas. Have a great time. **Your friend Brooke Potter**

**Dear Santa, I hope the thing to my house. Are the raindeer are OK? How is Mrs. Claus? How are you Santa? I would like cars. Your friend Tony Ray**

Dear Santa, How are the reindeer? Thank you for the toys last year. How are you and Mrs. Claus? I would like an Ipad and Ipod, a DsI and an I phone. I would like a 100 dollar bill. **Your friend, Ethan**

**Dear Santa, How are the elves and Mrs. Claos and you? What, is it like in the north pole? How are the reindeer? I want a laptop please. I also need shoes. I need clothes. I need skull hand gloves. I have a Xbox, trampoline and TV. Your friend, Kaleb Strong**

Dear Santa, How is Rudolph? Is his nose still shiney? Do you help him? I hope I see Rudolph. Can I can please? This is what I want for Christmas. I want a new doll and a princess Rapunsel and The Little Mermaid 2. **Your friend, Samantha P.S. I 've been good. But I did this. I broke a lamp. I'm sorry.**

**Dear Santa, I've been really good this year. These are some of the things that I want: toys, money, video games, these are some of the things that I need: clothes, tabaggon, roller skates, books, these are the things that I have. Your friend, Aiden**

**Dear Santa, How are you doing Santa? Thank you for the presents. How are the elves doing? How is Mrs. Claus doing? Do you have a son? I want a toy Elf and a green paint and a globe and a free trim to paint. Your Friend, David**

**Dear Santa, I need some sock boots and a hat. I want a Shak it up disk, coputer and mittens. Your Friend, Jennifer**

Dear Santa, How are you doing? How are the reindeer doing? Thank you for the presents last year. How is Mrs. Claus doing? What do you want for Christmas? How is the North Poles for Christmas. May I have an IPod, iPhone, IPad, iPhone4, laptop and blouse, necklace, socks, clothes, gloves, jacket, earplugs, and hats. I love you. **(name too faint to read)**

**Dear Santa, I've been very good this year. For Christmas I would like an Ipad, black boots, art supplies, roller skates, winter clothes, and a pet hamster. How are you and Mrs. Clause and the elves. Your Friend, Kasey**

**Dear Santa, I really want to see you – I miss you! I am so happy that I will see you soon! I'd like an Ariel doll and teddy bear for Christmas. I would also like some coloring books with crayons and markers. I would like a Santa doll too! I would also like a table to have tea parties with all of my tea "stuff" that I already have. Bye bye! I love you! Love, Jaycie**

**I would like a blue motorcycle that you can charge and a remote control helicopter. Can you bring my baby brother something he can chew on? I want a blue skateboard with skulls on it. I hope I get to see your sleigh!!! Love, Carter**

**Dear Santa I sure do like the bells that your reindeer wear! How is Rudolph? I really need a new bike. I don't need training wheels – and would like it to be pink with Barbie's on it. My sister, Kailyn, would like a makeup kit. She is 8 years old. Goodbye, Santa! Love, Kelcey**

Dear Santa, I really want to see you – I miss you! I am so happy that I will see you soon! I'd like an Ariel doll and teddy bear for Christmas. I would also like some coloring books with crayons and markers. I would like a Santa doll too! I would also like a table to have tea parties with all of my tea "stuff" that I already have. Bye bye! I love you! **Love, Jaycie**

Dear Santa, Do you think that one day I can ride in your sleigh with you? Can I please have a Transformer toy named Optimus Prime? I would also like a bike that has 3 wheels that is purple in the back and orange in the front. Would you please bring my sister, Hali a Barbie and Barbie house? I still play with the horses that you brought me last year. I will leave you chocolate chip cookies and a glass of milk. **Love, Jaeden**

**Dear Santa, Hi Santa! How are you? I would like an Evil Doctor Dreadful Zombie Lab. It has brains, bugs, and eyeballs that you can eat! I think that is so cool! Can I also have some Bad Blades? Those are also so cool! My sister likes La-La Loopsie dolls. They are made out of paper and have buttons for their eyes. I don't know what my brother would like, but maybe you can bring him something cool! Thank you, Santa! Love, Alex**

Dear Santa, Can you please tell Rudolph I said, "Hi". I love your big, black belt. Can you please let me borrow a bike? Thank you for the toys you brought me last

## Land's 2nd Grade

Dear Santa, My name is Caleb. I am 7 years old. This very special Christmas season. I'm sorry for not writing you this year. How are you and Mrs. Claus? In school we talked about our wants and our needs. For Christmas this year I want a video game. I need a coat. See you soon! **Love, Caleb**

Dear Santa, My name is Ricky. I am 8 years old this very special Christmas season. I'm sorry for not writing you all year. In school we talked about our wants and needs. I need clothes and books. I want a DS and iPhone. See you soon! **Love, Ricky**

**Dear Santa, I am 7 years old. My name is Katie. I'm sorry for not writing you this year. How are you and Mrs Clase doing? In school we talked about are wants and needs. For cristmas I wald like 300 dollars, toy shark, litesprits, la la lopes paper, and a drum set. Love, Katie**

Dear Santa, My name is Avery Snapp. I am 7 years old. How are you and Ms.Claus? You are special!! In school we talked about our wants and needs. For Christmas this year I want a tablet, a chapter book, and a necklace. But I need clothes. **Love, Avery**

**Dear Santa, My name is Will Fleming. I am 7 years old and I'm sorry you have to go around the world.. But I know it's your job and I am so sorry! I want: a Xbox 360, Call of Duty, myt wheeler to be fixed, and a Lego star wars boxes. Love, Will, P.S. will you wake me up?**

Dear Santa, My name is Benjamin. I am 7 years old. This is very special Christmas season. I'm sorry for not writing to you all year. In school we talked about our wants and needs. I want a fourweeler, a electric scooter, and Bulldog. But I need new clothes. **Love, Benjamin. See you soon!**

**Dear Santa, My name is Harley. I am 7 years old. How are the reindeer? I want a Barbie, and Ipad, and Ds games, and itoons cards. I need clothes and money. Love, Harley. p.s. When you get here can I see the reindeer?**

Dear Santa, My name is Ethan. I am 8 years old. I'm sorry for not writing you all year. In school we have been learning about our wants and needs. For Christmas this year I want a bike with no training wheels. I need clothes. **Love, Ethan**



## Mrs. Arnold's Kindergarten Howe Elementary

Dear Santa, How is Rudolph? I am going to leave cookies and milk for you on Christmas Eve. I would like to have a stuffed brown and black puppy. I want a stuffed black cat too. I would like a pillow pet panda bear and a Santa that sings. I also would like a heart pillow and a red fire truck that makes noise. I would like a stuffed Bulldog and a Mrs. Clause. Can I have some baby dolls too? I really like the dolls that you can feed. I can't wait to see you at the mall. **Love, Casie**

Dear Santa, How are the elves and Rudolph? I hope you are doing good. How is the toy making going? I would like a Happy Naper ladybug that is in a house. I would like an American Girl doll that looks like me. I want her to have clothes too. I would like a stuffed brown bear. Can I have a new Santa ornament? I would like to have pictures of the American Girl dolls and some hair stuff. I need a new pink flashlight and a stuffed Santa. I will see you at the North Pole!!! **Love, Catelyn**

Dear Santa, I love you! I really like your sleigh. I would like a Transformer that turns into a car. There is something else that I really want for Christmas! I would like a Lightning McQueen that knows when it bumps into something and says, "Hey! Watch out!" I would also like a Zombie Land thing that you can eat and drink. That's all I would like, but have a safe trip! **Love, Jayden**

Dear Santa, How is your sleigh? I have a tree at my house with lights and balls on it. I would like a dinosaur with hair for Christmas. My brother would like an Optimus Prime. My sister would like a big doll.

year. This year, I would like a Transformer toy! It is yellow and black and called Bumble Bee. He is my favorite! My sister Sarah would like a Barbie doll. Could you please bring her that too? See you at Christmas! **Love, Ethan**

**Dear Santa, You are so nice!!! I will leave you some cookies and chocolate milk on my desk. I would like a brand new green bike with orange fire flames. I also need a remote control car that has steering wheel. Can I have a Lightening McQueen car too? I would like a hat and gloves that have Hot Wheels on them. I would also like a computer and a play kitchen. I would like a teddy bear to sleep with too. Love, Kolton**

**Dear Santa, How are the reindeer? Is it snowing at your house? I would like a blue robot to clean my house. I also want a remote control airplane and a BB gun. Can I have some new shoes like those Sketchers kind? I need some new clothes and an Under Armor shirt. I want some new Christmas lights too. Love, Zeb**

Dear Santa, How are you doing? How do the reindeers fly? I would a remote control rainbow airplane and some blue and green building blocks. I would like some computer games too. Can I take a picture with you Santa? See you at Christmas Eve!!! **Love, Autumn**

Dear Santa, How are the reindeer doing? What kind of cookies do you like? I will leave you cookies and milk. I like Transformer toys for Christmas and Lightening McQueen cars too. I want a stuffed Bulldog that is black and white. I need a soccer ball and a flame thrower. See you at Christmas!! **Love, Jacob**

Dear Santa, I like your hat!!! I have been good this year and I would like a real Barbie computer. I also need the Barbie airplane to go with it. I need a pink bike with stars and sparkles. I would like a toy reindeer and a pink lunch box. I need some hand

**Dear Santa, My name is Fenix and I am 7 years old. How are you and Mrs. Claus? I'm sorry for not writing you all year. In school we talked about our wants and needs. I want a 4 wheeler and 2 cats for cristmas this year. But I need some shoes for winter and long sleeve shirts! See you soon! Merry cristmas!! Love, Fenix**

Dear Santa, My name is Zak. I'm 7 years old. This very special Christmas season. I'm sorry for not writing you. How are you and Mrs. Claus? Today we talked about our wants and needs. For Christmas this year, I want a gun, nif, 3DS, and a drawing pad. But I need a coat, shirt, and boots. **Love, Zak**

**Dear Santa, My name is Eli Wilson. I am 7 years old. How are you? How are the elves? In school we have been talking about our wants and needs. I want a romote controlled-cana four wheeler, an Ipod touch, and 50\$ Itunes card, gummy worms, a big gummy Bear, gummy Bears, gummy sharks, jelly Bears, a romoto controlled helicopter, spinet video glasses, spy gear door alarm, spy gear lazer trip wire, and X-Box 360, a laptop. There are my needs, 9 pairs of long sleve shirts, 4pairs of long pants. Love, Eli**

**Dear Santa, My name is Jessica. I am 7 years old. How are you and Mrs. Claus? Is rufolfs nose glowing? Because I don't want you to get lost we did a paper that says wants and need. I want a latter for my treehouse. I need a coat for Christmas. Love, Jessica. P.S. Wake me up when you get here!**

**Dear Santa, My name is Parker. I am 7 years old. How are you doing, and your reindeers? I'll set your milk and cookie by the fire place. I want a Iphone and a PsP, a turtle, DsIXL, and – PS. Will you wake me up when you get here? Your Friend, Parker**

Dear Santa, My name is Jared Brussow. I am 7 years old. How is everyone doing? I'm so sorry for not taking to you all years. In school we talked about our wants and needs for Christmas this year. I want a Xbox360 psi and playstatn. I need food and clothes please. **Love Jared, PS please wake me up!**

Mommy and Daddy don't want anything. Bye, Santa! **Love, Ebenezer**

Dear Santa, Is there snow where you keep your sleigh? I saw you at my house last year. I gave you a big hug when you walked through the door. I would like to have a Christmas tree at my house. I have a Christmas tree at my Grandma's house with lots of balls. I would like a Barbie and a Barbie bike for Christmas. I would also like a baby Barbie as well. I would like a boy Barbie for my brother to play with. My brother would like shoes that light up. I will see you when I go to sit on your lap. **Love, Nicole**

Dear Santa, Is there a lot of ice at the North Pole? Is there a train that goes all the way to the North Pole? I would like a football and a Green Bay Packers football helmet for Christmas. Aaron Rogers is my favorite player! I would also like Batman Legos. I would also like a Sponge Bob video game. I have been very good. I'll see you at Christmas! **Love, Garrett**

