



Letters To Santa Claus Issue



Cowboy Country News

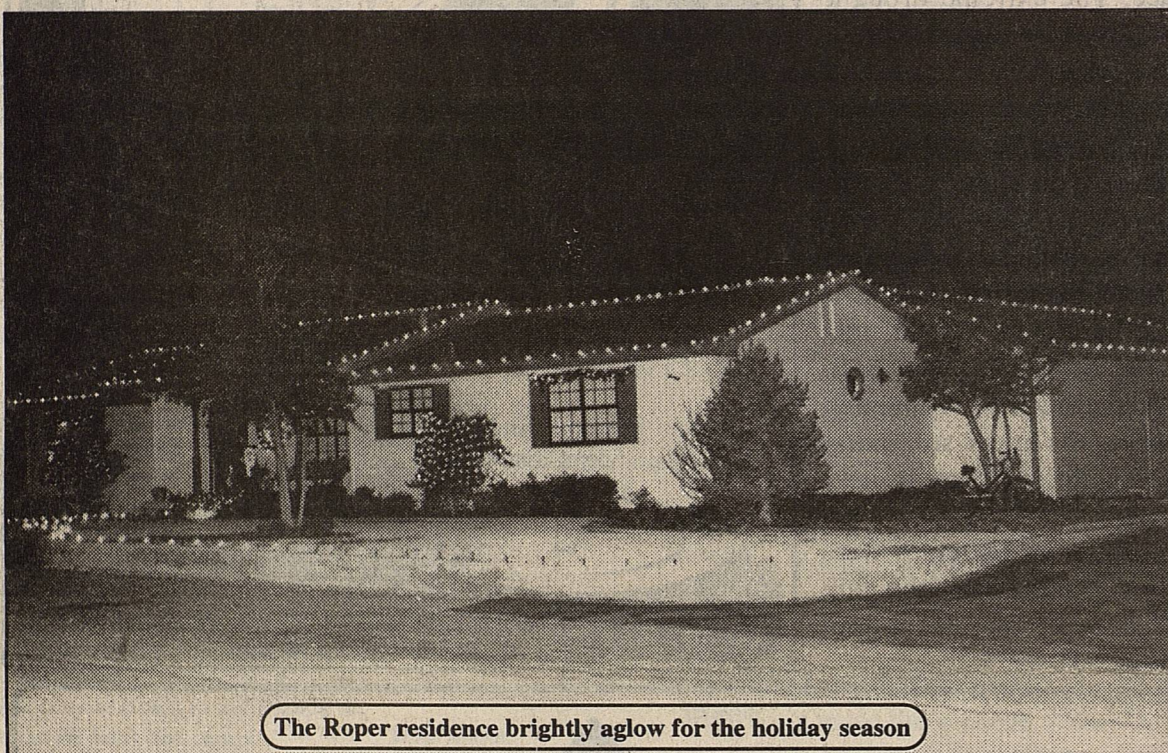


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Published each Wednesday in the county seat of Yoakum County, Plains, Texas

Volume V11, Issue 14, December 20, 2000

Merry Christmas To One And All!



The Roper residence brightly aglow for the holiday season



The Culwell home sparkled, with a pair of elves greeting passers-by

Sports & Sportsmanship

I am deeply concerned about the example we set as fans for our children in relationship to competition and winning. I do not believe the "end justifies the means," when it comes to winning. There are so many important lessons that can be learned by our children that will help them throughout life, but it seems the ones they are learning most from athletics at this time are selfishness and "where is the scapegoat?" As I watch fans at athletic events, it is interesting to notice the scapegoats (excuses) we provide for our athletes. They start with "We would be a better team if my child was a starter;" move to "We have great student athletes, so our coaches must have no clue about how to coach;" to finally, "We never get a break with the officials." The interesting part is when I visit at other communities or look across the gym or field at the opposing fans, I hear and see the same things. As I look at these excuses (complaints) I wonder about each one. For instance, there is no coach who would rather lose than win, so why would a coach deliberately play an athlete he/she didn't think was the best person for the position, or could help the team the most. Coaches have to look at every athlete and determine how he or she can best help the team. Sometimes that means a starting role, and sometimes it means a supporting role. We pay them as professionals, and we should allow them the opportunity to perform that way.

Or, why would a coach deliberately work a strategy during a game that would cause him/her to get beaten? Coaches develop strategies for games based on the strengths and weaknesses of the other team and of their own team. All you have to do is show up at a game and watch a minute or two, and you will see all athletes are not created equal, which is where the concept of team comes in. Working together, we can be better than by working individually.

Finally, what are the odds every official who works our events would come with the specific purpose in mind of making sure we get beaten? It would be naive to think there are never times when an official might favor one team over another, but surely those times are the exception. Does calling an official names or screaming about their mistakes help the team? More often than not it creates animosity toward the very team we are supporting. When we choose to behave this way as fans, at the very least we will continue to get poor officiating. At the worst, fans, coaches or athletes can be ejected and the entire team can be penalized by the University Interscholastic League.

I believe if we are not very careful, we can send these distorted messages to our student athletes whenever we go to "support" them. Athletes and competition are great ways for our children to learn about challenge, adversity, working as a team, commitment, and fair play. Let's make sure we help our student athletes every way we can by supporting them, the coaches, and even the officials in a positive way.

Jim Haynes, Superintendent, Plains ISD

Defendant guilty in county and district court

Carlos Gonzales entered a plea bargain guilty plea to sexual assault in District Court December 12, with Judge Kelly G. Moore presiding. He was placed on ten years of community supervision, adjudication of guilt deferred. Conditions of supervision include serving 240 hours community service, attend psychological counseling, pay costs necessary for the victims psychological counseling, submit a blood sample to DPS to create a DNA record, register as a sex offender, have no association with programs involving participants 17 years or younger, go within 200 yards of any facility where children commonly gather, submit to polygraph testing at his cost,

have no unsupervised contact with any minor child. He must pay \$341 court costs and was fined \$1,500. His attorney was Chuck Lanehart.

Gonzales also appeared in County Court before Judge Dallas Brewer and pled guilty to DWI. A 180 day jail sentence was suspended and probated 12 months. He must pay \$225 court costs, complete the DWI first offender program, attend weekly AA meetings, install an interlock device on any vehicle used, and surrender his drivers license 90 days. Lanehart again served as his attorney, and Criminal District Attorney Richard Clark represented the state in both courts.

JP Court Summary

The following is a summary of cases filed and bonds and fines set in Precinct One Justice of Peace Court, Judge Melba Crutcher presiding.

Cases Filed:
25 traffic cases, four bad check cases, one small claims case, one search warrant issued.
Bonds and fines set:
Speeding (43 mph in 30 mph zone)- \$145 fine
Violate promise to appear - \$195 fine
Expired drivers license - \$95 fine
Motion to revoke probation, Ector County - held until

transported
DWI, 2nd offense- \$1500 bond, interlock device ordered
Four cases DWI, 1st - \$1000 bonds
Possession of controlled substance, more than 1 gram, less than 4 grams - \$3500 bond
Two cases possession of marijuana, under 2 ounces - \$1000 bonds
Driving while license suspended - \$500 bond.
3 cases, motion to revoke probation - held until hearing
Assault causes bodily injury to family member - \$1500 bond

Early action by City Council dodges bullet from rising gas prices

All City of Plains natural gas customers received a three page summary of a new winter gas disconnect rule approved by the Railroad Commission of Texas November 28, which will remain in effect until March 28, 2001. The lengthy letter detailed how new Railroad Commission rules can prohibit natural gas providers from disconnecting gas service to customers with delinquent accounts during certain cold periods; "providers may not disconnect a customer on a day when the previous day's temperature fell below 40 degrees, and the National Weather Service predicts the temperature the next 24 hours will be below forty degrees."

City Administrator David Brunson told CCN, "We have always had a policy to not disconnect a past due gas customer during extremely cold weather. Our policy is for the safety and well being of our customers during extreme cold, especially the elderly customers." Brunson said the City has for a long time offered a deferred payment plan for customers during such emergency periods. "We must stress, however, if the customer is past due, they will still be responsible for the eventual full payment of their account to assure continued gas service."

In September, 1999, the City Council entered into an agreement with their wholesale natural gas supplier, West Texas Gas. The agreement set the City's price for natural gas at \$6.33 per thousand cubic feet (Mcf), that price effective for a five year period. Last Thursday, the Spot Market price for gas was \$7.68, and most industry analysts predict the winter price for natural gas could reach \$10 per MCF.

Brunson said the Council could possibly adopt an averaging method of billing customers who must use increased amounts of gas during expected very cold months to avoid financial hardships when paying their gas bills. Other utility providers, including Lea County Electric Cooperative, offer the bill averaging method of payment to assist paying electric bills, which have increased due to the Cooperative's rising prices from Southwestern Public Service, their wholesale provider.

City customers needing more information about possible deferred payments may call City Hall, 456-2288. City gas users may be relieved to know their monthly gas rate will remain the same until September, 2003.

At Last, It's Over - Now What?

An opinion of the editor;

Regardless of your political leanings, your elation or disappointment over the outcome of the Presidential election, we all have seen some dramatic history unfold in the five long weeks since the actual election.

The Supreme Court's final decision, which shattered Vice President Gore's quest for the presidency and propelled Governor Bush a step closer to inauguration day, will long be debated by the nation and legal scholars. It infuriated Democrat faithful, brought joy to Republicans. While the election is now a 'done deal', many questions remain about what lies ahead.

Will President Elect Bush be able to successfully instill unity in the almost evenly split U.S. Congress as he has pledged to do? Will party bitterness prevail and result in congressional gridlock as many political seers predict? Will the Reverend Jesse Jackson actually stir the pot effectively enough to create massive civil unrest? Will George W make effective appointments to his staff and cabinet from both the Democrat and Republican camps?

For Texans, there are many questions closer

to home. How effectively can Rick Perry guide the upcoming state legislative session after his swearing in as the new Governor? Who will the state Senate elect to replace Perry as Lt. Governor? Can the new Governor and Lt. Governor continue the uncommon bi-partisanship in the State Legislature George W. Bush successfully achieved during his six years in office?

