

Merry Christmas

# Rains County Leader

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Vol. 139, Issue 28 - 2 Sections, 14 pages    EMORY, TEXAS - THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2025

PRICE 75¢

## POINT CITY COUNCIL

### Three members resign from council

By TREY HILL

Rains County Leader staff

A special meeting was called for the Point City Council. The meeting was scheduled to begin at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 16. However, when the meeting was scheduled to begin, it was announced that three members had submitted their resignations, leaving the city council without a quorum; no meeting could proceed.

Leigh Thompson, the city's attorney, said that because there was no council to

accept the resignations, they would not take effect until Thursday, December 18. Thompson said that if none of the resignations were rescinded, the city would be left without a quorum and that the city's citizens would have to petition the Rains County Commissioners Court for a special election to fill the vacated seats.

A quorum for the city council is a majority of its voting members, which is three. The Mayor does not count toward the quorum.

see **POINT** on page 2



Leader photo by TREY HILL

## Pushing new truck into service



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Future firefighters pushed Emory Volunteer Fire Department's new ladder truck into service on Monday night, December 15

### ESD, VFD celebrate new truck with push-in ceremony

By CHUCK FITTS

Rains County Leader staff

The Emory Volunteer Fire Department, with help from the community, officially rolled the new ladder truck into its bay following the regular meeting of the Rains County Emergency Service District on Monday, December 16.

The agenda for the monthly meeting

of the ESD had only monthly reports and approval of monthly affidavits.

The board was informed that Teri Rose had stepped down as chief of the East Tawakoni Volunteer Fire Department and James Felts had been appointed as the interim chief of the department at their last meeting.

Following the meeting, the departments, community residents and children of all ages helped push the new

ladder truck that was purchased by the ESD for the Emory VFD into the fire house.

After the truck was secured into the building, everyone attending enjoyed a free meal of chili with all the trimmings.

In monthly activity reports for November, Hopkins County reported 165 requests for service, with 51 refusals.

see **ESD** on page 2

### Holiday hours for the Rains County Leader

This week's issue of the Rains County Leader marks the final issue of 2025. There will be no paper on Thursday, December 25, so we can spend the holiday with family and friends. Our office will be closed from Thursday, December 18, at 4:00 p.m. and will reopen on Monday, December 29, at 8:00 a.m.

Publication for the Rains County Leader will resume on Thursday, January 1, 2026. The deadline for news and advertisements for that issue will be Monday, December 29, at 5:00 p.m.

We thank all our advertisers, contributors, and readers for making 2025 a successful year, and look forward to serving our community in the hope that 2026 will be just as successful.

## RAINS COUNTY

### Commissioners approve signing contract, subdivision plats

By CHUCK FITTS

Rains County Leader staff

The Rains County Commissioners Court approved plats and a resolution to sign a contract for lawn care services during the short regular meeting on Thursday, December 11.

Commissioner Mike Willis presided over the meeting as Rains County Judge Brent Hilliard was out of town.

The court approved a resolution to authorize Hilliard to sign a contract ap-

see **COURT** on page 2

## SPOTLIGHT

### Retired teacher, Keri Bangs, taught school in Rains County and in Alaska

By JUDY KRAMER

Rains County Leader contributor

Keri Bangs is a retired teacher with many great memories from her career. But retirement hasn't slowed her down. She is still busy substitute teaching, volunteering in local organizations, traveling and spending precious time with her children, nephews and two-and-a-half-year-old granddaughter Charlie. Although she grew up in Rains County and graduated from Rains High School in 1991, Bangs spent 13 years living in Alaska before returning to the local area in 2010, coming back full circle to her home where family members live.

"I received my teaching degree at University of Texas-Tyler in 1995 and began teaching in Rains County," said Bangs. "Then I heard about teacher opportunities in Alaska where the pay was triple what I was making, and I ended up teaching there for 13 years. I taught in a

small Athabaskan village school for eight years. It was remotely located on the west bank of the Yukon River. During the last five years in Alaska, I moved into the district school office in Fairbanks. My two youngest children, from my marriage to my ex-husband, are half Athabaskan. My oldest child, Kyra, was 14 months old when we arrived there and she learned the culture and language in Head Start and was treated like she was one of the villagers' own. They made her a big deal and clothed her in traditional wear for kindergarten. These teachers flew from Kaltag in Alaska to attend Kyra's wedding. My son, Kylar, still goes back to visit the area, and Kyra has also returned there for a visit."

Because of her teaching background, Bangs is attracted to educational organizations. She is a member of the Elementary Campus Improvement Committee

see **SPOTLIGHT** on page 3



Keri Bangs and family



**City Girl:**  
*Advent is still  
a season of joy*

Page 3

**Jody Dyer:**  
*Ranching with  
Reindeer...*

page 3

**Wildcat  
Sports**  
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### Rain Report

No rain reported this week.

Total for Dec. .... 0.27 in.

Year to date .... 43.78 in.



Community outreach & organizations

**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS**  
Emory – Tues. & Thurs. 7:00-8:00 p.m., open meetings.  
Emory Methodist Church Fellowship Hall. For info call 903-243-6766 or 903-439-7573

**AL-ANON** – Thurs., 7:00 p.m., Crossroads Al-anon Group, 103 N. Houston St., Edgewood, 903-896-7270

**AMERICAN LEGION POST 156, Rabb Bro. Mem. Rains Co.** – 4th Mon., 5:15 p.m., 215 N. Duffy St., Emory, 903-438-6045. Buffet breakfast - 2nd Saturday 7:00-10:00 a.m.

**ARBALA DANCE** – Mon., 7:00-9:30 p.m., Arbala Community Center

**CELEBRATE RECOVERY** – every Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. Emory Baptist Church

**EAST TAWAKONI SENIOR CITIZEN GAME DAY** – every Wednesday, 9:00 a.m., 255 Oakleaf Trail.

**EMORY LIONS CLUB** – 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 12:00 p.m., Dos Charros in Emory. Call for information 903-473-2311

**FOOD BANK AT FREEDOM CHURCH OF GOD** – 3rd Fri., 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., 10830 FM 514, Emory. 903-473-2457

**FRIENDS OF RAINS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY** – 3rd Thurs., 1:00 p.m., Meadows Cultural Center, Rains Co. Public Library

**LAKE COUNTRY NEIGHBORS** – 1st Thurs., 11:30 a.m., www.lakecountryneighbors.com

**LAKE FORK BAPTIST CHURCH FOOD PANTRY** – 2nd Tues., 1-3 p.m. 9483 W. FM 515, Alba

**LAKE FORK CHAPTER OF THE WELL ARMED WOMAN** - first Thursday, 4-7 p.m. at Winnsboro Gun Club, Winnsboro TX. Sue Parrish 903-473-9819

**LAKE FORK SPORTSMAN'S ASSOC.** – 2nd Tues., 6:30 p.m. Jamie's Restaurant, Lake Fork Marina

**MARS HILL MASONIC LODGE**  
#1440 – 4th Thurs., 6:30 p.m., Lodge on Hwy. 69

**PIECEMAKERS QUILT GUILD OF RAINS COUNTY** – 3rd Mon., 7:00 p.m., AgriLife Extension and Conference Center

**POINT LADIES CIVIC CLUB** – 1st Thurs., 6:30 p.m., Point Community Center, 903-269-8446

**RAINS AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION**  
2nd Sat. of each month 9:00 a.m.  
Emory Volunteer Fire Dept.,

**RAINS GARDEN CLUB** – 1st Mon., 11:00 a.m., House of Prayer Family Life Center, 1382 FM 515, Email [TheRainsGardenClub@gmail.com](mailto:TheRainsGardenClub@gmail.com)

**RAINS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY** – 3rd Mon., 6:00 p.m., Jan., Mar., May, July, Sep., Nov., Emory City Hall.

**RAINS COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD** – 4th Mon., 5:30 p.m., Feb., Apr., June, Aug., Oct., Meadows Cultural Center, Rains County Public Library

**RAINS COUNTY GOOD SAMARITANS** – Food Pantry open 1:00-4:00 p.m. Mon. & Thurs.

**RAINS COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY** – 3rd Sat., 1:00 p.m. Meadows Cultural Center, Rains County Public Library

**RAINS COUNTY REPUBLICANS** – July 31 & Oct. 30, 6:30 p.m., Roma Restaurant, 2450 FM 47

**STITCH AND LEARN QUILTING CLUB** – Thurs., 9:00 a.m.-noon, 903-598-3021  
Miracle Faith Baptist Church

**WOMEN'S SERVICE CLUB** – 2nd Mon., 6:00 p.m., Rose Community Center

**WOMEN IN NEED, INC.** – A Battered Women's Shelter. Call 903-455-4612 or 903-454-HELP

GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES

**EAST TAWAKONI CITY COUNCIL**  
3rd Tues., 7:00 p.m., East Tawakoni City Hall

**EMORY CITY COUNCIL**  
2nd Tues., 7:00 p.m., Emory City Hall

**POINT CITY COUNCIL**  
2nd Tues., 6:45 p.m., Point City Hall

**RAINS COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT**  
3rd Thurs. of every month, Rains Tax Office at 12:00 p.m.

**RAINS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COURT**  
2nd & 4th Thurs., 10:00 a.m., Rains County Courthouse

**RAINS ISD SCHOOL BOARD**  
2nd Monday, 6:30 p.m., Philip Alexander Board Room  
Rains ISD Administration Building.

**RAINS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT #1**  
3rd Monday, 6:30 p.m., Emory Fire Station

**RAINS COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE:**  
Mon., Tues. and Thurs., 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., 110 E. North St.  
**TRANSPORTATION:**  
To schedule a ride Call 903-474-7231

**RAINS COUNTY ROAD & BRIDGE**  
Open Mon.-Fri. 7 a.m.-4 p.m.  
903-473-5099 or 5098

NEWS BRIEFS

Good Sam Clothes/ Thrift Shop Sales

The Rains County Good Samaritan Clothes Shop will be open Monday-Thursday in the building behind the public library on Hwy. 69 in Emory. Hours for Mon.-Wed. are 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., closed noon-1:00 p.m. Hours for Thursday are 8:00 a.m.-noon. Thrift sales will be open every Saturday in December from 8:00 a.m.-

noon. Funds go to buy food for the needy and to operate the center. Food distribution will be closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.

American Legion Dinner

Rabb Brothers Memorial American Legion Post #156 will not have a dinner during the month of December. The next breakfast will be held on January 10.

AI in personal finance: The promise and the limits

Imagine this: Your budgeting app flags unusual spending and suggests a transfer.



BRANDON ROBERTS  
Edward Jones  
Financial Advisor

AI – in personal finance.

AI tools can track spending, forecast bills and offer advice via text. They can monitor credit scores, suggest budget tweaks and even negotiate lower bills.

Meanwhile, robo-advisors build and manage portfolios, and educational apps simplify complex financial concepts.

But AI has limits. It can't weigh emotional trade-offs like saving for college versus retiring early, and it can't help partners merge their financial visions.

That's where human advisors shine. They help you stay focused, balance priorities and offer support through life's changes.

As AI evolves, the key is treating it as a tool, not a guide.

The best approach? Use AI for insights and lean on human wisdom for guidance. Stay curious about what tech can do — and clear about your financial priorities, which only you can define.

This content was provided by Edward Jones for use by Brandon Roberts, your Edward Jones financial advisor in Emory at 903-473-1592.

POINT

Continued from page 1

The mayor and remaining council members assured those in attendance that the city would continue normal operations. They said that the city office will continue to operate and that citizens' needs will be met.

A question was asked about the city secretary position. Thompson stated

that the position was vacant and that the position was an appointed position, and therefore would remain vacant until a quorum of council members fills the position.

Thompson said that the earliest date for holding the special election would be early May, 2026.

ESD

Continued from page 1

Response time on life threatening emergencies in Emory was, on average, 7 minutes and 6 seconds, while the response time to calls in the county was 13 minutes and 10 seconds on average.

Of the 109 transported to a medical facility by EMS, 68 went to Sulphur Springs, 30 to Greenville, eight to Quitman and three to other hospitals or air transport. The most common calls were for a sick person, falls, chest pains, motor vehicle accidents and breathing problems.

Emory VFD responded to 103 calls during the month of November. The department responded to 75 medical assists, nine fires, seven motor vehicle accidents, six

service calls, four good intent calls and two false alarm calls.

The Point VFD went on 22 medical assists calls, seven fires, three service calls, two motor vehicle accidents and two false alarm calls for a total of 36 requests for service.

In the month of November, the East Tawakoni VFD was dispatched on 22 calls including 11 medical assists, seven fires, two lift assists, a motor vehicle accident and a public assist.

The next regular meeting of the Rains County ESD Board is scheduled for Monday, January 19, at 6:30 p.m. at the Emory VFD Fire Station.

Visit us on the web: [www.rainscountyleader.com](http://www.rainscountyleader.com)

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SUDOKU  
The aim of Sudoku is to complete the entire grid using the numbers 1-9. Each number can only be used once in each row, once in each column, and once in each of the 3x3 boxes. Visit [www.sudokuoftheday.com](http://www.sudokuoftheday.com) for further tips and help about how to play - and good luck!  
9 1 4 2 9 7 3 7 4 5 8 9 5 1 6 5 2 1 5 9 6 5 2 8 1 3

RAINS COUNTY

Case against Wallace dismissed by state

By CHUCK FITTS  
Rains County Leader staff

The case against Linda Wallace for tampering with a witness was dismissed by the 8th District Court in paperwork filed on December 5 at the District Clerk's office.

Wallace had been expected to appear in the district court in Emory on Monday morning, December 8, but the court was cancelled after a motion to dismiss was filed by the acting District Attorney Tonda Curry.

In the filing, Curry stated that "While there was probable cause for the Grand Jury

to indict this Cause, a full and thorough vetting of the evidence shows that it is insufficient to reach the burden of beyond a reasonable doubt required at trial."

Curry, the District Attorney for Van Zandt County, was appointed as the special prosecutor in the case and 294th District Court Judge Chris Martin was assigned to the 8th District Court for the case by Justice Alfonso Charles of the Tenth Administrative Judicial Region.

Martin signed the motion to dismiss the third-degree felony and the order was filed with the clerk's office.

SALES TAX ALLOCATIONS

Point will see a huge tax return in December

By CHUCK FITTS  
Rains County Leader staff

The City of Point saw an increase of over 350 percent in the amount of sales tax received during the month of October as reported by the office of Acting Texas Comptroller Kelly Hancock on Wednesday, December 10.

The announcement was part of that \$1.2 billion that would be returned in December to Texas cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose taxing districts based on sales made in October by businesses that report tax monthly.

Rains County, with a half-cent sales tax rate, will have \$131,215.53 returned from the state, which is 60.4 percent improvement over the money returned to the county in December of 2024. The year-to-date total increases to 24.13 percent ahead of last year at \$1,208,067.67.

As for the cities in the county, Point saw a huge increase in the amount of money being returned in December from the 1.5 percent sales tax rate, while

Emory and Point saw slight increases compared to 2024.

With an increase of 361.57 percent in sales tax revenues from this time last year, Point is expecting \$43,645.16 from the state in December as compared to the \$9,455.75 returned in 2024. The city moves 36.83 percent ahead of the total sales tax allocations for last year at \$181,812.49.

