Texoma Enterprise

Howe, Texas
75459

December 29, 2011

HAPPY NEW YEAR

INLINE SOUND

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Howe, Texas
75459

Howe's That Recipe

by Lana Rideout

As she was leaving our family Christmas get-together, my sister (who lives in Lewisville) dropped her cell phone in her Diet Coke. Goodbye family phone numbers! She sent out an email this week asking for our phone numbers.

I know she watches the TV show ***NCIS***. As I was watching this week's episode, guess what I saw? The remedy for possibly recovering some of her cell phone information.

According to Abby and McGee, (***NCIS*** characters) you place the cell phone in a bowl of dry rice and wrap the bowl with plastic wrap. That is supposed to dry the cell phone and maybe retrieve at least some of the information.

On a different note, Tuesday evening my husband and I attended a memorial service for Marvin Brown, Jr. This memorial contained more laughs than tears and so it should be so. He has gone on to wait for his loved ones to join him in the hereafter.

Marvin, along with his wife Waynetta Ausmus, Lanny Joe Burnett, Edward Sutherland, and many other singers and storytellers gave tribute to Marvin for the many things he did behind the scene to help Texoma area storytellers have a venue for telling their stories and singing their songs. He will be missed, but just think of the stories he's telling up in heaven.

Bean Meatball Soup

Soak 1 pound dry pinto beans for 1 to 2 hours. In large pot, place soaked beans, 8 cups of hot water, 1 teaspoon of salt, 6 beef bouillon cubes, 3/4 cup chopped onion, and 2 cloves of garlic. Cover and simmer for 1 1/2 hours. Add 3/4 cup chopped celery, 3/4 cup julienne cut carrots, 1-14.5 ounce stewed tomatoes, and 2 dozen small size cooked meatballs. Simmer 25 minutes. As 1 1/2 cup shredded cabbage and cook 5 minutes longer.

I found this recipe in the ***Dallas Morning News*** many years ago and found it to be a hearty meal for a large family. You can freeze extra soup for later.

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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 plece. Santa I like you so will you git me one plece? 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 pupy? 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 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, How are you and elvs and rian deer? I have been so good so can I have a ipod 2 plese? 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 piritsbeen and a wolti new will game. Thenk you for the toys from last yeer. How is your deers? Your Friend, Daniel Gonzalez

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'v 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 millk! 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 millk and cucees. Your Friend, Linda Segura

Dear Santa, I want a tank, a legotrain, 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 Verey 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 frol 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 zoobles! And Zoo Zoo hamsters and littlest pet shosp DSo we how do you get to ever home I the wrlde? 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, I hope you will get Me under my tree. Isa pare of my mom's boots and hello kitty toys and a zoobles! And Zoo Zoo hamsters and littlest pet shosp DSo we how do you get to ever home I the wrlde? 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, 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 doenig? 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 doeig? How are the elfs doeing? How is Mrs Clos doeing? Can I please have a purse for Christmas? ***Love, Christina Harper***

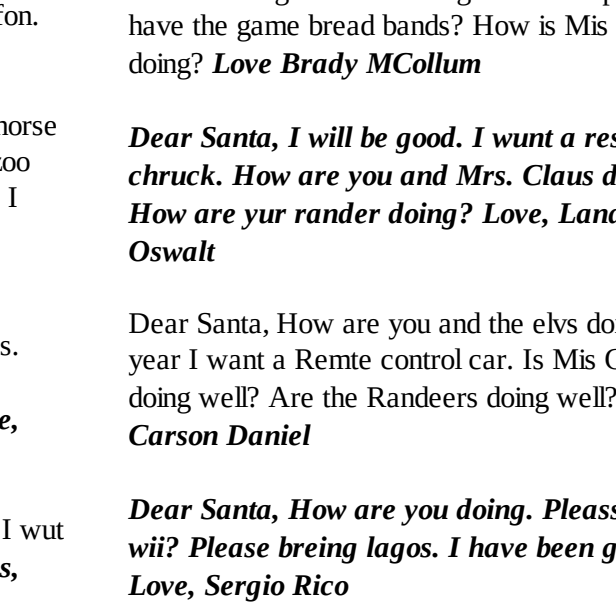
Dear Santa, I was a good boy. How are your randeers doing? I wunt to have a toy store and I wunt to have supr Marlo 3D ende. ***Love, Connor Martin***

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 Chrismas. I likede the cop car that you got me last year. Wute I reele wunt 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. ***Lov,e 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 wont 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***

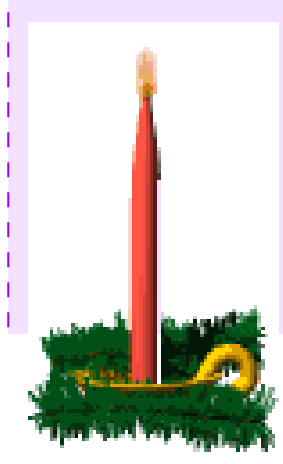
Dear Santa, How are you doing? I hope the elves. Mrs. Claus, and the reindeer are all doing well! Thank you for the cammra I got last year. I would like a Keepon, boots, a toy truck and a Ginypig. I would also like a Jewlery making kit, and a blizerd making kit. ***Love, Janna Nitchman***

