



LADY BLIZZARDS FALL TO FORSAN

SEE PAGE 6

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Volume 27, Issue 5

The Winters ENTERPRISE

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Thursday, December 22, 2016

Aim for Success touts abstinence, choices

Program slated for Jan. 10

BY CELINDA HAWKINS MANAGING EDITOR WINTERS ENTERPRISE chawkins@ballingerledger.com

WINTERS — A nationally acclaimed program that focuses on topics such as teen sex, bullying and drugs will be presented at the Winters High School Library on Jan. 10, 2017.

Aim for Success, Inc. will present the program titled "Freedom

to Succeed," to junior high and high school students. The program will also be presented to parents. According to the release, the program focuses on legal reasons why teens should choose abstinence.

"While society strives to remove sexual boundaries," said Marilyn Morris, president of Aim for Success, "state and federal laws are still enforced. These laws exist to protect potential victims of sexual crimes and punish those who break the law. Either way, young

people need to know the law."

The program will be presented to parents from 6-7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 9 at the high school library. This is a preview of the student program in which parents will learn creative ways to talk to their children about sex and avoid sexual activity until marriage.

"This is a must see event for anyone concerned about the problems associated with teen sexual activity," Morris said.

The program will be presented on Tuesday from 9-10 a.m. to

high school students and from 10:15 to 11:15 a.m. to the 7th and 8th graders and from 12:45 to 1:45 p.m. to the 6th graders. Parents who wish to opt their children out of the program may do so.

Winters ISD Counselor Mandie England said the program is really all about choices.

"It is just making choices that set you up for success in your life," England said.

The community is invited to attend the program.



Briefly

Holiday closures

The City of Winters and Runnels County will be closed for the Christmas holiday on Friday, Dec. 23 and Monday, Dec. 26. Both entities will reopen for normal business hours on Tuesday, Dec. 27.

Winters Independent School District is on Christmas break from Dec. 17-Jan. 3. Classes will resume at the normal time on Wednesday, Jan. 4, 2017.

Holiday gas prices

The average gas price statewide is \$2.04 per gallon and the lowest price was \$1.77 per gallon according to GasBuddy.com. The lowest price in Winters was \$2.06 a gallon and in Ballinger the price was \$2.15 per gallon. In Abilene, prices ranged from \$1.96 to \$1.97 per gallon, while in San Angelo, prices were \$1.93 to \$1.95 per gallon.

The last drop

The first Arctic blast converged on Runnels County last week, bringing freezing temperatures National Weather Service in San Angelo reported. The first day of Winters was on Wednesday.

Another cold blast moved through the area on Saturday, after a record high temperature of 84 degrees was recorded in San Angelo, temperatures plummeted Saturday night to 22 degrees. The low temperatures went to 17 degrees on Sunday, NWS forecasters said.

A gradual warming trend occurred over the week, with a mild cold front hitting the area Thursday bringing lows in the lower 30s and highs in the 50s.

A warming trend and partly cloudy skies are in the forecast for Christmas Eve and Christmas day, with highs in the mid 60s and lows in the 40s.

Last week, Ballinger received a trace of rain, while Wingate received .02 inches and San Angelo received 0.01 inches.

So far this year, Ballinger has received 37 inches of rainfall, with 38.15 inches reported in Wingate and 31.63 inches received in San Angelo."

ON THE NET: http://www.srh.noaa.gov/sjt/

Merry Christmas from Wintersville!



JOE GERHART | CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Winters Elementary Select Choir performed their annual Christmas concert during an event held Thursday, Dec. 15, 2016. The choir performed a selection of Christmas carols in keeping with the season.

Runnels County Commissioners discuss senior centers, phone system

BY CELINDA HAWKINS MANAGING EDITOR WINTERS ENTERPRISE chawkins@ballingerledger.com

Runnels County Commissioners agreed during their last meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 13, to some new policies regarding the senior centers.

In Ballinger, the senior citizens center at 608 Strong Ave. is the property of Runnels County and commissioners voted to continue the present agreement which allows senior activities in the building several days a week including games and a potluck lunches. The center will also be part of the Texas AgriLife Extension Office which is located next door, which will also have unlimited access to the building.

As of Tuesday, the commissioners will be the official point of contact for the use of the senior center, which means that anyone wanting to utilize the building for any purpose, must make a request to commissioners.

"All requests must be made to the court," said Runnels County Judge Barry Hilliard.

In other business Tuesday, commissioners discussed getting a new phone system for the courthouse. The current system,

COMMISSIONERS, 8



Runnels County Judge Barry Hilliard

Senior Center to reopen Dec. 27

Usage guidelines determined

BY CELINDA HAWKINS MANAGING EDITOR WINTERS ENTERPRISE chawkins@ballingerledger.com

The Winters Senior Activity Center will be open for business Dec. 27, after a meeting of a subcommittee agreed upon the usage of the building moving forward.



Lisa Yates

Winters Mayor Lisa Yates said that the group met Wednesday, Dec. 14, and it was determined that the senior activities and events could resume at no charge to the senior groups. "The intent was to get it opened as quickly as possible," Yates said. "Everyone was very cooperative during the process."

The subcommittee comprised of Yates, Councilman Rene Woffenden, and John Long, chairman of Friends of the Senior Citizens of Winters, came up with the plan to reopen the center at no cost to seniors for their activities.

"They did everything we requested them to do," Long said following the meeting.

CENTER, 8

Winters National Honor Society inductees

The members of the National Honor Society in Winters were inducted during a ceremony held Sunday Dec. 13 at the high school auditorium. All inductees are required to maintain a 93 GPA and display exemplary leadership, service and character. Pictured from left to right in the front row are Grace Bryan, K'Lee Lindley, Brooklyn Gallaway, Scott Lange (Honorary Member), Sam Woodall and AJ Smith. Pictured from left to right in the back row are Brenna Edwards, Macey Gerhart, Joey Garcia, Megan Jacob, Brandon L'Abbe, Brooklynn Anderson, Brenna Knight, Baily Knight, Aimee Green and Mariano Quintero.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



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FUNERALS AND OBITUARIES

✓ Van Ray 'Puny' Whittenburg

Van Ray "Puny" Whittenburg, 73, of Winters, died December 14, 2016.

He was born March 3, 1943 in Winters and grew up in Winters. He married Deb Carroll on September 29, 1973 in Winters. He served in the United States Army. He was an oilfield supply salesman. He worked for Dunningan Supply for 10 years and Harbison-Fischer for 35 years. He was a member of the First Baptist Church.

He is survived by his wife: Deb Whittenburg of Winters. Mother: Jimmie Whittenburg of Winters. 2 sons: Cody Whittenburg of Abilene and Kenny Whittenburg and wife Tarra of Nolanville. 2 grandchildren: Mason Ray Whittenburg and Ryder Mark Whittenburg. 3 sisters: Betty Sue Austin, Aletha Guevara and Tanya New all of Winters.

He was preceded in death by 1 sister: Edna Louise Whittenburg.

Services will be 10:30 A.M. Saturday December 17, 2016 at the First Baptist Church with burial in Lakeview cemetery directed by Winters Funeral Home.

Memorials may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, P.O. Box 1000 Dept. 142, Memphis, Tennessee 38101-9908.

Winters Enterprise, December 22, 2016

✓ Mabel Gober Powell Arnold

Mabel Gober Powell Arnold, 97, formerly of Brownwood, passed away in Ballinger, Texas on December 17, 2016.

She was born March 23, 1919 in Brown County to Walter and Molly (Hardeman) Gober. Graveside services will be held at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, December 20, at the Cowboy Cemetery in Placid, TX.

Arrangements are with Lange Funeral Home in Ballinger.

Winters Enterprise, December 22, 2016

BROTHER J

Just who was in the manger?

I recall receiving a picture of a little newborn baby. In the center of the picture was a tiny little hand holding on to its mother's finger.

That picture reminded me of the night that Jesus was born in a manger in Bethlehem many years ago. Mary would look at and hold, as most young mothers do, those tiny little fingers and hands. Little did she know that it was God with us, (Matthew 1:23) and in that little child was the fullness of God, (John 14:10&11, Colossians 1:15)

Years later those young hands would work in a carpenter shop and years later take a few small loaves of bread and miraculously feed over five thousand. They would also take dirt and spittle and give sight to the blind. They also made the lame to walk.

Those hands when outstretched could calm the most violent storm and yet tenderly hold a young child that wanted to be near. Yes, those hands were brutally beaten and then spikes driven through them and they stayed nailed to a cross on a hill in Jerusalem over two thousand years ago until there was no life left in them. It was then and there, that a way was made for our sins to be forgiven, (John 3:16, Colossians 1:14).

It will also be those hands that will be waiting to greet us and take us into heaven and eternity, (John 14:3&6).

See you in church next Sunday.

Brother J

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COMMUNITY NEWS

December

Community Calendar 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Winters Public Library News

The Winters Public Library has recently received several non-fiction reference books including the 2016 Edition of the "Physicians' Desk Reference," the "Taber's Cyclopedic Medical Dictionary" and two very informative books regarding dyslexia. Also, just in time for the holidays, the library has received "The Pioneer Woman Cooks-A Year of Holidays," and "The Pioneer Woman Cooks-Dinnertime." In addition WPL has received David Baldacci's "No Man's Land" and the new book by Nicholas Sparks, "Two by Two."

RGHC book available

The latest book titled "Volume III Historical Markers of Rannels County and Post Offices of Rannels County" is available at Ballinger Printing & Graphics and JK Hair Salon in Ballinger; The Attic, Bee's Quilting, and the Z. I. Hale Museum Gift Shop in Winters; Beverly Teplicek in Rowena or from members of the Rannels County Historical Commission.

The book can be ordered from Ballinger Printing & Graphics at ballingerprinting.com, Amazon.com, or by mailing payment to Rannels County Historical Commission, PO Box 211, Winters 79567. "Volume I The Organization of Rannels County" is also available for \$25 or \$31 if shipped, and "Volume II Schools of Rannels County" is available for \$30 or \$37 if shipped.