Reality tells me there is going to be prolonged bitterness over the election felt by both Democrat and Republican office holders, not only in Washington D.C. but throughout state government in all 50 states, as well as in the average guy on the street across the country. Common sense tells me now is the time to put the election debacle, and debacle is what it was, regardless of which man you voted for, behind us and unite with George W. Bush when he is sworn in as the 43rd President of our nation. I sincerely hope the citizenry and our elected officials across the country can appreciate the necessity of working together to achieve this unity.

A familiar Holiday Season sight



Plains State Bank's annual holiday open house was well attended by customers and friends last week. The Yoakum County Credit Union also hosted an open house, and Texas Equipment and the County Courthouse events are scheduled this week.

WE WISH YOU A JOYFUL AND SAFE HOLIDAY SEASON!

As you and your family celebrate during the Holiday Season, we encourage the following wise-energy-use practices:

- ☆ Make sure your tree is placed away from fireplaces, candles, space heaters, electrical appliances and other heat sources that might dry it out, or ignite it.
- ☆ Turn off tree lights overnight or when you're away from home.
- ☆ Keep paper decorations and tinsel away from hot light.

Above all, enjoy this festive time. And, greet the New Year with energy, health and happiness!

Lea County Electric Cooperative, Inc.

"Owned By Those We Serve"

Michael A. Dreyspring, General Manager.

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Wednesday 8-12 noon

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No El Nino or La Nina? Tsa Mo Ga's A more typical winter ahead?

Christmas 2000

The Tsa Mo Ga Club staged a Country Christmas and Dinner December 9 in the home of Ann and Ken McGinty, with Connie and Mackey McWhirter and Terry & Ed Hansen serving as co-hostesses. Club members and guests filled Santa's Bag with Monetary Gifts for the March of Dimes. President Judy Head delivered a holiday welcome in celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. The evening was spent with "Fellowship, Fun, Friends". She introduced Shirley Ward of Levelland, the coordinator for the evening fun game "Fun with Bunko."

Club members, husbands and guest attending were Mary Jo & Pierre St. Romain, Wilma Powell, Billie and Bob Blundell, Elouise & Joe St. Romain, Ann & Ken McGinty, Connie & Mackey McWhirter, Terri & Ed Hansen, Judy Head and guest Joyce Hutchison, Wayne & Shirley Ward of Levelland, Ragan McGinty, Jet & Gay Wilmeth, Arlan & Lisa Gentry of Plains.

According to the National Weather Service's Climate Prediction Center, this will be the first winter in several not dominated by an El Nino or La Nina. These events usually have a dampening effect on the long-term weather across West Texas during the winter season, which usually results in a fairly persistent weather patternduring winter months. Without the long-term effects of an El Nino or La Nina, it appears likely West Texas will experience a weather pattern marked by extreme variability, with prolonged cold snaps and periods of warm weather anticipated. Therefore, this winter will likely be more "winter-like" than the past three winters in the Southern Plains, which have been very mild.

There are signs the highly variable weather pattern likely to dominate our upcoming weather is already in place. The extreme drought conditions persisting across West Texas this summer and early fall, which included the driest September and second driest August on record, were immediately followed by considerable rain during much of October. According to the Climate Prediction Center, this period of rainfall was both widespread and heavy enough to bring the area's soil moisture conditions back to near normal.

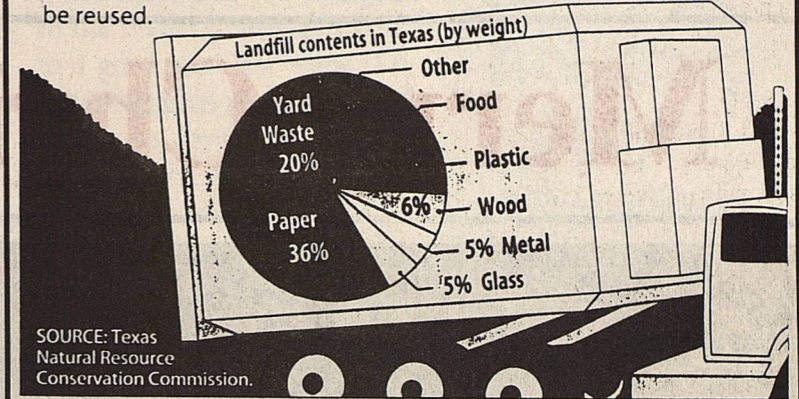
Temperature extremes were just as evident early this fall. In late September, portions of

the extreme southwestern Panhandle experienced their first freeze of the season. The average date of the first freeze in the fall for this area is the last week of October. On October 3, the latest recorded date the temperature reached 100 degrees occurred at Lubbock International Airport. Only a few days later, on October 8, the earliest recorded snowfall occurred at the airport.

The odds are pretty good the Southern Plains will continue to experience this highly variable weather pattern through the upcoming winter months.

A look in a landfill

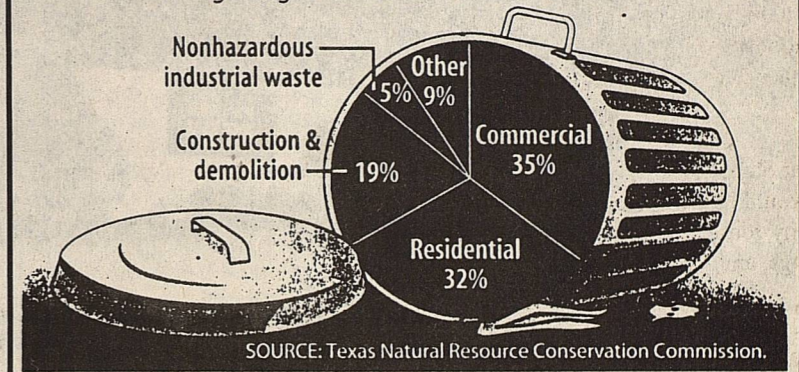
While recycling programs have helped cut waste in Texas, much of the materials in Texas landfills could be reused.



SOURCE: Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission.

Where the garbage comes from

Residential areas and businesses generate about the same amount of the garbage headed for Texas landfills.



SOURCE: Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission.



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Plains Elementary Santa Letters

Mrs. Hawthorne Kindergarten Class

Dear Santa,
I would like a bike, Mermaid Barbie and a baby mermaid, and a doll her name is Teresa.

Love,
Rebecca Garcia

Dear Santa,
I would like Go Coo super sain he fights, monster train, and a robott.

Love,
Jr. Sigala

Dear Santa,
I would like a Monster truck, trailer, and a present.

Love,
Abe Nuedorf

Dear Santa,
I would like a doll that moves it's head, a Poochi, a bike, Barbie catch wrister, and a play gingerbread house.

Love,
Whitney Davis

Dear Santa,
I would like a Pizza party machine, Barbie cash register, Tommy from the Rugrats, Mr. Potato Head, and a water gun.

Love,
Tracie Lopez

Dear Santa,
I would like a Poochi is a dog, I like cartoons and I want to play with my brother with toys.

Love,
Omar Calderon

Dear Santa,
I would like Roller skates, tent, TV in my room so I can watch my own things, and a tea set.

Love,
Jasmine Rivera

Dear Santa,
I would like a TV in my room, computer to write letters to my friends, a car, beanie baby and candy.

Love,
Stacy Loewen

Dear Santa,
I would like a tractor and a trailer.

Love,
Gerardo Martinez

Dear Santa,
I would like a TV, computer, superman the CD, three doors down, and a sprinkler system. Nothing else.

Love,
Johnathan Davis

Dear Santa,
I would like a sweeping truck like my dad's, a pipe player and an asphalt truck with an asphalt paver also a grapler. That's all.

Love,
Nicholas Alverado

Dear Santa,
I would like a Poochi that's a dog thats a robott, a dancing doll, a scooter, and a mermaid that comes with a baby.

Love,
Haley Welch

Dear Santa,
I would like a mermaid and it's baby is a mermaid too, and um the magic

allie it's a doll that does magic, that's all! I love you!

Love,

Autumn Friesen

Mrs. McGinty Kindergarten Class

Dear Santa,
I would like a doll that sings and

Dear Santa,
I would like a firetruck, train robot kids, conotor, sleigh, kitchen, bike, Poochi.

Love,

Abe

Dear Santa,
I would like a Jump rope, Playdough, train, cars, skooter, leggos.

Love,

Isaac Vasquez

Dear Santa,
I would like a Poochi, ElMo, Conator fire truck play dough

Love,

PJ

Dear Santa,
I would like a poochi, scooter, barbie, kitchen, robot cat, playdough.

Love,

Katie

Dear Santa,
I would like a kitchen, barbie, bike, Poochi, robot cat, Play dough, Reindeer.

Love,

Marina Corrales

Dear Santa,
I would like a barbie rope, robot dog robot kids Elmo skooter poochie bike train cars legos fire truck.

Love,

Vanessa

Dear Santa,
I would like a bike Play dough, barbie, robot Teddy bear.

Love,

Mariah

Dear Santa,
I would like a kitchen, barbie, firetruck bike Play dough.

Love,

Tori

Dear Santa,
I would like a train, Play dough, cars.

Love,

Esteban

Dear Santa,
I would like a conator, skooter, legos play train Poochie fire truck.

Love,

Merrit

Dear Santa,
I would like a Robot dog, Robot Kids, Elmo, Reindeer, Sleigh.

Love,

Aron

Dear Santa,
I would like legos, Playdough, train, bike, firetruck, robot.

Love,

Salvador

Dear Santa,
A doll that sings candy bubbles, flow-ers.

Love,

Agatha

Mrs. Banfield Kindergarten Class

Dear Santa,
I would like a scooter with blue wheels, A new dinosaur (Big T-Rex), Monster truck T-Rex with 3 wheels on both sides. A new building block barn with cows in it. A computer and computer game. (Dinosaurs).

Love,
Matthew Ramos

Dear Santa,
I would like a Guitar, a computer, a toy reindeer, Dinosaurs.

Love,
Jacob Neufeld

Dear Santa,
I would like a Ball, Scooter, Doll, poodle (toy) volly ball.

Love,
Jennifer Lira

Dear Santa,
I would like a Scooter Play Station 2, New bike, Toys, New TV.

Love,
Alex Barrientes

Dear Santa,
I would like a bike, trampoline, scooter, barbies.