Dear Santa, I sure do like you! I always wonder about your sleigh. How do you ride in it? I would like a pogo stick for Christmas. I would also like another pogo stick for my brother! I would like a small bell to put in my pocket. I would like it to sound like, "ding, ding, ding" when I rang it! I would also like a toy boat, and a bike. I want the bike to only have two wheels and be red, blue, and green. I would a Bulldog flag to put on my Christmas tree. I would also like a Transformer that turns into a car. I would also like the Harry Potter Legos. I will leave you chocolate cookies and milk! **Love, Anthony**

**Dear Santa, I love you!!! I would like to see your reindeer!!! I want a remote control shark, Nemo, and clown fish. Can I also eat breakfast with you?**

sanitizer that you hook on your backpack. I want a toy bulldog that is grey. I think I will see you at Christmas!!! **Love, Payton**

**Dear Santa, Do your reindeer fly really high? I like your red sleigh and all the toys!!! I would like a big blue stuffed horse and a stuffed brown dog. I would like some jewelry with "bling-bling". I also like some art stuff with paints!!! I need some special paper for painting. I would also like some more hats to play dress-up. Can you bring my brother and sisters some presents too? My sisters like dolls and dress-up clothes. My brother likes cars, airplanes, and choo-choos. I love you and Merry Christmas!! Love, Emery**

Dear Santa, How is it going at the North Pole? I have been good this year and so has my brother Jake. I would like a Mario Nintendo 3DS and a cool red car. I would also like some movies like Franklin and Pokemon. I like toys in my stocking too. I would like the Mario Kart 7 game and the Mario Kart 64 game. I am going to leave you some cookies and milk on the table. **Love, Mahlon**

Dear Santa, How are you? I have been good this year. Are you making toys? I would like to have a Nerf gun and a Let-it-Rip toy. Can I have a red scooter and a black skate board. I really need a blue and black basketball. I also need a tattoo monster truck and a WWF belt. My brothers and sisters need presents too. **Love, Keyshun**



## Merry Christmas



### Mrs. Crane's Kindergarten

Dear Santa, I love Santa and Santa 's Rudolph. I want a stuffed baby rabbit, and a Barbie house, and a real phone. I want a rainbow stuffed animal. I really don't know what all I want. I want some clothes and baby dolls. Love, Paris

Dear Santa, I want a BB gun, a little tiny knife, my mommy said I could get one. I want a Monster truck and Zombie Land. I also want a Nerf gun. I want my own permanent markers. I want little earphones to go to the little music thing and a phone. I'd like a Texas Ranger shirt. My brother wants Zombie land, a Nerf gun, and he wants a BB gun just like me. Bring Caleb his own permanent markers. Me and Caleb want a baseball and glove, and a bat. Elizabeth might need a tiny bat, cause she's not grown up yet. Elizabeth wants and little furry pink pet to sleep with. How about 3 computers? One for me, Caleb and Elizabeth. That's all. I love you, Dakota F.

Dear Santa, Please bring me a radio, one that you put cd's in. Also,"Alvin and the Chipmunk Chipwreck" movie and a doll for Kennedy. I think that's it. Love, Caden

Dear Santa, Bring me a Fidget. That's all. Love, Brooklyn

Dear Santa, Please can I have a bicycle and an orange scooter. I want a mote control car, so I can push my other cars with it. Thank You, Dakota S.

Dear Santa, What I want for Christmas is a Barbie doll. Thank you for the Barbie doll. That's all. From, Madilynn

Dear Santa, I want a Knight helmet. I want a Shark animal named "Bruce". I also want a sword and a pirate hat. I want a real pet lizard. I need some wax shoes. I need a new Pirate book. Love, Jace

Dear Santa, I love you. You're the best person I know in the North Pole. You are my Santa. There's a lot of things on my list, but I will tell you one of them. I want Slushy Magic. Love, Kayley

Dear Santa, I already have a bike. I want a Justin Beiber Barbie, Rudolph and I want a DSI. I want a Teddy Bear and I want a girl Barbie and a pretend cat and a pretend dog. I want some ice skates, I never get any for Christmas. I'd like some pom poms and a princess baby doll. I want a stroller and a bottle for my baby doll. That's all. Love, Gracie

Dear Santa, I want a 2 hotwheels. I would like some Pokeman cards. That's all I want. From Cooper

Dear Santa, I want a dollie and I want a real Pug for Christmas. I want a Barbie doll and that's all. From Mia

Dear Santa, Please bring me a Barbie and a purple airplane. I want a doll house and a Barbie car. I think that's all. Love, Jenna

Dear Santa, Please bring me a king size Barbie house and a special peein doll with diapers. I want a music doll that plays music and a Barbie doll bed and something for my little brother, like a car cause he loves cars and my littlest brother loves baby toys. My biggest brother that's bigger than my littlest brother bit me on my back. That's all. I love you, Ryleigh

Dear Santa, I want a Lightening McQueen Limo car with keys. I want a I pad. I want a DS for Christmas, a video game for Wii. I want a Lightening McQueen video game for Wii. How about a real dog for Christmas. I want a toy BB gun with red things to go in it. Love, Zarrion

Dear Santa, Can I have a purple real phone. I've really wanted one for my entire life. I've been wanting a Happy Napper. I want the doggie one. And then I want a Dell Laptop and I want purple as well. I like purple. I want a stuffed animal zebra. I've been wanting one of those things that hangs on your door with my name on it. I want a new snow hat, my old one is getting too small. I have one more last thing I want some purple gloves. I Love you Santa, Riley

Dear Santa, I want a Happy Napper and a Unicorn pillow pet. I want a Barbie doll and some zsu zsu pets. I want a real puppy for Christmas and maybe I'd like a toy Dolphin too. That is it. Merry Christmas, Courtney W.

Dear Santa, I want a new swimming pool and a Barbie house. I want a Barbie doll and a kitten Beanie Baby. I'd like some new gloves and a new hat. That's all. Merry Christmas, Railyn

Dear Santa, I want a Justin Bieber doll and I want a unicorn too. I want a Hex Girl doll too and a Justin Bieber poster. Merry Christmas. From, Cheyenne

Dear Santa, I want Legos and a real dog for Christmas. I want a phone and a computer. I want a Happy Napper and a stuffed puppy animal. I want a new bed and some crayons. From, Gage

Dear Santa, Do you know what Legos are? I want a ninjago and a dragon that comes with jdx. I want a 3DS and a DS light. I want a monster truck and a paper airplane. There is an electronic shark that can go under water. That's all. Merry Christmas, Lucas

Dear Santa, I already ordered my toys on the phone. I want a water gun and drums and a real Cowboy hat. I want the Red Ranger Sumarai sword and gloves. That's it. Merry Christmas, Clayton

Dear Santa, I would like lots of toys for Christmas. I want Hot Wheels cars and tracks. I also want the Wii game Iron Man. Please bring me some transformers and some candy in my stocking. Merry Christmas, Jonathan



### Pam Smith's Kindergarten

Dear Santa, I want an Ipod and I want a brown horse. Can I have a doll that dances? I want a camera, too. I want a baby kitten that's a toy. Cody Adams

Dear Santa, I want to get my mom a pair of pink new tennis shoes. I want a toy car I can drive by myself. I was gonna ask for a new baby brother. And I wanna get a new blue tennis shoes for my daddy and a bird for my sister. Camryn Boatman

Dear Santa, I want a teddy bear and a guitar and makeup. I want a remote control dog that walks, a ring for my mom that's a heart and a O necklace. One more thing for my mom, a bracelet that's a heart. Zoey Bolen

Dear Santa, I would like a robot pony that can fly and has roses in its hair. I would, also, like a robot dog that can bark and jump up on my sister! I, also, need a new door for my dollhouse at my Grandma's house. I would, also, like new jacket and bed for my dog. Morrigan Booth

Dear Santa, I want a teddy bear. My mom wants a ring. Aiden wants a Transformer that's blue. Angie wants a Barbie doll. Cassie wants a Brat and Katie wants a purse. Dad wants a watch. Mary Burris

Dear Santa, I want a baby doll. I like to draw pretty pictures. I want coloring books. I want Hanna Montana clothes. Dakota Campbell

Dear Santa, A Barbie doll, Barbie house and a Barbie. Shoes, socks, crayons some paper, a necklace, pencils, water, chair, a tree, a star, and something for my baby's hair. Fatima Castro

Dear Santa, I want a Barbie doll and get my mama a new watch. I'll get my brother a watch and his dog a coat and my dog a coat. I'll get my Nanny a new watch and my dad a new coat and a new watch for me. Ryleigh Craven

Dear Santa, I want an American Girl doll. I want games. I want pajamas cause mine don't fit by Christmas. I want a Rapunzel doll. I want bracelet and a necklace, baby doll clothes. Ainsley Denham

Dear Santa, Can you get my mom a new coffee cup? I want to get a horse, a toy horse. I want to get a toy car and a Monster truck. I want a car table and a picture frame. Willie Husband

Dear Santa, I want a Pillow Pet and a camera. If my grandma can't find me a pillow pet, she'll have to get me a new pillow pet. Lacy Hymel

Dear Santa, I would like a Barbie house. I want a Justin Bieber Barbie. I want a doll and I want sister and I want a baby. That's all. Mikaylah Komorowski

Dear Santa, I want a tool set and a toy gun. Um the Lightning McQueen car that has the steering wheel that teaches you to drive. Um I guess t hat's all. Zadrian Morris

Dear Santa, I want a Barbie house for Christmas. I want a little Santa. I want to get my mama a new watch and a tiny tree. I would like a makeup doll with wigs. Morgan Pitt

Dear Santa, I want a way big mini toy, it's just a statue that's a mini and I want a mini alien X. Lucas Reese

Dear Santa, For Christmas, I would like Lightning McQueen's Racing Franchesco and a little bell. Thomas Roberson

Dear Santa, I want a Wii. I want a little dog, a big cat, a horse, a book. That's it! Marcos Tapia



### Ms. McDole's Kindergarten

Dear Santa, I want Santa to bring me another kitty. That will jump out of the box at me. Also a kitty toy -- but, no spiders because they hurt. From Logan Reese

Dear Santa, I want a motorcycle. A monster truck wit a shark head and tail. A slap watch. Also a transformer. Merry Christmas Santa! From Charlie Vera

Dear Santa, I want a new Stinky Pete Firetruck. A clock with an alarm. A chalkboard. A Rudolph candle. My own desk. Merry Christmas. From Emry Woods

Dear Santa, I would like a skooter. A telescope. A street bike. I want a Christmas tree and a Christmas hat. A boy's purse. A flat screen TV. Thank You!! From Nathan Wooten

Dear Santa, A 3DS, a stinky,(that green one). Also a necklace for my mom. Merry Christmas. From Kenneth York

Dear Santa, A remote control thing. A Nintendo DS. A pillow pet bumble. A wrestling set. That's it. From Brayden Bahr

Dear Santa, Can I have a 3-DS with a camera. A Happy Napper (which is like a pillow pet). Also a remote control airplane. Have a good Christmas! From Dax Foster

Dear Santa, I would like a Nintendo DS and a game for it. A zebra pillow pet. Thank You. From Shlanne Freeman-Williams

Dear Santa, A green hat and gloves. A flag. Sunglasses. From Kimberly

Dear Santa, I would like a little fuzzy animal, which is a dog. A pillow pet, where you push the button and it makes sounds. And a remote control helicopter. From Emma Hitsman

Dear Santa, A green hat and gloves. A flag. Sunglasses. From Kimberly

Dear Santa, A Barbie with its own dollhouse and play-set. Some Barbie movies. A teddy bear. My own teaset that I can play with, with my brother. From Cassie Morrison

Dear Santa, A gun with bullets in it. Just bring me some surprises From Kade Murphy

Dear Santa, I want a remote control helicopter. A remote control car. Merry Christmas Santa! From Kolin Murphy

Dear Santa, I would like new doll clothes for my Fancy Nancy. Also, new clothes for me. Hairbows. Ice Skates and more skates. A sled. Merry Christmas! From Sandra Nutchman

Dear Santa, A Dora the Explorer. Fingerpaint. Thank you! From Nita Olivarez

Dear Santa, A motorcycle (a midget one). A 22 rifle. A racetrack. A dirt bike. Thank you! From Jesse Portman

Dear Santa, I would like a pretend computer. Nintendo DS and games with the alphabet. A dollhouse. A remote control spider (I know it sounds like a boy toy, but it's not). Merry Christmas! From Haley Richardson

Dear Santa, A transformer with a trailer on it. Stinky Pete the Prosperper. Buzz Lightyear (the blue one), Bullseye the horse. The Bumblebee that's black with yellow strips (it comes with Samo). From Fisher Robertson

Dear Santa, A frog that's stuffed. A Barbie jet. A Santa hat. Another Barbie. A Wonder Ribbon Book. Merry Christmas. From Matalee Stewart

Dear Santa, I would like cowboy stuff: a hat, horse, etc. ... And some cop stuff: (everything a cop wears!) A Batman cape. Bowling pins. That's all!! From Ashton



## *Howe Students Qualify for Regional Band*

Howe Middle School and High School students recently competed for spots in the Regional Bands. The students are selected through an audition process. Many of the students begin practicing during the summer because of the difficulty of the music and busy fall schedules. The earlier the start, the better their chances for making one of the top bands. The members of the symphonic band are the top players in the region. They ranked the highest in the scoring of their audition. The concert band is the next highest ranked musicians.