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

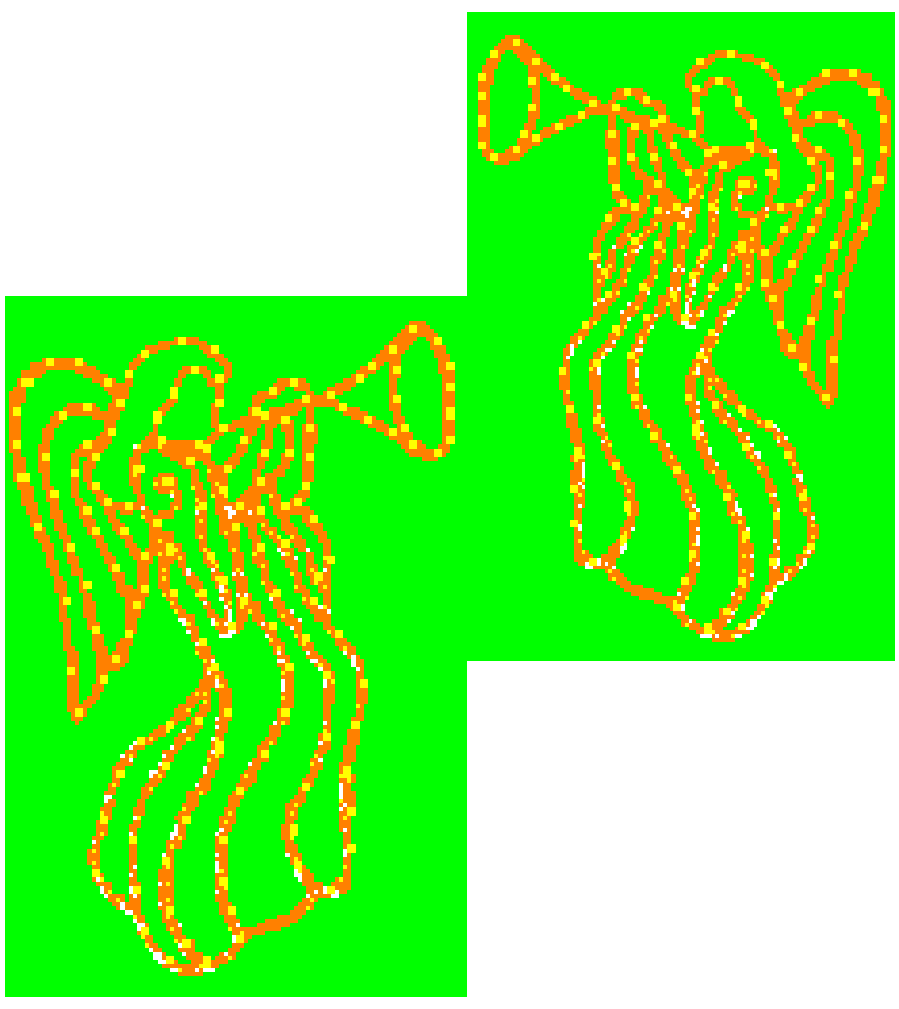
Dear Santa, Santa, I want a shotgun a rell one and 3ds and a Xbox controller and a bord game and a nerfgun. Love ***Jaryn Grisham***

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



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 Chrisrtmas? 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***

Dear Santa, How are you doing? What I for Christmas is some l ego 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 nuver 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***

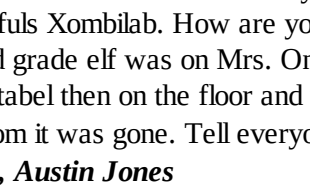
Dear Santa, How are you and Mrs. Clalus doing? How is Rudolph and the elfs doing? I making you cookies. Heres what I want for Christmas. 1. Laptop 2. Rollerblades. 3. electric guitar. 4. electric skooter. 5. Bow and arrow. 6. Hot wheels video car. 7. Video plane. 8. Spy watch. 9. I pad 2. 10. Super Maio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

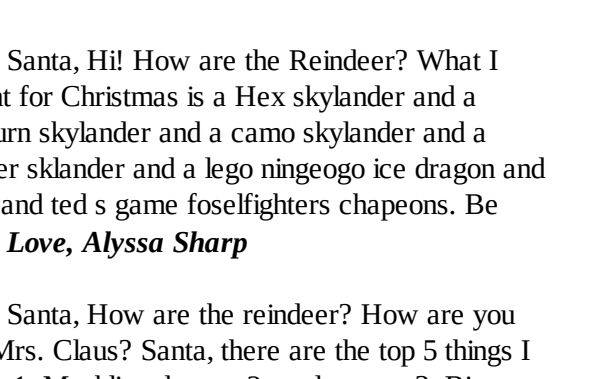
Dear Santa, Hi! How are the Reindeer? What I whant for Christmas is a Hex skylander and a sunburn skylander and a camo skylander and a cender sklander and a lego ningeogo ice dragon and zane and ted s game foselfighters chapeons. Be safe! ***Love, Alyssa Sharp***

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 Wiimats 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***





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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 wood like an Ipad. Can't I take care of Dixie? It would be nice to meet you. It wood 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

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 boxs. 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***

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 writting 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!***

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. 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?