Love,

Kailey Vasquez

Dear Santa,
I would like a scooter, Water Skates, ball, atapler.

Love,

Rudy Garcia

Dear Santa,
I would like a Remote control car, a doll for my sister, a car like mine for my friend (Daniell)

Love,

Ivan Luna

Dear Santa,
I would like a scooter, remote control low rider car, goat car, tractor, K nects, Toy reindeer, rice center (box with rice)

Love,

Andrew Conway

Dear Santa,
I would like a Barbie with accessories, Barbie car, Barbie C.D.'s, more Barbies, A raido to play cassetter & C.D.'s

Love,

Roxana Cueto

Daer Santa,
I would like a Play house and tram- poline.

Love,

Carmen Delgado

Dear Santa,
I would like a scooter, Dollie, My own computer, Spray ink pen. Lamp with different colors it goes up and down. And then I can sleep in my room because I won't be scared.

Love,

Adora Ramos

Dear Santa,
I would like a little car that peddles, a special barbie doll that I won't ever play with because its going to be special. Play computer, rice center Lan- guage Master.

Love,

Karla Powell

Dear Santa,
I would like a scooter K nects.

Love,

Fermin Villegas

Dear Santa,
I would like a scooter K nects.

Love,

Zachary Lamar

Dear Santa,
I'm going to be a good girl Santa. How are you doing and your special family. Santa I am going to be special to you and will be your friend. How are your reindeer flying? I want some toys, a barbie, and a bear and some more toys. Sant you and your reindeer and Rudolph, you are very special. You are the best santa. I love you Santa because you are special to me. I will be a good girl.

Love,

Mariela Martinez

Dear Santa,
I love you Santa very much. I want a Dragon Ball Z pinball, bike, watch, nutcracker, computer, pokeman tp 20000, Doigimon the game, I love your reindeer. I want a baseball game.

Love,

Cedrick Flournoy

Dear Santa,
I love your reindeer. Merry Christ- mas, Santa. I am given you some milk and cookies. I want a barbie cash reg- ister, a computer, makeup, shoes, barbie radio, a scooter, the grinch movie, rugrats in Paris, a babie, a tent and a bike. I want presents.

Love,

Shelby Covarrubias

Dear Santa,
I want a scooter, bike, Rugrats in Paris, Godzilla movie too. Will you bring me a stereo. Love you Santa.

Love,

Sarah Garza

Dear Santa,
How is it in the North Pole. I been a good boy. Will you bring me a four wheeler, basketball goal, a paintball gun and the equipment for the paint ball gun. I want shoes, Texas Tech uniform, CD burner, scooter, bike, Tonke 2, swimming pool, playstation, a dog and Grinch movie.

Love,

Andrew Conway

Dear Santa,
I've been a good girl. I love your reindeer Rudolph. Here is my list of what I want for Christmas. A barbie cash register, robot poochie, scooter, meomy, butterfly barbie, barbie house, barbie swing, dancing Debbie, barbie radio, I hope you can get me all these things.

Your friend,

Lexi Isaacks

Dear Santa,
How does it feel in the North Pole? How do your reindeer fly? Very please bring me the movie Godzilla 2000, and a pochie, and the radt robot, a soccer ball, new legos and a Al Gore and Bush coin, a trapper keeper, new cloths, new pants, and the Grinch movie.

I love you,

Greg Andazola

Dear Santa, I love your reindeers. I have been a good girl. I hope you feel good santa. Merry Christmas Santa. Will you bring me a doll. I hope you have all of my stuff. I hope you have a good christmas.

Love,

Eva Nuedorf

Dear Santa,
I love Rudolph. Mmerry Christmas. I have been a good girl. I want a scooter, a barbie cash register, a Poochie, a new bike, a meowy, a but-terfly barbie, a computer, and a cel- ebration barbie.

Love,

Cami Rubio

Dear Santa,
I want you to bring me Rugrats in Paris, the movie, a scooter, magic Meagan, Poochi, blue paint, the Grinch, 102 Dalmations, Insync tape.

I love you,
Suzette Bonilla

Dear Santa,
I has been a very very good girl. Plese will you bring me makeup, 102 Dalmations, boob box, poochie an angel the sing riding board, new shoes and a computer.

Love,
Adriana Coralles

Dear Santa, s
Sometimes I have been a gad girl. Most of the time I have been good. I want a scooter, boots, hour clock, poochi, magic barbie, swim bargie, poochie, barbie, and bubbles.

LOve,

Yvonne Valverde

Dear Santa,
How are your reindeer? For christmas I want a scooter, a bike and a play motorcycle. I want a calcula- tor. I have been a ggod boy.

Love,

Blaine Altman

Dear Santa,
How are Mrs. Clause and Roudalf I have been relly good this year. I would like a Barbie, a doll, a red scooter. I would like a videogame.

Your friend,

Destini

Dear Santa,
How are Mrs. Clause and rudolf? I have been really good this year. I would like a trampoline, a computer and a Poochi dog. I would like a christmas barbie.

Your friend,

Bianca Corrales

Dear Santa,
How are you? I am fine I have been good this year. I want a scooter. and a magic Barbie. and a bowling game. and that is all.

Your friend,

Carolina Hernandez

Dear Santa,
How are you? I am fine I have been good this year. I would like shoes a doll that sings. I want some gum and candy.

Your friend,

Sarah Loewen

Dear Santa,
How are you? I am fine I have been good this year. I want a doll.

Your friend,

Indira Lizeth Derma Calderon

Dear Santa,
How are you? I am fine I have been good this year. I want computer a scooter candy and a little Criatmas Also I would like ballons.

Your friend,

Johnny Hiebert

Dear Santa,
How are Mrs Clause and Rudolf? I have been really good this year. I wat sumoor stooese I want the Barbie that can swim and a babee duol for me Sanaclos in oc uth holu dauv Cris Mus.

Your friend,

Vanessa

Dear Santa,
How are you? am fine. I have been good this year. I would like a playstation or Sega. I want a punch- ing bag, a trampoline.

Your friend,

Myles Diaz

Dear Santa,
How are Mrs. Clause and Rudolf? I have been relly good this year. I want a scooter, a game Boy color remote control truk.

Your friend,

Sam Melendez

Dear Santa,
How are Mrs. Clause and rudolf I have been really good this year I would like a poochi some clothes and a bike I would like some shoes

Your friend,

Troy Aldrege

Dear Santa Claus,
Thank you for the Pokemen pillow and blank. I'm still using it every day! Please bring me a remote control dragonfly. I hope you have a merry Christmas with Mrs. Claus!

Your friend,

Christopher Davis

Dear Santa Claus,
Thank you for the wonderful barbie doll last year. I and Gladys and Denise play with the barbies we playthat we where sisters. Pleas bring me a "talk- ing telephone" this year! I hope you have a Merry christmas

Your friend,

Marya Cueto

MORE SANTA LETTERS ON PAGE FOUR

1/2 PRICE

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2nd PRIZE: 3 1/2 QUART CROCK POT

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**DRAWING WILL BE
DECEMBER 22ND
AT 3:00 PM.**

OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

Dear Santa Claus,
Thank you for the green and black bike last year. Please bring a "Remote Control" dirt bike this year. I hope you have a "Merry Christmas" with Mrs. Claus!

Your friend,
Hunter Parrott

Dear Santa Claus,
Thank you for the super "remote control" monster truck last year. Please bring me a scooter this year. I hope you have a "Merry Christmas" with Mrs. Claus!

Your friend,
Jeremy Martinez

Dear Santa Claus,
Thank you for the Polemon toys last year. Please bring me some Pokemon battle cards this year. have a "Merry Christmas" with Mrs. Claus!

Your friend,
Brent Hansen

Dear Santa Claus,
Thank you for the "Barbie". Please bring me a poochie this year. I hope you have a "Merry Christmas" with Mrs. Claus!

Your friend,
Jasmine Whitzel

Dear Santa Claus,
Thank you for the toy dragon last year! Please bring me a skateboard this year. I hope you have a Merry Christmas" with Mrs. Claus!

Your friend,
Adolfo Urias

Dear Santa Claus,
Thank you for the wonderful basketball last year. My sister, Tina and I enjoy playing with it. Please bring me some roller skates this year. I hope you have a "Merry Christmas with Mrs. Claus!

Your friend,
Maria Loewen

Dear Santa Claus,
Thank you for the beautiful Barbie last year, please bring me a beautiful yellow jacket to keep me warm when it snows!

Your friend,
Tana Lozano

Dear Santa Claus,
Thank you for the wonderful pink bike last year me and my brother played with it. bring me a warm leopard print jacket this year! I hope you have a "Merry Christmas" with Mrs. Claus!

Your friend,
Dakota Earnest

Dear Santa Claus,
Thank you for the purple, talking telephone. Please bring me a barbie dool this year. I hope you have a "Merry Christmas" with Mrs. Claus.

Your friend,
Erica Martinez

Dear Santa Claus,
Thank you for the wonderful black and yellow backpack please bring me a pair of roller skates this year. I hope you have a Merry Christmas with Mrs. Claus!

Your friend,
Cynthia Rodriguez

Dear Santa Claus,
Thank you for the great electric car with tracks last year. Please bring me a real dog. I like gray dogs.

Your friend,
Andrew Lara

**Mrs. Ramos
2nd Grade Class**

Dear Santa,
How are you and Mrs. Claus doing? Hope all the reindeer are well. My name is Alan Lora and I been very good this year. I would really like a dog, clothes. I will have you and your reindeer a snack.

Love,
Alan

Dear Santa
How are you and Mrs. Claus doing? Hope all the reindeer are well my name is Jose Corrales and I been very good. I would really like to have a

tecnio, playstahsn, GameBoyColer, MaxStell.

Love
Jose

How are you and Mrs. Claus I want a laser challenge and a special gold

scooter and a special drtt bike I will leave you and your reindeer a snack

Love
Jordan

Dear Santa,
How are you and Mrs. Claus doing? Hope all the reindeer are well. My name is Nikol Brittanie Lira and I been very good this year. I would really like to have a scooter, a puppy, Barbie Studio Nail Salon, and a cumputer. I will leave you and your reindeer a snack.

Love
Brittanie

Dear Santa
How are you and Mis. Claus doing? Hope all the reindeer are well My name is John Adam Nixon and I been very good this year. I would really like to have a electric rasetrak. I will leave you and your reindeer a snack.