Emory saw an increase of 8.04 percent in the amount of sales tax allocations being returned compared to last year. The state will return \$153,939.06 in December, which increases the year-to-date total to \$1,731,912.06.

Compared to December of last year, the City of East Tawakoni saw a modest increase of 7.38 percent in the sales tax returned from the state for sales made in October. The city will receive \$8,115.51 from the state to push the year-to-date total to \$119,276.01.

The Texas Comptroller's office is expected to release local sales tax allocations made from sales in November for those reporting monthly during the second full week of January.

DECEMBER '25 SALES TAX STATISTICS								
County City	Taxed	Net pymt. this period	Net pymt. prior year	Pct. change	'25 pymt. to date	Net pymts. prior year	Pct chg. from '24	
Rains	0.50%	\$131,215.53	\$81,802.71	60.40%	\$1,208,067.67	\$973,169.05	24.13%	
East Tawakoni	1.5	8,115.51	7,557.36	7.38	119,276.01	100,667.07	18.48	
Emory	1.5	153,939.06	142,477.71	8.04	1,731,912.06	1,772,061.41	-2.26	
Point	1.5	43,645.16	9,455.75	361.57	181,812.49	132,873.26	36.83	
Hopkins	0.50%	\$359,874.20	\$564,239.40	-36.21%	\$4,541,172.95	\$3,970,510.00	14.37%	
Como	1.0	5,934.27	5,387.91	10.14	73,185.38	67,681.41	8.13	
Cumby	1.25	10,842.54	15,064.21	-28.02	145,020.85	160,786.70	-9.80	
Sulphur Springs	1.5	756,927.51	765,665.87	-1.14	9,406,164.72	9,194,334.06	2.30	
Hunt	0.50%	\$781,789.92	\$735,994.61	6.22%	\$9,098,004.92	\$8,839,570.29	2.92%	
Caddo Mills	1.5	135,729.31	118,308.10	14.72	1,423,930.00	1,183,498.40	20.31	
Campbell	1.5	16,474.81	12,822.30	28.48	165,455.64	143,738.60	15.10	
Celeste	1.25	12,636.68	12,218.62	3.42	163,386.14	136,295.75	19.87	
Commerce	1.5	195,083.37	187,495.56	4.04	2,416,135.54	2,367,441.99	2.05	
Greenville	1.5	1,073,969.53	1,137,023.80	-5.54	13,567,603.70	13,500,472.39	0.49	
Hawk Cove	1.0	2,168.28	1,940.02	11.76	25,387.69	25,769.24	-1.48	
Lone Oak	1.5	20,991.21	19,199.65	9.33	263,249.54	246,236.33	6.90	
Neylandville	1.0	1,003.31	497.02	101.86	11,800.36	8,366.34	41.04	
Quinlan	1.5	177,469.88	169,540.48	4.67	2,045,535.52	1,936,142.50	5.65	
Union Valley	1.0	5,192.59	4,079.48	27.28	57,981.28	47,831.51	21.21	
West Tawakoni	1.5	15,690.96	14,551.83	7.82	227,625.81	211,373.20	7.68	
Wolfe City	1.5	20,714.19	25,885.63	-19.97	245,841.71	220,677.11	11.40	
Van Zandt County does not Collect sales tax								
Canton	2.0	477,622.17	439,951.82	8.56	5,263,545.77	\$5,242,330.60	0.40	
Edgewood	2.0	48,875.84	40,351.11	21.12	568,159.77	508,476.11	11.73	
Edom	1.0	2,157.38	1,665.06	29.56	25,601.83	25,132.51	1.86	
Fruitvale	2.0	8,849.66	7,418.73	19.28	262,584.86	93,770.21	180.03	
Grand Saline	2.0	55,619.21	61,436.12	-9.46	792,527.12	780,381.08	1.55	
Van	2.0	130,241.78	112,772.17	15.49	1,307,958.24	1,257,993.37	3.97	
Wills Point	2.0	170,623.62	177,694.88	-3.97	2,208,905.28	2,261,447.50	-2.32	
Wood	0.50%	\$289,203.41	\$256,117.33	12.91%	\$3,279,712.18	\$2,986,505.63	9.81%	
Alba	1.5	31,220.53	31,327.63	-0.34	402,820.19	376,349.42	7.03	
Hawkins	1.5	50,816.07	42,644.15	19.16	561,672.64	505,124.61	11.19	
Mineola	1.5	246,645.54	250,824.80	-1.66	3,154,301.86	3,087,022.70	2.17	
Quitman	1.5	83,810.69	95,426.31	-12.17	1,001,120.87	949,139.01	5.47	
Winnsboro	1.5	115,877.56	115,891.56	-0.01	1,463,798.50	1,490,081.56	-1.76	
Yantis	1.5	11,561.87	11,809.83	-2.09	149,031.18	143,291.39	4.00	

COURT

Continued from page 1

proved by the court with Hooten's Lawn and Tree Service for maintaining the county's properties.

Commissioners reviewed and unanimously approved a plat for phase three of the Cedar Creek Estates and a plat for the Lago Norte subdivision.

They unanimously approved a motion to accept into the minutes of the meeting the 14 hours of

training by David Harvey and the monthly department reports from county officials.

All commissioners were present for the regular meeting.

The next regular meeting of the Rains County Commissioners Court is scheduled for Tuesday, December 23, at 10:30 a.m. in the courtroom of the Rains County Courthouse.

To the Point VFD

Thank you so much for coming out to my house on Saturday, December 13, after the parade to get my cat out of the tree.

Ya'll are a great group

MEMBER 2025 TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

Rains County Leader

Established June 10, 1887

(Publication Number USPS 454-560)

Postmaster: Send Form 3579 to:

RAINS COUNTY LEADER  
P.O. Box 127, Emory, TX 75440

Telephone: 903-473-2653

[www.RainsCountyLeader.com](http://www.RainsCountyLeader.com) • Email: [news@rainscountyleader.com](mailto:news@rainscountyleader.com)

EDITOR/PUBLISHER  
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ADVERTISING  
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CLASSIFIED SALES  
Lea Reed

Published every Thursday except the last Thursday in December  
Entered at the Post Office in Emory, Texas, as a Periodical

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: Inside Rains County, 1 year, \$28.00;  
Out of County, 1 year, \$35.00; E-Leader (online only edition), 1 year, \$25.00.

FORMER EDITORS AND PUBLISHERS OF THE RAINS COUNTY LEADER:

H.W. Martin - 1887  
Sam Fitzgerald - Before 1900  
W.O. Heblsen - Before 1900  
A.S. Hornbeck - Before 1900  
J.H. Bradford - 1901-1904

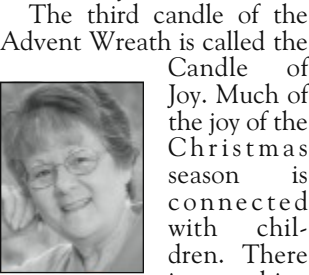
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Earl Hill, Jr. - 1995-2019



CITY GIRL

Advent is still a season of joy.

By Linda Brendle  
This is another rerun from December of 2015:



LINDA BRENDLE  
Leader correspondent

The third candle of the Advent Wreath is called the Candle of Joy. Much of the joy of the Christmas season is connected with children. There is nothing quite so joyful as the eyes of a child who has just caught a glimpse of the gifts under the tree on Christmas morning – nothing, that is, except the eyes of a parent or grandparent who is sharing Christmas with his or her child or grandchild for the first time. The joy of Christmas is multiplied many times when children come into the home.

Christian was a little over two months old when we took him to his first Christmas Eve service. He had no idea what was happening, but he was delighted with the twinkling lights and the flickering candles. He laughed and cooed when the choir began to sing, and his joy was contagious. A familiar experience seemed fresh and new when I looked at it through his eyes. Unfortunately, his father had to take him to the foyer where his enjoyment wouldn't disturb the other worshippers.

Three decades later, I experienced the joy of sharing a singing Christmas tree performance with my grandson. Mattias was only a few

weeks old, and he slept in my arms for the entire program. Although he wasn't awake, he responded nonetheless. During the readings and dialogue, he became restless and whimpered in his sleep, but as soon as the music began again, he settled back into a peaceful and what I imagined was a joyful sleep.

Now Christian and his family live 1,500 miles away, and we don't have the joy of spending Christmas with them very often. Still, I share the excitement of friends who are preparing to spend the holiday with their grandchildren, and I share the joy of children at church as they learn the real reason for the joy of Christmas.

Wednesday night is caroling night at AWANA, the children's Bible study program we host at Believers' Baptist Church. One of the carols the children love best is "Joy to the World." I'm not sure they realize that the words of this song come from an announcement an angel made to a group of shepherds two thousand years ago. It was a message about a child who brought joy to us all.

\*\*\*

Ten years later, we no longer have AWANA at BBC – instead we have a similar program called Ignite. And since our old school bus that lost its "S" and "H" and became the "COOL" bus has gone the way of all vehicles that have outlived their usefulness, we no longer take our children caroling. However, they still learn songs and Bible verses in Sunday School and KIDZ Church. This past Sunday morning,

the Sunday of Joy on the Advent calendar, was a joyful time for our church family and many visitors. Twenty-three of our children, ranging from four years old through 5th grade presented a song called "Who Would have Dreamed" and several verses from Isaiah and Psalms. Their faces were bright with smiles, including those who were smiling through tears. Then the youth worship team that consists of a vocalist, a guitarist, and a percussionist who played a box-shaped instrument from Peru called a cajon, joyfully led us in singing "O Come, All Ye Faithful." After several adult musicians added their contributions to the celebration, Pastor Rolan brought a message about the real reason for Christmas, the true source of our joy.

And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. Luke 2:10-11.

This is the last edition of the Rains County Leader for 2025, so there won't be a column on the Sunday of Love. But to me, hope, peace, and joy seem to be the perfect recipe for love. Merry Christmas to you all, and I will be here in this same space on January 1 to wish you a Happy New Year.

Linda Brendle writes a weekly column for Believers' Baptist Church. She is a published author and also writes about caregiving, faith, and family on her blog at <http://www.LifeAfterCaregiving.WordPress.com>. You can e-mail her at [LindaBrendle@yahoo.com](mailto:LindaBrendle@yahoo.com).

Ranching with Reindeer - A Christmas Story

"And he whistled, and shouted, and called them by name: 'Now, Dasher! now, Dancer! now Prancer and Vixen! On, Comet! on, Cupid! on, Donner and Blitzen! To the top of the porch! To the top of the wall! Now dash away! Dash away! Dash away all!'"



JODY DYER  
Typewriter Weekly

Clement C. Moore  
A Visit from St. Nicholas

Christmas is a joyful holiday for believers as we celebrate the birth of our Savior, rejoicing in the hope and promise of God's redemptive work and victory over death through His Son Jesus Christ. We mark the holiday in many ways with many traditions, some old and some new. One is the practice of gift giving, a reflection of God's gift, a baby born in Bethlehem over 2000 years ago, delivered in a cattle stall into the most humble of circumstances.

Part of this holiday gift-giving remembrance and celebration is the eagerly awaited arrival of Santa Claus on Christmas Eve, bringing presents for all as he is towed through the air by his flying reindeer. This is a big event for those willing to join in the fun, watching and waiting for Santa and his team. He is even tracked through the sky every year by NORAD (North American Aerospace Defense Command). It seems those reindeer make pretty good time traversing the globe. Eager children everywhere hope to see Santa and his reindeer. As so begins our story...

In 1945, Texas rancher Grady Carothers, inspired by his young son who wondered why there were no reindeer in Texas, decided to embark on an entrepreneurial adventure. His son's wish became the seed for an enterprise that spread Christmas joy for years. Grady Carothers decided we needed some reindeer in Texas.

Reindeer, of course, are not native to Texas. They are found in the Far North and are closely linked to caribou. They are the same species and share the same scientific name – Rangifer tarandus. But while caribou are wild, and native to Alaska, reindeer come from Eurasia and are typically domesticated and considered livestock. Reindeer were imported from Siberia to Alaska in the 1890s where

they are still kept by the native population.

Pondering his son's question, and much to the chagrin of his slew-foot friends and neighbors, Carothers went to work in search of reindeer. With the help of his supportive wife and her trusty Royal typewriter, he began a letter writing campaign. Many letters were simply mailed general delivery to postmasters and other contacts in Alaska expressing a desire to acquire some reindeer. After repeated attempts with no luck, one bloke suggested he contact the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI). The DOI, along with the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Alaska Reindeer Service, were the governmental bodies tasked with managing reindeer herds near and above the Arctic Circle. After some resistance, they were finally given a permit and the okay to purchase several reindeer.

In the summer of 1946, Carothers and his oldest son traveled to Nome, Alaska, almost 3,000 miles from home. From there they continued farther east for another 70 miles to the tiny village of Golovin where they bought six reindeer steers for \$50 each. Once back in the Lone Star State, Carothers broke the animals to harness, and after some serious work was ready to launch his business into the first Christmas season.

Carothers began contacting schools, shopping centers, parade organizers, and local chambers of commerce offering his services. He ferried his charges from town to town and state to state, sometimes doing as many as three shows a day. With red harnesses, his Texas reindeer pulled Santa and his sleigh from Thanksgiving through Christmas for almost 30 years. At one time he had as many as six teams on the road.

Along the way, they had more than a few misadventures. One episode, found in the pages of a Portales, New Mexico newspaper from November of 1951 recounted a real-life reindeer problem when a critter named "Blitzen" broke his halter rope and scampered around Portales for two hours before he was recaptured. The runaway reindeer was "nabbed in a field in southwest Portales where he was found grazing contentedly with some dairy cows."

Over the years, Carothers made an estimated 15 trips to Alaska, buying reindeer for replacements and breed-

ing stock and transporting them to his ranch in Goldthwaite (Mills County, Texas). The reindeer were first flown by bush plane (typically two at a time) to Nome or Fairbanks, where they then flew home on a DC-3 cargo plane. After a time, it became more cost effective to trailer the animals home from Fairbanks, which in itself could be an adventure. Jack Carothers, one of Grady's sons, shared a remembrance with me from a reindeer buying trip he made with his dad in 1954. That summer they loaded their empty trailer with watermelons, and traded melons for gas and groceries all the way up the Alcan Highway.

In later years Carothers moved to California where he continued to put on shows and exhibit his reindeer. For a time, they were the featured attraction at Santa's Village theme park in Lake Arrowhead. Later, after retiring from the reindeer business, Carothers drove the stagecoach at Knott's Berry Farm in Buena Park.

In an interview towards the end of his life Carothers said that "one of his fondest memories was when his reindeer pulled Santa Claus in a rose-covered sleigh in the 1955 Tournament of Roses Parade."

Grady Carothers was a good man. And his exploits are still remembered and talked about around ranch house kitchen tables and small-town lunch counters to this day. He passed from this earth on April 25, 2004, the day after his 98th birthday. His body was returned to his home state of Texas, and he was buried at Senterfitt Cemetery in Lometa.

Grady Carothers and his reindeer gave all they met a wonderful Christmas gift for many years. Who'd have thought you could bring reindeer to Texas...

JODY DYER is a columnist, author, and former teacher. Described by some as a Renaissance man, he is a baseball fan, coffee roaster, and accomplished feral hog trapper. He likes to read, appreciates the outdoors, and is good with dogs and children. He is the father of three, and lives with his wife in Texas.