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 Bay 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 it? Thank you for the toys you brought me last 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 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***

More Christmas Letters

INLINE SOUND

Texoma Enterprise

Howe, Texas
75459

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 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 Nitchman

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 Prospector. Buzz Lightyear (the blue one), Bullseye the horse. The Bumblebee that's black with yellow strips (it comes with Samo). From Fisher Robertson

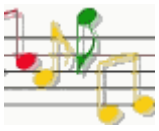
Dear Santa, A frog that's stuffed. A Barbie jet. A Santa hat. Another Barbie. A Wonder Ribbon Book. Merry Christmas. From Matalee Stewart

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

INLINE SOUND

Texoma Enterprise

Howe, Texas
75459



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.

Howe ISD
Substitute Training

Howe ISD is currently accepting applications for substitute positions for the 2011- 2012 school year. To be eligible for substitute placement, applicants must:

*Be at least 18 years old.
*Have a high school diploma or equivalent.
*Undergo a criminal history background check.

All applicants who meet the above criteria are required to attend a mandatory training on Thursday, January 5th @ 9 am in the Howe Elementary School before being placed on the district's substitute list.

All applicants must provide the following:
*Completed substitute application.
*Consent for criminal background check.
*Two forms of identification (i.e. Driver's license, social security card)

You may contact Pauli Stephens at 903-532-3204 for an application or additional information. Applications and criminal background forms can also be found at: http://www.howeisd.net/

INLINE SOUND

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

Texoma Enterprise

Howe, Texas
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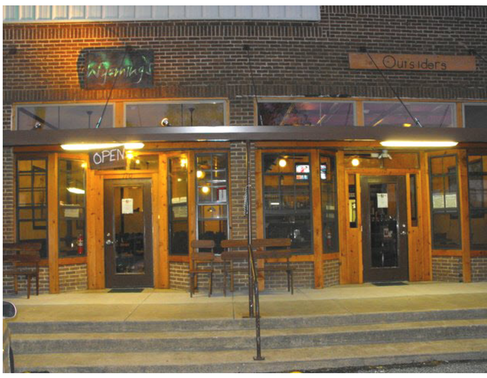


Wyoming's Welcomes New Additions

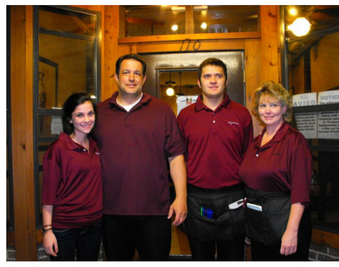
Order your favorite beer or wine at the bar

Sit with your family in the dining room.

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.



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

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.

Scan the menu to choose your favorite entree

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.

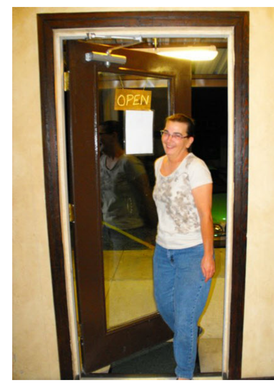
They are now open on Monday nights for Monday Night Football. Doors open at 6:30pm and remain open until the game is over. You can watch the game on either of two large screen TVs and enjoy your dinner, or hors d'oeuvres and drink specials. When football season is over there will be other special occasions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



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

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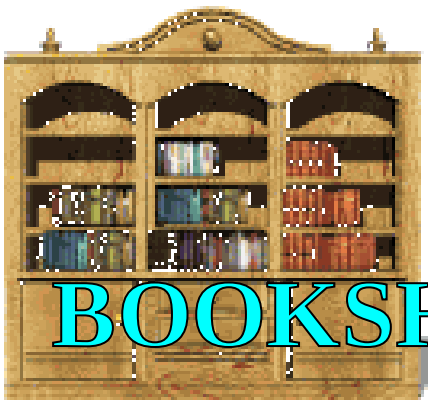

By Tracy Luscombe

Bedtime stories at the Library! New for 2012 will be a short bedtime story for the whole family on Thursday nights at 7 pm. Come in your pajamas if you want and bring that special bedtime blanket or toy. We'll read a nice story, or two, to you and then send you home to tuck the kiddos safely into bed. This new program starts January 12.