Love
Adam

Dear Santa,
How are you and Mrs. Claus doing? Hope all the Rean Dear are well. My name is Jaaron Joseph Bell and I would really like to have a dirtbike and a scooter, frogger, a playstahsn, boots, a NerfGun.

love,
Jaaron, Bell

Dear Santa
How ya doin at the North Pole? I would really like a Nerf Wildfire gun, a pair of goggles, a Mario 64 Nintendo game. And a Neo Geo pocket. My own Bible.

Love your friend
Chase Ortega

Dear Santa,
How are you and Mrs. Claus doing? Hope all the reindeer are well. My name is Hannah Tate Crump and I been very good this year. I would really like a Scooter, a poochi, TV and computer. I will leave you and your reindeer a snack.

Love,
Hannah

Dear Santa,
How are you and Mrs. Claus doing? Hope all the reindeer are well. My name is Pino Martinez and I been very good this year. I would really like to have a scooter. I want a TV, a scooter, a puzzle and a little christmas tree. I will leave you and your reindeer a snack.

Love
Pino

Dear Santa,
How are you and Mrs. Claus are doing good. I hope you are doing good. Could you bring ne a skuder, close, and a dimen green ring. I will put cinces on the table.

Love
Ashley

Dear Santa,
How are you and Mrs. Claus doing? Hope all the reindeer are well. My name is Elsa Rochelle Moya. Mrs. Clause I love you. Santa bring me an amazing baby. Dear Santa will you bring me a big bike. Will you bring me a picture of you and Mrs. Clause. I wish that Santa kood take care of me and can I have a power girl puzzle, and a little Christmas tree.

Love
Rochelle Moya

Dear Santa Claus,
How are you and Mrs. Claus doing? I hope all the reindeer are well. My name is Peter Friesen Neudorf and I been very good this year. I would really like to have a golden scooter, a bike, a Hot wheel, a puppy. I will leave you and your reindeer a snack.

Love
Peter Neudorf

I won for cresasmas a big ball en a traplen, bicycle. I will leave you and your reindeer a snack.

Love
Diana Sigala

**Mrs. Hise
2nd Grade Class**

Dear Santa
You are a Joly good Felo. I want a toy hourse and a Barbie and a Play house and a trampen and a picture of the reindeer, my own Christmas tree.

Love,
Magen Whitford

Dear Santa
You are a great guy. Thanks for the great gifts Last year. This year I wont a full face helment and super puchy.

Love,
Forrest Booth

Daer Santa,
Your the best! I want a scooter. I want black Leather pants. I want a camera. I want a desk for a computer. I want a telescope. I want a NSYNC CD. I want 2 new beanie babys. I want 3 new CD's. I want a teddy bear.

Love,
Stephanie Addison

Dear Santa,
You are a Super good guy. I wat a Bik for cems I wat a Santa For cems.

Love,
Eddy Luna

Dear Santa,
You are a s super good guy Santa I Like you plesse give me a pisit

Love,
Jeffery Barrientes

Dear Santa,
You are the best one we could ever have. Santa can you give my brother and me a golden rechever? My brother nice and so am I.

Love,
Samantha De La Rosa

Dear Santa,
You are cool! I would like a skooder I would like a turradedo tiwater and a remote controle

Love,
Cody Friesen

Dear Santa,
You are a Super good guy. I want a competer and a play car. For Christmas my brother want's a CD player.

Love
Federico Villegas

Dear Santa
You are a good guy. I want a traplen and a Sonic II for a Dream Cast and most of all a horse my brother wants a Doupchin it is Nutodoe 64

Love,
Jaxon Bean

Dear Santa,
You are a smart guy. I want a Poo-chi for Christmas and a furby and a bike and a I'll Sniffle doll and my sister Sandra Want's a Poo-chi too and my brother want's a Play Staishen disc

Love,
Gladys Gallegos

Dear Santa
You are a super good guy. We are happy that you give us presents. I want a Loptop competer for Christmas. We Love you Santa

Love
Roberto Reyna

Dear Santa
You are super good guy. I want a mocknchrol car and a mocknchroll moodersackel and I want a Gocar and a bear when we give it a huge it says give me a nuthe Hugs Please.

Love
your Johnny Harms

Dear Santa,
You are a Super good guy Thank you wut you gave me I wood like a compyotr and a Ice crem macr.

Love
Jessica Lozos

**Mrs. Cobb
2nd Grade Class**

Dear Santa,
for Christmas I would like a bike a cd player a printer and trister.

your friend
Kevin

Dear Santa,
For Christmas, I would like a Pokemon Gold, a Pokemon Sorry, a

tenko, and a skooter.
Your friend,
Hunter

Dear Santa,
For Christmas, I would like a doll, a Teddy Bear, and a computer.

Your friend
Susie

Dear Santa,
For Christmas, I would like a doll, book, a sorry-game, bike, radio, movie a computer, shoes, and a whosit game.

Your friend,
Patricia Avila

Dear Santa,
For Christmas, I would like a doll, a scooter

Emily

Dear Santa,
For Christmas, I would like a radio, 4 ehrrler, camera, scooter, sleepingbag, and a compooter.

Your friend,
Lee

Dear Santa,
For Christmas, I would like a bike, a radio, a computer, sail boat, Pokemon cards, books, Nintendo 64, telescope, scooter, skateboard.

Your friend,
Lupe

Dear Santa' For Christmas, I would like a doll, a scooter, a sleepingbag, a skateboard and a telescope.

Your friend,
Kristen

Dear Santa,
For Christmas I would like a scooter, skateboard, trick bike and a Remot control car.

your friend,
Mychal

Dear Santa
For Christmas, I would like a shotgun, a handgun, and a rifle.

Your friend Jonathan

Dear Santa,
For Christmas, I would like a bike, a scooter, a doll, and pencils.

Your friend,
Marina Real Martinez

Dear Santa,
For Christmas, I would like some Legos, a Best War, a radio, a million dollars, a Golden scooter, and a sony vile.

Your friend,
Edgar

Dear Santa,
For Christmas, I would like a doll, a radio, book, shoes, globe, clothes, puzzle, money, and a slide.

Your friend
Nancy

Dear Santa,
Please bring me a scooter and a N64 and a telescope and playstation 2 thats all

Love Jonathan Lira

**Mrs. House
3rd Grade Class**

Dear Santa,
I like what you got me last year. I loved the nintendo 64 and the game. And this year I want Mickeys speed wax USA for nintendo 64. And mario tennis for nintendo64. And for my little sister, she wants the Barbie cash register and the Chuckie Cheese pizza party machine. There will be a snack for you in the kitchen.

Love,
Miguel Lopez

Dear Santa,
Santa I want the 2000 Barbi really bad. I don't have a chimney so I will leave a little crack on the window. You have to open the window and get inside. But I won't leave you cookies and milk. I will leave you cheese OK. Good Cheese. Beacouse you might get sick of cookies. So I thought you might want something different. And close the window when you leave OK. The cheese will be on the table. And don't forget to go to my house. And if you like the cheese so much you want to give me a scooter and lots more stuff. I would really like you. Thank you for what I got last year. I liked it a lot. And I hope you get my family what they want. And I would like you to give Alonso a Christmas present. Santa there are a lot of children that don't get Christmas presents. But I would like a computer for Christmas too. And be really careful.

Don't wake up mom and dad. And give my teacher a Christmas present too. And I will be waiting Christmas night.

Love,
Claudia Andazola

Dear Santa,
I thank you for bringing me a bile last year. I want a Playstion nine this year and I also want a Laptop and a dog and you can put all that in my room.

Love,
Hector Luna

Dear Santa,
I want a new scooby-doo pillow and a scooter to ride with my friends. I want a new blanket to sleep with. I will leave a snack for you on my desk. Bring something for my dad my mom and my brother Christopher and me. Our address is 1104 3rd street in Plains. See if you can bring them on Christmas Day.

Love,
Robert Davis

Dear Santa,
Santa Te Encargo un play stahon con su cidi de mortal combat y si no me lotrais me trais ura vicielo como la quebi en la Wal Mart que sea blue y si no me trais la vivivleta traime el 64 conel juego de mario bros y el juego de caros te Quiero mucho y ura tele que no sea grande de a color para poner el piay stahon.

Manuel Lozaro

Dear Santa,
dear santa I want a game boy, and, torw gam ove a nintindo 64, and I well leve you som coces on the table.

love
Ernesto

Dear Santa,
I want a BB gun. I want a dirt bike. I want to thank you for last year's Christmas. I want the new game "Tomorrow Never Dies". I want the new movie "M-I-2" and "Gone in 60 Seconds". I want a scooter.

Love
Tray Parrish

Dear Santa,
Santa thankyou for my bike last year and my phone. Please buy Mrs. House something that she wants for Christmas. Please buy my sister a lot of Barney tapes and a book of Barney and a pretty dress. Please buy my Nana something that is for school. Please buy Grandad some new clothe's. Please buy my great grandma some dishes. Please buy my great grandpa a dog. Please buy my mom some school clothes and some dishes. Please buy my dad some work clothes and some games. Please buy Mr. House some clothes and a tie. Please buy my setpdad a bull dog. Please buy my stepmom two bells. Please buy my stepbrother a hot wheel car. Please buy all of my friends some toys.

Love,
Gordan Hsbeso

Dear Santa,
I can't wait for you to come and I will have a new stocking. It will be on the right side and I want a lap top computer. And I want a snow board. I will want a new knife. Please do not forget Alonzo and I want a stereo. Santa dont forget the cockies and milk.

Love,
Morgan Willis

Dear Santa
Thank you for what you gave me last year. This year I want the Grinch movie. Get my baby sister a pretty dress. Give my big sister a stereo. Give my mom a diamond ring. And give my teacher a Zebra pillow. She is crazy abote zebra stuff. And bring Alonzo a present.

Love
Jasmine Mares

Dear Santa,
I want a skooter, please. And if you can bring a new necklace for Mrs. House please. And bring nice toys to kids who can't afford toys. And thank you for the doll house last year.