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SPOTLIGHT

Continued from page 1

(ECIC) and a member of the Rains Education Foundation. The ECIC advises the Superintendent on educational goals and major instructional programs. Bangs says that the Rains Education Foundation raises funds and holds other events to help support teachers to keep their morale high. Some of the appreciated benefits that teachers can apply for with Foundation funds are classroom grants.

"I am amazed at the amount of money and sup-

port from the community and businesses for our Foundation bingo game every year," said Bangs.

Bangs is also an officer on the Rains County Angel Tree Board, and she and her family are members of the Point Church of Christ. She takes time to travel to New York City when possible. She said that her mom took her, as well as her two daughters and her aunt, to New York when her oldest daughter graduated from high school. She liked it so much that

there were repeat trips.

In addition to Bangs' oldest daughter and son, she has a younger daughter, Krislyn, and a stepson Jovan. Husband Michael owns MK Pallet in Saltillo and chases the sports activities of their nephews Korbyn, Kolt and Kase.

Bangs and many family members live on Willow Springs Road, and she is in the house where she grew up. She loves Hallmark Christmas movies and everything about Rains County.

BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU

Porch Pirate Prevention Tips

'Tis the season for porch pirates. Since this summer, more than 14 million Americans have experienced package theft, and that number is expected to increase dramatically throughout the holiday shopping season. BBB reminds consumers that there are preventive measures which can be taken to prevent porch pirates from getting away with the goods. "Stealing packages is a felony in the state of Texas," Mechele Agbayani Mills, President and CEO of BBB Central East Texas said. "Yet, despite the consequences, porch pirates continue to target homes, especially during the holiday season. That's why proactive measures are your best defense."

BBB provides the following tips to prevent package thieves from affecting your holiday plans (and the rest of the year):

Don't leave packages unattended. When possible, do not leave delivered packages unattended for long periods. If you are expecting a package, try to schedule delivery at a time when you will be home, or ask your neighbors if they mind holding on to packages delivered if you plan to be away from home.

Ship to the store. Consider shipping your items directly to the retailer's physical location closest to your home. As retailers require proof of purchase or identification before releasing packages they have received, this is a sure way to avoid porch pirates.

Use a security camera. Installing a home security system with cameras or a camera-enabled doorbell is a great way to deter package theft, especially when highly visible. Consider including a sign that specifically states that the residence is under surveillance. Even if a package is stolen from your porch,

the video evidence will help law enforcement track down the thieves (but be wary of the risk of internet-connected devices and research before you purchase).

Require a signature. Many delivery companies include the option to require a signature before leaving a package, letting you take physical possession of the item as soon as it is delivered. While this option works well for those often at home, especially for expensive items, it may create difficulties in receiving packages if your schedule and the delivery service differ. Be sure to check with the delivery company on their policy for packages that are not signed for; they may return it to the sender after a certain number of attempts.

Consider a package receiving service. Some major retailers, such as Amazon, offer secure package-receiving locations away from your home that you can access with a key or code. Some independent businesses also specialize in this service, allowing you to designate a different delivery location for your packages and the ability to pick them up on your way home.

For more information

If you fear your package being stolen, file a report with your local police department and the delivery company. Depending on your delivery service, they may offer insurance or other policies to reimburse you for your losses.

For more online shopping resources and tips, visit [BBB.org/OnlineShopping](http://BBB.org/OnlineShopping). Report scams to BBB Scam Tracker.

Read BBB's article on five ways to avoid delivery scams for more ways to protect yourself from delivery scams. Stay alert to shipping fraud by visiting FedEx's website, U.S Postal Service and UPS's

online resource center. If you spot a delivery scam, report it. Visit [BBB.org/ScamTracker](http://BBB.org/ScamTracker) to report your experience and help others learn the signs of a scam.

About BBB: BBB is a nonprofit, business-supported organization that sets and upholds high standards for fair and honest business behavior. Most BBB services to consumers are free of charge. BBB provides objective advice, free BBB Business Profiles on more than 5.3 million companies, 11,000 charity reviews, dispute resolution services, alerts and educational information on topics affecting marketplace trust. Visit [bbb.org](http://bbb.org) for more information. BBB Serving Central East Texas was founded in 1985 and serves 19 counties.

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by Charley & Guy Orbison  
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ACROSS

1 goals for Ranger or Astro hitters (abbr.)  
5 TXism: "busy as \_\_\_\_-armed paper hanger"  
6 TXism: "pick of the litter"  
7 Texas perennial  
8 TXism: "blister \_\_\_\_" (handle)  
9 federal "Bureau of Indian \_\_\_\_"  
16 TXism: "slick as a watermelon \_\_\_\_"  
18 divine  
21 Alamo's Travis: "I shall never surrender \_\_\_\_ retreat"  
22 TX Dennis Quaid was "Doc Holiday" in 1994 film "Wyatt \_\_\_\_"  
23 evidence used in some Texas cases  
24 TX Larry King's "Confessions of a White \_\_\_\_"  
30 Cowboy Brandon Aubrey kick (2 wds.)  
34 TX Ginger (init.)  
35 in Upton County: "The Treasure of \_\_\_\_ Gap"  
36 where some Texans ski  
37 accessory for the Aggie Color Guard  
39 TXism: "scarce \_\_\_\_ a frog"  
43 TX Nanci Griffith tune: "\_\_\_\_ Something Fine"  
44 "Omni PGA Frisco \_\_\_\_ & Spa"

45 TXism: "scared me plumb \_\_\_\_ death"  
46 TXism: "that \_\_\_\_ against my grain"  
47 TXism: "got a bun in the \_\_\_\_" (pregnant)  
48 Carl Sandberg: "Texas \_\_\_\_ valor and swagger"  
50 window attachments  
53 TX "Babe" Didrikson (init.)

54 TXism: "It belongs to \_\_\_\_ and the bank"  
55 cowboy rope  
56 "at your \_\_\_\_ convenience"  
59 boot bottom  
60 \_\_\_\_ Angelo  
61 Texas pest: fire \_\_\_\_  
62 distress signal

13 TXism: "he \_\_\_\_ his prime" (older)  
14 late Texas actor, Rip (init.)  
15 \_\_\_\_ Richardson Foundation" helps non-profits in Texas  
17 period of high city radio listening (2 wds.)  
19 Mavs lost Luka to the Los \_\_\_\_ Lakers  
20 Texans Hagman and McMurtry  
24 ex-Aggie coach \_\_\_\_ Slocum  
25 Clyde High School football class  
26 U.S.S. Hatteras was sunk off Texas by "\_\_\_\_ Alabama"

27 TXism: "got \_\_\_\_ the horse's mouth" (reliable information)  
28 TXism: "she wears her heart on her \_\_\_\_"  
29 TXism: "mad as a \_\_\_\_ snake"  
31 TXism: "cute as a bug's \_\_\_\_"  
32 fleur-de-\_\_\_\_ flew over Texas

33 Brewster is Texas' \_\_\_\_ county  
38 this Victor was in 1963 film "4 for Texas"  
40 2,000 lbs.  
41 60 minutes (abbr.)  
42 new law school grad's situation? (2 wds.)  
49 sailed the "Seven \_\_\_\_" (figurative)  
51 Texas actress Meredith Mac \_\_\_\_ was on "My Three Sons" (1963-65)  
52 road curve  
57 "\_\_\_\_ Cantina" is in song, "El Paso"  
58 Llano County seat

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THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

“Gray Eagle” faced baseball ban

by Bartee Haile  
Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis announced on Dec. 21, 1926 that Ty Cobb and Tris Speaker stood accused of betting on a fixed baseball game.



BARTEE HAILE  
Historical Columnist

With the lifetime banishment of the “Black Sox” by the stern commissioner still fresh in their minds, fans wondered whether the Georgia Peach and the pride of Hubbard, Texas would ever play or manage again.

The shocking revelation shed light on the biggest mystery in sports. Following the 1926 season, Cobb and Speaker had resigned without a word of explanation as player-managers of the Detroit Tigers and Cleveland Indians.

The irony of the strange situation was that Speaker, in spite of his extraordinary talent, had always been overshadowed by the incomparable Cobb. It took a scandal to put the two stars on the same footing, a dubious distinction the Texan could have done without.

Born and raised at Hubbard south of Dallas, Tris Speaker was one of eight children. Overcoming the objections of his widowed mother, he enrolled at Polytechnic Institute, known today as Texas Wesleyan University. But baseball not books was his top priority, and in 1906 the 18 year old signed with Cleburne in the North Texas League.

A converted southpaw because of a boyhood injury to his right arm, Tris Speaker believed a fast ball was his ticket to the big leagues. Six disastrous mound appearances, capped by a 22-4 pounding, soon changed his mind. When the Cleburne club moved to Houston the next year, Speaker gladly gave up pitching for center field.

An impressive performance at the plate attracted

the attention of the Red Sox, who bought the boy's contract for \$400. Brought up to Boston for a brief debut at the end of the 1907 campaign, Speaker suddenly went into a hitting slump.

A strong showing at Little Rock in 1908 earned the lanky Texan a second shot at the majors. His anemic batting average of .220 in 31 games tried the Red Sox's patience, but opening day 1909 found him in the starting line-up. By seven points the rookie broke the .300 barrier, a feat he repeated in 18 seasons out of 20.

Yet no matter how well Speaker hit, he always played second fiddle to Ty Cobb. Only once did he take the American League batting crown from his fiery rival, who won an even dozen. Speaker's lifetime mark of .344 would rank seventh on the all-time list but fall far short of Cobb's incredible .367.

However, as an outfielder Speaker was in a league all his own. His aggressive style revolutionized that part of the game. “The idea when I broke in,” he explained, “was to keep a hit from being a double. I decided to try to keep a batted ball from being a single.”

Nicknamed the “Gray Eagle” for his unique ability to turn a sinking line drive into an easy out, Speaker regularly robbed the opposition of sure base hits. He decided as many contests with his magical glove as his booming bat.

After seven sterling seasons in Boston, Speaker was sold to Cleveland for the astounding sum of \$50,000. As a combination player and manager, he led the Indians to their first American League pennant and World Series championship in 1920.

Speaker was immune to the ravages of age, that eternal nemesis of the professional athlete. Well into his thirties, his average never dipped below .304 and his fielding remained flawless as time seemed to stand still for

the Gray Eagle.

The 1926 season was hardly history, when Judge Landis called the two living legends on the carpet. Dutch Leonard, Cobb's former Tiger teammate, had accused them of wagering on a rigged game six years earlier.

The shaken stars realized their careers were on the line. The tough commissioner had banned for life eight members of the Chicago White Sox implicated in the infamous fix of the 1919 World Series. If the charge stuck, Judge Landis would not hesitate to throw the book at them as well.

Cobb and Speaker indignantly insisted on their right to confront their accuser and were granted a hearing set for Nov. 27, 1926. When Leonard failed to show, the defendants resigned from their respective teams rather than endure the proceedings.

Following his Christmas week announcement, the commissioner was put on the spot by the outpouring of public sympathy for the popular figures. Seizing upon Dutch Leonard's refusal to defend his allegation in person, Landis declared the case closed and gave the pair a clean bill of health.

Speaker returned for two more seasons. But an embarrassing .267 in 1928 convinced him to hang up his spikes, and the Gray Eagle retired at 40.

Election to the brand-new Hall of Fame in 1937 helped to ease the pain of the Leonard affair. His well deserved induction as the seventh honoree dispelled forever the cloud of suspicion.

The icing on the cake for Tris Speaker was his selection in 1951 as the very first member of the Texas Sports Hall of Fame. To be remembered by the folks back home was the highest honor of all.

Contact Bartee Haile at [barteehaile@gmail.com](mailto:barteehaile@gmail.com) or by mail at P.O. Box 130011, Spring, TX 77393.

MY TAKE ON TECH

AI assistance vs. privacy

Now that Artificial Intelligence (AI) systems are evolving and becoming more mature and powerful, there are emerging choices of how attached to other apps you use you want the AI systems that you use to be. It is getting more difficult every day to avoid any interaction

with an AI system if you are a daily user of browsing, social media, or search engines. But you can refuse the AI's help when offered, and there may be a few reasons to do that which I will cover below.

Certain apps and AI entities are either related or tied together. A few well-known relationships are Google and Gemini, Microsoft and Copilot and Perplexity and its Comet browser. Some apps and platforms may also use multiple AI sources depending on circumstances, costs and needs.

Integrating AI models with browsers, social media platforms, and search engines (as most major players in the Internet world have done) offers several advantages in terms of convenience, functionality, and real-time responsiveness.

For example, linking an AI to a browser allows it to fetch live information, verify facts, and provide up-to-date answers on current events, stock prices, or breaking news.

Social media integration enables personalized interactions, such as drafting posts,

summarizing feeds, or engaging with trends in real time. Search engine connectivity provides access to a vast repository of indexed knowledge, making the AI more useful for research, troubleshooting, and detailed inquiries.

This level of integration can create a seamless, highly interactive user experience where the AI acts as an intelligent assistant capable of bridging gaps between static knowledge and dynamic, real-world data.

However, these conveniences come with significant privacy and security tradeoffs. When an AI is connected to apps, social media or browsers, it inherently gains access to user data—browsing history, social media activity, search queries, and potentially even personal messages, emails and information. This creates vulnerabilities, as any data shared with or processed by the AI system could be exposed through security breaches, unauthorized access, or data harvesting by the platforms themselves.

In addition, linked AI systems may be subject to manipulation by external entities, including tech companies or cyber criminals who could influence AI's responses, inject biases, steal personal information, or censor certain viewpoints.

For users who prioritize confidentiality, anonymity, or uncensored access to information, a detached AI model—operating purely on its internal knowledge and user-provided data—offers stronger guarantees against surveillance, data exploitation, and external control.



JOHN KELLY  
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FISHING REPORT

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department released the following information for Lake Fork and Lake Tawakoni taken on December 10:

**Fork:** Fair. Normal stain; 50 degrees; 2.61 feet below pool. The morning bass bite is best over flats and long points with chatterbaits, spinnerbaits and lipless crankbaits in 5-7 feet. Suspended jerkbaits are starting to work midday around big stumps and boat houses in 5-7 feet. Carolina rigs are fair on points and road beds 15-18 feet. Report by Marc Mitchell, Mitchell's Guide Service.

Black bass are feeding in the backs of creeks and coves. Cooler nights have dropped water temperatures and bass are cruising the shallows. Streamers are enticing bass early and late in the day. Bream are shallow, try small hoppers. Sand bass are schooling mid-lake. Report by Guide Alex Guthrie, Fly Fish Fork Guide Service.

Lake Fork crappie fishing is about as hot as it has ever been going into the last week of November. Fast limits of crappie can be caught off all kinds of structure. The lake has tons of keeper sized black crappie congregated on brush piles, tire reefs, underwater bridges, regular bridges, road beds, humps, points, ledges and timber. Lots of big white crappie are on deeper timber and some brush piles in 14-40 feet of water. Crappie will bite anything you put in front of them as they feed hard and fatten up for the coming cold water. Small hand tied jigs, minnows and soft plastics are producing catches. This winter should continue to be some very good crappie fishing and a great time to fill your freezer up. Report by Jacky Wiggins, Jacky Wiggins Guide Service.