Students selected will be participating in a clinic/concert to be held at Prosper High School the weekend of January 13-14, 2012. Students will start off with seating in each band and rehearsals on Friday afternoon followed by an all morning rehearsal on Saturday. Students will then rehearse briefly Saturday afternoon and with a performance that afternoon. The concert will start with the middle school concert band followed by the middle school symphonic band. Next will be the high school concert band and conclude with the high school symphonic band. The first concert will start at 4 pm with all other concerts to follow.

Middle School students competed on December 2 at Leonard HS. Students that were selected for the Symphonic Band include: Jessica Robison, Jessica Doty, Kaylee Dwyer, and Darci Foster - clarinet, Sofia Roberts - bass clarinet, and Airianna Smith - trumpet. Those making the Concert Band include: Holly Cowin - flute, Clara Shearer - clarinet, Lindsey Krueger - french horn, Hunter Morrow - tuba.

High School students auditioned on December 5 at Whitesboro HS. Those qualifying for the Symphonic Band include: Karlie Niehus - flute, Katie Niehus and Katie Hogenson - clarinet, Kristin Ross - tenor trombone, Dylan Guthrie - percussion. Those making the Concert band include: Billy Roberts and Travis Fulton - tuba.

Katie Niehus, Kristen Ross, and Dylan Guthrie earned top chairs in the high school Symphonic Band. With top chair placements, they are eligible to compete in the area audition at Argyle High School the first weekend in January for a spot in the 2012 Association of Texas Small School Bands All-State Band.

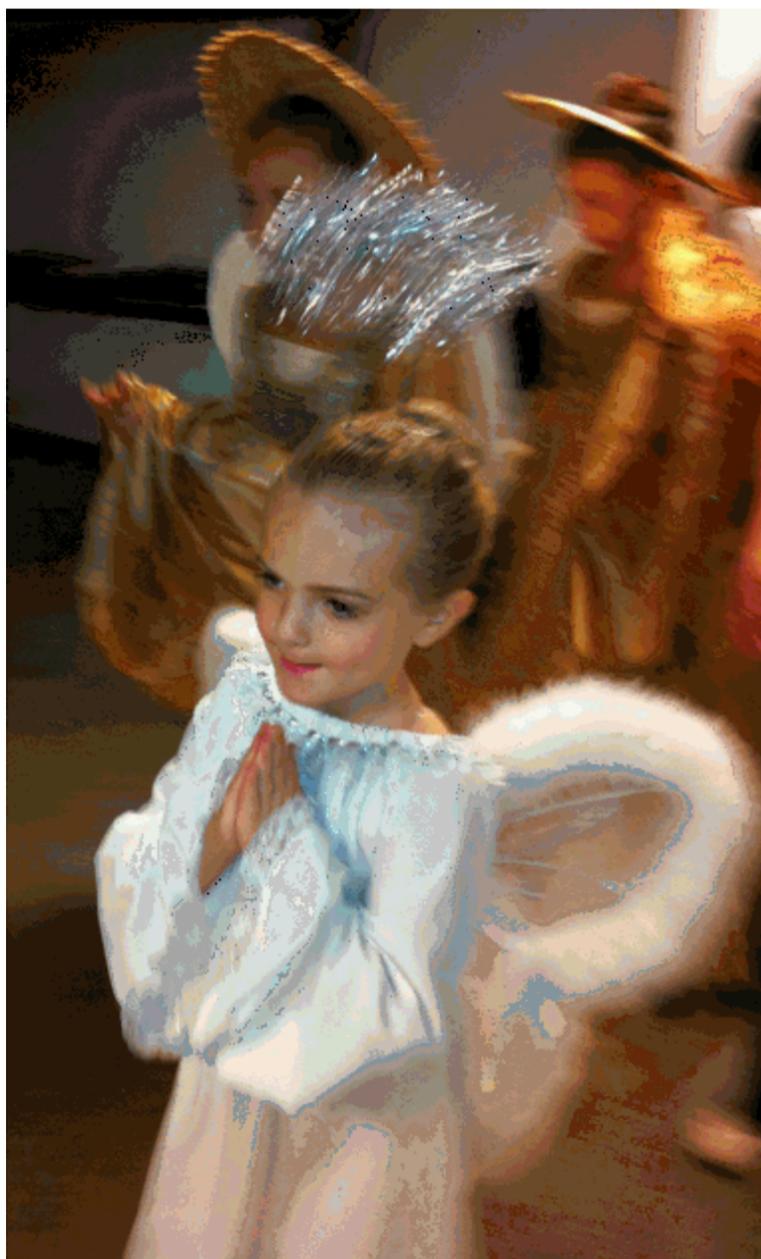
### **Christina Jansen Debuts In “The Nutcracker”**

December 11, 2011, Richardson, TX- Four year old, Christina Jansen debuts with the Dallas Repertoire Ballet’s presentation of “The Nutcracker” December 9th- 11th.” The show is held at the Hill Performance Hall of the Eisemann Center in Richardson. Her parents are Calvin and Tina (1986 HHS graduate) Jansen of Allen. Her older sister, Callie Jansen, is also performing for her fourth year in the show.

Other family attending included grandparents, Harold and Donna Taylor of Howe, uncles Harold Taylor, III (Princeton) and Marcus Taylor (Wylie), as well as, her cousins Caitlynn Taylor (Princeton) and Theresa Rice (Wylie). Great-aunts, Linda N. Taylor (Sherman), Linda J. Taylor of Lewisville, NC, and great-great aunt, Marcell Stogsdill (Garland). They are excited about the little ballerina’s first “Nutcracker” performance!

Paternal grandparents are Gene Weatherford Jansen and the late Colonel Gerard John Jansen of Lawton, Oklahoma. Her uncles are Robert Jansen (Kansas City, MO), and James Jansen (Lawton, OK).

The official school of the Dallas Repertoire Ballet is Academy of Dance Arts located in Allen.



Click for **more Howe news**

# Texoma Enterprise

Howe, Texas  
75459



## HOWE PARADE WINNERS

BEST THEME- Dynamite Division led by Coach Simmons

BEST CREATIVITY- Howe Volunteer Fire Department & Pack 45 Cub Scouts

BEST ORIGINALITY- Howe Marching Band

MOST RECYCLED MATERIAL- Girl Scout Troop #3698

MOST PATRIOTIC ENTRY- HMS Student Council and cheerleaders

JUDGES' HONORABLE MENTION- Boy Scout Troop #45

JUDGES' HONORABLE MENTION- Rockin' W Ranch





## Wyoming's Welcomes New Additions

For some time now we have been enjoying the pleasures afforded by Wyoming's Restaurant. How many small towns can brag that they have a restaurant with a fully trained chef as well as beer and wine available for their meals. Those of you who have enjoyed these pleasures know of the delicious choice of meals and the offering of some items not found anywhere else. I have enjoyed shark steak as well as bison burgers here in Howe, Texas.

Now we are bragging about some changes that should improve what was a tremendous restaurant to begin with.

We begin with a new owner and general manager, John Leavenworth. John lives in Dallas, but has close ties here in Howe. His parents live here, and until recently his sister lived here, too. John graduated from Southeastern Oklahoma State University in 1991 with a degree in math and computers. He has worked in Dallas for PricewaterhouseCoopers, LLP and for IBM. He also has experience in a major games, bar, and fast food restaurant. John continues to work in Dallas with contract work in IT while spending some time here in Howe during the week and on weekends with his restaurant.

At the same time, a new Executive Chef has been hired for Wyoming's. Andrew Shaffer was born in Keokuk, Iowa but moved to the Howe area while still only about 4 months old. His grandparents are Bob and Dorothy Young who owned and operated Dorothy Bobs Bakery in Sherman from about 1993 until 2000. Andrew grew up in their restaurant and learned to love the business. He graduated from Howe High School in 2005.

Continuing his education, Andrew graduated in February, 2011 from Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts in Dallas. He has worked in the Old Hickory Steak House at the Gaylord Texas Hotel in Grapevine. Andrew has over 12 years experience cooking. Eight of those years are professional cooking. He recently accepted his position in Howe with Wyoming's.

Wyoming's is open Tuesday through Saturday from 11am to 2pm for lunch and 5:30pm to 10pm for dinner. They will also stay open on Fridays after home football games for your enjoyment.

They are now open on Monday nights for Monday Night Football. Doors open at 6:30pm and remain open until the game is over. You can watch the game on either of two large screen TVs and enjoy your dinner, or hors d'oeuvres and drink specials. When football season is over there will be other special occasions celebrated.

Menus will be changed quarterly. Being a seasonal restaurant, some of your favorites will continue to be on the menu but seasonal dishes will be featured as they become available.

Your waiters and waitresses will be spruced up with new uniforms. They will be wearing black slacks with wine colored shirts and "Wyoming's" embroidered on them.

John also wants to recognize area artists of all kinds. Perhaps an artist's works will be featured for a month, with a new artist the next month. Perhaps the works will be both on display and/or for sale. Perhaps your art work is painting, or wood work, or jewelry, or whatever. You can have a place to show off your talent.

Stop by and try the local delights you have right here in Howe, Texas. Wyoming's is located at 110 E. Haning Ave, downtown Howe.



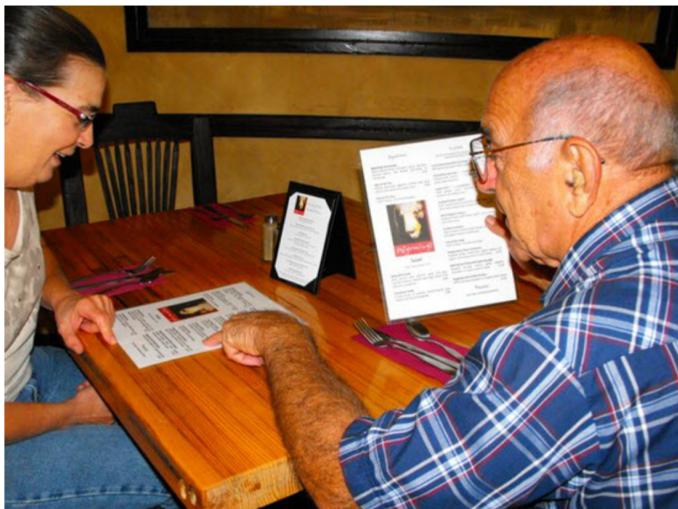
Order your favorite beer or wine at the bar



Sit with your family in the dining room.



Myka Reeder, John Leavenworth, Justin Bailey, and Mechele Carver



Scan the menu to choose your favorite entree



Come in with a grin to join the fun.



Andrew passes through a fresh from the stove order.