CASA volunteers wanted

The Children's Advocacy Center of Tom Green County, Inc. CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) is seeking volunteers. Currently CASA serves 60 percent of the children in foster care. To sign

up, call 325-653-4673 or email mblue@cactomgreen.org. CASA serves Tom Green, Rannels, Concho, Crockett, Coke, Irion, Reagan, Sutton, Sterling and Schleicher counties.

AA meeting

Sobriety First Alcoholics Anonymous group will meet at the First United Methodist Church, in Ballinger, at 7 p.m. every Monday and Wednesday. The group will meet Saturday with prior arrangements. Please use the Avenue A and Seventh Street entrance. Child care is available. For more information please contact the church at 325-365-2323.

A Time for Freedom

A new addiction class is forming in Winters called "A Time for Freedom," and Pastor Tommy Alkin, of the Pioneer Church of God in Winters will be overseeing the program which will provide addiction education to addicts, family and loved ones. The meetings will be held at 7 p.m. every Thursday at the Pioneer Church of God at 158 North Main St. in Winters. For more information call 903-474-4740.

Visit Friendly Neighbors

The Texas Extension Education Agency "Friendly Neighbors" invites everybody in the Rannels County area who is interested in learning about cooking, gardening, arts and crafts and other useful subjects to meetings at 2 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of every month (except during the summer). Meetings will alternate between the Rannels County Extension Office on the corner of south 7th Street and Sealy Ave. in Ballinger and the Winters Public Library at 120 N. Main St. in Winters. If you are interested and would like to find out more about this group, call Martha at 365-3890 or Judy at 754-5386.

Rannels County Alzheimer's Support Group

The monthly Rannels County Alzheimer's Support Group will be held at Central Texas Nursing and Rehabilitation Center from 6:30-7:30 p.m. the second Tuesday of the month from. All concerned citizens are invited to share in discussion and education about the disease process and caregiver perspective. There is no charge for this

public service sponsored by the National Alzheimer's Association.

Recycling Center Hours

The City of Ballinger's Recycling Center, located at South 7th Street and Sealy Avenue, is open from 8 a.m. to noon on Monday. The recycling center is open from 8 a.m. to noon and from 1 to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. Saturday, the recycling center is open from 8 a.m. to noon.

WIC open to many incomes and families

Women Infants and Children, (WIC) located at 706 Strong Ave. in Ballinger is open from 7 a.m. to noon and from 1 to 6 p.m. Monday through Wednesday. WIC is closed every third and fourth Monday of each month. Phone 325-365-5925.

Wingate Masonic Lodge meetings

The Wingate Masonic Lodge 1042 A.F. & A.M., meets at 6:30 p.m. on the fourth Monday of the month, at the Wingate Masonic Lodge in Wilmeth. For further information contact Brandon Poehls at 325-786-2125.

The Market Perspective

Back to the future of required college degrees

Michelangelo young artist, however, showed no interest in his schooling, preferring to copy paintings from churches and seek the company of painters.

Leonardo da Vinci was educated in the studio of the renowned Florentine painter Andrea del Verrocchio.

Nikola Tesla — He never graduated from the university and did not receive grades for the last semester.

Galileo switched his studies from medicine to mathematics.

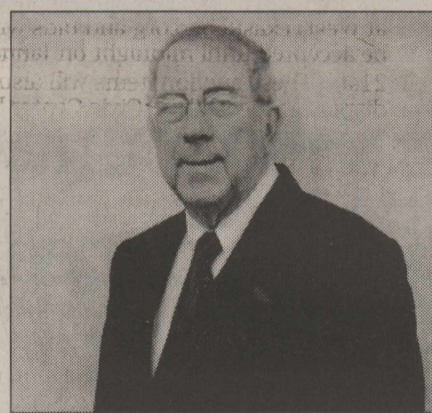
Carnegie, Edison, Ford, Gates, and Dell all shared a common experience, none of them graduated from college.

Are we seeing a pattern here, from Michelangelo to Texas State Tech Colleges as to the human experience with education.

During the Renaissance it was common for teenagers to be apprenticed to a successful mentor in their field. And as history shows, the most successful of inventors, once they focus on a chosen field, do just that, ignoring other subjects.

The modern idea of education seems to be that everyone should have a baseline understanding of various subjects, whether they want to or not. And so, forced into topics which are of no interest to them, most are 'burned out' before they complete what passes for a high school degree today. Or the more ambitious students take more science and math the last two years with the disinterested coasting in easy to pass courses.

Today many fields, even real estate now, routinely require a college degree. This is not a result of any evidence that a college degree necessarily makes one a better realtor. It is rather a result of lobbying by college administrators. The mantra is repeated endlessly that you NEED a college degree and those having degrees will earn more in their lifetime.



Dennis Elam

Yet it was not always that way. When I was studying for the CPA exam, the time window was about to shut for those not having a college degree. That's right. As recently as 1975, one did not have to complete a college degree to become a State licensed CPA. But one did have to pass the rigorous national CPA exam. The same had been true for the equally complex field of architecture.

And today, despite the claims of the Higher Education lobby, there are entire industries mostly comprised of individuals who have not completed college.

Examples include the Automobile dealerships and repair.

The Hospitality Industry.

Law Enforcement and Fire fighting had their own standards just a few decades ago.

Real estate and stock brokerage did not require degrees when I became licensed.

Most energy service work has been performed by non-degreed individuals.

My ophthalmologist trained his operating room assistant; she did not have a college degree.

There is much discussion about the cost of college. Here are some 'radical' ideas for really lowering the cost of college.

Accredit the student rather than the college. If a student can learn on their own or with an apprentice, and pass for example the CPA exam, why not grant the license? As a customer, does it really matter if your accountant knows the narrative of the Civil War?

Much of what I envision is already underway. Today students can receive dual credit for high school and required community college classes at the same time.

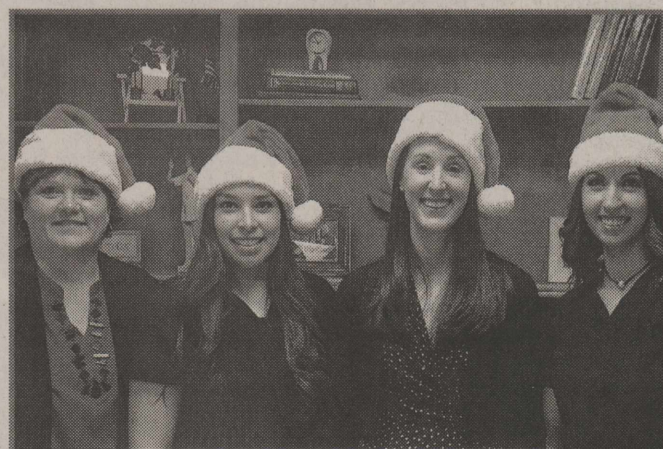
Most educators, despite the current debate, can still not define what it means to be "college ready." I can and will do so now. It means a student should be able to test out of subjects, taught both in high school and college such as math, English, languages, sciences, history and civics. If the student cannot place out of any of these after four years of high school, the school failed the student, not the other way around.

Vocational education needs to take its rightful place along side academic education. The former is not any less of a calling than the latter.

Now before my email box over flows with accusations of my being anti-intellectual, I really enjoy all sorts of learning outside the financial discipline. I suspect David McCullough sells a lot more history books to those of us out of school than those still in school.

So, let the student go where he or she wants to go. If the student is bored with math, we are not likely to turn he or she into an Enrico Fermi. But he just might make a darned good auto mechanic. And if I need to get to work, he's the guy I need.

Contact Professor Elam at dennislelam@gmail.com



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ROUND-UP

Runnels County

Runnels County Jail Record

December 22, 2016

Name	Age	Agency
Straight C. Daniel	22	Runnels
MTR, theft of property.		
James R. Meador	37	Coleman
Assault family violence.		
Forest L. Wells	33	Coleman
Assault family violence/previous conviction.		
Melinda S. Drake	52	Coleman
Possession of controlled substance, surety withdrawal.		
Shannon L. Willburn	30	Coleman
Possession of controlled substance.		
Jonathan M. Reyes	22	RCSO
MTR, escape from custody.		
Tabatha R. Perez	36	RCSO
Theft by check.		
Christian R. Rodriguez	26	Coleman
Sentenced for 30 days.		
Delilah R. Portillo	27	RCSO
Surety withdrawal.		
Hamilton G. Hefner	34	Coke
Family violence, assault causing bodily injury.		
Theodore I. Blaine	61	Coleman
Indecency w/child, sexual contact.		

VETERANS CORNER



Sandra G. Van Zant

VA announced last week that it now provides eligibility determinations for interment in a VA National Cemetery prior to the time of need. Through the Pre-Need Determination of Eligibility Program, upon request, individuals can learn if they are eligible for burial or memorialization in a VA national cemetery. Interested individuals may submit VA Form 40-10007, Application for Pre-Need Determination of Eligibility for Burial in a VA National Cemetery, and supporting documentation, such as a DD

Form 214, if readily available, to the VA National Cemetery Scheduling Office by: toll-free fax at 1-855-840-8299; email to Eligibility.PreNeed@va.gov; or mail to the National Cemetery Scheduling Office, P.O. Box 510543, St. Louis, MO 63151. For more information contact Sandra Van Zant at the Veterans Service Office at 602 Strong Ave. on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 am. to 3 p.m., or call 325-365-3612.