Water lightly stained; 57 degrees; 1.55 feet below pool. Fish are heavily feeding after a significant drop in water temperature. Hybrid striped and white bass action has been good. Seeing limits of big hybrids, most trips and white bass. The best depths have been 10-20 feet. Swimbaits and slabs are working best, however, be looking for these fish to move offshore and into deeper water soon. Eating sized catfish is very good. Limits of quality channel catfish have been reliable on cheese based punch bait in 16-25 feet. Trophy catfish are good and will improve as water temperatures drop. So far we have seen fish to 65 pounds caught on cut bait. Best depths have been 10-25 feet. Crappie fishing is better this week than weeks previous. Target bridge pilings, docks and vertical timber in 15-20 feet of water. Large-mouth are very good with squarebill crankbaits in super shallow water next to dock legs and shallow stickups. Report by Captain Michael Littlejohn, Lake Tawakoni Guide Service.

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Sheriff's Report

The Rains County Sheriff's Office took the following reports of activity during the week of December 8-14:

Arrests

12-10: Britny Delane Cleveland. Driving while intoxicated, \$7,500 bond.

12-12: Mickey Dean Gray. Possession of a controlled substance PG 1/1-B greater than or equal to 1 gr. less than 4 gr., no bond listed.

12-12: Jerry Wallace Jackson. Traffic offense Class C, \$100 bond.

Calls

12-8: FM 515 Extra patrol; FM 47 Extra patrol; N FM 2946 Extra patrol; CR 3232 Extra patrol; CR 1275 Public service; Littlefield Dr. Welfare concern; Planters St. Funeral escort; S Texas St. Public service; CR 1495 Controlled burn; PR 7423 Medical assist - EMS transporting; E Lennon Dr. Medical assist; Sheriff's Office (SO) lobby Investigation; Hwy. 69W Business alarm; CR 3317 Problems with a juvenile; CR 4510 Damaged property; FM 275 Reckless driving; CR 1402 Disturbance; CR 1140 Medical assist - EMS transporting; SO lobby Meet complainant; CR 3030 Child custody; CR 1140 Disorderly conduct.

12-9: E Lennon Dr. Business alarm; Brazil Bay Public assist; S Hwy. 69 Extra patrol; W Lennon Dr. Extra patrol; FM 515 Extra patrol; E Lennon Dr. Extra patrol; CR 4510 Extra patrol; Quitman St. Extra patrol; W Tawakoni Dr. Extra patrol; E

Quitman St. Business alarm; CR 4525 Medical assist - EMS transporting; FM 275 Accident; Wood St. Harassment; US Hwy. 69 Suspicious activity; Hwy. 276 Abandoned vehicle; FM 2737 Vehicle in roadway; CR 1532 Theft; Honey-suckle Ln. Accident; W Hwy. 69 Problems with a juvenile; E Lennon Dr. Meet complainant; Hwy. 276 Abandoned vehicle; CR 1495 Medical assist - EMS transporting; S Hwy. 19 Medical assist; Skyline Dr. Criminal trespass; E Lennon Dr. Theft; Doris Briggs Pkwy. Theft; CR 4250 Animal at large; Laresa St. Suspicious person; Hwy. 276 Animal welfare concern; FM 47 Medical assist - EMS transporting; CR 1140 Disorderly conduct; Puckett Pass Assault; CR 1470 Disturbance; CR 1490 Medical assist; Skyline Dr. Medical assist - EMS transporting; CR 2110 Trespassing.

12-10: Hwy. 19S Agency assist; W Lennon Dr. Extra patrol; FM 515 Extra patrol; Hwy. 69S Extra patrol; N FM 2946 Extra patrol; Quitman St. Extra patrol; CR 4510 Extra patrol; E Lennon Dr. Extra patrol; W Tawakoni Dr. Extra patrol; N Locust St. Public assist; CR 1402 Welfare concern; Oaks Crossing Gas leak; CR 1640 Disturbance; Hwy. 19S Residence alarm; SO call Harassment; CR 2130 Medical assist - EMS transporting; FM 47 Livestock on roadway; FM 2081 Welfare concern; SO lobby Meet complainant; N 1st Suspicious person; W Hwy. 69 Welfare concern; N First St. Criminal trespass; N Sheila Ln. Agency assist; Hwy. 69 Suspicious person; Industrial Blvd. Suspicious vehicle; S First St. Suspicious person;

CR 2370 Suspicious person; FM 47 Livestock on roadway- unable to locate; Ave C Controlled burn; CR 3360 Suspicious vehicle; FM 515 Livestock on roadway; Hwy. 69 Accident; Hwy. 19N Medical assist - EMS transporting; Hwy. 276 Accident; PR 5501 Public service; Hwy. 276 Brush fire - fire extinguished; FM 515 Accident; FM 513 Suspicious activity - unable to locate.

12-11: Hwy. 19S Suspicious person; CR 1535 Harassment; FM 515 Reckless driving - unable to locate; Hwy. 276 Abandoned vehicle; Hwy. 69W Investigation; FM 47 Livestock on roadway; Hwy. 19S Debris in roadway - made secure; SO lobby Meet complainant; CR 3250 Paper service; Ave. B Livestock on roadway - unable to locate; W Lennon Dr. Investigation; 4th St. Welfare concern; FM 2795 Livestock on roadway - made secure; FM 515 Suspicious person unable to locate; CR 3410 Paper service; FM 779S Brush fire - fire extinguished; CR 1610 Medical assist - EMS transporting; CR 2430 Brush fire; S Texas St. Welfare concern; CR 1535 Harassment; CR 1402 Public service; W Lennon Dr. Civil matter; W Lennon Dr. Reckless driving -unable to locate; SO lobby Meet complainant; CR 3335 Medical assist - EMS transporting; CR 3317 Problems with a juvenile; E Lennon Dr. Suspicious vehicle.

12-12: N FM 2946 Extra patrol; FM 513 Agency assist - fire extinguished; Romine Rd. Suspicious activity; CR 4325 Medical assist; Skyline Dr. Burglary; Geronimo Ln. Agency assist; S First St. City ordinance violation; Hwy. 276 Abandoned vehicle; CR 3330 Public service; FM 515

Public service; Lennon Dr. Disturbance; W Lennon Dr. Civil matter; Skyline Dr. Meet complainant; CR 1412 Abandoned vehicle; CR 3325 Criminal trespass; CR 3150 Medical assist - EMS transporting; FM 515 Business alarm; W North St. Warrant service; Oak Leaf Trail Meet complainant; 2nd St. Meet complainant; W North St. Meet complainant; N Planters St. Business alarm; CR 2180 Warrant service; Wood St. Warrant service; Hwy. 19N Domestic disturbance; Hwy. 19 Reckless driving; CR 3410 Abandoned vehicle; Hwy. 69 Accident; CR 3030 Medical assist - EMS transporting; Hwy. 275 Animal at large; E Lennon Dr. Business alarm; CR 3411 Medical assist - EMS transporting.

12-13: E Lennon Dr. Business alarm; FM 515 Extra patrol; CR 3350 Suspicious vehicle; S Hwy. 69 Extra patrol; E Lennon Dr. Extra patrol; Quitman St. Extra patrol; W Tawakoni Dr. Extra patrol; W Lennon Dr. Extra patrol; Hwy. 275 Debris in roadway; Hwy. 276 Assist motorist; CR 1495 Controlled burn; FM 2737 Livestock on roadway - made secure; PR 7370 Harassment; E Hwy. 69 Medical assist; Puckett Pass Medical assist; W Hwy. 69 Warrant service; PR 7702 Medical assist; FM 275 Reckless driving; CR 3317 Public service; FM 47 Vehicle in roadway; FM 514 Livestock

on roadway - made secure; Skyline Dr. Criminal trespass warning; Meadowview Ln. Medical assist; CR 1315 Animal welfare concern; E Hwy. 69 Livestock on roadway; FM 515 Reckless driving; FM 513 Trespassing - unable to locate.

12-14: Hwy. 69 Animal welfare concern; FM 513 Trespassing; CR 1320 Medical assist; S Hwy. 69 Extra patrol; FM 515 Extra patrol; E Lennon Dr. Extra patrol; W Tawakoni Dr. Extra patrol; Quitman Extra patrol; W Lennon Dr. Extra patrol; W North St. Meet complainant; CR 4330 Fire alarm; E Lennon Dr. Criminal trespass; E Lennon Dr. Public service; CR 1402 Domestic disturbance; E Hwy. 69 Livestock on roadway; CR 1250 Public service; E Lennon Dr. Public service; FM 275 Reckless driving; SO lobby Meet complainant; CR 4261 Aggressive animal; Hwy. 69W Problems with a juvenile; N Texas St. Extra patrol.

The Sheriff's Department reported 320 calls for the

week. Among the calls were: 2 paper service, 5 criminal trespass, 1 damaged property, 2 debris in roadway, 2 disorderly conduct, 4 disturbance, 2 domestic disturbance, 33 extra patrol, 3 brush fire, 1 fire alarm, 5 follow up investigation, 1 funeral escort, 5 harassment, 3 investigation, 1 gas leak, 10 livestock on roadway, 23 medical, 11 meet complainant, 4 problems with a juvenile, 20 public service, 7 reckless driving, 3 suspicious activity, 7 suspicious person, 4 suspicious vehicle, 3 theft, 2 vehicle in roadway, 4 warrant service, 6 welfare concern, 3 trespassing, 6 accident, 3 controlled burn, 1 aggressive animal, 2 public assist, 6 abandoned vehicle, 4 agency assist, 7 business alarms, 1 residence alarm, 2 animals at large, 3 animal welfare concern, 1 assault, 1 assist motorist, 1 burglary, 1 child custody, 1 city ordinance violation, and 2 civil matter.

There were 101 traffic stops, 29 citations, 68 warnings, 23 medical calls and 14 transports.



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**Get help from others.** Ask family and friends for assistance. Seek advice from other people caring for their loved ones.

**Care for yourself.** Don't forget about your own needs. It's just as important to make a plan to take care of yourself as it is to create a caregiving plan for your loved one.

**Tap into AARP's resources.** [AARP.org/caregiving](http://AARP.org/caregiving) has a wide array of information, including legal and financial guidance.

**You're there for them. We're here for you.**

Find free Care Guides to support you and your loved one at **AARP.org/caregiving**





Believer’s Baptist Church

By Linda Brendle  
In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.  
*John 1:1*  
This week’s service began with special Christmas music. Duffey Henderson and Tiny Jones sang “O Holy Night,” and the children sang “Who Would Have Dreamed.” The Youth Worship Team, consisting of Whitney Haygood, Zeb Lotzgesell, and Micah Haygood, sang “O Come all Ye Faithful,” and Duffey Henderson sang “The First Noel” accompanied by Cole Middleton on sax and Linda Brendle on keyboard.  
Pastor Rolen’s Advent sermon from the Gospel of John was titled “Word of the

Father, Now in Flesh Appearing.” Familiarity with Christmas can result in a loss of appreciation for it, so what we understand about God the Son is vital. Let’s marvel again at the reality of the baby in the manger.  
January Schedule:  
• Regular Wednesday Night Schedule, including Adult Bible Study, resumes January 7  
• The Church Praying – January 11  
• Bible-n-Biscuits resumes January 13  
• Student Ministry Winter Retreat – January 17-19  
• Members’ Meeting – January 25  
• Wednesday Morning Women’s Bible Study resumes January 28.

Emory Methodist Church

By Mary White  
For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders, and he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
*Isaiah 9:6*  
Last Sunday was the third Sunday of Advent and Rev. David Banks continued his series “God keeps His Word: The presence of Peace” with scripture text taken from Isaiah. The story never becomes old, just imagine that light touching your life. Imagine the light bringing light into this very dark world that we live in. The light brings

us PEACE.  
The Methodist Women’s Christmas party was a great success as we had a fun-filled evening with food and fellowship. Games were played and, of course, Bingo is always the most popular.  
We will have our Christmas Eve Service on Wednesday, December 24, at 6:00 p.m. and everyone is welcome.  
Birthday wishes go to J. C. White, Rev. Banks and Jessica Calhoun.  
Pray for Victor Slatter, the Deeck Family, and Scarlet Vance.  
Have a wonderful peace filled week and be kind.

Obituaries

Russell Lee Edwards  
1959 – 2025

Russell Lee Edwards, 66, of Emory, died on December 4, 2025. He was born on July 25, 1959, in Dallas, to Robert Lee Edwards and Mildred Janis Fagala Edwards.  
Mr. Edwards’ life was marked by a deep passion for his career as an auto-body painter, a profession he dedicated thirty years to showcasing his exceptional skill and artistry. He loved historical cars, particularly those from the 1970s and 80s, and appreciated the craftsmanship that went into them. He embraced his role as a “girl dad” with pride and nurtured a loving and caring atmosphere around his daughters, always celebrating their accomplishments and being a steadfast supporter in their lives. His kindness was well-known, and he had the

ability to make anyone feel welcome. He played the guitar, sharing melodies that resonated with the warmth of his spirit.  
He was married to Caron Edwards for thirty-two wonderful years. They created a family rich with love and lasting memories.  
He is survived by his wife; children, Amanda Tipton and husband Johnathan, Allison Hobgood and husband Jason, and Tate Gallup and David; grandchildren, Maggie McGee, Brandon Hobgood, August Gallup, Michael Tipton, Michell Tipton, Alex Gallup and Max Gallup; siblings, Gary Edwards and Janet Barnett; life-long best friend, Trey Pearson; as well as many cousins, nieces and nephews.  
He was preceded in death by his parents.

SAVVY SENIORS

Tips and Tools for Adapting to Vision Loss

Dear Savvy Senior,  
Can you recommend some good resources or products that can help seniors with severe vision loss? My wife has diabetic retinopathy, and it's gotten worse over the past year.



JIM MILLER  
Savvy Senior

no longer sufficient, there are other devices that can help. These include handheld magnifiers with a light and magnifying domes that can be placed on top of a page.  
Telescopes mounted on glasses can work for people who need help seeing farther away.  
For those who have lost part of their visual field due to a stroke or brain injury, prisms mounted to the lenses in glasses can move an image from an area someone can’t see to the area of their vision where they can. This can help people get around without bumping into obstructions.  
Driving may no longer be possible, but some people with certain types of low vision can do so safely using a bioptic telescope – a telescopic device attached to glasses – that makes distant objects like road signs visible. And some changes at home can make your space easier (and safer) to navigate, such as putting bright tape on the edges of stairs and getting rid of clutter.

magnification apps like SuperVision+ Magnifier and apps such as Seeing AI and Envision AI that can look through your phone’s camera and turn text into speech, describe a scene in front of you, identify objects, or even recognize faces.  
There are also handheld or wearable devices like OrCam that can read documents or describe the scene you are looking at.

Low Vision Specialist

To get some help, find your wife an optometrist who is a low-vision specialist. They can help her figure out how to best use the vision she does have and recommend helpful devices.  
There are also vision rehabilitation services that can make a big difference. These services provide counseling, along with training on how to perform daily living tasks with low vision, and how to use visual and adaptive devices that can help improve quality of life. They also offer guidance for adapting your home that will make it safer and easier for your wife to maneuver.  
Her regular eye doctor may be able to recommend a low-vision specialist, or you can search the AOA.org website, which lets you filter for specialists in low vision. To locate rehabilitation services and other low vision resources in your area, call the American Printing House (APH) Connect Center at 800-232-5463.  
Send your senior questions to: Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070, or visit [SavvySenior.org](http://SavvySenior.org). Jim Miller is a contributor to the NBC Today show and author of “The Savvy Senior” book.