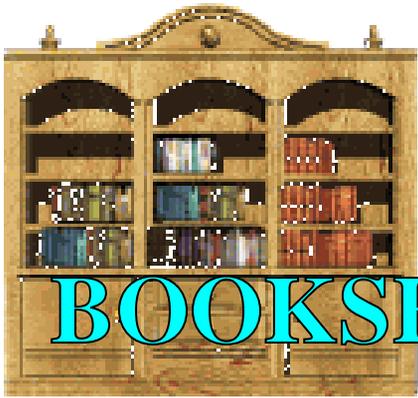
Treat yourself to delicious appetizers.



Mechele Carver, John Leavenworth, Andrew Shaffer, and Myka Reeder

*Wyoming's*  
110 E. Haning Ave.  
Howe, TX 75459  
903-814-2128  
Fine Dining





## BOOKSHELF

By Tracy Luscombe

What a wonderful time the children had with craft hour on Monday. School may be out but the learning and fun can continue. The children decorated mugs with seasonal designs, and made wreaths and candy canes out of beads. I'm sure some of those will become special gifts for loved ones. Thanks to Teen Council members Morgan and Louisa for helping out with this craft time.

The weather is turning colder but the library is warm and welcoming. Have you thought about all the great things you can do here? Catch up on the latest news in local and national newspapers. Read the best stories in weekly and monthly magazines. Research the new appliances, electronic toys, and other consumer information. Check your email. Post to Facebook. Search Craig's List or Ebay for a discounted or hard-to-find item. Pop in a video and plug in your headphones to the computers. Spend time with your kids coloring a picture or enjoying a great story. Learn

another language. Get your homework done. Use the wi-fi for your e-reader. There are endless possibilities at the Van Alstyne Public Library.

Here are a few new titles recently added to our collection. *Princes* by Jim Butcher, *David: a man of passion & destiny* by Charles R. Swindoll, *Gooseberry Patch Christmas all through the house*, *The Flying Carpet of Small Miracles* by Hala Haber.

Hope to see you around the Van Alstyne Public Library.



# Texoma Enterprise

Howe, Texas  
75459

## Tom Bean Christmas Parade

What a beautiful day it was last Saturday, December 10 when the Tom Bean Christmas Parade officially kicked off at 10:30. All of the children were lined up along the parade route awaiting candy from people who were riding in the parade. The local 4-H Color Guard led off the parade followed by the Police, Mayor's car, the Tom Bean Band, floats, cars, trucks, fire trucks, floats and local politicians.

The ladies at KC Foods organized the parade this year and are already in the planning stages for a bigger and better parade in 2012! Kudos to Crystal and the ladies at the deli!! Thanks to Tammy Phillips for lining up the parade participants and keeping things moving. Special thanks to Maureen Kane (KXII), Michael Crist (Anna City Council) and Greg Pittman (2012 Executive Director for MOWOT) for judging our parade.





## ***Marvin Lee Brown Jr. (1925-2011)***

**Marvin Lee Brown Jr., age 86, of Tom Bean, Texas passed away on Thursday, November 24, 2011 at WNJ Hospital, Sherman, Texas. He was born on July 14, 1925 in Houston, Texas to Marvin Lee and Opal Champ Brown. He married Elizabeth Waynetta Ausmus Brown on June 24, 2000 in Sherman, Texas.**

**He was a member of the United States Naval Reserve from 1947 to 1951, with a rating of DDM2 .He served in WWII and Korea. He was a graduate of Texas A&M University.**

**Mr. Brown was an mechanical engineer in the building industry. He was a Presbyterian and loved hunting, bass fishing and story telling.**

**He is survived by his wife, Waynetta, and children, Mark Brown and wife Sue of Maricopa, Arizona, Patty Brown, Roger Dennis, Rowlett, Texas, Rick Dennis and wife Lisa of Albuquerque, New Mexico, Jerry Dennis, Eryn Tormos and husband Felix of Sherman, Texas. He has one sister, Lois Holcomb, Houston, Texas and numerous grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and a host of friends.**

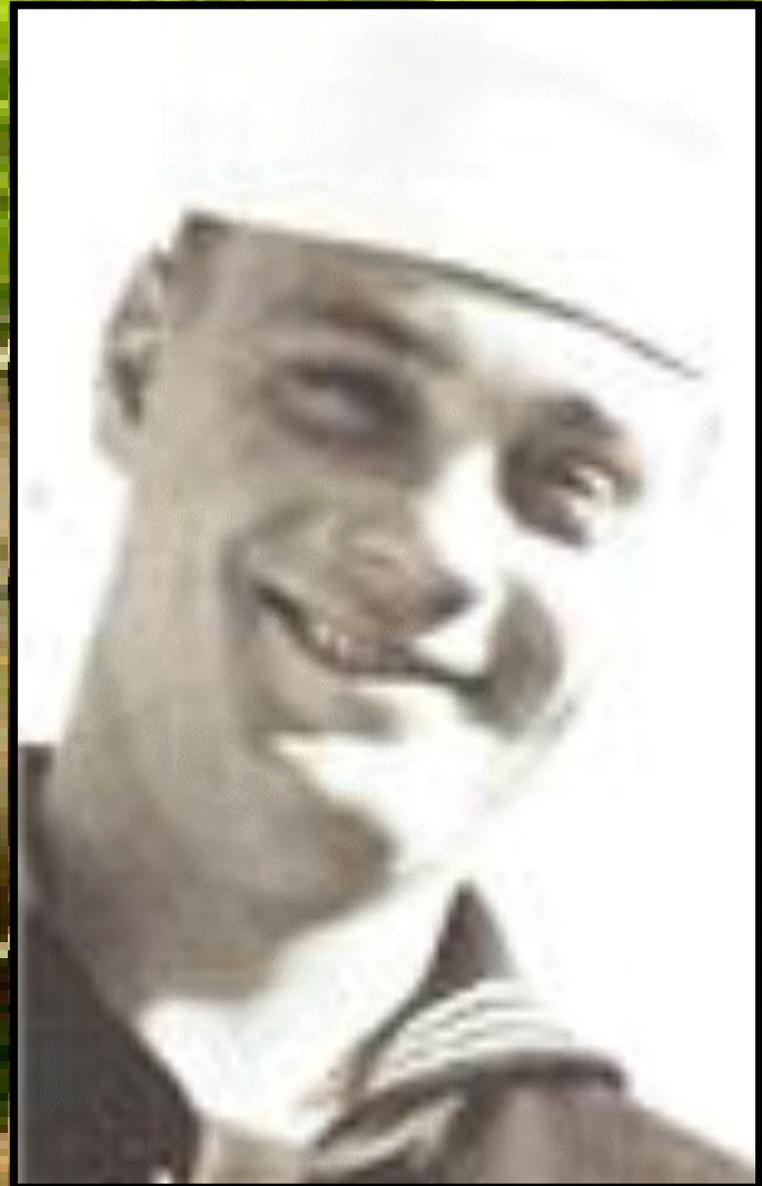
**He was preceded in death by his parents, Marvin L. and Opal Champ Brown and one son, Marvin L. Brown III.**

**The family wishes to give special thanks to WNJ Hospice and SICU nursing staff.**

**A memorial service will be held on Tuesday, December 27, 2011, from 6-9 pm at the American Funeral Service Chapel, 4312 W. Crawford St. Denison, Texas, with Bob Upchurch officiating. Bob will be the Master of Ceremony of the story telling.**

**In lieu of flowers the family requests any donation could go to the Cal Farley Boys Ranch, P.O. Box 1890, Amarillo, Texas 79174, 800-687-3722 [www.calfarley.org](http://www.calfarley.org).**

**All arrangements are under the direction of American Funeral Services, Denison, Texas.**





## *Dell Tamburin (1933-2011)*

HOWE - Dell Tamburin, 78, of Howe passed away, December 17, 2011, in Gunter. She was born on December 13, 1933, in Brownfield to William Austin and Ollie Mae (Farmer) Stroud. Dell was a licensed vocational nurse for Hilltop Haven Nursing Home in Gunter. She retired after 25 years of service, in which she was the head nurse for the Alzheimer's unit. She was a very caring nurse and mentor to the many lives she touched.

She is survived by her son, Mike Russell of Irving; daughters, Debbie Russell of Whitesboro, Elaine Douglas of Sherman, Tonya Havens of Howe, and Denice Liss of Howe; brother, Bob Stroud of El Paso; sister, Helen Kizer of Hurst; 15 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren.

Dell was preceded in death by Gene Russell and Joe Tamburin; granddaughters, Shannon Wilson and Sara Leake; and daughter, Kathy Russell.

Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m., Wednesday, December 21, 2011, at the First Baptist Church of Howe with Rev. Roger Tidwell officiating.

Pallbearers will be her grandsons, Mark Cannon, Dustin Russell, Trey Cornelison, Tyler Liss, Blake Liss and Bradley Crisp.

Interment will follow at West Hill Cemetery in Sherman.

Visitation was held Tuesday, Dec. 13, at Scoggins Chapel in Howe. You may sign the online guestbook at [www.scogginsfuneralhome.com](http://www.scogginsfuneralhome.com).



## *JoAnn Hopper (1932-2011)*

TOM BEAN - JoAnn Hopper, 79, passed away, Saturday, December 17, 2011, at Texas Health Presbyterian-WNJ.

Graveside were held 2 pm, Tuesday, December 20, at Vittitoe Cemetery with Duane Peters officiating.

JoAnn was born August 23, 1932, in Sherman, Texas to Cecil and Louise Shaw. She attended Tom Bean Schools. She married William Oliver (W.O.) Hopper on August 27, 1949, in Sherman.

Mrs. Hopper retired from Texas Instruments. She was a member of Inspiration Point Cowboy Church in Tom Bean.

Mrs. Hopper is survived by her children and their spouses whom she loved as her own, Vala and Raymond Langford of Howe, Robert and Kathy Hopper, Vickie and Kim Castro, Richard and Tina Hopper all of Tom Bean; aunt Eva Williams of Garland and aunt Lady Shaw of Tioga; grandchildren Patrick Langford and wife Candy of Howe, Kimm Avila and wife Diana of Tom Bean, Robert Hopper Jr. of Tom Bean, Angel Thompson and husband Phillip of Ames, Iowa, Manuel Avila and wife Heather of Sherman, Elizabeth Faber and husband John of Tom Bean, Cassy Hopper, Brian Hopper, Toby Hopper and Sasha Hopper all of Tom Bean, Dub Adcock of Southmayd and Preston Adcock of Denison; 18 great-grandchildren and several great-great-grandchildren.

She is preceded in death by her husband; and her parents; sister Patsy and brother-in-law Jessie Gracey and James Henry Shaw that she loved as her brother along with several beloved aunts and uncles.

Pallbearers were her sons and grandsons.

Memorials may be made to the Children's Church at Inspiration Point Cowboy Church, P.O. Box 631, Tom Bean, TX. 75489.

Arrangements are under the direction of Scoggins Funeral Home.





## Bruce Stidham files for Tax Assessor Collector post

Bruce Stidham, a Sherman Realtor, has thrown his hat into the political ring by filing for a place on the ballot in the March 6 Republican Primary for the office of Grayson County Tax Assessor Collector.

“I’m running to make a difference in our county’s government,” Stidham said in his announcement.

Stidham said that as vice president of Residential Sales with Virginia Cook Realtors, he works with property taxes and property values every day.

“The Tax Assessor-Collector’s office includes not only tax collections, but also vehicle and voter registration, and is the one office that more people have direct dealings with than any other in the county,” said Stidham. “It is the customer service department of the county and, as tax assessor collector I intend to make customer service Job number one. And we’ll strive to achieve that goal each and every day with a plan I call Smart Government, that makes county government more responsive, innovative and efficient. It’s all about working smarter and wasting less.”

Stidham said his campaign would focus on three main issues: fight on behalf of taxpayers for property tax relief; saving taxpayers money by reducing operating costs; and increasing and improving customer service.

“The National Taxpayers Union estimates that between 30 and 60 percent of all property owners are paying taxes on over-assessed property,” Stidham said. “We all realize that property taxes are important and that they help pay for the many services that we rely on. But today we see rising costs, fuel prices going up and it’s more expensive to put food on the table for our families. On top of that, many homeowners here in Grayson County are seeing their property taxes go up as well,

making it more difficult for them to meet their financial obligations.”