By the time you read this article Christmas will be past and we'll be headed quickly toward 2012. Seems only yesterday we were frightened about computer crashes and mass chaos coming as we came up to January 1, 2000. Thankfully there was no chaos and here we are 12 years later thinking about new year's resolutions once again. This is where your library can help. Resolve to come get a library card – it's free. Then borrow books, movies, music, or surf the web. Here are a few new titles: ***Guinness World Record Book 2012***, ***Catherine the Great*** by Robert K. Massie, ***Knitting Stitches Visual Encyclopedia***, ***V is for Vengeance*** by Sue Grafton.

Some of you may have gotten e-readers for Christmas. Many of you have asked if we'll be adding downloadable e-books to our collection. The answer is - I sure hope so. There is one company that dominates the market on these books, and one newcomer on the scene. Both companies are quoting us a starting price of about $2000, of which two-thirds of that actually goes to the price of the books. If you figure the average cost of an e-book is $28 we could get about 50 books. The companies require a minimum 3-year commitment. This is actually for just borrowing the books. When/if we ever leave that service the titles we have paid for in the past go away. Like any library book, e-books can only be used by one reader at a time, and they are checked out to that reader, in a virtual world, for a limited time. Unlike the print book, they cannot be renewed. I have my own e-reader and find it conveniently lightweight to carry. However, I also know that it has a battery that has to be recharged so I make sure I have the print books in my life too.

The Book Club selection for January is ***Major Pettigrew's Last Stand*** by Helen Simonson. We own a regular print and a large print copy of this title. The group will meet for a brown bag lunch on Monday, January 16 at noon at the library. Hope you'll join us.

Have a safe and happy New Year's Eve. Hope to see you around the Van Alstyne Public Library.

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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.

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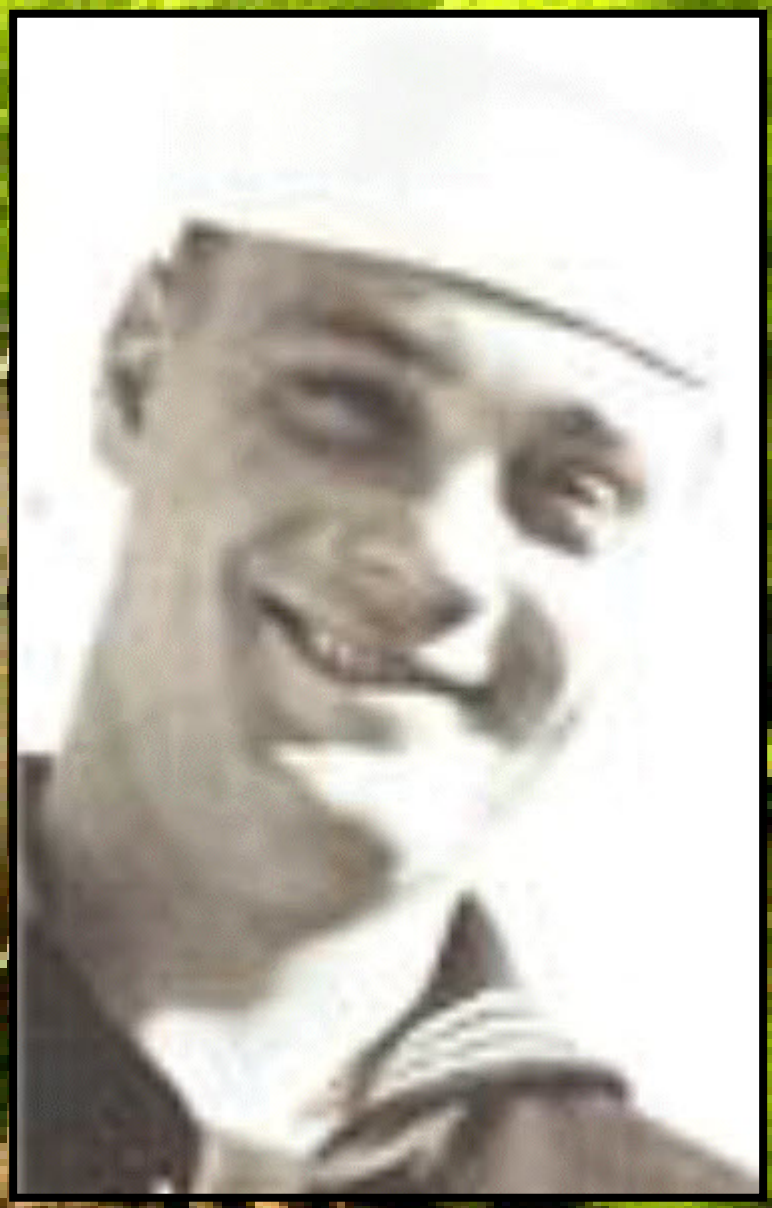
Marvin Lee Brown Jr. (1925-2011)



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.