Love
Hannah Cotton

Dear Santa
Thank you for bringing my piano last year and this year can you bring me gray dirtbike shoulder pads and a gray and black helmet and a gray and black suite

Love,
Jason Durham

Dear Santa,
I really appreciate what I got last year. This year I want a hotwheel and, new shoes and a basketball goal and a firetruck and a ambulance and a Christmas tree. If you want to come, in you're going to open the window, and come into the kitchen and there, will be the cookies and milk.

Love,
Jacob Neudorf

Dear Santa,
This year can you bring me a barbie and a barbie car and a ball and a beautiful dress.

Love
Cassie Coronel

Dear Santa
Thank you Santa for the WWF set. What I want for Christmas is a new bike and some more Beaniebabie. And some dragon Ballz toys and one last thing is some hot wheels and a big blue ball and a pokemon silver or gold game.

Love,
ustin Gonzales



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**More Letters
To Santa Claus**

Dear Santa,
I thank you for my Betty spaghtti doll and my BSB CD. I will leave your milk and cookie by the fireplace. I would like to bring Alonzo. I think he would like it. I would like a scooter for Christmas and a play station with a naughty dog game with it. I would like puppy for Christmas. I would like the puppy to be a boster terrier and I also would like the snow cone maker.

Love,
Natalie Butler

**Mrs. Steffens
3rd Grade Class**

Dear Santa
I would like a skooter fore christmas and a real dirt bike Fore Christmas and a got car fore Christmas Lots more stuff Like pokemon and remot control truck for christmas and a remot control erplain for Christmas and lots od stuff like new shoes and shirts and pates

Love
Adam Longoria

Dear Santa,
What I want for Christmas is a bear that talks when we give him a hug and a doll that dances and for my sister a little puppy and a doll that sings songs and for my brother a little train and a little boat and for my little sister a doll that talks and grows and for my big brother a sled and for my little sister a little baby piano and alittle bear that talks to her and a barbie radio with C.D.s and for my mom a computer with C.D.s and for my dad a phone and a computer. and I have been really good.

Love
Maria Martinez

Dear Santa,
I would Like a Skooter for Christmas, a New pair of roller blades, a real knife, a cool watch, a Back Street Boy's C.d., and a Neink C.d a C.d player, a Precious Moments, and a Real pet dolphin. I hope this is not to much to ask.

Love
Natalie Haynes

Dear Santa,
I want a dirt bike. For my mom a new car and my dad a dirt bike too. I have been good.

Love
Blake Longoria

Dear Santa
Would you get me a scooter for Christmas? My sister wants a lot of dolls. Johnny would Like a pair of pants as he could wear in the coldness and for my mom let's get her some shoes and my brother Armando let's get him a Playstation and Lot's of games. For Jose let's gat him a big Present, his Car. For my granpa and granma I would Like to get them new stuff for their house and a T.V. I want a bike too!

Love your friend
Daenna Ramirez

Dear Santa
I want a computer for Christmas and my mom wants a stuffed puppy for Christmas and my sister wants a bear for Christmas and my dad wants a Video camera for Christmas.

Love
Margarita Gomez

Dear Santa
Please I would like for Christmas a cool watch and a gopher that sings and dances, a watch for my dad, my brother Jacob wants a swing, and Pe-

ter wants basketball goal, and Abe wants a firetruck, and Eva wants a doll that cries, my mom wants a C.D. player ans some C.D.s. Thank you.

Love,
Sara Neudorf

Dear Santa
Please could you bring my dad some tools and fishing rods. And my mom a new dress, and pair of boots, and a belt and a cowgirl hat. My sister the C.D of the Back Street Boys and the new movie of the Road to Eldarodo. For my friend Miguel the game of Micky speedway U.S.A. and a controler pack. Please can you get me a ramote control car named Dragon Fly, and a gun that you put cars in and it shoots them out, and a game named Frog or Two and a computer, and C.D player and thank you. and I been good.

Love
Ignacio Lozano

Dear Santa,
What I want for Christmas is a bear that when we hug then it talks, and hand lotion and body Spray, and a Little backpack that I can put on my back and carry it around where ever you want to carry. My brothers want a box of tools and it has tools in the box and they want a firetruck that is 50 dollars. My sister wants a doll that eats and Lotion and body Spray and a little backpack to put on your back and carry it around. My other sister wants a Little backpack to put on your back to Carry around. My Mom wants dishes. My Dd wants a brand new Subberben. I have been good.

Thank you
Love Susana Harms

Dear Santa
I would like a Silver Skooter with see thru wheels and it's called a wheels bar, a remote control numry, a water bed mattress, Some picks and rubber tubes for my bike, and a pair of glasses. I have been good!!

Love
Kenyon Powell

Dear Santa,
I would like a pelet gun and a skooter. I would like a bracelet for my mom and I would like a 22 for my brother. I would like a pocket knife for my dad. I have been a good boy.

Love,
Nathan McGravey

Dear Santa
I would like to have a steryo, skooter, CDs for Caitlin and I, a Texas Tech jerzzy, and a good Christmas.

Love
Brock Carter

Dear Santa,
I want a ball. I want a dirt bike. I want a gold scooter

Love,
Dustin Altman

**Mrs. McWhirter
3rd Grade Class**

Dear Santa,
Dear Santa, I went a scooter for christmas and a computer and a go cart and a telescop and ples dring a dig stereo But with a remote control.

Love your friend,
Veronica Perez

Dear Santa,
I want a scooter. I want a bike.

Love,
Matthew

P.S. I want a dog. I want a compertter

Dear Santa,
I want a bike. I want shine scooter.

Love,
Abel

Merry Christmas
Dear Santa

I would like a scooter, Lap top, NFL2k1, tornadoe twister and a plow.

Love
Brandon

Dear Santa I've been clumpy I don't want that much all I want is go cart And a nintendo 64. That's if you want to.

your pal Arthur Ruiz
Dear Santa,

This year for Christmas I would lik a laptop, and a scooter and a telc

Dear Santa I've been clumpy I don't want that much all I want is go cart. And a nintendo 64. That's if you want to.

your pal Arthur Ruiz
Dear Santa,

This year for Christmas I would like a laptop, and a scooter and a telescope, a stereo, a cheerleading outfit, a new puppy like Baley, a Go-cart, a Gameboy and the games to M6 radder, and Micky's speed racer, and a remote-control car, and a lava lamp, and a E.t. doll, and a real diamond ring. And that is what I want for Christmas.

Love always
Shyann Vantine

Dear Santa,
I have never got a Punch. could you Please bring me a N64 (Nintendo) for Christmas and I would like to Have a Go-cart and boots and a shurt those are the prices I would Like.

Love Santa good bye.
by Jacob Loewen

Dear Santa,
For Christmas I would like to have a laptop, scooter, barbie, barbie jeep and a race car barbie. and my Perents are probly going to buy some of that I list.

Love: Victoria Valverde
Dear Santa

This year for Christmas I would like a trampoline. And a laptop because I have waited sense I was about five years old. I also want a telescope for I can see all the comets and all the stars and the planets. I also want a skooter that can fold up for you can take them around with you. I know that you have been watching me so these are the toys I really want for Christmas. your friend Brett Hawthorne

Dear Santa,
For Christmas this year, Please bring me a poochie. I have tried my best to be good so please bring me it.

Thanks for listing
yours Truly
Taylor Banfield

Dear Santa,
This year for Christmas, I would like bop-it a lap top, Poochie. And a puppy and let it be a boy and let it be nice.

And I would like some roller-blades and some clothes. And I would like a game boy color and sorry and a cd player. And a backstreet boys cd. And I think thats it.

Love Abigail

Dear Santa,
This year for Christmas I would like to have a gameboy, a Mary-Kate and Ashley adventure in the Mall game cartridge, a cat Poochie a lap top, the new 2000 Barbie doll, the Beanie Babie called Haylo 2, a N64, a Talk to Pikachu N64 game.

That is what I would like for Christmas.

Love,
Emilia Inez

Dear Santa, Please bring me a Poochie and a scooter a lap top. I would also like a dog and a telescop and some game boy games.

Love,
Katelynn Young

Dear Santa,
Thank you for my N64 that you gave me Last year and thank you For the games! This year I will like a Gameboy velored and a game call Hot wheels racing game!

Love
Jacod Brink

Dear Santa,
I would like for Christmas A telescope and a Nintendo 64 and a com-

puter thats wat i want for Christmas Santa would you pleas bring me that.

your friend, Edgar Luna
Dear Santa this Year I will Lik. A

Scooter a barbie computer and a go car and vecare and Place Station and a tv. and I also want a Poochie and a bike and a CD. and a trampoline and a deskc to put my compertter. and Christmas Agillera the CD. and a pollie facin and a Hottup and a bord a big bora and eraser markers. and I also want a cheer leading soot. And Santa I now I ben Like a little nottie. but will You Please Bring Me it I ben Working on that.

Kimberlee Garcia

**Library
Storytime**

Our storytime activities began with Toddlerobics on Wednesday, December 13. The pledges to the United States and Texas flags were followed by the singing of several songs; "If You're Happy and You Know It", "Jingle Bells," "Jolly Old St. Nicholas," "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer," "Santa Claus Is Coming to Town," and "Away in a Manger." We talked about Christmas and Santa Claus coming to our Storytime Party next week. The book, Little Robin's Christmas was read and the group enjoyed the film, Max's Christmas. Those attending were Micah St. Romain, Bethany Mares and Jaydon Lira.

**Letters to Santa from the
Library Children:**

Dear Santa,
I want a little scooter, and a bike. Also I would like a chocho train.

Your friend,
Jaydon Lira

Dear Santa,
I want a vanity table that has a mirror and some make-up also I need some dress up clothes and some more girl things.

Your friend,
Bethany Angel Mares

Dear Santa,
I want a desk and an ambulance.

Your friend,
Clayton Gass

Dear Santa,
I want a queen Barbie named Glinda the Good Witch. I hope we can cook cookies right away, and we will leave you some with some milk when you come for Christmas. I wish you a Merry Christmas. I love you! I hope you have a good Christmas!

"Jingle Bells, Jingle Bells Jingle all the way!"
P.S. I wish it was Christmas every week!