Dear Need,  
I’m very sorry about your wife’s vision loss, but you’ll be pleased to know that there are many resources and a wide variety of low vision products and technologies that can help with many different needs.  
According to the American Optometric Association (AOA), it’s estimated that 12 million Americans ages 40 and older are living with uncorrectable vision loss, which is often caused by age-related macular degeneration, glaucoma or diabetic retinopathy. These conditions become more common with age and can make daily tasks like cooking, reading or watching television much harder.  
But optometrists who specialize in low vision – reduced vision that can’t be rectified with glasses – have many aids and technologies that can help. Here are a few different low vision products as recommended by Consumer Reports, along with some suggestions for finding a specialist who can help your wife adapt to her vision loss.  
Magnifiers and Adaptors  
Once reading glasses are

Birth of Jesus Foretold  
In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin’s name was Mary. And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!” But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”  
Luke 1:26-33

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903-473-2411 • [EmoryMC.org](http://EmoryMC.org)

**MIRACLE FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH (Independent)**  
820 SH 276 • Emory  
Sunday School 9:00 a.m.  
Worship Service 10:00 a.m.  
Wed. Night Youth 5:30 p.m.  
Wed. Night Service 6:30 p.m.  
**Pastor: Robert Burns II**  
Church: 903-473-3238

**Pilgrims Rest Baptist Church**  
1140 FM 2964, Emory  
Sunday School.....9:45 a.m.  
Morning Worship..11:00 a.m.  
Evening Worship.....6:00 p.m.  
*“Reaching Out Because We Care”*  
**Pastor Keith Prather**  
[www.pilgrimsrestbaptistchurch.org](http://www.pilgrimsrestbaptistchurch.org)

**Point Church of Christ**  
Bible Classes 9:00 a.m.  
Worship Service 10:00 a.m.  
Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.  
Wed. Eve. Service 7:00 p.m.  
*Everyone welcome!*  
**Richard Kellam**  
[www.pointchurchofchrist.org](http://www.pointchurchofchrist.org)

**Calvary Baptist Church**  
INDEPENDENT FUNDAMENTAL BAPTIST  
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6:00 p.m. Worship  
**Pastor: Jimmy Jarrett**  
Hwys 515 & 779  
2-1/2 Miles East of Emory  
903-269-8737

**Daugherty Baptist Church**  
2 miles west of Hwy 19N on FM 514  
Sunday School ..... 10:00 a.m.  
Morning Worship ... 11:00 a.m.  
Evening Worship ..... 6:00 p.m.  
**Pastor Joe Pierce**  
903-259-1147 & 903-259-0348

**St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church**  
Rev. Michael Ledesma  
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Sunday Evening Worship 4:00 p.m.  
Wed. Bible Study 7:00 p.m.  
[emorychurchofchrist.org](http://emorychurchofchrist.org)

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6:00 p.m. .... Evening Worship  
6:00 p.m. .. Wednesday Service  
**Pastor Dan Wynn**  
903-598-3220  
[www.fbcpoint.com](http://www.fbcpoint.com)

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**Chris Henderson—Minister of Music & Sr. Adults**  
**Ronnie Witt— Minister of Youth & Education**  
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Evening Worship 6:30 pm  
**Wednesday**  
Wed. Worship 6:30pm (Adults, Youth, Children)  
Choir Practice 6:30pm

**Believers' Baptist Church**  
  
**Sunday**  
Sunday School ..... 9:15 a.m.  
MorningWorship .... 10:30 a.m.  
**Wednesday**  
Adult Bible Study .... 6:30 p.m.  
Student Ministry ..... 6:30 p.m.  
**Dr. Jason Rolen — Pastor**  
Jerod Haygood — Student & Family Pastor  
Duffey Henderson — Music & Media Minister  
[www.bbcmemory.org](http://www.bbcmemory.org) 903-474-0027  
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Shirley Water Supply Corp.  
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Sulphur Springs, Texas 75482

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INTENT TO OBTAIN WATER QUALITY PERMIT RENEWAL

PERMIT NO. WQ0011428001

**APPLICATION.** City of East Tawakoni, 288 Briggs Boulevard, East Tawakoni, Texas 75472, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to renew Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) Permit No. WQ0011428001 (EPA I.D. No. TX0101303) to authorize the discharge of treated wastewater at a volume not to exceed a daily average flow of 130,000 gallons per day. The domestic wastewater treatment facility is located approximately 1.0 mile east of the intersection of Farm-to-Market Road 513 and State Highway 276, in Rains County, Texas 75472. The discharge route is from the plant site directly to Lake Tawakoni. TCEQ received this application on November 10, 2025. The permit application will be available for viewing and copying at East Tawakoni City Hall, 288 Briggs Boulevard, East Tawakoni, in Rains County, Texas prior to the date this notice is published in the newspaper. The application and associated notices are available electronically at the following webpage: <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/wastewater/pending-permits/tpdes-applications>. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and not part of the application or notice. For the exact location, refer to the application. <https://gisweb.tceq.texas.gov/LocationMapper/?marker=-95.946666,32.903055&level=18>

**ADDITIONAL NOTICE.** TCEQ's Executive Director has determined the application is administratively complete and will conduct a technical review of the application. After technical review of the application is complete, the Executive Director may prepare a draft permit and will issue a preliminary decision on the application. **Notice of the Application and Preliminary Decision will be published and mailed to those who are on the county- wide mailing list and to those who are on the mailing list for this application. That notice will contain the deadline for submitting public comments.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT / PUBLIC MEETING.** You may submit public comments or request a public meeting on this application. The purpose of a public meeting is to provide the opportunity to submit comments or to ask questions about the application. TCEQ will hold 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, and the Executive Director's decision on the application, 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 reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision and for requesting a contested case hearing.** A contested case hearing is a legal proceeding similar to a civil trial in 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.**

**TCEQ may act on an application to renew a permit for discharge of wastewater without providing an opportunity for a contested case hearing if certain criteria are met**

**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.

**INFORMATION AVAILABLE ONLINE.** For details about the status of the application, visit the Commissioners' Integrated Database at [www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/cid](http://www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/cid). Search the database using the permit number for this application, which is provided at the top of this notice.

**AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION.** All public comments and requests must be submitted either electronically at <https://www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/>, or in writing to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. Please be aware that any contact information you provide, including your name, phone number, email address and physical address will become part of the agency's public record. For more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call the TCEQ Public Education Program, Toll Free, at 1-800-687-4040 or visit their website at [www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/pep](http://www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/pep). Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.

Further information may also be obtained from City of East Tawakoni at the address stated above or by calling Mr. Harold Chandler, Mayor, at 903-447-2444.

Issuance Date: December 9, 2025



Sports

RAINS LADY CAT & WILDCAT BASKETBALL

Ladies win district opener, Wildcats look to end streak



Lady Cat Kamara Ragsdale (14) puts up the long jumper in Talkington Gym this season.

By CHUCK FITTS  
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains Lady Cats opened District 12-3A with victory, while the Rains Wildcats search for a way out of slump. The Wildcats competed at a weekend tournament in Era and lost all three games. On Thursday, December 11, the varsity boys fell to the Boyd Yellowjackets, 69-43. They suffered a 54-31 loss to the Callisburg Wildcats on day two.

The Wildcats wrapped up the tournament on Saturday, December 13, with a 77-35 loss to the Red River Rattlers. The Lady Cats wrapped up non-district play in Quitman by beating the Lady Bulldogs, 48-32. On Tuesday, December 16, the high school basketball teams were on the road with the girls in Paris and the boys in Edgewood. The Lady Cats opened district play with a 64-22 victory over the Chisum

Lady Mustangs. In Edgewood, the boys suffered a loss to the Bulldogs, 68-36. The Rains Lady Cats are 1-0 in District 12-3A and 16-2 for the season, while the Rains Wildcats slide to 5-4. The Lady Cats will host the Lone Oak Lady Bufaloes in District 12-3A play on Friday, December 19. Following the girls game, the Wildcats will take on the Wolfe City Wolves in a non-district game.

LUKE CLAYTON

Comical occurrences in the outdoors

As an outdoors writer for the past forty years and a lifelong outdoors person, I have more than my share of downright comical things



Luke Clayton  
Outdoor Columnist

that occurred while spending time hunting, fishing and kicking around the outdoors. I'm betting if you have spent much time on the water or in the field, you too could fill a small book expounding upon your experiences. Looking back, sometimes WAY back, here are a few of mishaps that have occurred that come to mind.

Many years ago I was invited by to hunt desert mule deer on Clayton William's West Pyle Ranch out in the Trans Pecos region of Texas. I asked Paul Henderson, the wildlife manager on the ranch, if I could bring my muzzleloader. I could tell he was a bit hesitant but agreed-providing I could prove how well it shot at the range before the hunt.

West Texas cowboys served as guides on the West Pyle and they were all intrigued with my "old west" looking TC SCOUT 50 caliber. They were also impressed at the groups the rifle was shooting at 100 yards.

Just before it was time to go hunting, I was circled by six or so of the guides, all intent upon learning how to load and cap the muzzleloader. The wind was blowing a gale and I made the mistake of looking away from the task of pouring powder into the rifle's bore for an instance. A few hours later, I was putting the sneak on a tremendous 10 pointer that was with a herd of 12 or so does; the rut was

going strong. Walt was watching me with binoculars as I stalked from rock to rock.

When about 100 yards from the buck, I eased behind a big rock, scooted the Scout over the top of the rock, cocked the hammer and settled the sights on the buck's shoulder. BANG! I (and Walt, through binoculars) watched the big 350 grain conical bullet kick up dust way short of the buck. I realized I had just fired a very light powder charge (remember the wind was blowing hard when I loaded and I made the mistake of looking away from the task at hand).

I slumped behind the rock, reloaded as quickly as my shaking hands could work, placed the #11 primer on the nipple eased back over the rock and to my amazement, the buck had only moved about 20 yards; he was still within range. With a full charge of 90 grains of Pyrodex pushing it, the big conical bullet found its mark and I had my buck on the ground. Back at the truck Walt said something like, "You don't reckon the wind blew the powder away before you could get it down the bore, do you?"

I replied, "I reckon it did!"

Way before I became a veteran outdoors writer, I was a fisherman; a fisherman that owned some of the most "clunkiest" old boats and motors one could imagine. Back in the early eighties, I remember buying an old Lone Star Commander 14 foot V nose aluminum boat that had seen years and years of use and abuse before I became its proud owner. I had an 18 HP Evinrude mounted on the boat's transom, vintage 1958.

The old motor ran pretty well, most of the time but I simply could not get the boat's battered hull to stop leaking. I dabbed everything from roofing tar to glue on the rivets and just when I thought I had the leaks stopped, a new one, or several would pop up! A good friend, the late Loren Flynn who was my bass tournament partner, presented me with two empty coffee cans, a one pound can and a two pound can. It's important to note that Loren owned a state-of-the-art (of the day) bass boat with all the bells and whistles available at the time. He enjoyed kidding me about the "Sea Dog."

"Here you go, Luke," Loren chided me. "I want you to keep these in the 'Sea Dog.' The small one is your 12 volt bilge pump, the larger will serve duty your 24 volt. Use the smaller can for days when the boat is only leaking slightly. When things get really bad, go for the 24 volts!"

We had many laughs over Loren's bilge pumps through the years!

Contact outdoors writer Luke Clayton through his website [www.catfishradio.org](http://www.catfishradio.org). Catch Luke's weekly podcast "Catfish Radio with Luke Clayton and Friends" just about everywhere podcasts are found.

# MERRY CHRISTMAS

Thank you to all of our local businesses for your hard work and dedication to our community! We are so thankful for you all.

From the City of Emory Development Corporation:  
Leah Drown, Elizabeth Davis and Wyndell Luckett

Silent Night Oh Holy Night.

The City of Emory, Mayor, Council and staff prepare to celebrate the miracle of Christmas and pause to wish you and your loved ones the blessings of joy, hope and peace for the coming year.

PICTURED FRONT ROW (l-r): Janice Nobles, Anna Hanner; second row: Eileen Mickey, Donna Raper, Elizabeth Davis, Gwen Peterson, Leah Drown; third row: Cody Brimer, Mike Elloit, Blake Brumit, Brad Potts, Felipe Hernandez, Cameron Demps, Chuck Nalls; fourth row: Wyndell Luckett, Kyle Gaddis, Michael McAllister, Justin Sisk, Justin Keys, Justin Souther, David Smith, Kyle Harrison and Jason Jarret.

## Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

We look forward to serving you in 2026!

HWY. 69 & 19 • EMORY • 903-473-2249



# Merry Christmas

## LETTERS TO SANTA

Rains Elementary  
Pre-K  
Bridges

Dear Santa,  
I want an owl toy.  
Aislynn G.

Dear Santa,  
I want a barbie.  
April R.

Dear Santa,  
I want Bluey stuff.  
Axl C.

Dear Santa,  
I want a big Bluey house.  
Everly Mc.

Dear Santa,  
I want a barbie.  
Gianna S.

Dear Santa,  
I want a race track.  
Jep M.

Dear Santa,  
I want a toy school bus.  
Julian G.

Dear Santa,  
I want a barbie.  
Landrey B.

Dear Santa,  
I want a unicorn toy.  
Leela P.

Dear Santa,

I want a dinosaur.  
Lucas B.

Dear Santa,  
I want a mermaid doll.  
Luna P.

Dear Santa,  
I want a Gabby doll house.  
Melany P.

Dear Santa,  
I want baby doll, baby bottle, baby wipes, and diapers.  
Tinlee W.

Dear Santa,  
I want a remote control car.  
Zyair M.

Clark

Dear Santa,  
May I please have a toy dog.  
Bentley J.

Dear Santa,  
May I please have a doll.  
Camilla F.

Dear Santa,  
May I please have a baby doll.  
Emilia C.

Dear Santa,  
May I please have a baby doll.

Ever E. hunting bow.

Dear Santa,  
May I please have a train.  
Jackelyn S.

Dear Santa,  
May I please have a skateboard.  
Jeremy C.

Dear Santa,  
May I please have a dark vador toy.  
Kamden W.

Dear Santa,  
May I please have a unicorn.  
Koralea L.

Dear Santa,  
May I please have a barbie.  
Leah V.

Dear Santa,  
May I please have a power ranger toy.  
Mark S.

Dear Santa,  
May I please have a squishmallow.  
Novaleigh S.

Dear Santa,  
May I please have a spider man toy.  
Parker J.

Dear Santa,  
May I please have a

Riley C.

Dear Santa,  
I want a Mermaid horse with curly hair.  
Helena S.

Dear Santa,  
I want scissors.  
Jaxton D.

Dear Santa,  
I want a remote control car.  
Jaxxon F.

Dear Santa,  
I want a happy napper.  
Kane R.

Dear Santa,  
I want a unicorn.  
Kensley G.

Dear Santa,  
I want a baby.  
Kooper K.