Stidham continued, “As we all feel this economic crunch and are tightening our belts, we see government at all levels trying to dig deeper in our pockets. Well, I guess, I’m old fashioned, but I believe that we should be keeping more of our money than the government.”

His plan to fight for property tax relief, Stidham said, calls for working with the appraisal district to make the appraisal process transparent. “I also want to ensure that appraisals are fair and accurate and reflect true market value and to make certain taxpayers are treated courteously and professionally.”

“The Smart Government plan,” Stidham added, “really kicks in when we start saving the taxpayers money by reducing operating costs.” Stidham said that goal is achieved by streamlining office operations which maximizes efficiency and reduces costs. He said the workload can be reduced and costs can be cut by utilizing new innovative technology.

“I also want to improve the overall efficiency of collections, including delinquent taxes, which will save the tax payer money.” Stidham said he thinks the employees in the Tax Assessor’s Office will make a good resource in helping to come up with ideas to make the office more efficient and provide additional ways to cut costs. “It’s all about working smarter and wasting less.” he added.

“I am committed to increasing and improving customer service all the way down the line from the various offices to the on-line services available from the convenience of your home.” He added that two of the things he wants to do to provide better customer service are to provide after hour retail locations to renew auto registration (window sticker only) at no cost to the county and to extend office hours on a limited basis for customer convenience.

“By increasing services, without increasing costs, we make our county’s government more responsible to the needs of the taxpayers.”

Stidham said, “This election is about making a difference. Three of the most powerful words in the English language are ‘We the People’ and it’s we the people who can make a difference.”

“Putting taxpayers first is not just a campaign slogan,” Stidham said. “It’s my promise to the people of Grayson County.”

Stidham and his wife, Karen, have two grown sons, David and Matthew, and daughter-in-law Jennifer. He is a graduate of Harding University. Stidham and his family are members of the Western Heights Church of Christ in Sherman, where he is a Sunday School teacher and song leader. He is also a founding member and the first president of the Grayson County Fair Association and is a member of the Sherman and Denison chambers of commerce, the Greater Texoma Association of Realtors, the Sherman Kiwanis Club.

Stidham was recently appointed to the Grayson County Rehabilitation Center’s board of directors. Last year, Stidham appeared on stage with the Sherman Community Players production of “Greater Tuna” and “Beautiful Star: An Appalachian Nativity.”

click for **more Area Events**



# Texoma Enterprise

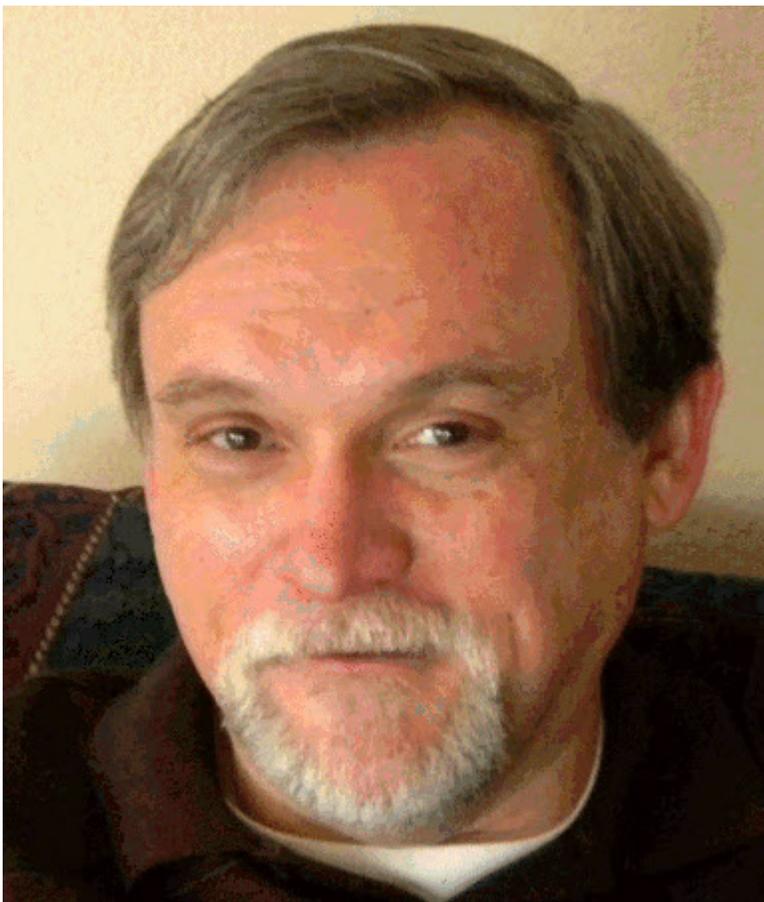
Howe, Texas  
75459

## *Criminal justice Grant Writing Workshop*

Texoma Council of Governments (COG) will be hosting a free workshop on January 10, 2012 at 2 pm in the Eisenhower room (first floor) of the Texoma COG Building, 1117 Gallagher Drive, Sherman, Texas, for those interested in applying for criminal justice grants through the Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division (CJD). Registration is not required, but attendance is mandatory for applicants who have never applied to CJD in addition to those who have previous experience with the application process. Organizations that are eligible to apply include: state agencies, units of local government, non-profit agencies, Native American tribes, community supervision & corrections departments, and councils of government. For more information, please contact CJ Durbin-Higgins at 903-813-3552 or Stephanie Davidson at 903-813-3509.



Read about Wyoming's new Chef, new menu, new hours. [Click here.](#)



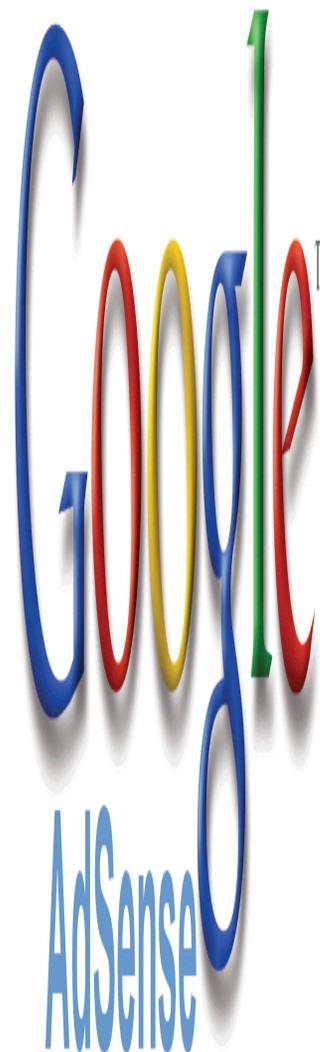
## **Counselor, Author To Speak At Ann's Haven VNA Luncheon January 10**

Larry Barber, a licensed professional counselor and author of "Love Never Dies," will be the featured speaker at the January 10 hospice family luncheon hosted by Ann's Haven VNA. Mr. Barber will speak on "The Importance of Remembering."

The luncheon is from noon to 1 p.m. at the Denton Elks Lodge on 228 East Oak Street in Denton. There is no cost to attend the luncheon, but reservations are requested and can be made by calling Molly Harrison, Ann's Haven VNA bereavement coordinator, at (940) 349-5900.

Ann's Haven VNA hospice family luncheons offer supportive company from friendly and understanding people to individuals who have suffered the loss of a loved one.

photo caption: Larry Barber, a licensed professional counselor and author, will be the featured speaker at the January 10 hospice family luncheon hosted by Ann's Haven VNA.





## December at Hagerman NWR

Yes, the winter birds have arrived at Hagerman NWR, creating a lot of excitement for visitors and offering many great birding and photo ops.

On Second Saturday, the programs - both the general program led by Dr. Wayne Meyer and the youth program led by Katie Palmer - will include guided field trips along Wildlife Drive aboard TAPS buses to view the geese.

(Reservations required for youth program, 903 786 2826)

See this month's edition of the Featherless Flyer <<http://cts.vresp.com/c/?FriendsofHagermanNWR/bfa2b34109/1d7325d2cb/872e0ab94d>> for dates, times, plus info on the Christmas Bird Count and more.

December 3 will be the last chance for High on the Hawg 2011, serving wild hog BBQ at the Refuge from 5:30 - 8 pm. Purchase tickets at the door, \$10/person, \$5 for age 12 and under.

Holiday hours for the Refuge Office and Visitor Center are posted on the FOH website.

**\*Corina Garayua - December Photographer of the Month\***

[image: Scissortailflycatcher\_CorinaGarayua] A sample from Corina's virtual album is shown at right, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher. To view her album, please go to gallery <<http://cts.vresp.com/c/?FriendsofHagermanNWR/bfa2b34109/1d7325d2cb/7de1fb03e6>>

A big Thank You to all the Photographers of the Month for 2011. And we already have many committed for 2012. If you are interested in this program, see

tails <<http://cts.vresp.com/c/?FriendsofHagermanNWR/bfa2b34109/1d7325d2cb/ab959e0e4e>> on the FOH website.

The next Nature Photo Club meeting will be January 14, at 12:30 pm, at the Refuge.

**\*Time for Adopt a Nest Box 2012\***. We have 20 boxes available for the 2012 nesting season. Adopters help provide a home for nesting bluebirds, warblers, chickadees and more. You may request adoption forms by email (friendsofhagerman@gmail.com) or in the Nature Nook at the Refuge. See the Featherless Flyer <<http://cts.vresp.com/c/?FriendsofHagermanNWR/bfa2b34109/1d7325d2cb/46f50fe633>>.

If you would like to have more information about the Refuge and the Friends activities, see our Facebook Page <<http://cts.vresp.com/c/?FriendsofHagermanNWR/bfa2b34109/1d7325d2cb/d4a15da895>> and our weekly blog <<http://cts.vresp.com/c/?FriendsofHagermanNWR/bfa2b34109/1d7325d2cb/cf146ebf72>>

As we begin the final month of 2011 we want to extend best wishes to all for the holidays and thank all the Friends members and other friends who have visited and supported the Refuge and our activities. To become an "official" Friend, you can download a form at Membership <<http://cts.vresp.com/c/?FriendsofHagermanNWR/bfa2b34109/1d7325d2cb/a4967d790e>> or pick one up in the Nature Nook.

Friends of Hagerman NWR  
6465 Refuge Road, Sherman, TX 75092  
[www.friendsofhagerman.com](http://www.friendsofhagerman.com)  
Refuge - 903-786-2826

Read more about Hagerman NWR on the Friends' Blog at <http://www.friendsofhagermannwr.blogspot.com/>

Find us on Facebook:  
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Friends-of-Hagerman-National-Wildlife-Refuge/157317297471>

# Texoma Enterprise

Howe, Texas  
75459

## The First Millionaire

By Bob Bowman

Texas' first likely millionaire wasn't from Dallas or Houston. He came from East Texas--and he didn't make his money from oil.

Frost Thorn, an early storekeeper from Nacogdoches, had a worth of more than a million after Texas won its independence from Mexico in 1836.

While the records of Thorn's birthplace are sketchy, he lived most of his life in Nacogdoches and died there in 1851. When Nacogdoches was only a frontier outpost, Thorn operated a general store within blocks of the Old Stone Fort during the time it stood in downtown Nacogdoches, but his fortune was composed largely of real estate spread over Texas from the Sabine River to the Rio Grande.

A biographer wrote in 1934, "Thorn had property in every present-day Texas county and his property was not in small pieces...anything less than a league in those days was almost too small to speak of."

Today, Thorn might have been called a land shark, but looking back at his career, he was a remarkable visionary who knew that Texas would someday be peopled by men and women with a passion for owning land.

When Texas won its independence in 1836, laws were passed giving several leagues of land to each person who lived here at the time of the revolution from Mexico. Script was distributed for land ownership's and the holders could collect their lands, sell them or trade it for something else.



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Dot's

D-A-S-H-E-S



As a general rule, I dislike Christmas letters. They are usually full of brags about new cars, new houses, big raises, magnificent trips to exotic places and dozens of other things designed to make we who are ordinary folk drool.

My big brag this year is that at age 75, I am still able to work 16 hours a day if I choose to do so, take only medication for high blood pressure and could get off that if I could lose 20 pounds. Nevertheless, I have produced a Christmas letter that I could send to the only 14 people who live far enough away that they don't already know all this. Here it is.