— Sandra G. Van Zant, Veterans County Service Officer

DPS recognizes employees for acts of courage, honor

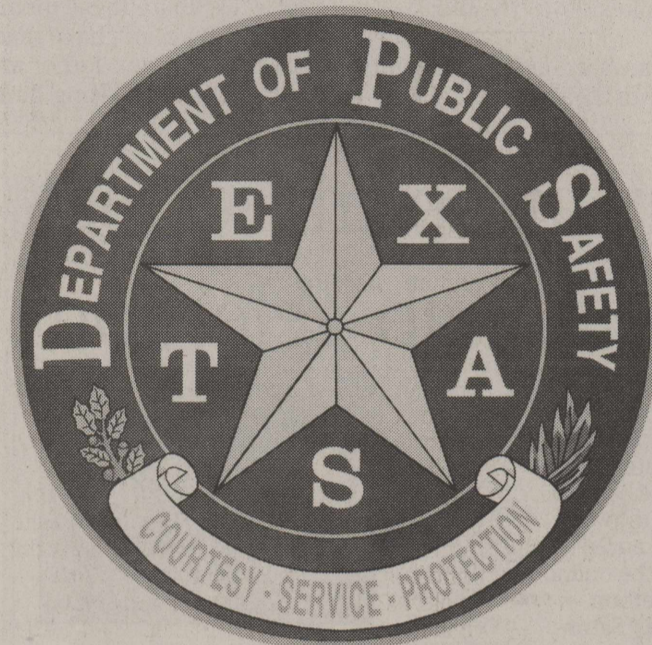
STAFF REPORT

AUSTIN - The Texas Public Safety Commission (PSC) and Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) Director Steven McCraw presented a Purple Heart Award, Life-saving Award and Certificate of Commendation to current employees and one retiree for their exemplary service and honorable actions.

"Today we express our gratitude for these admirable Texans, who acted with honor and courage when faced with extraordinary circumstances," said Director McCraw.

In addition, Commissioner Faith Johnson was presented with a proclamation of gratitude and appreciation, a Texas flag and was named an honorary Texas Ranger Captain in recognition for her service on the PSC since May of 2014. Governor Greg Abbott recently appointed Commissioner Johnson as the Dallas County District Attorney, and today was her last PSC meeting to serve as a commissioner.

"Commissioner Johnson has been an invaluable



asset to the Texas Public Safety Commission, and I know she will be a steadfast champion of justice in her new position as Dallas County District Attorney," said PSC Chair Cynthia Leon.

"Commissioner Johnson is someone who cares very much about this state and the people of Texas, and DPS has been enormously fortunate to have her exper-

tise and outstanding leadership on the Public Safety Commission," said Director McCraw.

The following awards were presented today:

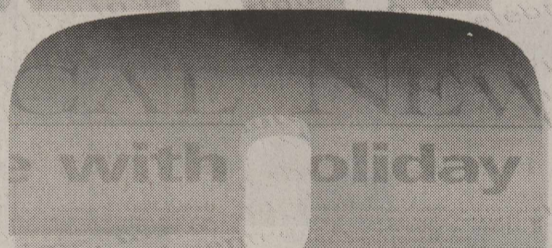
■ Robert Bourland, retired Texas Highway Patrol, received a Purple Heart Award. In June of 1990, Bourland was patrolling in Midland County when he observed a truck tractor semi-trailer emitting

an extreme amount of black smoke. As a result, he initiated a traffic stop during which the tires of the vehicle became engulfed in flames. When Bourland re-approached the vehicle with his fire extinguisher, the tires exploded, severely injuring him. Bourland recovered from his injuries, returned to duty and retired as a Captain in the Motor Vehicle Theft Service after serving 36 years with DPS.

■ Kristi Burchett, Texas Highway Patrol administrative assistant in Wichita Falls, received a Lifesaving Award. On July 1, 2016, Burchett was off duty attending a poolside birthday party when she spotted a child in the pool in distress. Burchett subsequently jumped into the pool and lifted the child out of the water to safety.

■ Margie R. Charles, DPS Driver License Office customer service representative in Spring, received a Certificate of Commendation. On October 27, 2016, Charles reported an attempted bribery situation at the Spring Driver License Office. As a result of her actions, the suspect was arrested.

GOT NEWS



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By fax to 325-365-5389.

By email: chawkins@ballingerledger.com

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SUBMISSIONS POLICY

Winters Enterprise

All submissions to the Ballinger Ledger or Winters Enterprise must be typed and emailed to the editor. Handwritten submissions will no longer be accepted.

The word count for letters to the editor is no more than 350 words, for guest columns it is 650 words. Lengths for other submissions will be determined by the content.

Please email all submissions to chawkins@ballingerledger.com or if you have questions, call 325-365-3501.

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THE IDLE AMERICAN

Memories at Christmas Time

'Tis the season to reclaim memories. Thanks be to God for treasured recollections, and for His giving us the discernment to call pleasant ones into play from days gone by.

And why not? To dwell on unpleasant ones is gain for no one. The ones we value greatest are as welcome chestnuts roasting on an open fire, or rides across fields in a one-horse open sleigh. (That said, I think I could be equally happy in a sleigh drawn by two horses, or even four.)

Today's memories center on two "Baylor brothers" — Drs. BO and Dick Baker, giants by any measure of ministry. They come to mind at a time in history when the university's name has been smudged by a football program scandal that won't seem to go away. BO was a well-known minister/evangelist/writer. Dick was a music minister/vocalist/composer. They brought much good to the world....

Neither of them ever truly re-



TEXAS COLUMNIST
Don Newbury

tired. Even in their 80s, they were in demand, responding to requests as long as they were physically able. BO died at age 86 in 2010; Dick died a year later at 84. Their Christian witness continues to wash against the shores of eternity.

BO wrote a heart-warming Christmas story for the Baptist Standard. His annual piece appeared annually for 34 years. It was as welcome as fresh-cut Christmas trees, or the sounds of reindeer hooves touching rooftops of the world as Santa made his Christmas Eve rounds. Perhaps no brothers ever worked together more closely in Christian ministry than the Bakers. BO preached worldwide, and

Dick was at his side during most of the years. (With more than 300 musical pieces to his credit, Dick published songs for 64 years.)...

In the Metroplex, Dick is remembered for introducing grand Christmas pageants at Prestonwood Baptist Church, where he was longtime minister of music. It continues with multiple presentations annually. Almost 70,000 people attended the 13 performances this month.

Shortly before his death, I asked Dick what he most remembered about the pageants, which are known for grand music, unbelievable choreography and live animals, including camels.

I thought he might cite one of his own favorite arrangements, or show-stopping renditions by some talented vocalist. I was wrong. "That's easy," he answered. "There were numerous chilling moments experienced in the dead of night." Turns out, he received many nocturnal phone calls from the Dallas

Police Department. "Hey, Dick, your camels got loose again. They were last seen galloping through the intersection of Preston and Arapaho."...

Still ringing in my ears are sermonic expressions for which BO was long known. "Draw in a little closer," he liked to say, often multiple times during evangelistic messages. He'd also say something akin to, "I'm so glad to be your revival preacher. But you need to know that my best sermon will be tomorrow night." (Naturally, he'd repeat the claim nightly until the final service.)

Another Christmas memory centers on the late Paul Crume, brilliant front page columnist for the Dallas Morning News. In 1967, he wrote a Christmas Day column entitled "Angels Among Us." So well-received was the piece that it continues to appear annually in the DMN. I look forward to it again this year — for the 50th time. I consider it "must" reading; it's

a grand tonic for those of us who believe in angels....

The old year soon to leave us is treasured for birthing a grand Christian book and a movie of the same name — Miracles from Heaven. The "star" is Annabel Beam, the youngster who said an angel told her how to snap on a harness lowered down a rotted tree trunk so she could be lifted to safety. (She had fallen 30 feet down the trunk of a 100-year-old tree on the family home place.) I believe her.

And I pray that in this blessed season, as you claim your very best memories, you'll sense angels nearby, or hear the rustle of their wings....

Dr. Newbury is a speaker in the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex. Inquiries/comments to: newbury@speakerdoc.com. Phone: 817-447-3872. Web site: www.speakerdoc.com.

Living Advent in a new way this season

Many people in the culture around us have the notion that the Christmas season is the time frame between Thanksgiving and Christmas. That might be true from a retail commercial point of view, but it is not true from the perspective of the Christian faith. The real Christmas season actually begins on Christmas Eve, December 24, and lasts through the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, which will take place on Monday, January 9, 2017.

The word "Advent" comes from the Latin word *adventus*, which refers to arrival, entry, or coming. The one who is coming is Jesus Christ. In the season of Advent we are focusing on three different comings of Christ — in history, in mystery, and in majesty. These take place in the past, the present, and the future.

The past event of the coming of Christ in history took place with Jesus' birth from the Virgin Mary more than 2,000 years ago in Bethlehem. This is what we commemorate with the Solemnity of Christmas on December 25; thus, Advent is a time of preparation for the celebration of his birth. The future event of the coming of Christ will be when he returns in majesty at the end of time, when he comes



DIOCESE OF SAN ANGELO
Bishop Michael Sis

in glory to bring the Kingdom of God to its fulfillment. In Matthew 24:42, Jesus says, "Stay awake, for you do not know on which day your Lord will come." Advent reminds us to be alert and vigilant at all times for the final return of Christ. As people of faith, the proper attitude when we consider the final coming of Christ at the end of time is not panic, but rather a spirit of joyful anticipation and reconciliation. If we're living in a solid relationship with God, there will be no need to shudder in fear or run and scream. St. Augustine says, "If we love our sins more than we love Christ, we will fear his coming. If we love Christ more than we love our sins, we will rejoice at his coming."

The third way we focus on the coming of Christ in Advent is the present. He comes to us in mystery every day, in the Sacraments of the Church, in the Scriptures, and in our neighbor in need. He is present to us

here and now, speaking to us, nourishing us, molding and shaping us, challenging us, and healing us. When we serve the needs of those around us by carrying out the works of mercy, we are responding to the coming of Christ under the disguise of our neighbor in need.

The past coming of Christ and the future coming of Christ are like the two ends of a bridge. The bridge that stretches across them is the present coming of Christ. Every day we walk that bridge, seeking to act with justice and love in everything we do. Advent is a time to watch attentively for his presence in the concrete experiences of life, and to commit ourselves to bringing his presence into our world.