Dear Santa,  
I want a gun.  
Korbyn D.

Dear Santa,  
I want a happy napper.  
Piper M.

Dear Santa,  
I want a gold Lamborghini.  
Sebastian C.

Dear Santa,  
I want a bike.  
Titus E.

Dear Santa,  
I want a microphone.  
Torvie R.

Dear Santa,  
I want a school bus.  
Garland D.

Lynn

Dear Santa,  
A spider man toy.  
Alex T.

Dear Santa,  
I want a teddy and bracelets.  
Allyson C.

Dear Santa,  
I want a new blue hard football.  
Carson I.

Dear Santa,  
I want Sonic and Mickey Mouse and Knuckles and Tails.  
Damien S.

Dear Santa,  
A Gabby's Dollhouse with the family.  
Gianna M.

Dear Santa,  
A Barbie and a Gabby's Doll House.  
Haizleigh S.

Dear Santa,  
A dirtbike and a motorcycle.

Merry Christmas & Have a Blessed New Year!

**COOL BREEZE**  
**AC & HEATING**

Lic# TACLB023113E 903-473-5111 PO Box 757, Emory, TX 75440

**MERRY**  
**Christmas**

**SISK BORING & TUNNELING**  
HEATH & KRISTI SISK 903-473-2520

Merry Christmas  
AND HAPPY HOLIDAYS

From Mandy Sawyer,  
RAINS COUNTY CLERK



# Deck the Halls, Y'all!

**CBTx**  
Commercial Bank of Texas, N.A.<sup>®</sup>  
Banking Texas Style.  
800-723-7601 ★ www.cbtx.com

**CBTx Banking Centers**  
will close at noon  
on Dec. 24 & be closed on  
Dec. 25 for Christmas and  
Jan. 1 for New Years



Hunter H. I want a metal detector.  
Dear Santa, Balloons and video games.  
Jameson M. I want a play station 5.  
Dear Santa, Paw Patrol house and Paw Patrol actors.  
Jasper J. I want a play station 5.  
Dear Santa, A makeup set, two backpacks, and a blanket.  
Kaisley P.  
Dear Santa, A red car.  
Kei'Landan A.  
Dear Santa, I want a duck boat to hunt ducks and sit down in the floor, and I want trucks and trailers and tractors and boats, and a fishing thing (a net to catch fish).  
Leon H.  
Dear Santa, I want a Barbie house.  
Rose K.  
Dear Santa, A stuffy toy, a princess doll, and a pink ball.  
Sarah M.  
Dear Santa, Bubbles and an elf.  
Za'Kadeen M.

Burns

Dear Santa, I want a glow in the dark monster truck.  
Axon C.  
Dear Santa, I want Duplos.  
Gabriel K.  
Dear Santa, I want a light up toy.  
Jossiah L.  
Dear Santa, I want baby dolls.  
Ellie E.  
Dear Santa, I want stick fidgets.  
Michael H.  
Dear Santa, I want a teddy bear.  
Aysel A.  
Dear Santa, I want a doll house.  
Saray A.  
Dear Santa, I want a skate board.  
Adalynn A.  
Dear Santa,  
  
Dear Santa, I want a skate board.  
Wyatt B.  
Dear Santa, I want a play station 5.  
Lawson B.  
Dear Santa, I want a play station 5.  
Liam B.  
Dear Santa, I want a four wheeler.  
Weston B.  
Dear Santa, I want a LOL doll house.  
Laci C.  
Dear Santa, I want some bubbles.  
Carter C.  
Dear Santa, I want a water gun.  
Ana D.  
Dear Santa, I want some dinosaurs.  
Colt G.  
Dear Santa, I want a Barbie.  
Laikyn K.  
Dear Santa, I want a Golf cart.  
Ryder K.  
Dear Santa, I want hot wheels (baby cars).  
Lucas M.  
Dear Santa, I want a skate board.  
Isabella M.  
Dear Santa, I want star wars legos.  
William S.  
Dear Santa, I want some dolls with a dream house.  
Jessie S.  
Dear Santa, I want some make up.  
Lainey W.  
Dear Santa, I want a slime maker.  
Logan W.

Kindergarten

Brown

Dear Santa, I want a teddy bear.  
Aysel A.  
Dear Santa, I want a doll house.  
Saray A.  
Dear Santa, I want a skate board.  
Adalynn A.  
Dear Santa,  
  
Dear Santa, I want a new Barbie house.  
Carter C.  
Dear Santa, I want Army men.  
Lake D.  
Dear Santa, I want a headband.  
Hailey D.  
Dear Santa,  
  
Dear Santa, I want a new Sonic games.  
Maxwell P.  
Dear Santa, I want go carts and magnets.  
Holden R.  
Dear Santa, I want a new game for my Switch.  
Ryker R.  
Dear Santa, I want a Cinderella doll.  
Willow S.  
Dear Santa, I want a Barbie Dreamhouse.  
Emma S.  
Dear Santa, I want a monster truck.  
Axel T.  
Dear Santa, I want a christmas tree.  
Jose C.  
Dear Santa, I want an icecream machine.  
Eli F.  
Dear Santa, I want a labubu.  
Karter H.  
Dear Santa, I want a swimming pool.  
Jordon J.  
Dear Santa, I want a roblox gift card.  
Evan L.  
Dear Santa, I want a labubu.

Clifton

I want jewelry.  
Elina F.  
Dear Santa, I want a skateboard.  
Jameson F.  
Dear Santa, I want a jumping cat.  
Linleigh H.  
Dear Santa, I want a Lego robot.  
Colt H.  
Dear Santa, I want a stuffy.  
Lexie J.  
Dear Santa, I want a trampoline.  
Kaitlynn L.  
Dear Santa, I want a babydoll.  
Everly P.  
Dear Santa, I want a tablet.  
Khaiza P.  
Dear Santa, I want two new Sonic games.  
Maxwell P.  
Dear Santa, I want go carts and magnets.  
Holden R.  
Dear Santa, I want a new game for my Switch.  
Ryker R.  
Dear Santa, I want a Cinderella doll.  
Willow S.  
Dear Santa, I want a Barbie Dreamhouse.  
Emma S.  
Dear Santa, I want a monster truck.  
Axel T.  
Dear Santa, I want a christmas tree.  
Jose C.  
Dear Santa, I want an icecream machine.  
Eli F.  
Dear Santa, I want a labubu.  
Karter H.  
Dear Santa, I want a swimming pool.  
Jordon J.  
Dear Santa, I want a roblox gift card.  
Evan L.  
Dear Santa, I want a labubu.

Hendricks

Dear Santa, I want a new water bottle.  
Kysen B.  
Dear Santa, I want a christmas tree.  
Jose C.  
Dear Santa, I want an icecream machine.  
Eli F.  
Dear Santa, I want a labubu.  
Karter H.  
Dear Santa, I want a swimming pool.  
Jordon J.  
Dear Santa, I want a roblox gift card.  
Evan L.  
Dear Santa, I want a labubu.

Hutchison


Dear Santa, I would like a metal dectector.  
Caleb B.  
Dear Santa, I would like a snow sled and a flower swing.  
Violet C.  
Dear Santa, I would like a Barbie house and a Coco Melon baby.  
Lylah C.  
Dear Santa, I would like toys.  
Sterling E.  
Dear Santa, I would like a racecar track.  
Caleb G.  
Dear Santa, I would like a robot with a remote.  
Jensen H.  
Dear Santa, I would like a tree house.  
Rylee L.  
Dear Santa, I would like Hot Wheels.  
Owen M.  
Dear Santa, I would like a big gorilla.  
Walker M.  
Dear Santa, I would like a Gabbie house.  
Charley P.

Dear Santa, I would like a wishing doll.  
Novaleigh P.  
Dear Santa, I would like a scooter and a set of walkie talkies.  
Gus R.  
Dear Santa, I would like Elsa things.  
Terra S.  
Dear Santa, I would like kids makeup.  
Kimberly S.  
Dear Santa, I would like a toy motorcycle.  
Lexington S.  
Dear Santa, I would like a RoBlox giftboard.  
Paisley B.  
Dear Santa, Pet Chameleon and Tent Bunker.  
Stoney S.  
Dear Santa, Orby gun and Orby scope.  
River R.  
Dear Santa, I want a cute stuffy.  
Trigg B.  
Dear Santa, I want a robot.  
Liam B.  
Dear Santa, I want a Barbie with a house and a car.  
Olive B.  
Dear Santa, I want a pair of skates.  
Carleigh F.  
Dear Santa, I want a transformer.  
Krovin G.  
Dear Santa, I want a big doll.  
Peyton G.  
Dear Santa, I want a new Pete the Cat book.  
Brooklynn G.  
Dear Santa, I want a new whoopie cushion.  
Elliot J.  
Dear Santa, I want a dog and an iphone.  
Sophia J.  
Dear Santa, I want makeup.  
Blakely M.  
Dear Santa, I want a bunch of stuff. I have a Santa list. One thing is a new bike.  
Montana P.  
Dear Santa, I want a WWE Wrestler, the Undertaker and a toy farm set.  
Casen S.  
Dear Santa, I want a Minecraft plushy.  
Braxton S.  
Dear Santa, I am asking for a skateboard and a green toy helicopter.  
Nash W.  
Dear Santa, I want a toy motorcycle that I can drive.  
Chandler W.  
Dear Santa, I want a pink camera.  
Rylee Y.

Lively

Dear Santa, Robe and Paw Patrol Characters.  
Michelle C.  
Dear Santa, Watch and Monster Truck.  
Briar F.  
Dear Santa, Nerf Gun and Pet.  
Kyzer H.  
Dear Santa, Ice Palace and Elsa Doll.  
Bailey H.  
Dear Santa, Dirt Bike and Helmet.  
Brooks L.  
Dear Santa, Lego set and an APR gun.  
Bjorn L.  
Dear Santa, King Kong and Godzilla.  
Lucas L.  
Dear Santa, Money and Jet Pack.  
Isaiah  
Dear Santa, Elsa Toy Stove and Toy Fairy (Purple).  
Alaina P.  
Dear Santa, Barbie and American Girl Doll.  
Willow P.  
Dear Santa, Scooter (Electric) and Stuffed Animal.  
Jackson C S  
Dear Santa, Cat House and Snow Machine.  
Arianna S.  
Dear Santa, Tesla Quad.  
Jackson S.  
Dear Santa, I would like a wishing doll.  
Novaleigh P.  
Dear Santa, I would like a scooter and a set of walkie talkies.  
Gus R.  
Dear Santa, I would like Elsa things.  
Terra S.  
Dear Santa, I would like kids makeup.  
Kimberly S.  
Dear Santa, I would like a toy motorcycle.  
Lexington S.  
Dear Santa, I would like a RoBlox giftboard.  
Paisley B.  
Dear Santa, I want a transformer.  
Krovin G.  
Dear Santa, I want a big doll.  
Peyton G.  
Dear Santa, I want a new Pete the Cat book.  
Brooklynn G.  
Dear Santa, I want a new whoopie cushion.  
Elliot J.  
Dear Santa, I want a dog and an iphone.  
Sophia J.  
Dear Santa, I want makeup.  
Blakely M.  
Dear Santa, I want a bunch of stuff. I have a Santa list. One thing is a new bike.  
Montana P.  
Dear Santa, I want a WWE Wrestler, the Undertaker and a toy farm set.  
Casen S.  
Dear Santa, I want a Minecraft plushy.  
Braxton S.  
Dear Santa, I am asking for a skateboard and a green toy helicopter.  
Nash W.  
Dear Santa, I want a toy motorcycle that I can drive.  
Chandler W.  
Dear Santa, I want a pink camera.  
Rylee Y.

  
*Q Come Let Us Adore Him*  
Point Church of Christ • 150 N. 1st Street • pointchurchofchrist.org

 **Merry Christmas**  
*"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."  
Luke 2 :11*

 **State Farm™**  
Toni Threadgill • 903-473-2553

  
**Lake Fork Physical Therapy**  
903 E. LENNON • SUITE 101 • EMORY • 903-474-9436  
 *From our family to yours, we wish everyone a very Merry Christmas & a very Happy New Year!*

  
*Season's Greetings*  
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 *Merry Christmas*  
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dgraphics903@gmail.com

  
MAY WE NEVER forget  
**WHO**  
*Christmas*  
IS REALLY ABOUT  
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Pastor: Robert Burns II

*Happy Holidays*  
from  
**Robert's Cycle & Sound**  
903-473-2566

*Remember the reason FOR THE SEASON*  
  
D.E. Plumbing Services RMP 35557  
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903-513-0063 • jonathanchristian76@gmail.com

WISHING YOU A  
*Merry Christmas*  
& HAPPY NEW YEAR  
  
*Bar & Grill*  
OPEN EVERYDAY AT 7AM • 903-953-0090  
909 E. LENNON DR. • EMORY, TEXAS 75440



Dear Santa,  
I want real make-up  
and a yo-yo.  
Kayson A

Dear Santa,  
I want a Nintendo  
switch 2 and a Hot  
Wheels Obstacle course.  
Nikko B

Dear Santa,  
I want a PS5, a  
trampoline, a scooter,  
and a toy roller coaster.  
Oliver C

Dear Santa,  
I want a Spiderman  
Costume, water gun, and  
Walkie Talkie.  
Samuel G

Dear Santa,  
I really want a  
Nintendo, a phone, and a  
computer.  
Jackson J

Dear Santa,  
I want a baby doll, a  
painting kit, and Polly  
Pocket.  
Hazely M

Dear Santa,  
I want make-up, shark,  
and a Barbie.  
Anahi M

Dear Santa,  
I want toy Trains.  
Dimitri M

Dear Santa,  
I want a you dinosaur  
and plushie deer family.  
Nolan M

Dear Santa,  
I want a Minecraft  
Lunch box, new water  
bottle, and Minecraft  
Legos.  
Colt N

Dear Santa,  
I want a lunch box, a  
trampoline, and a make-  
up Set.  
Lillian N

Dear Santa,  
I want make-up, a  
trampoline, and a  
scooter.  
Milah O

Dear Santa,  
I want a dragon egg,  
a timer, and blocks.  
Haven O

Dear Santa,  
I want a big  
trampoline, a scooter,  
and a bracelet.  
Scarlett R

Dear Santa,  
I want blocks, a four  
wheeler, and magnet  
Tiles.  
Maddox S

Dear Santa,  
I want a stuffed

unicorn.  
Annelise B.

Dear Santa,  
I want a barbie house  
and makeup.  
Aurora A.

Dear Santa,  
I want a spinasaurs  
mask and a spinasuars  
toy.  
Charley C.

Dear Santa,  
I want a nerf gun.  
Cooper R.

Dear Santa,  
I want a nerf gun.  
Dakota W.

Dear Santa,  
I want a barbie house  
and a barbie bathroom  
set.  
Ivory K.

Dear Santa,  
i want a nerf gun and  
a lot of chocolate.  
Jesus C.

Dear Santa,  
I want marbles and  
books.  
Juan C.

Dear Santa,  
I want books.  
Nevaeh J.

Dear Santa,  
I want Minecraft  
stuff.  
Noah H.

Dear Santa,  
I want puzzles (state/  
world map/planets).  
Nolan H.

Dear Santa,  
I want mini brands.  
Paisley H.