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

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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.”
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click for **more Area Events**

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Girl Scouts Debut ‘Savannah Smiles’ Cookie to Celebrate 100th Anniversary

Girl Scouts of Northeast Texas Kicks off Cookie Program on January 6

DALLAS - December 2011 - The Girl Scouts’ 100th Anniversary is right around the corner and Girl Scouts of Northeast Texas <http://www.gsnetx.org/> is starting its celebration with the world famous Girl Scout Cookie Program! Girl Scouts of Northeast Texas will launch its annual Cookie Program on January 6, 2012 and it will last through the end of March. Girl Scout cookie booths will be available at select neighborhood stores beginning February 24, 2012.

This year, the Girl Scouts have added a new sweet treat to celebrate the 100th Anniversary- the Savannah Smiles Girl Scout cookie! Savannah Smiles are a lemony delight that will bring back warm memories of where Girl Scouts first began and are sure to make you smile.

Since its inception on March 12, 1912 in Savannah, Georgia, Girl Scouts has built girls of courage, confidence and character, who make the world a better place. The Girl Scout Cookie Program is an integral part of Girl Scouts’ Business and Economic Literacy initiative for girls in grades K through 12. The program helps Girl Scouts develop five key skills, including goal setting, decision making, money management, people skills and business ethics.

“As we approach the second century of Girl Scouting, we will continue to give every girl the opportunity to be the leader she wants to be and to be the leader the world needs her to be,” said Colleen Walker, Chief Executive Officer for the Girl Scouts of Northeast Texas. “The Girl Scout Cookie Program does just that, supplying girls with important leadership skills that will provide a lifelong foundation for success.”

Girl Scout troops set sales goals and follow plans to raise enough funds to support service projects, educational field trips and other leadership activities. The Girl Scout Cookie Program boosts girls’ self-esteem, encouraging them to dream big and plan a professional career path based on what they’ve learned.

Community service through Project Troop to Troop is also a cornerstone of the Girl Scout Cookie Program. It encourages members of the community to buy Girl Scout cookies for donation to the U.S. Armed Forces. Last year, Project Troop to Troop in Northeast Texas donated more than 177,000 packages of Girl Scout cookies. The cookies were transported to service men and women at home and abroad, through Fort Hood, the USO, the American Red Cross. Girl Scout cookies were also donated to local veterans’ organizations and wounded soldiers.

Cookie flavors include the world-famous Thin Mints, Tagalongs, Samoas, Do-Si-Dos, Trefoils, Dulce de Leche, Thank U Berry Munch, and the newest flavor, Savannah Smiles.

Want to find the Girl Scout cookie booth nearest you? There’s an app for that! Download the Cookie Locator app on your iPhone or Android by dialing **GSCOOKIES from your phone. Search for sales in your neighborhood and share your finding with friends on Facebook, Twitter and via email.

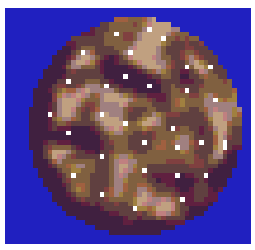
For more information on how you can support Girl Scouts of Northeast Texas by purchasing a delicious box of Girl Scout Cookies, please visit our website at www.texascookietime.com.

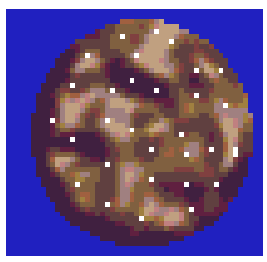
About Girl Scouts of Northeast Texas: Girl Scouts is the premiere leadership organization and is the largest pipeline for female leadership. Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence and character, who make the world a better place. Girl Scouts of Northeast Texas serves nearly 35,000 girls and 17,000 adults in 32 northeast Texas counties. For information on how to join, volunteer, donate or reconnect to the Girl Scouts of Northeast Texas, call (800) 442-2260 or visit www.gsnetx.org or www.amazinggirl.org.

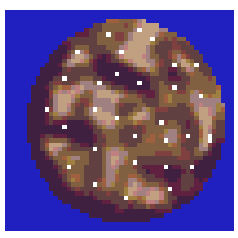
Wyoming's

110 E. Haning Ave.
Howe, TX 75459
903-814-2128
Fine Dining

Read about Wyoming’s new Chef, new menu, new hours. Click here.







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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 allery<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>
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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>orpick one up in the Nature Nook.

Friends of Hagerman NWR
6465 Refuge Road, Sherman, TX 75092
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

Music by Kevin McCloud

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Dec 29

A historical link is severed

By Bob Bowman

When the ***Houston Chronicle*** decided to stop delivering its daily editions to homes in Lufkin and Angelina County, it severed a connection that reaches back more than a century.

In 1908, the ***Chronicle*** was acquired in part by Jesse H. Jones, who grew up in the lumber business connected to East Texas. His uncle M.T. Jones founded the sawmill town of Emporia near Diboll in 1882 and owned other sawmills at Orange.

Jesse also founded his own lumber company in Houston before entering the newspaper business. He became the ***Chronicle's*** sole owner in 1926.