I would like to invite you to live Advent in a new way this year. Put on your thinking cap and consider some different ways to make this season come alive, and to discover the presence of Christ every day. Here are just a few suggestions to consider:

Nativity scene

With the custom of the Nativity scene or crèche, prepare a place to receive the baby Jesus at Christmas. Start the Advent season with the manger empty, and

don't put the figure of Jesus in the scene until Christmas. There is a beautiful custom that began in France, where a few strands of hay or straw are placed in the manger for each good action or act of kindness done during Advent, in order to prepare a soft and welcoming place where Jesus will lie.

Confession

Prepare a place for Jesus in your heart by making a good sacramental Confession. In this way you will be clearing away the trash of your sins that blocks him from entering more fully into your life. A list of the special Advent Penance Services offered throughout the Diocese of San Angelo can be found on Pg. 4 of this Angelus, on the diocesan website at www.sanangelodiocese.org. Feel free to attend any one of these services, whether at your own parish or elsewhere, depending on your schedule.

Christmas cards

If you are sending Christmas cards, think of the message in your cards, and the Christian meaning of the feast, and try to let your cards reflect the importance of Jesus, not just Rudolph, Santa, or the elves. With every Christmas card you

write and every Christmas message you send electronically, say a prayer for the recipient.

Advent wreath

I highly recommend the use of an Advent wreath in homes and parishes. This custom began in the 16th century in Germany, and it eventually spread throughout the world. The rich symbolism of this wreath helps to teach about the spiritual meaning of the Advent season. The base of the wreath is a circle of evergreen, which symbolizes the eternal life of God in Christ. Green is a symbol of life, and the circular shape represents eternity, for the line of a circle has no beginning or end. Advent celebrates the fact that Christ, who lives in eternity, makes himself present in our hu-

man history. On the wreath are found four candles, which proclaim that Christ is the light of the world. The four candles represent the many generations of human beings who lived before the birth of Christ, who were waiting for the arrival of the Messiah. The number of candles lighted each week corresponds to the number of the current week of Advent. Beginning with each of the four Sundays of Advent, an additional candle is lit, until all four are lit during the Fourth Week of Advent. Thus, with each successive week of the season, the light increases, pushing out the darkness. Jesus Christ is the light who comes into the darkness of our world in order to conquer that darkness.

ADVENT, 8



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BETHEL COMMUNITY CHURCH

will hold the Annual Christmas Program at 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 24. Come and celebrate the miracle of Christmas!

'Tis the reason for the season!

Everyone is welcome. Bethel Community Church is located seven miles south of Ballinger on Highway 83.

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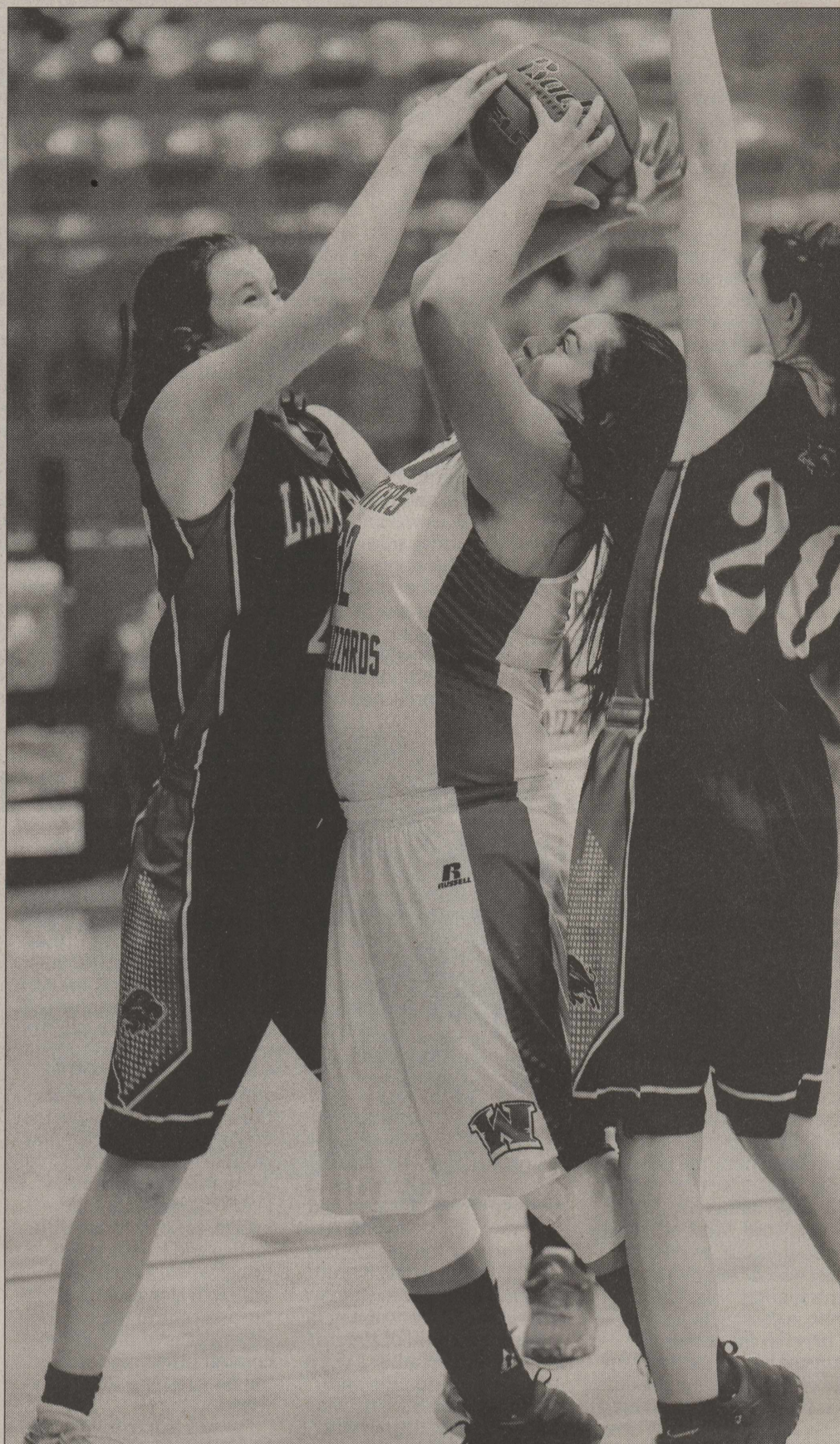
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Lady Blizzards downed by No. 23 Forsan



LEFT: Christy Kruse shoots under the basket during the game with Forsan on Friday. **RIGHT:** Monique Carrillo gets fouled under the basket during the game with Forsan.

JOE GERHART | CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

SPECIAL TO THE WINTERS ENTERPRISE

The Winters Lady Blizzards opened up District 7-2A at home last Friday, hosting the No. 23 Forsan Lady Buffs and the visitors were not kind to their hosts, as Forsan defeated Winters, 49-19.

The Lady Blizzards jumped out to an early lead and never looked back, as their six-foot post players dominated the game inside. Micaela Ochoa and Cha-Cha Lovelace led the Lady Blizzards with five points each. Karlee Busher con-

tinued her rebounding prowess as she had 10 rebounds, while Monique Carrillo had eight. The Lady Blizzards are now 11-5 on the season and 0-1 in district play. In the JV Game, the JV Lady Blizzards lost a close game, 24-22, to Forsan's JV. Shelby Gray had six points, while Jezebel Gonzalez and Marley Smith had five apiece. The JV Lady Blizzards are now 9-5 on the season and 0-1 in district.

In JH action, the 7th grade Lady Breezes fell to 2-2 on the season, with a 28-13 loss to Christoval's 7th grade. Tori Campos led the Lady Breezes with five points. The

8th grade Lady Breezes fell to 1-3 on the season with a 55-11 loss to a very stout Christoval 8th grade team. Hailey Renfro led the Lady Breezes with eight points. The Lady Breezes' next game will be Jan. 9 at home against Miles.

The Lady Blizzards hosted the Ozona Lady Lions on Tuesday, Dec. 20, in their final game before Christmas. The JV game was at noon and the Varsity played at 2:30 p.m.

Coach Valton Acree contributed to this report.

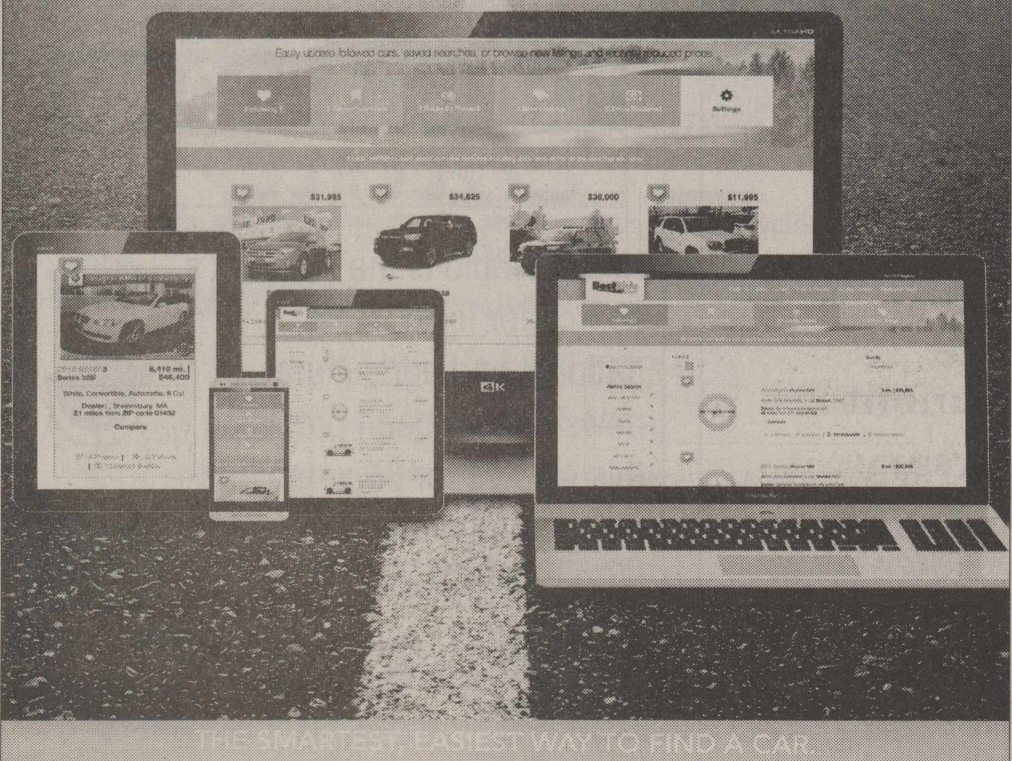


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ABOVE: Justine Alvarado brings the ball down the court during the game with Forsan.