Dear Santa,  
I want a remote  
control monster truck.  
Raymond B.

Dear Santa,  
I want bayblades and  
a carry case.  
Reese S.

Dear Santa,  
I want mini brands  
and roller blades.  
Summerlyn H.

Dear Santa,  
I want dolls.  
Remington M.

Burgin

Dear Santa,  
Remote control  
monster truck.  
Gunner W.

Dear Santa,  
I want Stars Wars  
number blocks.  
Hayden Y.

Dear Santa,  
outside play house.  
Heather F.

Dear Santa,  
Elf on the Shelf.  
Jeremie L.

Dear Santa,  
Drone with an  
airplane.  
Joaquin D.

Dear Santa,  
RC car.  
John A.

Dear Santa,  
Hoverboard.  
Lakelyn D.

Dear Santa,  
remote control car.  
Mason Mc.

Dear Santa,  
gabby dollhouse.  
Reva G.

Dear Santa,  
a big remote control  
monster truck.  
Rhett C.

Dear Santa,  
Makeup.  
Rylie H.

Dear Santa,  
Baby Sonic.  
Sawyer C.

Dear Santa,  
Dinosaurs.  
Wesson J.

Dear Santa,  
ps5.  
Zane C.

Dear Santa,  
Toy Rocket.  
Sawyer A.

Dear Santa,  
Skateboard.  
Taydem B.

Dear Santa,  
Toy Tower.  
Josie B.

Dear Santa,  
Watch.  
Rayleian C.

Dear Santa,  
Rock Tumbler.  
Parker C.

Dear Santa,  
Toy Truck.  
Lorenzo D.

Dear Santa,  
Rc Car.  
Jaxson D.

Dear Santa,  
Fairy toy.  
Layla G.

Dear Santa,  
Kinetic Sand.  
Waylon G.

Dear Santa,  
3D dinosaur eggs.  
Layne G.

Dear Santa,  
Baby doll crib.  
Kalisi H.

Dear Santa,  
Baby doll.  
Jenna K.

Dear Santa,  
Baby doll.  
Rayann M.

Dear Santa,  
Legos.  
Mateo R-C.

Dear Santa,  
Science experiment kit.  
Christopher S.

Dear Santa,  
Slime Kit.  
Magnolia W.

Dear Santa,  
Games.  
Woodrow W.

Dear Santa,  
Barbie doll.  
Miriam Z.

Hughes

Dear Santa,  
Scooter.  
Alessandro G.

Dear Santa,  
A purple bike with  
training wheels.  
Amethyst F.

Dear Santa,  
Robucks.  
Anthony M.

Dear Santa,  
electric scooter.  
Christian F.

Dear Santa,  
WWE Toys.  
Cohen C.

Dear Santa,  
red baby elf.  
Dacey D.

Dear Santa,  
bracelet maker.  
Dakota C.

Dear Santa,  
Crazy cart shuffle by  
razor.  
Darby D.

Dear Santa,  
Soccer Ball.  
Ethan K.

Dear Santa,  
Bracelet Maker.  
Faith Q.

Dear Santa,  
A Bluey toy.  
Gio C-M.

Dear Santa,  
Scooter.  
Huntlee M.

Dear Santa,  
Rocket Launcher  
200ft (the one Henry  
has).

Burnett

Dear Santa,  
Bike.  
Matias C.

Dear Santa,  
PS5 Games.  
Myles Y.

Dear Santa,  
Pony.  
Skylar J.

Rabb

Dear Santa,  
Mini Brands: tiny items.  
Brenda P.

Dear Santa,  
Motor Bike, Iphone 14.  
Cason P.

Dear Santa,  
Remote control car.  
Cooper B.

Dear Santa,  
Shine Sonic.  
Cylus O.

Dear Santa,  
moving puppy.  
Eleanor W.

Dear Santa,  
Panda that moves and  
rolls.  
Ellie H.

Dear Santa,  
remote control car.  
Fredy N.

Dear Santa,  
Basketball hoop.  
George B.

Dear Santa,  
Motorbike.  
Jeremiah D.

Dear Santa,  
Spiderman web  
shooter.  
Laynie E.

Dear Santa,  
Mini Brands: tiny items.  
Teigan P.

Dear Santa,  
The deer from 99  
knights in the forrest.  
Waylon F.

Dear Santa,  
Soccerball.  
William T.

Dear Santa,  
Apple tablet with pen.  
Zuriah P.

Tanton

Dear Santa,  
I want a soccer mat  
that you can play  
soccer on. I have been  
wishing for a horse  
that's connected to a  
hoover board and a  
truck connected to a  
trailer that has a  
motorcylcle in it that  
actually works.

Dear Santa,  
Bike that you put gas  
in.  
Kase D.

Dear Santa,  
Sparkley Mermaid with  
a wand.  
Olivia T.

Dear Santa,  
Hat Make.  
Pearsyn P.

Dear Santa,  
stuffed wolf.  
Selah H.

Dear Santa,  
Groots Mansion.  
Slade S.

McMillan

Dear Santa,  
Barbie House.  
Anastasia B.

Dear Santa,  
Dirt Bike.  
Beau G.

Dear Santa,  
Calendar, Mathwork  
books, reading books  
and skincare items.  
Brynnli M.

Dear Santa,  
Cat.  
Cannon W.

Dear Santa,  
Stem Building Blocks.  
Cohen P.

Dear Santa,  
Dirt Bike.  
Daniel C.

Dear Santa,  
Dirt Bike.  
Doyal C.

Dear Santa,  
Legos.  
Elijah A.

Dear Santa,  
Cat.  
Gustavo A.

Dear Santa,  
Power rangers.  
Jax M.

Dear Santa,  
PS5 Games.  
Jaxon Mc.

Dear Santa,  
4 Wheeler.  
Jensen S.

Dear Santa,  
Cat.  
Kaylee P.

Dear Santa,  
Horse.  
Lettie L.

Dear Santa,  
Dirt Bike.  
Mason M.

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Eden A.  
Dear Santa,  
I want a doll and a new bike.

Addison A.  
Dear Santa,  
Merry Christmas Santa., Please leave me a DJ furby. How is Miss Clause.

Piper C.  
Dear Santa,  
I want some LOL dolls and a pillow.

Eleanor C.  
Dear Santa,  
I want weights, a guitar, LED lights and an electric nerf gun. Thank you.

Kase D.  
Dear Santa,  
I would like you to bring me a football board game, a new football, football house shoes and I definetly need a new basketball goal.

Henry H.  
Dear Santa,  
I want a barbie doll house and a new barbie.

Lydia I.  
Dear Santa,  
I really want a barbie and a baby doll.

Teagan J.  
Dear Santa,  
I want a computer and a new controller and that's it.

Landyn L.  
Dear Santa,  
I want a Christmas book and a squishy.

Aitana L.  
Dear Santa,  
Can I please have K-pop Hunter Dolls and a toy Axolotl. Thank you Santa.

Blaire L.  
Dear Santa,  
I want a basketball and a basketball goal.

Abraham M.  
Dear Santa,  
Please bring me some track shoes size 12, a nerf gun, a football and a banjo.

Everly M.  
Dear Santa,  
I want a new bike please.

Estefania M.  
Dear Santa,  
I want some books and a baby.

Avery R.  
Dear Santa,  
I want a nitendo switch, bath bombs and a bicycle.

Gunner T.  
Dear Santa,  
I want some army men action figures and army jeeps.

Miles T.  
Dear Santa,  
I would like a game called college 26.

Sheppard B  
Dear Santa,  
I would love a ps5.

Mason C  
Dear Santa,  
I want a puppy.

Kamila G  
Dear Santa,  
I want a iphone.

Elexa G  
Dear Santa,  
I would love pink slime.

Alisson G  
Dear Santa,  
I want an xbox.

Easton H  
Dear Santa,  
I would like a doll house.

Ryleigh K  
Dear Santa,  
I want a camera.

Isabella M  
Dear Santa,  
I want a four wheeler.

Corbin N  
Dear Santa,  
I would like.

Henry N  
Dear Santa,  
I would love a stuffed toy.

Adalynn R  
Dear Santa,  
I would like a pink slime.

Scarlett S  
Dear Santa,  
I want four wheeler.

Micah S  
Dear Santa,  
I want an elf.

Colt S  
Dear Santa,  
I would like a skate board.

Bennett W  
Dear Santa,  
I would like a Barbie Dream House and more Barbies.

Avary C  
Dear Santa,  
I would like a PS5 and a new basketball hoop.

Teegan C  
Dear Santa,  
I would like a desk and mini verse please.

Presley C  
Dear Santa,  
I would like a dinosaur and some candy.

Adley G  
Dear Santa,  
I would like a Bitzee pet and a robo dog.

Bradi G  
Dear Santa,  
I would like Super Mario Smash Brothers and Big Hero 6.

Angel M  
Dear Santa,  
I would like a phone and a PS5.

River M  
Dear Santa,  
I would like Mr. Beast tubes and giant Foxy mystery box.

Dean M  
Dear Santa,  
I would like a nerf gun and a RC car.

Axle M  
Dear Santa,  
I would like a VR and my brother back home.

Mason M

Dear Santa,  
I would like a PS5 and football gloves.

Judd P  
Dear Santa,  
I would like a BRAT doll named Chloe and a trampoline.

Hadley S  
Dear Santa,  
I would like an ATV and a diesel truck.

Xavier S  
Dear Santa,  
I would like a RC car and a Nintendo Switch 2 please.

Zachariah S  
Dear Santa,  
I would like a robot shark and a drone.

Lincoln W  
Dear Santa,  
I would like baby Jesus stuffed animal and a balance beam.

Parker Y  
Dear Santa,  
I would like a nineto and a tree house.

Douglas D  
Dear Santa,  
I would like to have a lego set.

Elijah A  
Dear Santa,  
I would like to have more barbie dolls.

Harper D  
Dear Santa,  
I would like to have a gas powered dirt bike.

Roman F  
Dear Santa,  
I would like to have a Battle Ship.

Axton G  
Dear Santa,  
I would like to have a pretend makeup set.

Charlie H  
Dear Santa,  
I would like to have candy in my stocking.

Hunter H  
Dear Santa,  
I would like to have a remote control robot with batteries.

Bryan K  
Dear Santa,  
I would like to have a lot of coloring books for boys and markers.

Waylon L  
Dear Santa,  
I would like to have a Gorilla Tag game.

Jamison L  
Dear Santa,  
I would like to have Mario Plus Rabbids Sparks of Hope video game.

Cade R  
Dear Santa,  
I would like to have stuff and a Barbie Doll.

Rainy R  
Dear Santa,  
I would like to have a dirt bike.

Samuel S  
Dear Santa,  
I would like to have a Barbie car with dolls.

Evelyn S  
Dear Santa,  
I would like to have a new saddle for my horse.

Bennett T

Hobbs

Dear Santa,  
I would like to have a lego set.

Jasmine V  
Dear Santa,  
I would like to have a makeup set.

Kadence W  
Dear Santa,  
I would like to have Dragon Ball Z action figures.

Dakota Y  
Dear Santa,  
I would really appreciate a new pair of Nikes.

Oleksandr B  
Dear Santa,  
I would really appreciate a new watch with games, and a new toy for my birds.

Arya C  
Dear Santa,  
I would really appreciate a RC plane and a PS5.

Tex C  
Dear Santa,  
I would really appreciate a goat.

Rae-Leigh G  
Dear Santa,  
I would really appreciate a new Chervrolet car for my dad, a new scooter and a new bike, a PS5, and an Xbox.

Ernesto H  
Dear Santa,  
I would really appreciate an Xbox and games for Xbox.

Levi K  
Dear Santa,  
I would really appreciate Mr. Beast figures.

Lincoln L  
Dear Santa,  
I would really appreciate if my friends and family had a good Christmas.

Lucy M  
Dear Santa,  
I would really appreciate a PS5.

Wesley M  
Dear Santa,  
I would really appreciate a hug from Santa.

Nathaniel NM  
Dear Santa,  
I would really appreciate some makeup and a bike.

Sofia P  
Dear Santa,  
I would really appreciate a game for my PS5.

Ezekiel S  
Dear Santa,  
I would really appreciate a kitten, turtle, and a rabbit.

Amelia S  
Dear Santa,  
I would really appreciate to give Santa a present.

Hayden T  
Dear Santa,  
I would really appreciate some makeup and accessories.

Reagan T  
Dear Santa,

Kellam

I would really appreciate hamster ball, a cart, and a dog.

Jasmine W  
Dear Santa,  
I would really appreciate an Ender dragon Lego set.

Reece W  
Dear Santa,  
I would really like a CeeDee Lamb Jersey.

Beckham J  
Dear Santa,  
I would really like a kitten.

Lillian M  
Dear Santa,  
I would really like a RC Car.

River M  
Dear Santa,  
I would really like Squishmellow pillow.

Maria P  
Dear Santa,  
I would really like a keyboard.

Emma P  
Dear Santa,  
I would really like a rubberband bracelet kit.

Kenzie R  
Dear Santa,  
I would really like Legos.

Jovanny S  
Dear Santa,  
I would really like Legos.

Samuel S  
Dear Santa,  
I would really like a new Hot Wheels.

Kaden V  
Dear Santa,  
I would really like a horse.

Lydia Z  
Dear Santa,  
I would really like to have a bow and arrows.

Cooper H  
bracelet making kit.

Noralee J  
Dear Santa,  
I would really like a CeeDee Lamb Jersey.

Beckham J  
Dear Santa,  
I would really like a kitten.

Lillian M  
Dear Santa,  
I would really like a RC Car.

River M  
Dear Santa,  
I would really like Squishmellow pillow.

Maria P  
Dear Santa,  
I would really like a keyboard.

Emma P  
Dear Santa,  
I would really like a rubberband bracelet kit.

Kenzie R  
Dear Santa,  
I would really like Legos.

Jovanny S  
Dear Santa,  
I would really like Legos.

Samuel S  
Dear Santa,  
I would really like a new Hot Wheels.

Kaden V  
Dear Santa,  
I would really like a horse.

Lydia Z  
Dear Santa,  
I would really like to have a bow and arrows.

Cooper H

Sonbeam Day School PK2

Dear Santa,  
My name is Birdie. I am 2 years old. This year I have been nice. These are the things I am wishing for: camera. I will set out cookies and milk for you on Christmas eve.

Birdie  
Dear Santa,  
My name is Ollie. I am 1 years old. This year I have been nice. These are the things I am wishing for: nothing, and toys. I will set out cookies and milk for you on Christmas eve.

Ollie  
Dear Santa,  
My name is Ella. I am 2 years old. This year I have been naughty. These are the things I am wishing for: presents. I will set out cookies and milk for you on Christmas eve.

Ella  
Dear Santa,  
My name is Chase. I am 3 years old. This year I have been nice. These are the things I am wishing for: toys, Monster Truck, and cars. I will set out cookies and milk for you on Christmas eve.

Chase  
Dear Santa,  
My name is Makynli. I am 2 years old. This year

Rogers

Dear Santa,  
I would really like some football gloves.

Monte B  
Dear Santa,  
I would really like a new doll wearing a dress.

Jentry B  
Dear Santa,  
I would really like a Frenchie puppy.

Norah B  
Dear Santa,  
I would really like a dirt bike.

Lincoln C  
Dear Santa,  
I would really like a Barbie doll.