Your friend,
Claire Carpenter

**'Connection'
Meets**

Yoakum County Connection met December 12th at the Connection Building in Denver City with directors Linda Powell, Jeannette Head, L.J. Sanders, David Brunson, Sue Holder, Bill Helwig, Nancy Dickson and Elva Lozano present. Executive Director Tonya Patton also attended. Nominations Chair L.J. Sanders gave a report of potential nominees for the slate of Directors to be elected at the annual meeting on January 18th. Jeannette Head will chair the doorprize committee. Helwig Law Firm volunteered to give one hundred dollars as a doorprize. Plains Baptist Church Youth Choir will entertain for the annual meeting. Tonya Patton discussed grant applications in process. Chair Linda Powell led the discussion of the upcoming youth leadership training workshop planning session to be held on January 10th at Aurelio's Restaurant in Denver City at noon. Lisa Wood of Denver City has tentatively agreed to chair the committee. County clubs, churches, and organizations will receive a letter asking a representative to attend. Anyone interested in leadership training for young adults in the county is invited to participate. Yoakum County Extension Service and Yoakum County Hospital have already indicated a desire to participate. It is hoped the Chambers of Commerce will also support the event in addition to civic organizations. Our future in the county is dependent upon our

county is dependent upon our energy, creativity, and leaders with a giving spirit.

Linda Powell

**Plains Student
Receives
Nursing Pin**

Amy Crutcher from Plains received her pin Thursday (Dec. 14) during associate degree nursing pinning ceremonies at South Plains College.

She was among 18 students who completed studies in the two year associate degree nursing program, which trains students to become registered nurses.

Kenya Tuttle, the youngest student in SPC's fall 2000 associate degree nursing class, captured the top award as the Outstanding Overall Nursing Student.

The 21 year old was among 18 students who received their pins signifying completion of studies in the two year associate degree nursing program.

Tuttle, originally from Brownfield, also received the outstanding student award for her works in the Texas Student Nurses Association. She is the daughter of Kenneth and Twila Tuttle from Brownfield.



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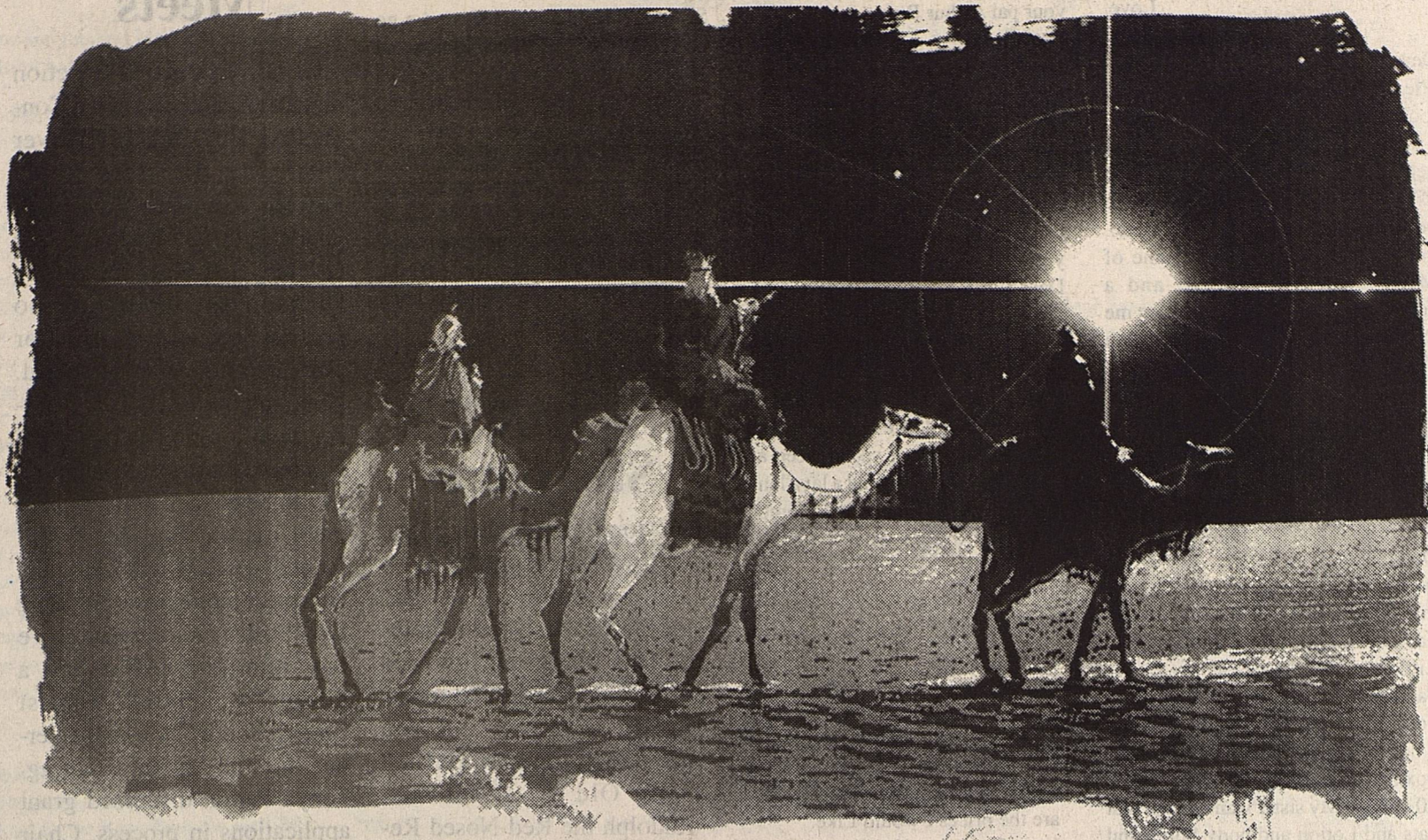
Christmas Volunteers Needed
Workers are needed for the Christmas Gift Assistance Program. Delivery of food and toys will start at 1:00 p.m., Friday, December 22 at the Courthouse. If you can help, contact Toni Jones at 456-8794.

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*May Your Holidays
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Lowe's

Kelly Graham, Mgr., and each and every employee!

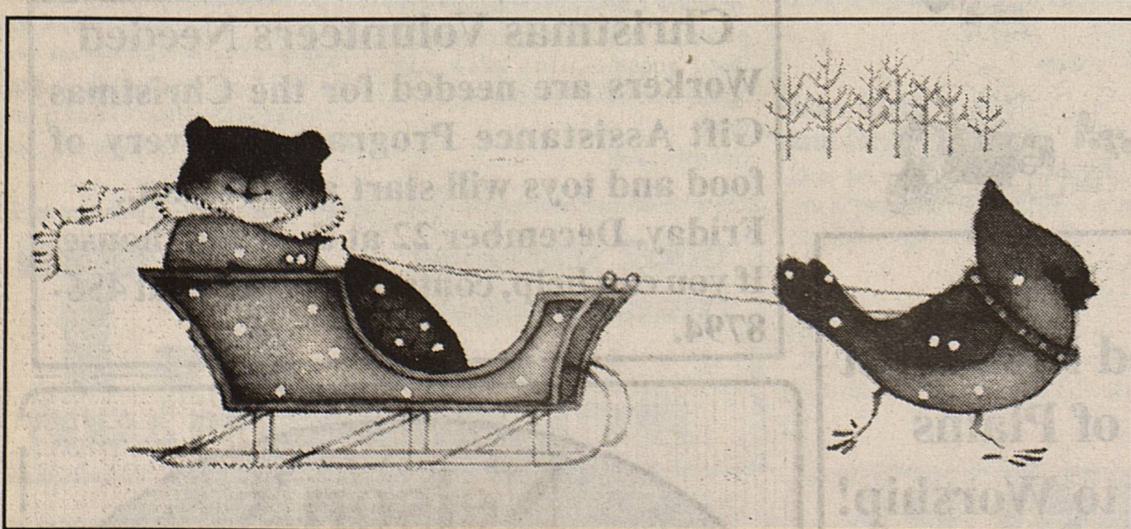
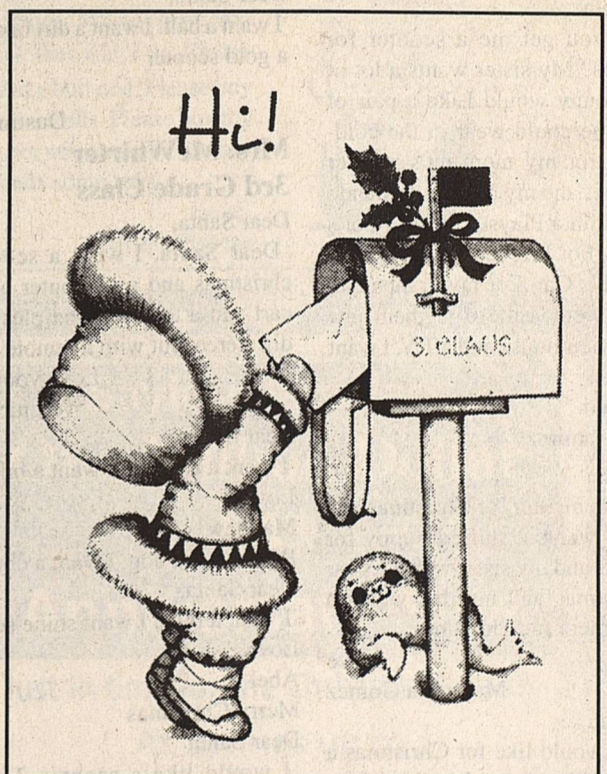


*The Board of Directors and Staff of
Sandy Land Underground
Water District*

*Have a great
Christmas
and a
prosperous
New Year*



**Plains
Chamber of
Commerce**



Happy Holidays!

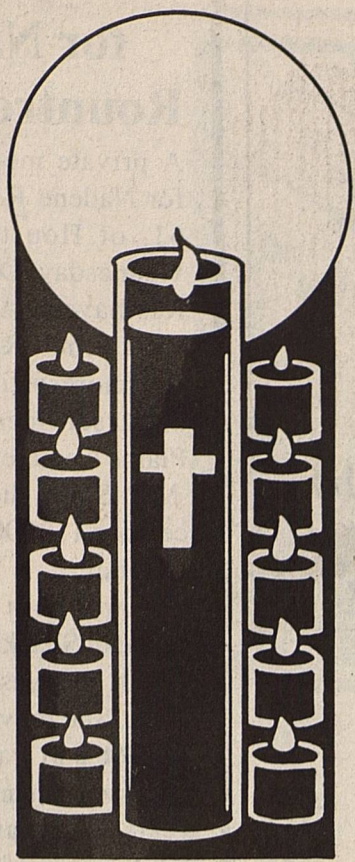
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Hope And
Joy*



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And Each
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Ever!