LEFT: Cha Cha Lovelace sinks a free throw during the game with Forsan.

JOE GERHART | CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

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For circulation and advertising other than classifieds, please call the Ballinger Ledger office at 325-365-3501.

CRMWD

Colorado River Municipal Water District

The Colorado River Municipal Water District is accepting applications for the following position:

Park Maintenance Technician - Responsible for general maintenance of park and facilities. Entry to intermediate level position.

For additional information visit www.crmwd.org



BALLINGER INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL ENGLISH TEACHER

Job Title: English Teacher
Ballinger Independent School District is seeking to employ a positive, bright, energetic, capable, servant minded, and intrinsically motivated person to serve as a Ballinger ISD's High School English Teacher.
Posting Opens: November 22, 2016
Job Description:
Under the general supervision of the School Principal, to facilitate student success and growth in academic and interpersonal skills through implementing district approved curriculum; documenting teaching and student progress/activities/outcomes; addressing specific educational needs of individual students and by creating a flexible, safe and optimal learning environment; and providing feedback to students, parents and administration regarding student progress, expectations, goals, etc.
Job Requirements:
• Certification/License:
• TEXAS State Certification in the appropriate grade level preferred.
• Composite Certification
Education:
• Bachelors from an accredited college or university in Secondary Education or related discipline applicable to teaching assignment.
• Masters Degree in related area preferred
Applications obtained on our website: www.ballingerisd.net
For More Information Contact **Robert Webb, Principal**
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BALLINGER INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT Head Start Classroom Aide

Job Title: Part Time Head Start Classroom Aide
Ballinger Independent School District is seeking to employ a positive, bright, energetic, capable, servant minded, and intrinsically motivated person to serve as a Ballinger ISD Head Start Classroom Aide
Posting Opens: November 10, 2016
Posting Closes: December 21, 2016
Certification: Yes
Required:
Responsibilities: Ability to assist teacher with everyday educational needs for students.
Requirements: High School Diploma or GED, Background check, Fingerprints.
Applications obtained on our website: www.ballingerisd.net
For More Information Contact **Jamie Dudley (325) 365-3588 Ext. 3001**
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Legal Notices
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Vendor Notification
Miles ISD is requesting the names, addresses, and phone numbers of vendors who would be interested in providing general

school supplies, general office supplies, custodial supplies, and all other items, materials and furniture necessary for the operation of the school district. Miles ISD will contact vendors for price quotes when supplies are needed for the 2016-2017 school year. A W-9 form is required. Mail letters of interest to: Mr. Robert Gibson, Superintendent of Schools, PO Box 308, Miles, Texas 76861

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



NOTICE OF APPLICATION AND PRELIMINARY DECISION FOR WATER QUALITY LAND APPLICATION PERMIT FOR MUNICIPAL WASTEWATER AMENDMENT PERMIT NO. WQ0010325003

APPLICATION AND PRELIMINARY DECISION. City of Ballinger, P.O. Box 497, Ballinger, Texas 76821, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for a major amendment to TCEQ Permit No. WQ0010325003, to authorize an increase in the daily average flow from 375,000 gallons per day to 540,000 gallons per day, increase in the storage capacity from 109.7 acre-feet to 154.58 acre-feet, and change in the flow monitoring location from the end of the final treatment unit to the main lift station for influent flow. This permit will not authorize a discharge of pollutants into water in the state. TCEQ received this application on March 10, 2016.

The wastewater treatment facility and disposal site are located 3,000 feet southeast of the crossing of U.S. Highway 67 and Elm Creek and 4,000 feet east of the intersection of U.S. Highways 67 and 83 near the courthouse in the City of Ballinger, Runnels County, Texas 76821. The wastewater treatment facility and disposal site are located in the drainage basin of Colorado River Below E. V. Spence Reservoir in Segment No. 1426 of the Colorado River Basin.

The TCEQ Executive Director has completed the technical review of the application and prepared a draft permit. The draft permit, if approved, would establish the conditions under which the facility must operate. The Executive Director has made a preliminary decision that this permit, if issued, meets all statutory and regulatory requirements. The permit application, Executive Director's preliminary decision, and draft permit are available for viewing and copying at Ballinger City Hall, 700 Railroad Avenue, Ballinger, Texas. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and is not part of the application or notice. For the exact location, refer to the application. <http://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/hb610/index.html?lat=31.736388&lng=99.931388&zoom=13&type=r>

CHANGE IN LAW: The Texas Legislature enacted **Senate Bill 709, effective September 1, 2015, amending the requirements for comments and contested case hearings. This application is subject to those changes in law.**

PUBLIC COMMENT/PUBLIC MEETING. You may submit public comments or request a public meeting about this application. The purpose of a public meeting is to provide the opportunity to submit comments or to ask questions about the application. TCEQ holds a public meeting if the Executive Director determines that there is a significant degree of public interest in the application or if requested by a local legislator. A public meeting is not a contested case hearing.

OPPORTUNITY FOR A CONTESTED CASE HEARING. After the deadline for submitting public comments, the Executive Director will consider all timely comments and prepare a response to all relevant and material, or significant public comments. **Unless the application is directly referred for a contested case hearing, the response to comments will be mailed to everyone who submitted public comments and to those persons who are on the mailing list for this application. If comments are received, the mailing will also provide instructions for requesting a contested case hearing or reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision.** A contested case hearing is a legal proceeding similar to a civil trial in a state district court.

TO REQUEST A CONTESTED CASE HEARING, YOU MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN YOUR REQUEST: your name, address, phone number; applicant's name and proposed permit number; the location and distance of your property/activities relative to the proposed facility; a specific description of how you would be adversely affected by the facility in a way not common to the general public; a list of all disputed issues of fact that you submit during the comment period and, the statement "[I/we] request a contested case hearing." If the request for contested case hearing is filed on behalf of a group or association, the request must designate the group's representative for receiving future correspondence; identify by name and physical address an individual member of the group who would be adversely affected by the proposed facility or activity; provide the information discussed above regarding the affected member's location and distance from the facility or activity; explain how and why the member would be affected; and explain how the interests the group seeks to protect are relevant to the group's purpose.

Following the close of all applicable comment and request periods, the Executive Director will forward the application and any requests for reconsideration or for a contested case hearing to the TCEQ Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting.

The Commission may only grant a request for a contested case hearing on issues the requestor submitted in their timely comments that were not subsequently withdrawn. **If a hearing is granted, the subject of a hearing will be limited to disputed issues of fact or mixed questions of fact and law relating to relevant and material water quality concerns submitted during the comment period.**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ACTION. The Executive Director may issue final approval of the application unless a timely contested case hearing request or request for reconsideration is filed. If a timely hearing request or request for reconsideration is filed, the Executive Director will not issue final approval of the permit and will forward the application and request to the TCEQ Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting.

MAILING LIST. If you submit public comments, a request for a contested case hearing or a reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision, you will be added to the mailing list for this specific application to receive future public notices mailed by the Office of the Chief Clerk. In addition, you may request to be placed on: (1) the permanent mailing list for a specific applicant name and permit number; and/or (2) the mailing list for a specific county. If you wish to be placed on the permanent and/or the county mailing list, clearly specify which list(s) and send your request to TCEQ Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below.

All written public comments and public meeting requests must be submitted to the Office of the Chief Clerk, MC 105, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, TX 78711-3087 or electronically at www.tceq.texas.gov/about/comments.html within 30 days from the date of newspaper publication of this notice.

AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION. If you need more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call the TCEQ Public Education Program, Toll Free, at 1-800-687-4040. Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040. General information about the TCEQ can be found at our web site at www.TCEQ.texas.gov.

Further information may also be obtained from City of Ballinger at the address stated above or by calling Mr. Bryan Grimes, City Manager, City of Ballinger, at 325-365-3511.

Issuance Date: December 08, 2016

Special Notices

A Reader Notice: This newspaper will never knowingly accept any advertisement that is illegal or considered fraudulent. If you have questions or doubts about any ads on these pages, we advise that before responding or sending money ahead of time, you check with the local Attorney General's Consumer Fraud Line and/or the Better Business Bureau. Also be advised that some phone numbers published in these ads may require an extra charge. In all cases of questionable value, such as promises or guaranteed income from work-at-home programs, money to load, etc., if it sounds too good to be true -- it may in fact be exactly that. This newspaper cannot be held re-

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BALLINGER INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Maintenance Grounds Keeper

Posting Opens: November 30, 2016
Job Title: Grounds Keeper
Ballinger Independent School District is seeking to employ a positive, bright, energetic, capable, servant minded, and intrinsically motivated person to serve as a Ballinger ISD's Grounds Keeper.
Job Description: Under the direct supervision of the Director of Facilities, to maintain school buildings and building and grounds in orderly, neat, safe and operable condition.
Job Requirements: High School Diploma. Successful experience in building and grounds maintenance, and repair. Motor Vehicle Operator's license or ability to provide own transportation.
Applications obtained on our website: www.ballingerisd.net
For More Information Contact **Tony Harral (325) 365-3727**
Email: Tony.Harral@ballingerisd.net

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Second Annual Tamale Contest Winners

The winners of the Second Annual Tamale Contest held Saturday, Dec. 10 were (from left), Cynthia Perez, first place; Linda Antu, second place; and Guadalupe Vazquez, third place.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

ADVENT

CONTINUED FROM 5

Most commonly, there are three purple candles and one rose candle. The purple color symbolizes repentance from sin as well as the royalty of Christ our King. The purple candles are added in each of the weeks one, two, and four, while the rose candle is added in week three. Rose is a symbol of joy. The Third Sunday of Advent is traditionally known as Gaudete Sunday, which is a celebration of joyful expectation, since we have arrived at the midpoint of Advent, when the time of preparation is now half over and we are close to Christmas.