Dear Friends, Enemies and Assorted Acquaintances,

I am writing this as I sit amid the rubble left over from the busiest fall semester in our family's history.

My kitchen table is ready to take legs and walk, I have spot cleaned the floor so often that it thinks it should go to the dry cleaners for help, dust on the furniture is all that's holding it together, the dogs -- all four of them -- are laid out on the floor in my office/sunroom/aka the dog room asleep.

My Christmas tree is still in its box and probably will remain there. All is not lost, however, because I do have the Santa collection out, wreaths grace the front door, the wooden deer are up and lighted on the front lawn and the Christmas spirit is present in abundance and its presence is all that really counts.

Lucinda's students have had a concert every month since school started, Mustang Musicians had their concert last Tuesday and her piano students had their recital Sunday before last. As chief cook and bottle washer for the school concerts, I have run my already too short and too fat legs nearly off. I'm two inches shorter than I was in September!

In addition to those activities, I've produced newsletters every month for Grand Avenue Presbyterian Church and the Van Alstyne Quilt Guild and one each quarter for the Sherman Public Library Friends of the Library Board. Lucinda thinks I ought to list the number of quilts and quilt-related items I've made since last year, but I can't remember what they are.

One of them did win the Judge's Choice award at the Grayson County Fair in October.

I played Santa again this year for the fall fundraiser for the music program at Wakefield Elementary School, where Lucinda teaches music. We raised about \$800, which is better than we did when the school had twice as many students. That's because the kids love the music program and their parents are really supporting it.

I will put on my bunny suit and people can get pictures with the Easter bunny about two weeks before Easter. Hopefully (that's right, hopefully) we'll make enough money to get the hand chimes cases either repaired or replaced.



## BOB BOWMAN'S

### EAST TEXAS, continued

Some of those who received script came to Texas only to fight in the revolution and when the war was over, many of them returned to the United States.

Because Nacogdoches was on the El Camino Real--the major travel artery between Texas and the U.S.--Thorn's store became a place where the script could be traded for horses, whiskey, saddles, guns and anything else needed by the restless adventurers. Realizing the opportunities, Thorn helped them fill out the necessary papers allowing him to trade for their land.

His old store ledger, which recorded most of his transactions during the early 1830s, indicated he had customers in a radius of probably 100 miles around Nacogdoches.

Since Nacogdoches was on the frontier, it's easy to understand why Thorn's biggest selling items were whiskey, gunpowder and lead--with whiskey the most demanded commodity. It sold by the bit--12.5 cents a drink or two bits (25 cents) for a pint. Customers who bought a pint were required to make a 25-cent deposit until the bottle was refunded.

Gunpowder was sold in bulk with trappers and Indian traders buying it by the kegs. Lead was sold in heavy bars.

Thorn also did a good business with local Indians. He bought deer skins for 16 cents a pound and beef hides for a dime a pound. He then turned the hides over to his tannery to produce leather goods, paying his tannery workers \$4.50 a week.

Thorn was not only Texas' first likely millionaire, but was probably the state's first banker, too. He advanced money to his customers and charged them interest. And it wasn't uncommon for some customers to issue a written order to an Indian or laborer, who would get their money from Thorn.

The date that Sam Houston arrived in Texas is also recorded in Thorn's ledger. The first thing Sam bought was a drink of whiskey at Thorn's store, which seems to fit his hard-driving, hard-drinking reputation.

Thorn and his wife had two children, a daughter Mary and a son, Thorn, Jr. Mary married New York financier W.T. Garner.

Both children of Texas' first millionaire died tragically. The two families--Mr. and Mrs. Garner and Mr. and Mrs. Frost, Jr.--were lost when their yacht was shipwrecked in an Atlantic Ocean storm.

(Bob Bowman of Lufkin is the author of more than 50 books about East Texas history and folklore. He can be reached at bob-bowman.com)

## Dot's Dashes, continued

I am busy at church, preaching occasionally, serving as reader and co-celebrant at Communion, participating in the book club and with the dominoes group. Book club and dominoes doesn't sound like much, but each group feeds the youth once a month, which means if you belong to both groups, you feed them twice a month. That's more time consuming than it sounds!

As things stand now, I'm planning to conduct a workshop on Crayola quilts in January, to attend a workshop on machine appliqué in February and to go to the Dallas quilt show in March -- all in my spare time, of course.

Blessings to each of you. May the peace that passes understanding descend upon your spirit in the coming year.

1




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## Capitol Watch

By Larry Phillips, State Representative



## Interim Charges for House Committees

This week I will discuss the interim charges recently issued to the House Committee on Culture, Recreation, and Tourism and the House Committee on Defense and Veterans' Affairs. Interim charges are the issues that the Speaker asks committees to study during the time between regular legislative sessions in order to make recommendations for legislation for the following legislative session. The charges are good indicators of what legislation the legislature will take up during the next session. Legislators rely on public input when crafting legislation, and it is important that they hear from people during the interim.

### *House Committee on Culture, Recreation & Tourism*

\*Evaluate strategies to control known existing invasive aquatic species, including species commonly referred to as giant salvinia, water hyacinths, and zebra mussels. (Obviously, this charge is especially important to Lake Texoma due to the problems with zebra mussels.)

\*Study and make recommendations for improving deer breeder compliance with existing laws and regulations.

\*Recommend approaches to improve long-term funding for state park acquisition, development, and maintenance.

\*Study the effects the drought and wildfires have had on tourism and recreation in Texas. Make recommendations for ways to prevent future losses.

\*Monitor the implementation of relevant legislation, including the General Land Office's implementation of HB 3726, regarding the administration of the Alamo.

### *House Committee on Defense & Veterans' Affairs*

\*Study the current role of all Texas state military forces. Identify changes that would enhance the accountability and effectiveness of the state guard, air guard, and national guard and all other components of our state military forces.

\*Monitor the implementation and impact of the Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment (MOVE) Act on the state and on municipalities. Make legislative recommendations, as needed, to ensure a smooth implementation of the law. (Joint with the House Committee on Elections)

\*Study and make recommendations on how the state and local governments can work together to protect our federal military installations from unnecessary encroachment while still allowing appropriate use of land near bases to be used for nonmilitary purposes.

\*Determine any challenges to the training and operations of Texas' 15 military installations in light of recent reductions in federal defense spending. Additionally, review the current structure and mission of the Texas Military Preparedness Commission. Recommend any legislative actions needed to sustain and improve the state's military preparedness.

The House Committee on Culture, Recreation, and Tourism can be reached at 512-463-1974 and the House Committee on Defense and Veterans' Affairs can be reached at 512-463-1393.

For more information on these charges or any other matter of state government, please contact my office by writing to P.O. Box 2910, Austin, TX 78768-2910 or by emailing me at [larry.phillips@house.state.tx.us](mailto:larry.phillips@house.state.tx.us). My district office phone number is (903) 891-7297.



We believe that your local news provided should provide you with news, information, facts, and sources to further study that information. Here are some websites that are providing those facts, at least at the time of their listing on our page. If you know of others that our readers would enjoy send them to us. Or if some of these are no longer working let us know.

## This Page is a Work in Progress

**Howe Public Schools**

**Howe Public Library**

Library information, Language courses, Student events

**Van Alstyne Public Library**

Library information, Library Catalog, Library Calendar, Online information, Research tools, Resume Maker

**Search Engines-**

**Yahoo**

**Alta Vista**

**Google**

**Ask Jeeves**

**Class Tools - for classroom use - games, tests, timer, tools.**

**Quotations Page**

**Royalty Free Music**

**Spanish Dictionary**

## Selected Sites

[Texas Records and Information Locator \(TRAIL\)](#) searches and locates information from over 180 Texas state agency web services.

[The Handbook of Texas Online](#) is a multidisciplinary encyclopedia of Texas history, geography, and culture sponsored by the Texas State Historical Association and the General Libraries at UT Austin.

[Texas Online](#): The official website for the Great State of Texas and provides instant access to almost 800 state and local government services.

[Library of Texas](#): Immediately start searching multiple Texas library catalogs and other knowledge collections in one sitting.

## Local Churches

### Cannon

CANNON BAPTIST CHURCH  
RFD 1, Rev. John Wade, pastor,  
903/482-6761

SOVEREIGN GRACE  
BAPTIST CHURCH  
George Seevers, 903/364-2942

### Cherry Mound

BAPTIST CHURCH, 6335 FM 1753, Denison  
Dennis Stewart, pastor,  
Sun School 9:45; worship, 11, evening 6; Wednesday,  
7pm

### Dorchester

DORCHESTER BAPTIST  
CHURCH Hwy. 902W,  
903/476-5525

### Gunter

COLLEGE HILL  
CHURCH OF CHRIST  
304 E. College, 903/433-4835  
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
300 Pecan, 903/433-3335

GRACE BIBLE  
FELLOWSHIP  
Pastor Bruce Stinson  
Brooks Plaza  
Sundays - 9:30 AM Worship  
www.thegbf.com

### VALLEY

### CHURCH OF CHRIST

### Howe

APOSTOLIC LIFE UPC  
405 S. Collins Frwy,  
Jerry Pentecost, 903/821-9166; Sun. 10am & 6pm  
NEW BEGINNING FELLOWSHIP/AG,  
912 S Denny St.

903/532-6828; Roger Roper,  
S-school, 9:30, worship 10:45

### BETHEL BAPTIST

Hwy. 902 E & Ponderosa Rd, Weldon Hutson, pastor,  
903/532-6032

SUMMIT CHURCH  
Howe Middle School Cafeteria,  
903/815-1472 ; Kcvin Bouse

### CHURCH OF CHRIST

N. Collins Frwy,  
903/532-6441;  
Toby Socheting  
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
100 E. Davis, 903/532-5504;  
Roger Tidwell, pastor  
FIRST UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH 810 N. Denny,  
903/532-6718;

Tom Medley, minister

### Ida

IDA BAPTIST CHURCH,  
903/813- 3263. S- School  
10 am, Worship 11 am  
Charles Morris, pastor

### Luella

LUELLA FIRST  
BAPTIST CHURCH  
3162 St. Hwy. 11,  
Harvey Patterson,  
903/893-2252

A CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP, 150 Fellowship Ln,  
Luella  
Mike Ball, 903/870-0219

### Tom Bean

CHURCH OF CHRIST  
903/546-6620  
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
903/546-6231  
FIRST UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH 903/546-6898  
INSPIRATION POINT  
COWBOY CHURCH  
FM 2729, 2.5 miles  
South of Tom Bean

## Augustus enrolls all the Roman Empire

1 And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. 2 (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) 3 And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. 4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) 5 To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. 6 And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. 7 And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

## An angel announces it to shepherds

8 And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. 10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. 12 And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, 14 Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. 15 And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. 16 And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. 17 And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. 18 And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. 19 But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. 20 And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.



## Christian Fellowship

## A Christian Fellowship church in Luella will not be having a service on Sunday December 25, 2011.

### R.S.V.P.

*French abbreviation of "Répondez S'il Vous Plaît"., "Please Reply" by Willie Sofey*

It's that time of year to "Please Reply" to your invitation to that party of the year that you have so anxiously been awaiting by R.S.V.P.ing to the inviter. Failure to do so, in many cases, has led to the denial of entry to the invited occasion.

I will use an example of denial to the entry of a wedding reception by a certain Ruth

## Tom Bean Church of Christ

The Tom Bean Church of Christ invites everyone to come and worship with us. Services begin each Sunday with Bible class for all ages at 9 am and worship at 10 am. The evening worship service begins at 6 pm. The Lord's Supper is given each Sunday. The morning and evening lessons are brought by Kerry King with congregational singing lead by Charles Counts. Wednesday, we have Bible classes for all ages beginning at 7:00pm. The church is located at the corner of FM902 and FM2729 South in Tom Bean, TX.

We have two radio programs each Sunday at 7:30am on KFYN 1420AM and KFYZ 93.5FM. The lessons are brought by A.C. Quinn.

The Gospel of Christ news letter can be found at <http://www.thegospelofchrist.com/newsletter>.