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Christmas, and
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We Serve



To Our Many Valued Customers And
Friends In Yoakum County,
Happy Holidays!



Member FDIC Equal Housing Lender

Joyous Holidays To One And All!
Reinke Irrigation Systems, Inc.
and every person at JACK SPEARS DRILLING

Sundown: 5th & Slaughter Sundown, Tx. 79372 (806) 229-2111
Levelland: 1102 Austin Levelland, Tx. 79336 (806) 894-7799
Brownfield: 101 S. First St. Brownfield, Tx. 79316 (806) 637-7712
Denver City: 202 W. Broadway Denver City, Tx. 79323 (806) 592-9292



**Warm, Happy
Holidays to All!**

Debbie Rushing



Hark, The Herald Angels Sing
Warm Season's Greetings

Agro Distribution

Butch Mack & All Employees



*May the wonders of Christmas
touch each of you*

Fitzgerald Charolais
Johnnie & Melba Fitzgerald



**We wish you a Merry
Christmas**

Circle 12 Gin



This Is The Sixth Year
We Have Had The Pleasure
Of Wishing Our Readers,
Subscribers And Friends The
Happiest Of Holidays. We
Truly Appreciate Your Support.
Gary, Holly & Dolores,
Cowboy Country News

**Services held
for Nadene**

Rountree Smith

A private memorial service for Nadene Rountree Smith, 61, of Houston, was held Wednesday, December 13 in Resthavens Abbey Chapel, with the Rev. Michael Passmore officiating. Interment services were in the Plains Cemetery.

Mrs. Smith died Friday, December 1, 2000 in a Houston hospital.

She was born December 22, 1938, in Shackelford County, Texas, and was raised in Lubbock. She moved to Houston in 1968 and was a realtor and apartment manager for many years. She married Joe Paul Smith in Harris County November 23, 1968. She was preceded in death by a son, Walter Wade Gass, in 1984.

Survivors include her husband; Five sons, Jess Raymond Gass of Plains, Michael Gass of Lubbock, Mike Smith of Houston, Donnie Smith of Orange Co., Cal.; Two daughters, Debra Jan Chandler of Midland, Julie Gilmore of Tomball; A brother, Cecil Barker of Arlington, one sister, 15 grandchildren and one great grandchild.



*The Kountry Klipper
and Pat Bowlin Family*



**Holiday
Greetings**

Vaughn, Carolyn,
Nicole Culwell



Dennis and Sue Ann
Harrison

There
Is
Only
Reason
For
The
Season



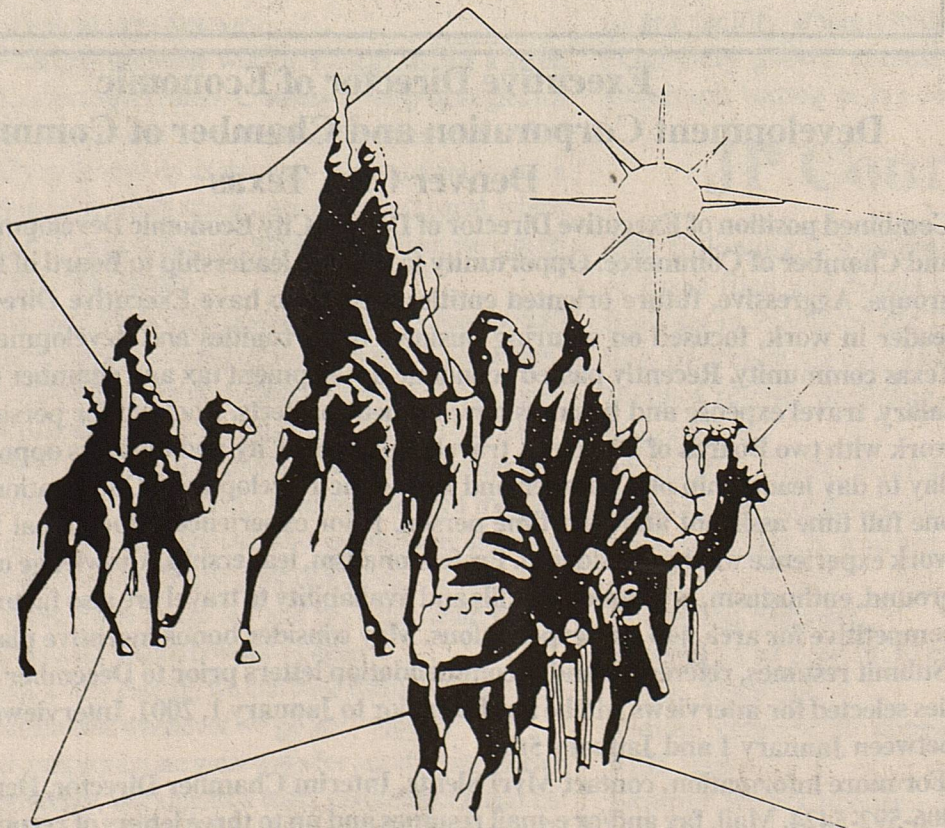
*The Happiest of
Holidays To You*

Sun Cot Gin
And The Ross Hilburn Family

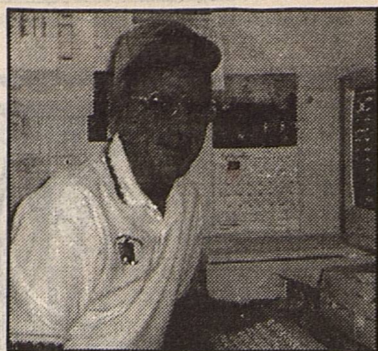


May Each And
All Experience
The Happiness
And Joy
Of This
Holy Season

Plains ISD Trustees, Administrators,
Faculty And Staff



From The Hack



Working on this Christmas issue I was beginning to get into the spirit of the season. That spirit turned utterly sour, however, when I had to go to Hobbs and spend over an hour in Wal Mart, which seemed ten hours. Wall to wall shoppers, screaming kids, mommas picking up every new item they came to for a quick inspection, their male escorts looking either bored to tears or on the verge of screaming hysterically like all the kids.

Some time back in this space I wrote a bit about my theory on Hobbs - I stated it had to be the nation's capitol of obesity. That has to be a classic understatement. It undoubtedly is the global capitol of fat folks. Never, ever, anywhere are there more people who should be exercising at Pat Walker places than in Hobbs, NM, and Saturday, 98 percent of them were wallowing up and down the aisles of that place from Hell, Wal Mart.

I had rotund ladies step on my feet, roly-poly men knock me across the aisles, even fat little kids who hurt when they crashed into me. I swear I saw one guy come puffing up an aisle, pushing a shopping cart, and about 93 pounds of his stomach was lying inside the cart. I've never seen a belly carried that way before. I was so fascinated by this sight, I followed him about ten minutes until he checked out, no easy feat, considering the narrow space he had to navigate at the

counter. He had to pull his belly out of the cart to get to his stuff, of course, but as soon as he paid, he plopped it back down into the bottom of the cart. Memorized, I followed him to his pickup. He rolled the cart up to the door, wheezing from all the exertion, unlocked the truck, actually flung his 93 pound stomach inside under the wheel where it lay kind of quivering until he heaved the rest of his body inside. It may have been my imagination, but I really thought I heard his Ford pickup pitifully moan before he cranked it and roared off.

The Bride had better get that sciatic nerve well soon. I'm not going back to Fat City anytime soon. I Hope. I pray.

I hope you read last Sunday's edition of the Lubbock A-J, particularly Dave Barry's humor column in the editorial section. In my humble opinion (shared, by the way by some millions who read his syndicated work in dozens of papers across the nation) Dave is the funniest columnist in the world. I would attempt to steal every dime in our county's four banks to use as a bribe to tempt him to teach me how to come close to his talent.

The article dealt with the perils of flying today with babies aboard, in particular, your baby. It was hilarious, and brought back memories of a long ago flight with the late Blanche Dyer, and baby sister Dana. The year was 1947, and Dana

was not quite two years old, as I recall. Pete Dyer was working deep in Mexico with the USDA's hoof and mouth disease cattle program. Mom, Sis and I flew from El Paso to Mexico City on one of the old DC-4 American Airline planes to see Dad.

It was the first flight for all of us, made even more memorable because the aircraft's cabin pressurization system was performing like my golf game - from poor to, it sucks.

This resulted in extreme discomfort for all aboard. The pressure on my ear drums felt like Hercules was pressing a rod deep into each ear. Evidently, baby sister was even more displeased with the pain. She shrieked constantly from El Paso until we started descending at Monterrey. I recall she quit screaming about 18 minutes while we were on the ground, but started up again even as we walked toward the aircraft to reboard for the flight into Mexico City.

At about 15,000 feet, her voice drowned out every sound the airplane was making, even my moans of discomfort. I thought briefly of telling Mom to stuff her in the cargo hold the remainder of the trip, but thought

better as I saw the screaming sibling being frantically rocked and cooed at. I wondered, who could hear those tender coos when the kid is screaming at 249 decibels?

Somehow, we survived and landed safely at Mexico City's wild and woolly airport. Dana didn't quit shrieking until we were in a taxi to our hotel. It was at least three days before I could even hear Mom scream, "Get Up, Gary, Get UP!"

By the way; what prompted this article is, once again, baby sister with the silvery white hair once again referred to me as, "You old EXPLETIVE."

Take that, kid!

E-mail stuff:

A man took his old duck to the doctor, concerned because the duck wouldn't eat. The doc explained to the man that as ducks age, their upper bills grow down over their lower bills, and make it difficult for the duck to pick up it's food.

"What you need to do is gently file the upper bill down even with the lower bill. But you must be very careful because duck's nostrils are located in the upper bill, and if you file down too far, when the duck takes a drink of water it will

drown," the doctor instructed. The man goes about his business and about a week later the doctor runs into his patient.

"Well, how is that duck of yours," he asks

"He's dead," declared the heart broken duck owner.