It is also acceptable for an Advent wreath to use four white candles instead of the purple and rose candles, especially in those cases when purple and rose candles cannot be found. Four purple candles may also be used.

For those who are looking for prayers to use with the Advent wreath at home, an example can be found on the Diocese of San Angelo web site. More samples can be found in Catholic prayer books, at Catholic stores, and on the Internet.

This Advent, let us all be conscious of the three comings of Christ, and make room in our hearts for his arrival — in history, in mystery, and in majesty.

CENTER

CONTINUED FROM 1

The building, which has been used for the Senior Meals Program for years, was temporarily closed when seniors who had been holding activities there, turned in their keys to the building. The Senior Meal Program ended

Oct. 1 after county commissioners voted to end funding for the program.

At the time, the locks were changed on the building for liability purposes, Yates explained.

Initially, senior citizens who utilized the facility were concerned that they were not going to be able to continue to use the building. However, after the

subcommittee formed and meetings were held, the city and the seniors groups were able to come to an agreement.

Under the present agreement, the seniors will be able to obtain a key at city hall and hold their regular events such as games and a pot luck dinner on Friday nights. Then they must return the key after each

event. The city will continue to pay the utilities, including water, gas, electric, sewer and trash on the building and for clean up and maintenance, Long said.

The city is currently working on a list of policies and pricing for the usage of the building for private events. "We are very happy with the outcome," Long said.

COMMISSIONERS

CONTINUED FROM 1

which was installed five years ago, has been problematic at times, and officials say they are looking at all other options.

"We are trying to figure out what we need to do to improve our phones and Internet," Hilliard said.

Also on Tuesday, commissioners awarded a construction contract to CM Construction Company of San Angelo in the amount of \$148,068.90 to the Rowena Water System.

Commissioners also approved officers and members of the Runnels County Historical Commission for 2017-18. The officers are Ruth Cooper, chairperson; Randall Conner, vice chairperson; Alton O'Neal, secretary; Anthony Lange, treasurer; Beverly Teplicek, reporter and Sally Spill, archivist.

Members include Wanda Brewer, Bobbie Campbell, Linda Duggan, Marianne Ray, Roy Rice and Diana

Rozman. All of the officers are also appointees.

Commissioners also approved Dec. 27 as the date that all newly elected officials will take the oath of office. There were several races that were decided in the March Primary election and those officially elected to office for Runnels County including Sheriff Carl Squyres, County Attorney Ken Slimp, 119th District Judge Ben Woodward, 119th District Attorney John Best, Tax Assessor Collector Robin Burgess, Precinct 1 County Commissioner Robert Moore, Precinct 3 County Commissioner Roy Mints, Precinct 1 Constable Wayne Poehls and Precinct 2 Constable Archie Jobe.

In other business, commissioners:

- Approved a request by Runnels County Tax Collector Robin Burgess to move \$1,500 from the salary fund to the part time salary fund.
- Approved budget and line item amendments to the 2016-17 fiscal year budget.
- Approved the continuation of the

Blanket Crime Bond for the Runnels County Sheriff's Office.

- Approved the reappointment of Tiffany Mathis and Cady Pena to two year terms as commissioners to the Runnels County Emergency Services District No. 1.

- Approved a request by Precinct #1 Commissioner Robert Moore to trade in a motor grader for a 2014 motor grader.

- Accepted a \$3,000 bid for property at 1538 Highway 153 in Wingate.

- Approved a request from Commissioner Moore to transfer a cargo trailer from the Runnels County Senior Center to Precinct 1.

- Approved an interlocal agreement between Runnels County and the Wingate Volunteer Fire Department, Rowena Volunteer Fire Department, the City of Miles and the City of Winters.

- Approved a contract between Runnels County and the Carnegie Library of Ballinger and the Winters Public Library.

Christmas Eve

Candlelight Service with Holy Communion

6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 24 at St. John's Lutheran Church 1100 W. Parsonage St., Winters, TX

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Letters to Santa

Thursday, December 22, 2016



BALLINGER

Mrs. Skelton's Pre-K class

Dear Santa,
I have been good this year. I help my friends and I help with my baby brother. Would you bring me a real phone, a Barbie Doll, and a pretend calendar. I will leave you chocolate chip cookies and white milk for snack.

Love,
Brooklyn Martinez

Dear Santa,
I have been good this year. I help my mom clean. Please bring me a phone, Barbie, nail polish, and a toy car. I will leave you chocolate cookies and milk for snack.

Love,
Avyanna Roman

Dear Santa,
I have behaved this year. I am good at school. Please bring me light brown Saichania dinosaur, a T-Rex, and a dino holder. I will leave you chocolate chip cookies for snack.

Love,
Ethan Hernandez

Dear Santa,
I have been good. I listen well and behave at people's house. Please bring me a rocket fishing rod, a toy dinosaur, a toy snowman. I will leave you chocolate animal crackers for snack.

Love,
Elijah

Dear Santa,
I have been good. I help my mom clean and do the dishes. I love getting presents. Please bring me a purple teddy bear, a toy horse, and some make-up. I will leave you pretzels and cookies for snack.

Love,
Alba Benson

Dear Santa,
I have been really good. I help my dad mop and sweep, and work on the car. Please bring me a remote control car, and an Iron Man toy. I will leave you cookies with sprinkles.

Love,
Xaven Lopez

Dear Santa,
I have been very good. I clean up my room, I am nice to my friends, and I'm nice to my dog. I can also make my own chocolate milk. Please bring me Shopkins, some art paper, a doctor set, a fake birthday cake, and the school thing where you move your tabs. I will leave you cookies and milk, and I won't let my Daddy eat them.

Love,
Jaelyn Lange

Dear Santa,
I have been very good. I am nice to my family, and I help my mom wash dishes. Please bring me a new dress, a sparkly microphone, a small Christmas tree, glow in the dark stars for my ceiling. I will leave you chocolate cookies.

Love,
Paisley Fowler

Dear Santa,
I have been very good. I am nice to my sister's and my mom and my dad. I help my mom cook supper so everyone can come over and eat.

Please bring me a big bike, a remote control car, and a toy choo choo train. I will leave you some deer meat, mashed potatoes, and some pumpkin pie.

Love,
Austin Franke

Dear Santa,
I have been very good. I clean the living room and I am good at school. Please bring me a drone, a

bike, and walkie talkie. I leave you a gingerbread man some milk.

Love,
Victor Flores

Dear Santa,
I have been very good. I say please all of the time and thank you. Please bring me Nerf gun, and a Rocket Fishing Rod. I will leave you gummy bears a juice box for snack.

Love,
Jace Smith

Dear Santa,
I have been very good. I clean my room. Please bring me some legos and a bicycle. I will leave you some animal crackers and milk.

Love,
Joel Rangel

Dear Santa,
I have been very good. I help my mom clean up and fold clothes. Please bring me toy car I can ride in that has a door, and a Barbie. I will leave you chocolate cookies.

Love,
Izabella Santiago

Dear Santa,
I have been a good boy. I help my mom clean. Please bring me a monster truck, and a nerf gun. I will leave you a sandwich, and cookies.

Love,
Jayron Bradley

Dear Santa,
I have been good. I help my mom cook. Please bring me a monkey toy, a reindeer toy, and a Santa toy. I will leave you cookies, milk, and candy.

Love,
Jayden Gray

Dear Santa,
I have been good this year. I help my mom make tortillas and clean. Please bring me a toy puppy, and

a play kitchen set with all the food and dishes. I will leave you cookies and milk.

Love,
Marbella Rodriguez

Mrs. Faubion's Pre-K

Dear Santa,
I have been really good this year! I clean my room, and you don't touch mean. I am 4 years old. I live in Ballinger, in a brown house. Come in the door- I have one dog and he is nice. Thank you for the Spiderman presents last year. This year I would like a toy monster truck and some new Sketchers - my old ones broke. I will leave you cookies and root beer.

Love,
Cody McClellan

Dear Santa,
I have been a good boy. I be quiet at school and I clean up toys. I am 5 years old. I live with Mommy and Daddy and Grandma. She makes me burritos. Santa says, "Ho, ho, ho". I'll come see you. I wish for puzzles and Hot Wheels. I will leave you applesauce.

Love,
Brandon Quiroga

Dear Santa,
I have been very good, this year! I give presents and clean for my mom. I am 5 years old. I live in Ballinger in a blue house, in Texas. I like the reindeer. Please bring me a backhoe and some Sketchers. I will leave you a grilled cheese.

Love,
Ross Byler

Dear Santa,
I have been a good girl! I play with Allege, and I help my momma go to the pantry. I am 4 years old. I live in the country in a red house. It is colorful inside. I like to take pictures with you. I would like you to bring me a doll and a toy doggy. I will leave you a hot dog and some Gatorade.

Love,
Julissa Mendez

Dear Santa,
I have been good. I play with my friends and help Momma cook supper. We cook chicken. I am 4 years old. I live in a silver house close to school. I'd like to play with you.

I want you to bring me a real puppy dog and a real kitty cat, and a Barbie. Love, Alleigh Johnston

Love,
No name

Dear Santa,
I have been very good this year!

Love,
Wyatt Tucker

I sing to my big sister, and I clean up my toys. I play with them, but I don't make a mess. I am 4. I live in Ballinger, in a white house. Come in the door but don't let the white puppy out. I let him out when he wants to go play.

I like your presents. Please bring me a new Spiderman- a still one. My old one moves a lot so I want a still one. I'd like some pink gum, and I like Cheetos. I will leave you sandwiches, chips and a coke.