During World War I, Jones managed military relief for the American Red Cross at the request of President Woodrow Wilson. In the 1930s, another president, Herbert Hoover, appointed Jones to chair the Reconstruction Finance Corporation to combat the Great Depression, becoming one of the most powerful men in America.

After flirting with the vice-presidential nomination in 1940, Jones was offered the post of secretary of commerce, but was allowed to keep another federal title, head of the Federal Loan Agency, which superseded the RFC.

In the late 1930s, when Southland Paper Mills, Inc., was founded at Lufkin, Jesse Jones steered RFC money to the mill's construction. And when the mill began making the first newsprint from Southern pine trees in 1940, the ***Chronicle*** was among its first customers and continued to buy paper made in Lufkin for a half-century.

Dot's D-A-S-H-E-S

By Dorothy N. Fowler

This time last week, about 9 pm, my daughter was lying in the mud and cold next to my storage building, her hand between the flooring and one of the skids that supports the building. In her hand she held Booger Bear, my Yorkie, who had chased something -- probably a mouse or a rat -- under the building and then could not get out.

When I fed the dogs, Booger didn't come when I called and because he is the number one chow hound, I knew something was wrong. When I went into the backyard, he was crying for help. At first, I thought he might have gotten through the fence into the neighbor's backyard, but there was neither hole under the fence nor one in the fence. Then I thought someone might have put him into the storage building, although that seemed pretty farfetched because my gate is usually locked and always closed to prevent the dogs from wandering away.

When his SOS yelps became more urgent and more pitiable, I knew he had to be under the storage building and I also knew that I couldn't get him out without help. Artificial knees cured my knee pain, but they didn't leave me flexible enough to get up and down as readily as needed to rescue the desperate little dog.

So, I did what any old lady with a wonderful daughter and son-in-law would do. I called them and within minutes they were at my house, armed with flashlights and suggestions about what to do.

We started with the obvious. In spite of my knees, I flopped onto the edge of the concrete pad on which the storage building rests and called Booger to me. He came in a flash, sticking his head between floor and skid, trying to turn his body first one way and then the other to get out, putting his paws through the narrow opening and then trying to follow with his head, but no matter what he did, he couldn't get through and I couldn't see a way to help him.

That left me with an immediate problem: how to get up now that I was down. Fortunately my son-in-law's son, Nehemiah, could lend me a hand when I finally got one knee bent enough to push myself upward.

While this part of the rescue was underway, my daughter called the Sherman Fire Department and the police department and animal control, none of whom had any suggestions other than to leave the dog alone to find his way out. None of us believed that he could do that, because if he could have, he already would have. Moreover, it was wet under the building and he might have died of hypothermia.

We discussed using a car jack to lift the building enough to get the dog out, but quickly decided that was not practical for any number of reasons. Then it occurred to me that we could cut a hole in the plywood floor, a hole big enough to pull the dog through.

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BOB BOWMAN'S

EAST TEXAS, continued

Two Lufkinites -- Morris Frank and Clayte Binion -- became prominent Chronicle employees. Both were newspapermen in Lufkin and Binion's family owned the forerunner of the ***Lufkin Daily News***.

Frank, who wrote a ***Chronicle*** column, "Of Cabbages and Kings," also became one of America's best known toastmasters. He often spoke in Lufkin, always starting his speeches with "Uncle Jesse sends his regards," even though Jones wasn't a blood relative.

Binion became an executive in the ***Chronicle's*** news room and was responsible for the creation of a Chronicle East Texas bureau at Lufkin in 1959. I was lucky enough to become the first bureau chief.

Every time I made a trip to the Chronicle building in downtown Houston, Binion and Frank always asked me about "the folks in Lufkin." I always stayed at Jones' Rice Hotel across the street from the ***Chronicle.*** He also owned a Houston radio station known as KTRH. The last three letters stood for "The Rice Hotel."

While working for the ***Chronicle,*** I wrote my first book on East Texas ghost towns.

No one in Lufkin knows why the ***Chronicle*** pulled out of Lufkin, but it was a frothy issue in town for a few weeks, especially because the ***Chronicle*** decided to continue home deliveries at Corrigan, south of Lufkin -- a town with about 31,000 less people.

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

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Fax: 903-532-6439
Email: advbusmach@verizon.net

Dot's Dashes, continued

Now, I have nearly every tool that most homeowners have, but not a reciprocating saw. I used to have one, but I loaned it to someone and it never came home. I do, however, have a dandy small wood saw, the old fashioned kind operated by hand. And I have a couple of electric drills and an abundance of extension cords. By a miracle, the ¼ inch drill key was where it was supposed to be and the ½ inch drill bit was where it was supposed to be, so as soon as we found a live electrical plug -- the ones on the outside weren't working -- my son-in-law, Noah, drilled some holes in the plywood floor and sawed a chunk out.

In the meantime, Lucinda, my daughter, lay in the mud trying to keep Booger out of the way of the tools going through the floor on the other side of the building.