"What? I told you not to file his bill down too far! He took a drink of water and drowned, didn't he?" insisted the doctor. "No," lamented the man, "I think he was dead well before I took him out of the vise."

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Operation Christmas Card

The Plains Dirt Gardeners annual Operation Christmas Card, a fund raising program for improvements and beautification of the Plains Cemetery got off to a good start last week. The following individuals and families have contributed to the fund; Harry, Dene, Donita & Colt Richardson, Mackey & Connie McWhirter, Jess & Rita Mae Snodgrass, Burve Overton, Wilma McDonnell, Carl & Marie Lowrey, Jim & Nona

O'Neal, Ila Trout, Velma Dearing, Thelma Cheatham, Dolores Davis, T.J. & Lois Miller, Pierre & Mary Jo St. Romain, L.J. & Virginia Sanders, Helen Thompson, Roger & Anna Harvey, Florence Bookout, Janelle Brantly, Minnie Blair, Sallye Shoemaker, Jackie Willis, Redell Cagburn, Ita Young, Ernest & Ruby Sellers, Mary Lou Parks, Dwayne & Lattrell McDonnell, Marvin & Terry Dearing Family, Melvin & Dawn Dearing Family, Kenneth & Willie Mae Engle.

Flu shots are now available for everyone at Plains Clinic. Come by or call 456-6365

Yoakum County Courthouse OPEN HOUSE Wednesday December 20th 11:00 am. to 3:00 pm.

The Yoakum County Tax Office in Denver City and Plains will be closed for Motor Vehicle business December 29, 2000, due to an inventory audit by the Texas Dept. of Transportation. Taxes can be paid until noon on the day.

TERRY COUNTY TRACTOR Massey Ferguson Kubota Bush Hog Shredders, Lilliston Rolling Cultivators, Lorenz & Buffalo Cultivators, Baker Disc & Switch Plows, Spray Coupe, Wilmar Sprayer Brownfield, Tx. 806-637-4569

*** House For Sale* PRICE REDUCED 4 Br., 2 Bath 1508 Ave. G For appointment to see. Call Tim 456-7195 or 662-334-4416**

Large House for Sale 2-3 Br., Lg. Den, Lg. Fenced backyard on corner lot 1101 17th St. 456-7110

NOTICE OF PETITION

Texas ALLTEL, Inc. (Texas ALLTEL) has filed a petition with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (Commission) to establish a surcharge to recover lost revenues and increased costs associated with Expanded Local Calling Service (ELCS) petitions for several Texas ALLTEL exchanges. The submission of this petition is based on the Commission's Substantive Rule 26.221.

ELCS permits an exchange to expand its local calling scope to include one or more exchanges if customers approve by ballot the payment of an ELCS fee in lieu of long distance charges. The costs and lost revenues associated with this petition are those not recoverable through the ELCS fee. A portion of this surcharge is to recover ELCS costs associated with routes implemented prior to September 1, 1996, and will replace the surcharge approved in January 1999 that expires in February 2001. The remaining portion of this surcharge will recover ELCS costs associated with new routes implemented in the year 2000.

If the Texas ALLTEL petition is approved, the company's local exchange will be assessed an additional monthly surcharge of \$2.84 per business line, \$1.42 per residential line and \$0.50 per each Tel-Assistance customers per access line. The resulting total ELCS surcharge will be \$4.44 per business line, \$2.22 per residential line and \$0.78 per Tel-Assistance line. If approved by the Commission, the additional monthly surcharge will begin, on an interim basis, with the February 21, 2001, billing cycle, subject to refund all or part of the charge if the Commission does not finally approve the proposed surcharge.

The net annual effect on the revenues of Texas ALLTEL will be zero since the requested surcharge replaces lost revenues and reimburses Texas ALLTEL for the direct costs of service associated with all ELCS petitions. The estimated total lost revenues and increased costs Texas ALLTEL seeks to recover through this proceeding is \$51,634 monthly.

If you have questions about this charge or would like further information, please call Texas ALLTEL at 1-800-452-5354.

The Public Utility Commission has assigned Project No. 23301 to this proceeding. Persons who wish to intervene or comment in these proceedings should notify the Commission by January 21, 2001, the deadline for intervention. All requests to intervene should be mailed to the Public Utility Commission of Texas, 1701 N. Congress Avenue, P.O. Box 13326, Austin, TX 78711-3326. Further information may also be obtained by calling the Commission's Office of Consumer Affairs at (512) 936-7120. Hearing- and speech-impaired individuals with text telephones (TTY) may contact the Commission at (512) 936-7136.

AVISO DE PETICIÓN

Texas ALLTEL, Inc. (Texas ALLTEL) ha presentado una petición oficial ante la Comisión de Servicios Públicos de Texas (Public Utility Commission) (Comisión) para establecer un recargo para recuperar los ingresos perdidos y los costos incrementados asociados con las peticiones de Ampliación del Servicio de Llamadas Locales (ELCS) para varias de las áreas de Texas ALLTEL. Esta petición se presenta en base a la Regla Substantiva número 26.221.

La ELCS permite que un área amplíe su alcance de llamadas locales para que incluyan una o más áreas, sólo si los clientes aprueban el pago de una tasa ELCS mediante una boleta en lugar de cargos por llamadas de larga distancia. Los costos y los ingresos perdidos relacionados a esta petición son aquellos que no son recuperables mediante la tasa ELCS. Una porción de este sobrecargo es para recuperar los costos del ELCS asociados con los trayectos interrumpidos antes del 1 de septiembre de 1996 y reemplazarán al sobrecargo aprobado en enero de 1999 el cual caduca en febrero de 2001. La porción restante de este sobrecargo es para recuperar los costos de ELCS asociados con los trayectos interrumpidos en el año 2000.

Si la solicitud de Texas ALLTEL es aprobada, el área local básica de la compañía recibirá un recargo mensual adicional de \$2.84 para clientes comerciales, \$1.42 para clientes residenciales y \$0.50 para clientes de Tel-Assist, por línea de acceso. Esto hará que el recargo total de ELCS sea \$4.44 para clientes comerciales, \$2.22 para clientes residenciales y \$0.78 para Tel-Assist. Si la Comisión lo aprueba, el recargo mensual adicional comenzará, mientras tanto, con el ciclo de facturación del 21 de febrero de 2001, con un acuerdo de reembolso de la totalidad o parte del cargo si la Comisión no aprueba la tarifa.

El efecto anual neto sobre los ingresos de Texas ALLTEL será de cero ya que el sobrecargo solicitado reemplaza los ingresos perdidos y reembolsa a Texas ALLTEL por el aumento del costo directo del servicio asociado con todas las solicitudes de ELCS. La cantidad total prevista de ingresos perdidos y aumento de costos que Texas ALLTEL desea recuperar a través de este proceso es de \$51,634 por mes.

Si tiene alguna pregunta con respecto a este cargo o si quisiera obtener información adicional, sírvase llamar a Texas ALLTEL al 1-800-452-5354.

La Comisión de Servicios Públicos ha asignado el Número de Proyecto 23301 a este proceso. Las personas interesadas en participar o expresar algún comentario con respecto a este proceso deben notificar a la Comisión antes del 21 de enero del año 2001. Cualquier solicitud de participación debe ser enviada por correo a la Public Utility Commission of Texas, 1701 N. Congress Avenue, P.O. Box 13326, Austin, TX 78711-3326. Para obtener información sobre cómo participar, llame a la Comisión al (512) 936-7120. Aquellos individuos con problemas de oído o de habla que tengan teléfonos teletipo pueden contactar a la Comisión al (512) 936-7136.



Executive Director of Economic Development Corporation and Chamber of Commerce for Denver City, Texas

Combined position of Executive Director of Denver City Economic Development Corporation and Chamber of Commerce. Opportunity to provide leadership to Board of Directors of both groups. Aggressive, future oriented entities seeking to have Executive Director who will be leader in work, focused on securing business opportunities and development for this West Texas community. Recently passed economic development tax and chamber monies will fund salary, travel expense and business development projects. Looking for person with ability to work with two Boards of Directors, travel to promote City and business opportunities, handle day to day leadership of Chamber and Economic Development Corporation. Will supervise one full time assistant and part time person. Prior experience, educational background and work experience will be considered. Professionalism, leadership, knowledge of business, background, enthusiasm, promotional skills and availability to travel are also factors. Salary will be competitive for area, job and expectations. May consider bonus incentive plans also. Submit resumes, references and recommendation letters prior to December 22nd, 2000. Parties selected for interviews will be notified prior to January 1, 2001. Interviews to be scheduled between January 1 and January 5th.

For more information, contact Myrl Slentz, Interim Chamber Director, Denver City, Texas, 806-592-5424. Mail, fax and/or e-mail resumes and up to three letters of recommendation plus up to five references to Denver City Chamber of Commerce, 120 North Main Street, Denver City, Texas 79323; Fax# 806-592-7613; E-Mail: dccoc@hiplains.net.

*** For Sale ***
16 ft. Offset Disc with 20 inch Discs. Good shape, needs tires. \$2000 Call 456-3966

AA/AL-ANON Meeting
Alcoholic's Anonymous meeting will be held Mondays and Wednesdays at 8:00 pm. Al-Anon Mondays at 7:00 pm. Pate Trucking Co., 214 Plains Hwy. Denver City, Texas. Call 592-8660 or 592-3455.

Agricredit Acceptance LLC will offer the following repossessed equipment for sale to the highest bidder for cash. Equipment : LE Spider, Sprayer, s/n 4LCSEW164, and RHT-743, Dump Cart, s/n 743. Date of sale - December 27, 2000. Time of Sale - 10 AM. Place of Sale - Texas Equipment, 1/2 mile West on US Highway 82, Plains, Texas. The equipment will be sold AS IS, without warranty. We reserve the right to bid. For further information please contact Tracy Calhoun at 800-577-8504, Ext. 1487.

MULTI - PERIL CROP & CROP HAIL STATE LINE INSURANCE DANNY BELL Office 456-3521 Home 456-6325 Mobile 456-7517

HICKS *Carpet *Heating *Air Conditioning *Maytag Appliances 204 N. Main, Denver City 806-592-3973 or 592-3930



Trane "Its hard to stop a TRANE"