Love,
Blake Kincaid

Dear Santa,
I have been very good. I make supper with Mommy. I give baby Hadley a toy. I am 4. I like your house. I have a dog, but he doesn't bite. I want a bicycle and some clothes. I will leave you popcorn and milk.

Love,
Annistin Franke

Dear Santa,
I have been good. I play with Mom and Dad. I help Mom wash dishes and I be nice to Ashlin. I am 4 years old. I live in a white house in Ballinger. I like your reindeer. Please bring me an airplane, a toy gun, and some lollipops. I will leave you cookies and water.

Love,
Bentley Callaway

Dear Santa,
I have been very good. I clean my room and watch tv with my mom. I'm listening to my mom. I am 5 and I live on 5th Street. Your elves do a good job. I would like you to bring me a race car with a remote control, a candy race car- a fan one- and some sour gum. I will leave you some cookies and milk.

Love,
Cameron Falcon

Dear Santa,
I have been very good some of the time. I clean up toys and watch the baby. She can walk now. I am 4. You know where I live because you've already been there before. Please bring me a Star Wars toy and lollipops and gum. I will leave you gum.

Love,
Cade McDuffee

Dear Santa,
I have been good! I help Mommy cook and help Daddy clean the yard. I am 5. I live in the white house. I like animals. I would like a set of cars, a toy shack full of toys and a toy dragon (not a real one). I will leave you some cookies and milk.



Santa Claus
The North Pole



Mrs. Faubion's Pre-K

Dear Santa,
I have been very good this year! When people be nice to me, I be nice to them. I help Mom and Dad wash dishes and I help Dad with basketball. I am 4 years old. I live in a blue house with a white roof. I like your beard. I would wish for a Sonic, a costume Animatronic (the Foxy kind) and a new grey cat. I will leave you a banana, cookies and milk.

Love,
Julius Anene

Dear Santa,
I have been good. I help my dad cut the yard and play with my sister. I am 4. I live in a grey paint house far away from school. I wish for you to bring me a car. I will leave you milk and cookies.

Love,
Alex Martinez

Dear Santa,
I have been very good this year! I don't slap people and I clean up for my teacher. I am 4 years old. I live with Mama and Papa. I like to take pictures with you. Please bring me a toy guitar that works (my brother's doesn't work anymore) and a boy doll-house. I will leave you a box of cereal and some milk.

Love,
Kris Gauna

Dear Santa,
I have been good. I play nice and I help my dad pick up rocks. I am 4 years old. I live in Ballinger at my house. I like everything about you. For Christmas I want a toy. I will leave you some oranges.

Love,
Diego Lemus

**Ballinger Kindergarten
Ms. Jarvis' class**

Dear Santa,
I was wondering...
if Rudolph really has a red nose?
Could you please bring me...
a brown T-Rex that fights with another T-Rex?

Love...
Javier Acosta

Dear Santa,
I was wondering...
how do you deliver all the presents so fast?
Could you please bring me...
a Barbie Dream House and Doc McStuffins set?

Love...
Lila Burrell

Dear Santa,
I was wondering...
how the elves have ears different than people?
Could you please bring me...
a tablet with games?

Love...
Beautiful Cook

Dear Santa,
I was wondering...
if you will come with me to my grandma's house?
Could you please bring me...
a basketball and a fish tank with an orange fish?

Love...
Deanthony Dampeer

Dear Santa,
I was wondering...
if I can fly on your reindeer?
Could you please bring me...
a toy robot that will play with my dog Ginger?

Love...
Kamyla Daniel

Dear Santa,
I was wondering...
where I can find you?
Could you please bring me...
a hover scooter and a flat ball?

Love...
Caydon Flores

Dear Santa,
I was wondering...
do you like chocolate cookies?
Could you please bring me...
princess music for the karaoke machine?

Love...
Geraldine Flores

Dear Santa,
I was wondering...
does the fake Santa live at the North Pole?
Could you please bring me...
a Chihuahua puppy and a bottle so I can feed it?

Love...
Leah Haddon

Dear Santa,
I was wondering...
how do the reindeer fly?
Could you please bring me...
shoes & clothes and the song "Stacey's Mom"?

Love...
Kennedy Hartnell

Dear Santa,
I was wondering...
how do your reindeer fly?
Could you please bring me...
a toy car set with a big house?

Love...
Rusty House

Dear Santa,
I was wondering...
can your elves fly?
Could you please bring me...
a black bike with training wheels?

Love...
Jaymond Lund

Dear Santa,
I was wondering...
what have you been doing?
Could you please bring me...
Minecraft Legos and Sonic Legos?

Love...
Chaz McDuffee

Dear Santa,
I was wondering...
what are your elves names?
Could you please bring me...
a tablet & computer that go together and a candy machine with Skittles?

Love...
Andrea Quinonez

Dear Santa,
I was wondering...
what your house looks like inside?
Could you please bring me...
a candy machine with jelly beans in it?

Love...
Brandee Roach

Dear Santa,
I was wondering...
Why don't you give kids presents when they're naughty?
Could you please bring me...
Star Wars Legos and a REAL motorcycle?

Love...
Ryan Rouse

Dear Santa,
I was wondering...
if you can do magic?
Could you please bring me...
all kinds of candy and a remote control truck?

Love...
Jayden Serbine

**Kindergarten
Mrs. Andrews's Class**

Dear Santa,
I was wondering how you are doing.
Could you please bring me an x-box and Lego Mission?

Love,
Raymond Avila
5 years old

Dear Santa,
I was wondering if you are feeling good.
I hope you have fun with your elves. Could you please bring me a Monster High toy phone?

Love,
Bella Benton
6 years old

Dear Santa,
I was wondering how your reindeer are doing. Could you please bring me a race car?

Love,
Cason Brown
5 years old

Dear Santa,
I was wondering if it is cold at the North Pole. Could you please bring me a Minnie Mouse Machine?

Love,
Chloe Champion
5 years old

Dear Santa,
I was wondering if I could go to the North Pole. Could you please bring me a motorcycle?

Love,
Ashton Clark
6 years old

Dear Santa,
I was wondering how you are doing.
Could you please bring me a Hatchimal?

Love,
Sophia Dolinsek
5 years old

Dear Santa,
I was wondering if you can get on the reindeer. Could you please bring me a notebook?

Love,
McKenna Hartzell
6 years old

Dear Santa,
I was wondering if I can see a reindeer.
Could you please bring me new shoes and an RC car?

Love,
Dominic Luna
6 years old

Dear Santa,
I was wondering if I can see Mrs. Claus.
Could you please bring me a robot and a baby doll?

Love,
Avah Martinez
5 years old

Dear Santa,
I was wondering if you had fun riding on the firetruck in the parade. Could you please bring me airplanes?

Love,
Julius Martinez
5 years old

Dear Santa,
I was wondering what kind of cookies you like. Could you please bring me a phone?

Love,
Logan McNaley
5 years old

Dear Santa,
I was wondering if you get cold when you ride in your sleigh. Could you please bring me a puzzle and a pretty doll?

Love,
Katie Melton
6 years old

Dear Santa,
I was wondering how fast your reindeer fly. Could you please bring me a basketball and a soccer ball?

Love,
Drake Sims
5 years old

Dear Santa,
I was wondering if you know I love you and Rudolph. Could you please bring me blocks and rocks with a magnifying glass?

Love,
Wyatt Turner
6 years old

Dear Santa,
I was wondering how tall your elves are. Could you please bring me a tent and a doll?

Love,
Zoey Vela
5 years old

Dear Santa,
I was wondering if Rudolph has a red shirt. Could you please bring me a new Barbie doll?

Love,
Kamrie Villarreal
6 years old

Dear Santa,
I was wondering what is your favorite color?
I would like a phone with games, a barbie, and a iPad with music.

Aurora Benson

I was wondering what is your favorite cookie?
I would like a iPod that has games and music and a Barbie house, and a real baby kitten with a cage. We want a big Christmas Tree because my mom broke ours. You don't have to send decorations we have them.

Allie Clemens

I was wondering what is your favorite color?
I would like a sword, books, and some markers. Thank you for Christmas. I hope you have a Happy Christmas and a good year. I hope people will be good.

Aidyn Conrad

I was wondering what is your favorite cookie and drink?
I would like some toy snakes and dragons (big dragons).

Royce Cook

I was wondering which do you like milk or orange juice?
I would like pie face showdown and a nerf gun. I would like the nerf mega. I would also like some toys snakes and a hopper. Merry Christmas Santa!

Hunter Ferguson

I was wondering which elf is your favorite?
I would like some ponies, two barbies, and a Barbie house. I would like some boots with high heels, sandals, shoe that tie and some clothes. I would like some new butterfly earrings, a butterfly shirt and pants to match. I also need some new pajamas.

Demi Gallant

I was wondering what is your favorite cookie?
I would like a drone that I can fly. I would like tons of sharks, whales, and a pet snake, a fish tank with some fish, I would like the game pie face. I would like a Bigger Christmas Tree for my room. I need a new backpack, and a counting board so I can count to 100. I could use a tool bag and an art bag so I can cut, color, and paint. I want a flying helicopter and a new doggie. I need a Christmas hat for my house. I also would like a notebook. I would like some new plates for me, Allie, mom, and dad. I need a sand box with a bucket, shovel, fossils, and a brush I also need a backpack to put all my fossils and tools in. I would like a pencil box with lots of pens.

Miller Goetz

I was wondering what is your favorite reindeer?
I would like a flower pot for my mom, a cowboys toothbrush, a watering can for my mom so she can water our flowers. Merry Christmas Santa.

Edison Harris

I was wondering what is your favorite cookie and drink?
I want a snackeez, it is a cup that holds a snack on top and a drink down below. I would like a barbie, some more bows and that have butterflies and some with hearts. I would also like some shirt, pants, that have hearts and butterflies. I would like some more crayon, and a notebook with a marker. I would like school supplies to play school.

Happy Christmas Santa, thank you for all the things you bring us. Have a Happy New Year.

Jaden Leverett

I was wondering what is your favorite color?
I would like a pink care bear, a ballerina that has a button, and a toy puppy. I would also like an elf.