Anne M. and her husband. Ruth Anne, an exceptional singer was a friend of a socially elite family in a large city. She was asked to sing at the elaborate wedding, and did so. Her performance, as always, was exceptional. Many attendees declared she had the voice of an angel.

After the wedding, Ruth Anne and her husband travelled across town where the reception was being held in the posh embassy suite on the top floor of a skyscraper overlooking the city.

click for **more Church News**



## Local Churches

## R.S.V.P., continued

Duane Peters,  
903-815-2278  
PILOT GROVE  
BAPTIST CHURCH  
1271 Pilot Grove St.  
903/450-3708  
**Sherman/Denison**  
THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER  
DAY SAINTS  
1900 Lamberth Rd, Sherman.  
FRIENDSHIP UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH  
RFD 2 off Hwy. 56; 903/892-8450  
WESTERN HEIGHTS CHURCH OF CHRIST  
800 Baker Park Dr.,  
903/892-9635, Sun. 10  
CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE,  
601 Hwy. 1417, Pastor,  
Rev. Mack Rogers  
RED RIVER  
COWBOY CHURCH  
3800 Hwy. 691 (w of Hwy. 75); Novice Northington,  
903/463-5840  
**Van Alstyne**  
COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH  
Northwest corner Hwy 5 & County Line Rd.  
CHURCH OF CHRIST  
105 Hopson,  
Shannon Jackson, minister,  
903/482-6033  
EAST SIDE  
CHURCH OF CHRIST  
PO Box 141, Larry Shead,  
minister; worship 11am  
ELMONT BAPTIST CHURCH  
FM 121 W, Elmont;  
Jim Poole, pastor,  
903/482-6356  
FAITH TEMPLE CHURCH, corner of Pearl & Nash,  
Pastor Kenneth L. Price,  
972/547-0243,  
LIFE CHURCH,  
201 W. Marshall,  
Pastors – Lance/ Mary Baker  
903/433-8089  
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
102 E. Marshall, 903/482-6334,  
Jimmy Tarrant, pastor  
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
206 Waco, 903/482-5515,  
Gary Gibbs, pastor  
FIRST PENTECOSTAL CHURCH  
903/482-6646,  
Rev. J.R. Thornhill, pastor  
FIRST UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH 301 S. Preston,  
Rev. Jack Wallace, minister  
GREYWOOD HEIGHTS WORSHIP CENTER  
On Hwy. 75 just north of Dairy Queen, 903/482-6700;  
Chris Jones, pastor  
HOLY FAMILY  
CATHOLIC CHURCH  
Father Stephen W. Bierschenk, 972/562-0752  
MORNING CHAPEL CHRISTIAN METHODIST  
EPISCOPAL  
103 Bowen, 902/482-5431  
SAMARIA BAPTIST CHURCH  
702 E. Fulton, 903/482-5664, Rev. Arnold Baker, pastor

They were greeted by the tuxedoed Guest Book Attendant before entering the reception. The attendant could not locate the names of either Ruth Anne or her husband after checking the list several times. She informed the attendant that she and her husband were friends of the family and that she had performed at the wedding ceremony earlier. The guest book attendant offered their condolences; however, they had strict instructions that no one was to be allowed entry unless their names were on the guest list.

Disappointedly, on their way home, Ruth Anne admitted to her husband that she had failed to R.S.V.P. their invitation, which resulted in their names not being entered into the guest list. She had felt that her main performance at the wedding would have negated the necessary requirement of the R.S.V.P.

Being the humble Spirit Born person that she was, she reflected to her husband a powerful lesson to be learned from their experience.

As disappointing and humiliating as their experience had been, she said, she had a foretaste of what many will experience at the “White Throne Judgment of God” when they would discover that their names were not written in the “Lamb’s Book of Life” and would be denied entry into Heaven.

This “White Throne of Judgment” is the second resurrection of the unbelieving dead which takes place

after the 1000 year (millennium) reign of Christ on planet earth (Rev. 20:5-14). “If anyone’s name was not found written in the Book of Life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.” (Rev. 20:15)

The “White Throne of Judgment” of the evil is not to be confused with the first resurrection of the saved believers in Christ where “those who have done good will rise to live”, (John 5:21-29).

There will be many “do good” performers at the “White Throne Judgment” that will try to make a case for entry into heaven based on their “performance” instead of a total personal commitment (R.S.V.P.) to their “Inviter”, Jesus Christ.

“Many will say to me on that day, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons, and perform many miracles? Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’” (Matt. 7:22-23).

Brothers and sisters, I adjure you to R.S.V.P.; (Please Reply!!) to your invitation to the “Wedding Supper” of your Host and Savior, Jesus Christ. If you wish to reply and accept the invitation, you do so by “Confessing with your mouth, Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved” (Rom. 10:9).

“Blessed are those who are invited to the “wedding supper of the Lamb!” (Rev. 19:9). -- Willie Sofey, williesofey@yahoo.com



[Back to first page of Church News](#)

## Neighborhood Genealogist - In The Cemeteries

By Dale Rideout

In an earlier article I suggested that you should always be ready to do research. This means to have your list of names, places, etc. always with you in some form. You never know when the perfect opportunity will arise to do research.

This past weekend my wife and I took a short vacation. We stayed in a motel in Mt. Pleasant, Texas. Our visit was not primarily to Mt. Pleasant, but that was just where we stopped. One morning we were "sight seeing" and stopped in the Mt. Pleasant library. They had an historical museum in their basement along with genealogy books.

As we finished looking through the museum, I sat down at a table with an open book on it. This book was an index to the cemeteries of Titus County, Texas. My wife's great-grandparents had lived in Titus county, so we took time to research the book.

We found the family name and began to take notes on various family members and the cemeteries they were buried in. This is where we were not totally prepared. My wife's grandmother had many brothers and sisters. Of course the brothers last names were the same as the great-grand parents, but we could not remember the married names of all the sisters. Because of that we were limited in our research.

After making notes of all the "Landrums", we looked at the individual cemeteries for each name we found.

Now, let me explain something. These books were one of a kind. They were hand made and likely there was only one copy available anywhere. Books like this are difficult to find. Sometimes there will be handmade copies of these book in other libraries but there will not be hundreds of copies available in many different location. The main index told us the name of the individual, and the cemetery he was buried in. The second group of books gave an index by cemetery of the individual buried there, along with the birth and death dates from their marker, and name of spouse if both were buried in the same cemetery.

As I said, when we finished in the first book, we looked up all the other cemeteries to get the birth and death dates and spouse names and dates. This filled in a lot of information we did not have for those family members.

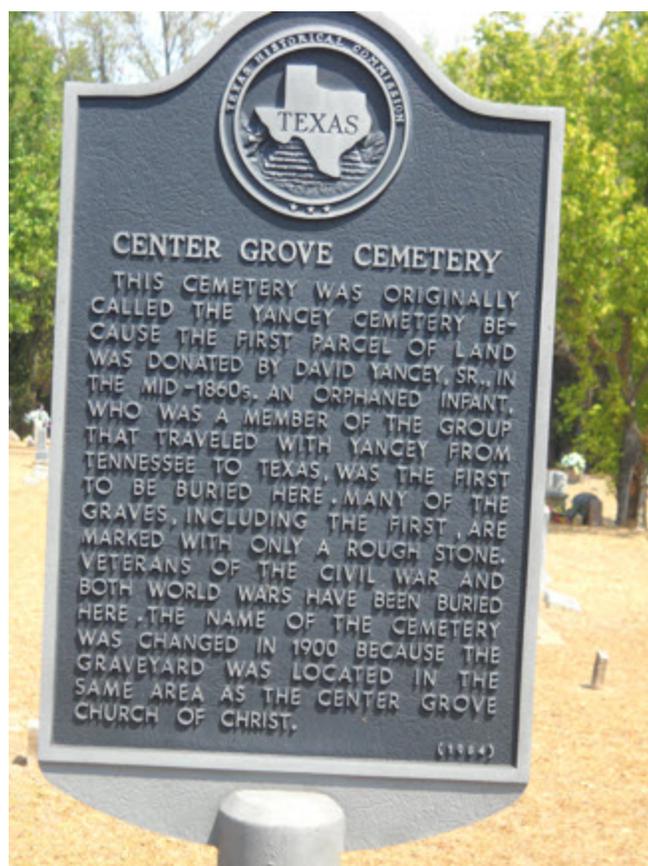
Now came the fun part. We chose the closest cemetery with the most family members buried there and visited that cemetery. The temperature was about 104 degrees. My wife took her umbrella for shade, and we began walking that cemetery looking for the markers, and photographing those of her family members. This gave us a good record of information necessary in completing your genealogy.

We had three extra surprises that we enjoyed. First, as we were walking, my wife saw a familiar name. It was the married name of the youngest sister. So we now had her information along with her husbands information, and a photo of the tombstone.

While back in the library reading about the cemeteries, I had read the name of the man who gave the land for a cemetery and church. Our second pleasant surprise was to find his family plot in this cemetery. We photographed that as well to add to our records.

Our third surprise was the church building we found. My wife's family history shows that many of her family were members of the Church of Christ. The cemetery was the Centergrove Cemetery. Across the street from the cemetery was the Centergrove Church of Christ. This was an old building with only the church name on it. There were no other signs. It was difficult to tell whether it was still in use. It was new enough to have air conditioning, and the yard area was mowed. The front door was locked with a chain and pad lock which is unusual for a building that is being used. The electric power lines were still connected, but we could not tell whether they were being used.

We feel that we found a real treasure of information. We also probably missed a lot because we did not know the married names of some of the women. We will have to make a trip back sometime after preparing better with a complete list of family names to look for.





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[www.mattsullivanattorney.com](http://www.mattsullivanattorney.com)

## 3 Ways a Spouse Can Boost Your Social Security

By Jonelle Marte

Married couples can boost their lifetime benefits further if they time their retirements carefully, analysts say.

These spousal benefits allow one spouse to receive half of the retirement amount awarded to their husband or wife. Benefits can be greater for both spouses if they can wait at least until full retirement age before they start collecting payments. But both spouses don't have to collect at the same time.

Here are some tips for getting the most out of your marriage when it comes to Social Security:

Lower earner gets a boost. A married person could see their benefits grow thanks to spousal benefits if one person earned much more than the other. For example, even if the lower earning spouse worked and is eligible for their own retirement benefits, their minimum benefit should be equal to at least half of the benefits awarded to the higher earning spouse. So if their full benefits fall short of that, they could get a combination of benefits that add up to the higher amount.

One spouse delays benefits, the other collects. Individuals can boost their retirement benefits by up to 32% if they wait until age 70 to start collecting Social Security. But married couples

don't have to go without income while they wait: one spouse can start collecting spousal benefits, even while the other is holding off payments. Say a husband decides to put off collecting full retirement benefits until age 70. He can still apply for retirement benefits and then ask to have payments suspended. That way his wife can receive a benefit one she reaches full retirement age of up to half of his regular retirement benefit would be, not including the boost he should get for delaying retirement. When he reaches age 70, he can collect his bigger check, and she can keep collecting her spousal benefits.

Collect while you wait. In a similar scenario, a person who has reached full retirement age and is eligible for spousal benefits and his or her own retirement benefit can choose to collect spousal benefits and to delay receiving their own retirement benefits. When they decide to collect their own retirement benefits at a later date, they can receive larger benefits if they've waited beyond their full retirement age. It doesn't matter if the other spouse is collecting retirement benefits or also delaying payments past retirement age.

But readers should keep in mind that regular benefits as well as spousal benefits are reduced if you start collecting them early at age 62. And once you reach age 70, there is no added incentive to either spouse to keep putting off payments.



# Texoma Enterprise

## Hall supports pipeline and job creation act, *Stresses Importance of R&D Public-Private Partnership*

WASHINGTON, DC . . . (Dec. 13) Rep. Ralph Hall (TX-04) voted in favor of H.R. 2845, the Pipeline Safety, Regulatory Certainty, and Job Creation Act of 2011, which passed the House by voice vote. Below is Rep. Hall's statement submitted for the record regarding the bill:

"This legislation, which enjoys broad bipartisan support in both chambers of Congress, seeks to improve the safety of our nation's pipeline infrastructure, an issue that is important to all Americans.