Grace H  
Dear Santa,  
I would really like a

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M: 903.473.3033  
E: lpennebaker@tbf-ins.com

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I have been naughty. These are the things I am wishing for: Toys, baby doll, and Dinosaur. I will set out cookies and milk for you on Christmas eve.

Makynli

Dear Santa, My name is Audrey. I am 2 years old. This year I have been nice. These are the things I am wishing for: Barbies, and toys. I will set out cookies and milk for you on Christmas eve.

Audrey

Dear Santa, My name is Ollie. I am 2 years old. This year I have been nice. These are the things I am wishing for: toys. I will set out cookies and milk for you on Christmas eve.

Ollie

Dear Santa, My name is Crue. I am 3 years old. This year I have been nice. These are the things I am wishing for: toys. I will set out cookies and milk for you on Christmas eve.

Crue

Dear Santa, My name is Kyros. I am 2 years old. This year I have been nice. These are the things I am wishing for: trucks, animals, and LEGOs. I will set out cookies and milk for you on Christmas eve.

Kyros

Dear Santa, My name is Sunny. I am 2 years old. This year I have been nice. These are the things I am wishing for: dolls, little animals, and coloring books. I will set out cookies and milk for you on Christmas eve.

Sunny

Dear Santa, My name is Sabrina. I am 2 years old. This year I have been nice. These are the things I am wishing for: coloring books, dolls, and books. I will set out cookies and milk for you on Christmas eve.

Sabrina

Dear Santa, My name is Lynex. I am 3 years old. This year I have been nice. These are the things I am wishing for: playdough, little animals, LEGOs. I will set out cookies and milk for you on Christmas eve.

Lynex

Dear Santa, My name is Annie. I am 3 years old. This year I have been nice. These are the things I am wishing for: camera. I will set out cookies and milk for you on Christmas eve.

Annie

Dear Santa, My name is Hilton. I am 2 years old. This year I have been nice. These are the things I am wishing for: trucks, animals, and LEGOs. I will set out cookies and milk for you on Christmas eve.

Hilton

Dear Santa, My name is Veronica. I am 2 years old. This year I have been nice. These are the things I am wishing for: dolls, LEGOs, and coloring books. I will set out cookies and milk for you on Christmas eve.

Veronica.

Dear Santa, My name is Mac. I am 3 years old. This year I have been nice. These are the things I am wishing for: LEGOs, trucks, and animals. I will set out cookies and milk

for you on Christmas eve.

Mac

PK3

Dear Santa, My name is Itzel. I am 3 years old. This year I have been naughty. These are the things I am wishing for: little backpack, Stitch water bottle, Hello Kitty toy. I will set out cookies and milk for you on Christmas eve.

Itzel

Dear Santa, My name is Collyns. I am 3 years old. This year I have been nice. These are the things I am wishing for: Purple phone with a unicorn, airplane, and cup. I will set out cookies and milk for you on Christmas eve.

Collyns

Dear Santa, My name is Viviana. I am 3 years old. This year I have been nice. These are the things I am wishing for: dinosaur, toy ice cream, and diamonds. I will set out cookies and milk for you on Christmas eve.

Viviana

Dear Santa, My name is Jessie. I am 8 years old. This year I have been nice. These are the things I am wishing for: toys, toy kitchen, and flowers. I will set out cookies and milk for you on Christmas eve.

Jessie

Dear Santa, My name is Lucas. I am 3 years old. This year I have been nice. These are the things I am wishing for: Ninja Turtles, Abominable Snowman, and Rudolph. I will set out cookies and milk for you on Christmas eve.

Lucas

Dear Santa, My name is Ryder. I am 3 years old. This year I have been nice. These are the things I am wishing for: racing car, Spiderman toy, and blue car. I will set out cookies and milk for you on Christmas eve.

Ryder

Dear Santa, My name is Journee. I am 4 years old. This year I have been nice. These are the things I am wishing for: dolls, dinosaur for Bubba, and Slime. I will set out cookies and milk for you on Christmas eve.

Journee

Dear Santa, My name is Keilani. I am 2 years old. This year I have been nice. These are the things I am wishing for: Bluey toy, K-pop toys, and make-up. I will set out cookies and

milk for you on Christmas eve.

Keilani

Dear Santa, My name is Kyler. I am 3 years old. This year I have been nice. These are the things I am wishing for: T-Rex, blocks, and food for my kitchen. I will set out cookies and milk for you on Christmas eve.

Kyler

Dear Santa, My name is Addie. I am 3 years old. This year I have been nice. These are the things I am wishing for: Princess, Play Dough, and Christmas tree. I will set out cookies and milk for you on Christmas eve.

Addie

Dear Santa, My name is Nolan. I am 3 years old. This year I have been nice. These are the things I am wishing for: tractor, mower, and Red Tractor. I will set out cookies and milk for you on Christmas eve.

Nolan

Dear Santa, My name is Creek. I am 3 years old. This year I have been nice. These are the things I am wishing for: Play Dough, paint, and Monster Truck. I will set out cookies and milk for you on Christmas eve.

Creek

Dear Santa, My name is Jaxson. I am 3 years old. This year I have been nice. These are the things I am wishing for: Play Dough, book, boat. I will set out cookies and milk for you on Christmas eve.

Jaxson

Dear Santa, My name is Kooper. I am 3 years old. This year I have been nice. These are the things I am wishing for: dinosaurs, Monster Trucks, and Big Monster Truck. I will set out cookies and milk for you on Christmas eve.

Kooper

PK4

Dear Santa, My name is Clara. I am 4 years old. This year I have been nice. These are the things I am wishing for: a Barbie Dream House, a unicorn, a Barbie. I will set out cookies and milk for you on Christmas eve.

Clara

Dear Santa, My name is Ava. I am 4 years old. This year I have been nice. These are the things I am wishing for: Barbies, a rainbow light outside, and art supplies. I will set out cookies and milk for you on Christmas

eve.

Ava

Dear Santa, My name is Averie. I am 5 years old. This year I have been nice. These are the things I am wishing for: a baby doll, a Cheerleader Barbie, and gymnastic clothes for Barbie. I will set out cookies and milk for you on Christmas eve.

Averie

Dear Santa, My name is Nova. I am 3 years old. This year I have been nice. These are the things I am wishing for: a baby doll, a sweater for Christmas, and a blue shirt. I will set out cookies and milk for you on Christmas eve.

Nova

Dear Santa, My name is Judge. I am 4 years old. This year I have been nice. These are the things I am wishing for: a Spiderman toy, a Superdog toy, and a Bat Mobile toy. I will set out cookies and milk for you on Christmas eve.

Judge

Dear Santa, My name is JJ. I am 4 years old. This year I have been nice. These are the things I am wishing for: a dragon toy, Bat Mobile, and a Batman toy. I will set out cookies and milk for you on Christmas eve.

JJ

Dear Santa, My name is Bryce. I am 5 years old. This year I have been nice. These are the things I am wishing for: Dino Robot, Santa shirt, and sunglasses. I will set out cookies and milk for you on Christmas eve.

Bryce

Dear Santa, My name is Rhett. I am 4 years old. This year I have been nice. These are the things I am wishing for: reindeer, elf, and robot guys. I will set out cookies and milk for you on Christmas eve.

Rhett

Dear Santa, My name is Berkleigh. I am 4 years old. This year I have been nice. These are the things I am wishing for: a pretty dress, reindeer, and a unicorn. I will set out cookies and milk for you on Christmas eve.

Berkleigh

Dear Santa, My name is Paisley. I am 4 years old. This year I have been nice. These are the things I am wishing for: a unicorn, a new cup, and a baby doll. I will set out cookies and milk for you on Christmas eve.

Paisley

Dear Santa, My name is Jade. I am 4 years old. This year I have been nice. These are the things I am wishing for: a skateboard, a firetruck, and a robot. I will set out cookies and milk for you on Christmas eve.

Jade

Dear Santa, My name is Adley. I am 4 years old. This year I have been nice. These are the things I am wishing for: I want a unicorn that can walk and talk, I want to grown up quick, and I want a toy for my dogs (a bone). I will set out cookies and milk for you on Christmas eve.

Adley

Dear Santa, My name is Dutton. I am 5 years old. This year I have been nice. These are the things I am wishing for: I want a plow for my tractor and a seeder, I want a hay mower, a hay raker, and a round and square bailer. I also want a fork for my tractor to pick up bales of hay. I will set out cookies and milk for you on Christmas eve.

Dutton

Dear Santa, My name is Frey. I am 3 years old. This year I have been nice. These are the things I am wishing for: I want a tractor with a bucket, I want a hay baler, and I would like a business suit. I will set out cookies and milk for you on Christmas eve.

Frey

Dear Santa, My name is Waylon. I am 5 years old. This year I have been nice. These are the things I am wishing for: PX5, God to help me make good decisions, and hunting clothes. I will set out cookies and milk for you on Christmas eve.

Waylon

Dear Santa, My name is Saige. I am 4 years old. This year I have been nice. These are the things I am wishing for: Baby Alive Doll, toy Santa doll, and a Barbie clothes and stuff. I will set out cookies and milk for you on Christmas eve.

Saige

Dear Santa, My name is Everleigh. I am 4 years old. This year I have been nice. These are the things I am wishing for: a Gabby Doll House, Barbies and Barbie house, and a cute puppy. I will set out cookies and milk for you on Christmas eve.

Everleigh

Letters Mailed to Santa

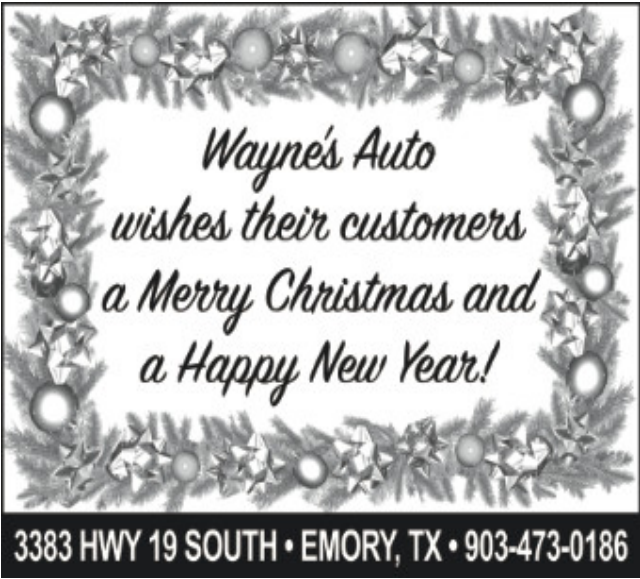
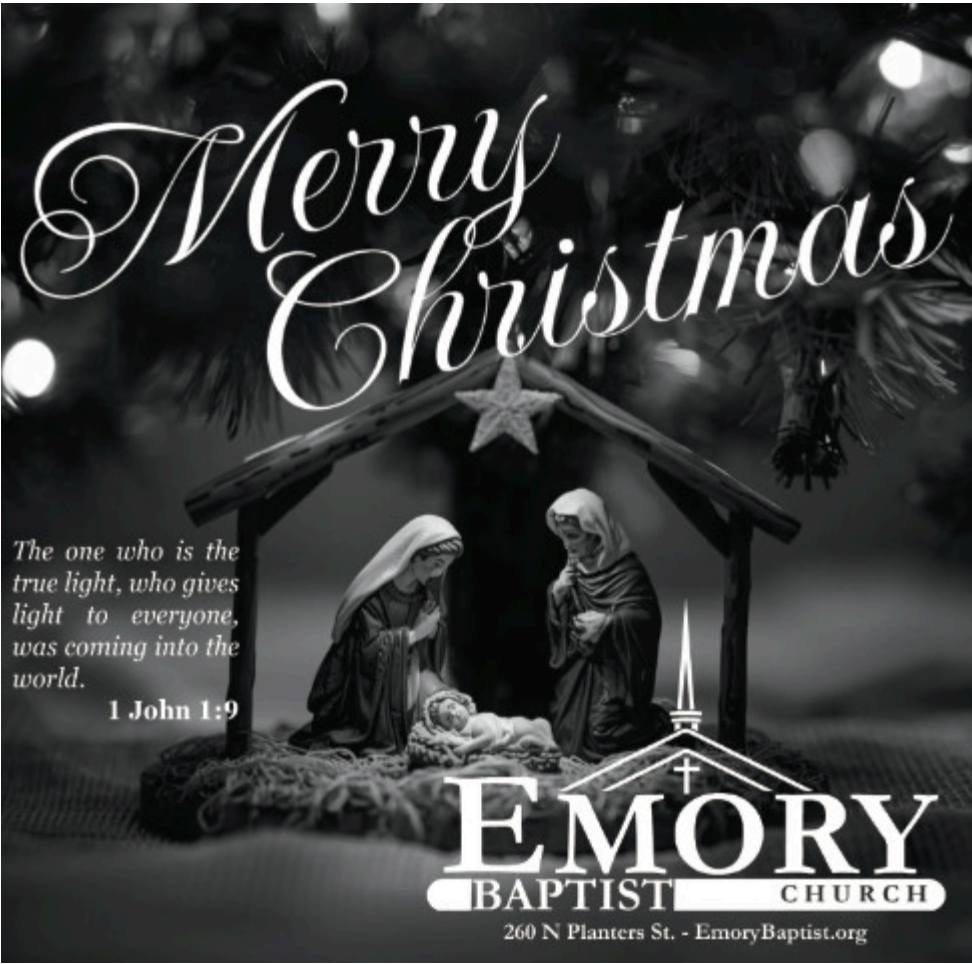
Dear Santa, My name is Montana. I am 5 years old. I have been nice. For Christmas this year, I would like: new stuff animal, new LOL toy, new bike, dinosaur toys, new make-up, new sand, new LEGOs. P.S. I will leave out milk and cookies! Merry Christmas! Montana

Dear Santa, I have been very good this year, when I have felt like it. For Christmas this year I would like lots of kitties, puppies, Christmas tree cakes and a cow. I will be sure to leave out some cookies and milk for you. Merry Christmas, Lynnli Deaver 3 years old

Flint's Christmas List  
1. Chilutisarar, 2. Megalosaurus, 3. certusdarus, 4. hipsolafaton, 5. Gallimimus, 6. Sinocertops, 7. rangelhowonasaurus, 8. afrovenator, 9. gorgosarus, 10. lophostropheus, 11. nothosaurus, 12. austoraptor, 13. moros intrepidus, 14. LEGO gumball machine, 15. Mario Maker game, 16. Mutaton, 17. Paleopines game, 18. Dinosaur George membership/T-Rex.

Flint Holman  
Age 8

Dear Santa, All I want for Christmas is for my family have a happy Christmas, for the people that are less fortunate than I am to get what they want and need, and for my Poppy's cancer to go away. Thank you! Amelie Adolph 10 years old







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**MERRY CHRISTMAS**  
*and happy new year*



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MERRY Christmas  
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Wishing You a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

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**Happy Holidays**

We want to take this opportunity to thank you for all your support this past year, and we look forward to serving you in the future.

from Brennan, Michele, Kennedy, Charles, Big Jon, Bobby, Cindy, David, John, Jessica, Teresa, Joseph, Mark, Sawyer, Emily, Mike, Justin, Al, Jon H and Bryan.

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