Sophia McGlothlin

I was wondering what is your favorite book?
I would like a dinosaur and army men, a toy puppy and toy gun and markers.

Ramon Mendez

I was wondering how are you doing?
I would like a little Christmas tree for my room. I want some stuffed animals, a box for my house, some pens, and play kitchen stuff. I would also like a clock. I have been a good girl so have my brothers. Merry Christmas Santa, please be safe.

Xavia Ochoa

I was wondering what is your favorite cookie?
I would like a toy that has circle and that is green and has bullets.

Tanner Rose

I was wondering what is your favorite reindeer?
I would like a video camera, a shopkin backpack, and a jewelry maker.

Paige Strube

I was wondering what is your favorite snack?
I would like a real yorkie, a computer, a goldfish, and a pony.

Kendra Villereal

**Kindergarten
Ms. Drennan's class**



First Grade
Mrs. Whitaker's class
Mrs. Wood's class

Dear Santa,
I have been a good boy. I want DM motorcycle, and a X-Box One and computer and a robot rhino.

Love,
Joseph Trevino

Dear Santa,
I have been a good boy and I want a toy phone. I hope your reindeer are good. I love you Santa.

Love,
Caleb McCook

Dear Santa,
How are your elves and your reindeer doing? For Christmas I want the captain underpants series.

Love,
Brode Davis

Second Grade
Mrs. J. Parramore's class

Dear Santa,
How are you Santa? I want to ask for toys. I want a Xbox, tablet, Minecraft, football and Mechx 4 game.

Love,
Luis

Dear Santa,
Hi. How are your elves and Mrs. Claus. I wish that I had a iPad mini, a computer, desk and a iPhone. I will have a pile of cookie waiting for you.

Love,
Talina

Dear Santa,
Hello! How are you doing Santa? Can you say hi to Rudolph. I would like a Barbie and a stuffed animal that's a cat. That is all I need.

Love,
Baylee

Dear Santa,
Hello Santa! How are you doing? I want a teddy bear, a Anna toy, posters and DVD of Christmas songs too because I like toys.

Love,
Keylianna

Dear Santa,
How are you doing? Well I want to know about the randser. Could you please get me a skateboard and a cross necklace and a forwiler. How are your elves doing and Mrs. Claus doing.

Love,
Madison

Dear Santa,
How are you? I would like a \$100, a picture of a cheetah, a Taggart shirt, a picture of Jesus on the cross and my ears pierced.

Love,
Sarah

Dear Santa,
Hi Santa! How are your reindeers doing and elves doing? I wish John's Little brother is a feeling better and their is no more accidents every where.

Love,
Zayda

Dear Santa,
How are you? I'm good. I want a tablet, a stroller, a baby doll, a phone, a book, a computer and a ball.

Love,
Keuna

Dear Santa,
How are you doing? Well I want to know how Mrs. Claus is doing? Are the reindeer sick or not. If they are sick, I hope they get better. Could you get me a dog, and a baby fish, and a baby goat, and a elephant and a mother monkey plus a baby monkey, and a cut

Love,
Galihja

muddy baby pig, and can you please get me a baby jackrabbit. I also will like vex robotics, zoomer chimp and a robot pup. Thanks! For letting me talk to you what I want for Christmas. I hope you have a good year and I wish you a Merry Christmas and hope your reindeers have a good flight tonight. Merry Christmas to all and a goodnight! I hope you don't get sick, also because they will be calling me Marty Claus, but it's Marty Reyna and I'll have to control the slay. I'll reck you beautiful slay. Please! Please! Get Mrs. Claus to ride your beautiful slay.

Love,
Marty Alfredo Reyna

Dear Santa,
Hi. How are you at the North Pole? How's the elves? I want an Xbox 1, a little home, and a little car.

Love,
John

Dear Santa,
Hey Santa! How are you doing? I want a Bubby owl and all kinds of toys, and a BB gun. How is yourself doing? How is your Rudolph the red nose reindeer?

Love,
Bobby

Dear Santa,
Hello Santa Claus. How are you doing? I hope you are safe through the snow. I would like a toy bank cash saver, a toy cookie maker, a Pokemon toy, a Pokemon balls and a real Pokemon, a little stoking, and a Xbox 360,

Love,
Galihja

Dear Santa,
Hi Santa! How are you doing? I want a real live puppy, I want a jump rope. Also I want a R Seat grave digger.

Love,

Dear Santa,
Hello Santa. How re you doing? I was wondering how the elves could make over 1,000 toys? It must take a long time. So this is what I want for Christmas: a locket, walckey talckey, jewelry, stuffed animals, a picture of a elephant, pinch on earrings and John Pierre's little brother Hagan to be right again and every one to be safe!!!!!!

Love,
Cora Leigh

Dear Santa,
Hi Santa! How are you doing? I want an iPad and a bear too. Say hi to Mrs. Claus for me. I want a dog, I want new shoes, and a new car for my Mom and a new couch for my Mom. I want pajamas and shoes for my Dad.

Love,
MacKenzie

Dear Santa,
Hi Santa! I hope you are coming on Christmas Eve, and on Christmas, I hope you eat all the cookies in people's homes! What I want for Christmas is dolls, stuff animals, doll houses, new bed, new bleak egg, new desk. I hope you give me that stuff!

Love,
Chloe

Dear Santa,
Are you jolly? I want to see your reindeer. I want toys but not that much. I don't want to be greedy. I will see you at the mall.

Love,
James

Dear Santa,
Hi,
My name is Samantha. I love you Santa! I wish I can see you but I can't. I wish I can see your reindeers and

Mrs. Claus and your elves and the work shop. So these are the things that I want, a real hachimals and Barbies and a house for Barbies.

Love,
Samantha

Dear Santa,
Hi! My name is Annemarie. How are you? I am good! I want Beados, Mighty Craft Story Mode and a kitchen set, please! P.S. I hope you can get all that stuff.

Love,
Annemarie

Second Grade
Mrs. Mostad's class

Dear Santa,
How are you doing? My name is Woody. I will like a football helmet and I will like football pants and shoulder pads and a Dallas cowboy shirt.

Love,
Woody

Der Santa,
Hi Santa! How are you doing. How is Mrs. Claus doing? I hope you are making presents for all the good kids around. My name is Summer and am in second grade. I would to get cookies.

Love,
Summer

Dear Santa,
Are Mrs. Claus cookies good? Can I have new shoes, a new chain. I want to get my Mom a car.

Love,
Katara

Dear Santa,
Hi! How are you? How are the reindeer this year? How is Mrs. Claus. I want a 2K17 WWE game, a phone and a computer because you can play games on a phone and computer and Xbox too. And I'm getting my sister a phone, a computer and tab-

let. Have a good Christmas Santa Claus.

Love,
Colton

Dear Santa,
Hi! How is Rudolph? I would like to see him. Santa can you tell Dasher and Blit I said hi! Can you get me a PS3 and pet lizard.

Love,
Layne

Dear Santa,
Hi! How are you? Are Mrs. Claus cookies good? This year I've been good. I want a descendants collections and chap stick and a necklace. I will make cookies for your and for Mrs. Claus too. I hope you have a great trip home Santa. Thank you.

Love,
Aracel Jacinda Costa

Dear Santa,
Hi. My name is Vivian and how are you and how is Mrs. Claus cookies good. Can you bring me some please. Ok now I want for Christmas is a big doll house that comes with Barbies and that comes with some stuff. Please and thank you!

Love,
Vivian Smith

Dear Santa Claus,
How is Mrs. Claus? I would like a Barbie house and also new shoes, new clothes, make-up, a purse and some jewelry.

Love,
Kymari

Dear Santa,
Hi! How are you and the reindeer! My name is Nolan and I would like the Madden NFL 17 and receiving gloves. My brother wants a PS4 with games and I want Call of Duty Ghost and a Xbox 5, and a football helmet and cleats and a teddy bear. I hope you have safe trip.

Love,
Nolan

Dear Santa,
Hi my name is Xander. Is Mrs. Claus good? Are her cookies good? I want a computer, I want 10000 and dog and a tover.

Love,
Xander

Dear Santa,
Hi Santa! How are the reindeer. How is Rudolph. How is Mrs. Claus and her cookies and hot chocolate? How are the elves and I think I've been good this year. Can you get Kindol please. I also want a Xbox one with Minecraft so I can get all the updates. I hope you can find your way.

Love,
Joshua

Dear Santa,
Hi! How are you and Mrs. Claus doing? My name is Aria. I think I have been good this year. Can my brother have an iPad for Christmas. Can I have a silicone doll. Stay safe on your trip here.

Love,
Ariah

Dear Santa,
How is Mrs. Claus? How are your reindeer? I hope they are doing good. For Christmas I would like some jewelry please.

Love,
Stacie

Dear Santa,
How are the reindeer? Are Mrs. Claus cookies good. How is Rudolph. I have a Christmas tree. I would like Xbox 3S. I would like my mommy to have a beautiful ring. Have a safe trip home.

Love,
Alex

Dear Santa,
I would like you to give me four Minecraft toys please. How are Rudolph and the reindeer doing?

Love,
Rylan

Dear Santa,
Hi! How are you? How are the reindeer doing? How is Mrs. Claus doing. My name is Jazzy. I think I've been good. I hope you have a good Christmas. I hope you are safe. May I have magic track and tape white board and stapler and paint things, the Thundermen collection of books.

Love,
Giselle

Dear Santa,
Hi! How are you. I would like a mine craft drone I would fly.

Love,
Zane

Dear Santa,
Hi! How are you? How are your reindeer this year. For Christmas I would like a phone for Christmas because when ever I'm lost I can call my Dad. I would also like a Nintendo with games because I would have something else to play on then my android. Have a good trip.

Love,
Nehemiah Alvarado

Dear Santa,
How are you? Has Rudolph been helping you! Last Christmas one reindeer made a white mark on the sidewalk. My name is Marley Cook and for Christmas I would like a Nintendo DS and a science kit.

Love,
Marley