Alas, the first hole was on the wrong side of the skid, so there was a hole in the floor, but no way for Booger to get to it.

Noah moved the drill bit six inches to the right, drilled new holes and sawed another chunk out of the floor. When he turned the flashlight into the hole, Booger's head was in the hole faster than a speeding bullet, but he couldn't get out by himself. Noah had to lift him out.

Lucinda took Booger to the bathtub and washed the mud off him and warmed him up with warm water and when he was finally clean, Noah used dry towels to get him dry enough to go to bed.

Next problem: why, after all these years, was Booger able to get under the storage building? Answer: I stored two or two by fours on the concrete under the edge of the storage building for all those years, but had recently used them all for a project. To keep him from going under the building again, I needed to buy three eight foot two by fours and stack them where the others were stacked before. Easy fix and less than $10.

Next problem: How do we fix the holes in the floor? Answer: Buy some sheet metal, nail it down neatly, and cover it with the shelves that serve as storage in the building. Another easy fix, but it cost more than $10. However, the advantage is that if that fool dog gets under the building again, all we'll have to do is use a flat head screwdriver to pull a nail up enough to use a claw hammer or a Wonder Bar to pull it up the rest of the way.

Unless, of course, Booger were to get between two skids other than the ones where we've already got holes. I don't think that's likely. The dog hasn't even looked in the direction of that storage building since he got out.

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Capitol Watch

By Larry Phillips, State Representative

This week I will discuss the interim charges recently issued to the House Committee on Economic & Small Business Development. 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 Economic & Small Business Development

*Examine previous Emerging Technology Fund (ETF) grants awarded for cancer-related research. Determine whether future awards for similar projects are appropriate for the ETF program or whether they should be considered by the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas.

*Examine the impact of research at state universities on the state economy. Identify ways to increase the partnership opportunities between private business and research institutions to enhance the commercialization of newly discovered technology. (Joint with the House Committee on Higher Education)

*Examine the state's efforts to encourage new business growth and retain existing businesses in order to strengthen our state's economy. Determine whether a consolidated approach to statewide economic development would be more effective.

*Examine the economic impact of the automobile industry in Texas and the state's ability to compete with other states for future automotive manufacturing facilities. Identify policies, regulations, and current statutes that either hinder or facilitate job growth and investment by the automotive industry. Review opportunities available to partner manufacturers' research and development with Texas colleges and universities, including technology enhancements in safety or alternative fuel systems.

*Examine Texas' industry cluster initiatives in an effort to remain competitive in today's economic development arena. Review the implementation of recommendations made by the Governor's Competitiveness Council and consider new recommendations for Texas to remain an economic development leader.

*Examine current economic development programs available in urban areas in Texas and other states. Report on successful programs and make legislative recommendations for innovative economic development programs. (Joint with the House Committee on Urban Affairs)

The House Committee on Economic & Small Business Development can be reached at 512-463-0794. 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. My district office phone number is (903) 891-7297.

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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

Spanish Dictionary

Royalty Free Music

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.

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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.

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 pm. 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 athttp://www.thegospelofchrist.com/newsletter.

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 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.

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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 Giibbs, 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

R.S.V.P., continued

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

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3 Ways a Spouse Can Boost Your Social Security

By Jonnelle Marte

Mmarried 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.

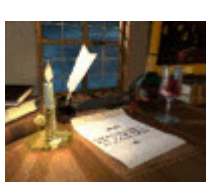
Here are some tips for getting the most out of your marriage when it comes to Social Security:

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.



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Study: Eat lean beef to lower cholesterol

By Amanda Hill

Healthy eating and improving health habits top the list of New Year's resolutions for many Texans each year. If eating a heart healthy diet tops your list for 2012, a new study by Pennsylvania State University may give you some pretty tasty motivation.

The recent study, published in the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition, found that eating lean beef -- including top sirloin, tenderloin and 95 percent lean ground beef -- every day could improve LDL cholesterol ("bad" cholesterol) levels by 10 percent. Eat a steak and improve your health? Sounds good to me!

Researchers followed 36 men and women, ages 30-65, who had moderately high cholesterol levels. The participants were divided into four diets:

Healthy American Diet (HAD) -- Control diet with refined grains, full-fat dairy products, oil and butter to reflect a "typical" American diet. This diet included 0.7 ounces of lean beef per day.
Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension (DASH) -- The "gold standard" heart healthy diet, consisting mostly of vegetables, fruits, low-fat dairy and limited red meat (1 ounce of lean beef per day).

Beef in an Optimal Lean Diet (BOLD) -- Similar to the DASH diet but included 4 ounces of lean beef as the primary daily protein source. Beef in an Optimal Lean Diet Plus (BOLD-PLUS) -- Similar to the BOLD diet but increased the protein and lean beef daily intake to 5.4 ounces. At first glance, you might think the DASH diet -- with its focus on vegetables, nuts and beans -- would provide the best heart healthy results. Actually, the BOLD and BOLD-PLUS diets, which included servings of protein-rich lean beef, proved to pack more protein, lower carbohydrates and provide about the same amount of fat as the diets with minimal lean beef.