"I want to call attention to the pipeline safety research and development portions of this bill—specifically a small but important interagency program that I worked on in my capacity as long standing Member of and current Chairman of the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee.

"Focused R&D aimed at accident prevention and protecting the integrity of our pipeline infrastructure is critical to ensuring that our nation's energy supplies are transported safely.

"As an original co-sponsor of the 2002 pipeline safety legislation, I led efforts to establish the existing R&D program. This program has been productive and efficient in carrying out pipeline safety R&D. In particular, the public-private partnership model that the Department of Transportation uses to administer the program has served to leverage both Federal agency and private sector resources and expertise.

"I want to thank my colleagues for working with me on this legislation to make modest -- but important -- changes to the current program.

"In particular, I want to thank Chairman Mica for working with me to ensure that the program maintains its historical public-private cost-sharing structure, and recognizes the important contributions of the National Institute of Standards and Technology in pipeline safety research, development, and standards.

"With respect to cost-sharing, I was particularly concerned with a recent decision by the Secretary of Transportation that sought to eliminate non-Federal sources of funding toward pipeline safety R&D.

"This decision threatened to undermine the program's ability to leverage taxpayer dollars to advance new pipeline safety technologies, and in doing so would have also prevented the government from taking advantage of the highly specialized pipeline expertise that is found only in industry.

"I am pleased that H.R. 2845 requires a thirty percent, program-wide, cost share from non-Federal sources, which will help ensure that this program continues to achieve its purpose without placing an unnecessary burden on the taxpayer.

"I thank my colleagues again for their efforts and urge passage of this valuable legislation and yield back."



## Texas Farm Bureau is up to the challenge/DOL could change the value of hard work

### New rules robbing our kids?

By Garrick Hall

The U.S. Department of Labor is proposing to change the regulations regarding children working on farms.

The proposed rules would ban children from dangerous activities such as working on a hay stack higher than six feet above the ground, using any power tool, or herding cattle with a horse. Under the new rules, children would be required to complete at least 90 hours of classroom instructions before they could be hired to work on a farm. As you might imagine, as the father of six young farm children, this proposal concerns me. I wrote the following comments and submitted them to the Department of Labor for their consideration:

I am concerned about the Department of Labor child labor rule, "Child Labor Regulations, Orders and Statements of Interpretation" (RIN 1235-AA06). I have been involved with agriculture all my life. As a young boy I helped my grandfather and my uncles on the family dairy farm doing everything from milking cows and feeding calves to hauling hay and helping in the fields. I count my experiences on the farm as a great blessing in my life. The lessons I learned helped form me into the man I have become. Had these proposed new rules been in effect when I was a boy, my helping on the farm would have been against the law. One of the great memories I have of growing up on the farm is each fall filling the old hay loft with approximately 2,000 bales of straw. This was a hot, dusty job that was performed well above the six foot high limit proposed by the new rules.

Today I have chosen to raise my six children on a small family farm. This farm happens to be incorporated. Not only do I have my children help on the farm, I have many neighbors who practically beg me to give their children a job and the opportunity to learn to work, too. The proposed changes would prevent me from allowing children to work on my farm and rob them of the valuable lessons that they could learn.

I understand that safety is an issue. No one is more concerned about that than me. It is my children who work with me. I believe that the work environment I provide for the children on my farm is safe. Children are monitored closely as they work and are only given tasks that are age appropriate.

I could not operate my farm without the help of my children, and the lessons I learned working with my family from my youth. I would hope this tradition can continue.

Youth need the opportunity to learn responsibility, the value of hard work, and earn a little spending money. This regulation would restrict their ability to do all three. It would not only be bad for farms, it would also be bad for America's youth.

I would strongly encourage your reconsideration of "Child Labor Regulations, Orders and Statements of Interpretation" (RIN 1235-AA06).

Editor's Note: This post is reprinted from the American Farm Bureau Federation blog at <http://www.fb.org/blog/2011/11/28/children-working-on-the-farm/>.

Visit the Texas Farm Bureau website at [www.txfb.org](http://www.txfb.org).



## TELLING OUR STORIES

By Jerry Lincecum

In two decades of listening to elderwriters sharing reminiscences, I have noticed that the Christmas season has often been the setting for unforgettable childhood memories. They are as precious as gold nuggets or polished gems.

One TOS writer who lived more than a century treasured a tiny cup and saucer set she had been given at a Christmas program around 1915. What made it special was her memory of getting there: her grandfather hitched his team of horses to a wagon, they all piled in and jostled their way to the country schoolhouse.

Others recall a tradition of celebrating Christmas by traveling to the home of the children's grandparents on Christmas Eve. Only when all children were asleep did adults put up the cedar tree and other decorations.

Can you imagine the magical feeling experienced by a child waking up on Christmas morning to find a beautiful tree that had appeared overnight, complete with gifts delivered by Santa Claus?

On the other hand, one gentleman remembers the unfortunate year when days of rain on muddy roads made the Christmas Eve journey very doubtful. Then Papa came up with a brilliant solution. He had a sled the horses could pull, and he placed the wagon box on top of it.

With warm lap-ropes to shelter them from the cold, the little family set off through the woods. Then Papa decided he wasn't sure he had securely locked up the corncrib. He was obliged to leave Mama and the children alone in the dark woods while he briskly walked back to make sure. It is no surprise that 80 years later his five-year-old son can revisit his anxiety on that Christmas Eve long ago.

Around 1930 two little girls discovered something amazing: new toys in the smokehouse. A quick-thinking mom advised them that she felt sure Elves from the North Pole had stashed them there. Moreover, this wise adult had heard that children who meddled in Santa's business would receive nothing good on Christmas morning. Mystery solved and lesson learned: stay away from that smokehouse.

Often a child was amazed to receive a gift that had been seen and coveted but seemed too expensive. Somehow a parent knew the child's desire and managed to find a way to pay for it. Mary Ann Wright of Sherman received a suede fringed jacket for Christmas in 1946, and she still remembers how much it cost.

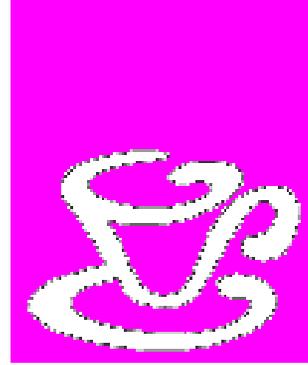
Coming from a large family, I have memories of a very orderly system of taking turns opening gifts. Then chaos ensued and almost inevitably some important tag or leaflet disappeared amid the wrapping paper.

At least one adult would lose patience as the trash had to be sorted a couple of times. Incidentally, these little episodes occurred after WWII, when wrapping paper was cheap and plentiful.

I'm sure you are already remembering your own little nuggets and gems of Christmas past. The scenes we can revisit at will with the mind's eye easily surpass all the digital photos and movies that will be made this holiday season.

-30-

Dr. Jerry Lincecum is emeritus professor of English at Austin College and director of Telling Our Stories.



## Behold, I Come Quickly

The new preacher had just begun his sermon. He was a little nervous, and about ten minutes into the sermon his mind went blank. After a brief second of complete panic, he remembered what they had taught him in seminary about situations like this: repeat the last point. His teacher assured him this would help him remember what was supposed to come next. So he gave it a try.

“Behold, I come quickly,” he said. Still his mind was blank. He tried again. “Behold, I come quickly.” Still nothing. He tried one more time -- speaking and gesturing with such force that he fell forward, knocking the pulpit to one side, tripping over the flower pot, and falling into the lap of a little old lady in the front row.

The young preacher apologized profusely.

“That’s all right, young man,” said the little old lady. “It was my fault. I should have gotten out of the way. You told me three times you were coming!”

## Long-Distance Calls

A man in Topeka, Kansas decided to write a book about churches around the country. He started by flying to San Francisco and worked east from there. Going to a very large church, he began taking photographs and notes. He spotted a golden telephone on the vestibule wall and was intrigued by a sign which read: “\$10,000 a minute.” Seeking out the Pastor he asked about the phone and the sign. The Pastor explained that the golden phone was, in fact, a direct line to Heaven and if he paid the price he could talk directly to God. The man thanked the Pastor and continued on his way. As he continued to visit churches in Seattle, San Diego, Chicago, Greensboro, Tampa and all around the United States, he found more phones with the same sign and got the same answer from each Pastor.

Finally, he arrived in Texas. Upon entering a church in Dallas, behold, he saw the usual golden telephone. But THIS time, the sign read: “Calls: 35 cents.” Fascinated, he asked to talk to the Pastor.

“Reverend, I have been in cities all across the country and in each church I have found this golden telephone. I have been told it is a direct line to Heaven and that I could talk to God, but, in the other churches the cost was \$10,000 a minute. Your sign reads 35 cents. Why?”

The Pastor, smiling benignly, replied, “Son, you’re in Texas now... It’s a local call.”

## Bloopers from Sunday School Students

The greatest miracle in the Bible is when Joshua told his son to stand still and he obeyed him.

Solomon, one of David’s sons, has 300 wives and 700 porcupines.

Jesus enunciated the Golden Rule, which says to do one to others before they do one to you. He also explained, “Man doth not live by sweat alone.”

It was a miracle when Jesus rose from the dead and managed to get the tombstone off the entrance.

## Passover Miracles for Moses?

Moses was sitting in the Egyptian ghetto. Things were terrible. Pharaoh wouldn’t even speak to him. The rest of the Israelites were mad at him and making the overseers even more irritable than usual, etc. He was about ready to give up.

Suddenly a booming, sonorous voice spoke from above: “You, Moses, heed me! I have good news, and bad news.”

Moses was staggered. The voice continued: “You, Moses, will lead the People of Israel from bondage. If Pharaoh refuses to release your bonds, I will smite Egypt with a rain of frogs.”

“You, Moses, will lead the People of Israel to the Promised Land. If Pharaoh blocks your way, I will smite Egypt with a plague of Locust.”

“You, Moses, will lead the People of Israel to freedom and safety. If Pharaoh’s army pursues you, I will part the waters of the Red Sea to open your path to the Promised Land.”

Moses was stunned. He stammered, “That’s... that’s fantastic. I can’t believe it! But what’s the bad news?”

“You, Moses, must write the Environmental Impact Statement.”

## OUTZKIRTS By: David & Doreen Dotson

f OUTZKIRTS.COM



## Classified Ads

### ELM HOUSE ANTIQUES

Doris Hayes, formerly of Elm House Antiques (at 710 N Elm in Sherman) is now located in A Touch of Class Antique Mall on the Square in downtown Sherman, Booth 115. Same fine quality & eclectic collections of fine art, glass, china & pottery.

### WHO HAS?

Want to purchase minerals and other oil/gas interests. Send details to: PO Box 13557, Denver, CO 80201.

### TILLET GROCERY

102 S. Waco (Hwy. 5),  
Van Alstyne, TX , 903-482-5494  
Fresh Cut Meat (never frozen), Complete line of groceries, Fishing Equipment & Bait, Great Beer & Wine selection.

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3535 Hwy 902  
Howe, Texas 75469  
Specializing in Ford Automotive repairs  
general repairs of all makes of  
automobiles and pick-ups, etc.  
Please be sure to check our all new website  
[aaaaautoparts.com](http://aaaaautoparts.com) for lower prices for our new  
items and our monthly specials.  
Monday - Friday 8am - 5:30pm **Rob Hunt**  
Saturday 9am - 1pm **903-546-0024**

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619 N. Travis - Sherman  
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Texoma Enterprise is owned and operated by Dale and Lana Rideout. They have been doing this since 1978. The picture on the left is about 5 years old, with Dale shown as "Santa" Rideout at Christmas, 2009. The family shot on the right includes all our grandchildren, plus a couple of Step-grandchildren. It was taken at Elves Christmas Tree Farm. This farm opened to the public in 1990 when Jordan was only 2 months old and he went there with us. Every year since we have taken every grandchild with us. This year was our 20 year to take all our grandchildren to the farm.



Dale & Lana Rideout



"Santa", Amber, Dominique, Timothy, Jordan, Rachel, Caleb, Chris, Cassie, Brianna, Lana



"Santa" Rideout



Grandkids singing at the Christmas Tree Farm 2007