Kelly wrote about the health benefits of lean beef a few months back. She shared that a 3-ounce serving is only 180 calories and provides 25 grams of protein. Combine that with the heart healthy effect of lower cholesterol, and there's proof that healthy eating can taste great.

If you're resolving to improve your health and lower cholesterol in 2012, check out www.BeefNutrition.org for heart healthy recipes and more nutritional information on lean beef. You might also take a look at The Healthy Beef Cookbook by the American Dietetic Association and the National Cattlemen's Beef Association for more great recipes.

Here's to a happy and heart healthy 2012!

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 .

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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-robes 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.

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Warning: Very Bad Pun Inside

A pastor who was badly overworked went to the local medical center and was able to have a clone made. The clone was like the pastor in every respect -- except that the clone used extraordinarily foul language. The cloned pastor was exceptionally gifted in many other areas of pastoral work, but finally the complaints about the dirty language were too much. The pastor was not too sure how to get rid of the clone so that it wouldn't look like murder. The best thing, he decided, was to make the clone's death look like an accident. So the pastor lured the clone onto a bridge in the middle of the night and pushed the clone off the bridge.

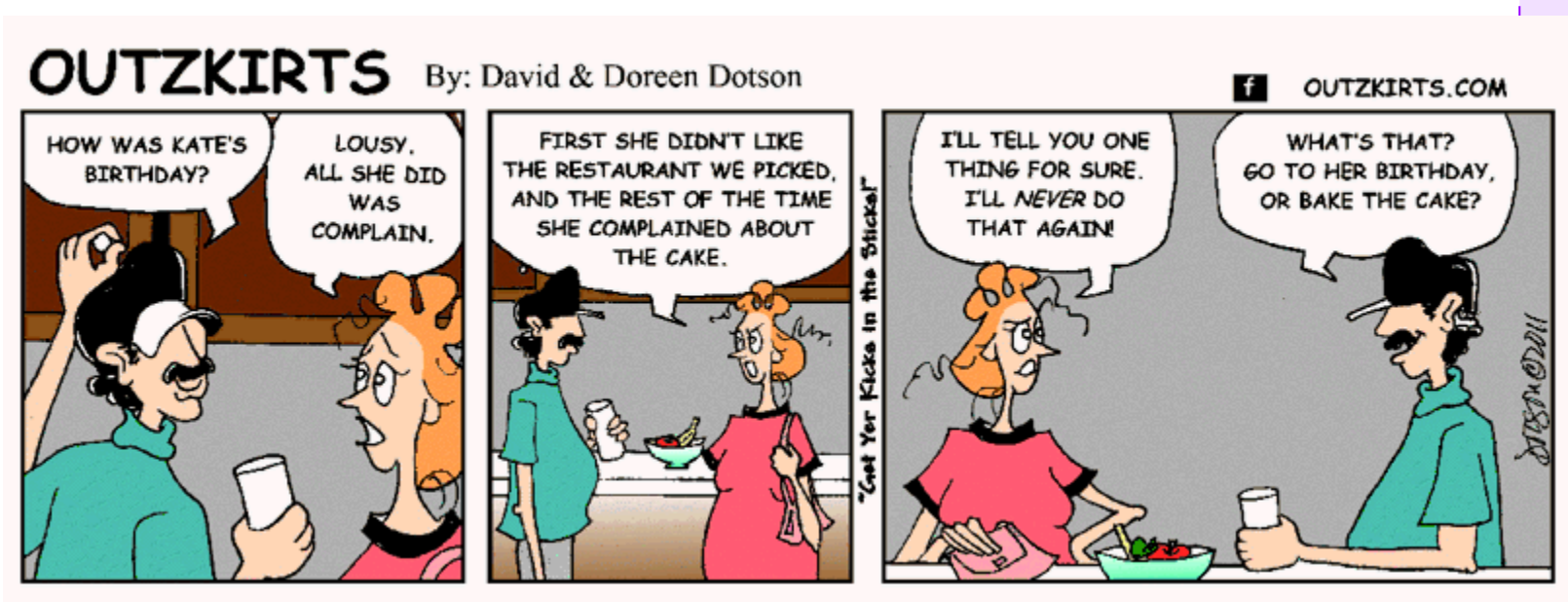
Unfortunately there was a police officer who happened by at that very moment and arrested the pastor for making an obscene clone fall.

Biblical Puns

Q: What was the secret of Delilah getting into Samson's house?
A: She picked his locks.

Q: Why didn't Pharaoh let the Israelites go into the wilderness after the first six plagues?
A: He was in de Nile.

Q: Why did Samson try to avoid arguing with Delilah?
A: He didn't want to split hairs.



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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.

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Howe, Texas 75459
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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

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