Letters To Santa
Read Christmas notes from area students • Special Section

Happy Holidays!

SEDALIA DEMOCRAT

Issue 244 • Volume 155 | Saturday, December 23, 2023 | SedaliaDemocrat.com • $2

New wastewater plans could save Sedalia millions on north plant

By Chris Howell
chrish@sedaliademocrat.com

At Monday evening's Sedalia City Council meeting, Interim Public Works Director Chris Davies presented his departmental report, which had some surprisingly good news for the City and its citizenry.

Second Ward City Councilman and Public Works Committee Chairman Thomas Oldham explained the City's wastewater problems. Most begin and end with the aging north wastewater treatment plant.

"That north plant is decades old, six or seven," Oldham told the Democrat this week. "For the last five years I've been on council, we've just band-aided that plant through the years. It's now really getting to the point, like it is with so many aging technologies in different industries, but we'll get to the point that much of the parts needed are now not being created."

Years ago, Oldham was warned by then-Public Works Director Brenda Ardrey that the north plant was at the end of its lifecycle and would need to be replaced.

"It was mentioned then that we're going to have to have a new north plant within the next 10 years," Oldham said. "Well, five years later now, we're in that five-year time frame. We were under the understanding that the new north plant has to be completely phased and completely out of commission, and we are going to have to have a new north wastewater treatment facility that was going to have to be built in just a few years' time and cost the City and the taxpayers roughly about $60 to $80 million. There is going to be a bond issue in March."

Then there was a change at the top of the Public Works Department and an outsider, Davies, was brought in six months ago.

"What's great about bringing somebody in like that is you have somebody who isn't biased towards the City," Oldham said. "Isn't biased towards the plan that we've created, and we allow somebody to really have the outside perspective looking in. He really has been able to revamp the Public Works Department from structure changes and the plans he put in place, and one of those plans is the wastewater treatment plan."

Davies determined expansion of the central wastewater treatment plant by simply rearranging irrigation basins and utilizing a patch of city property just north of the plant, which would allow it to easily handle the city's current needs.

"We're very fortunate we were able to bring in this expertise and kind of place our Public Works Department and wastewater on a new path and a more productive path," Oldham said. "We're saving the taxpayer millions of dollars, we're saving the taxpayer the building time. I'm very happy that we were able to save millions of dollars."

The City Council approved a task order contracting with Burns and McDonnell to complete an engineering survey outlining what is needed to properly utilize the central plant.

Chris Howell can be reached at 660-530-0146.

The central wastewater treatment plant, seen Friday, Dec. 22, could be reworked and expanded to handle Sedalia's needs. Interim Public Works Director Chris Davies presented the cost-saving plan to the Sedalia City Council on Monday, Dec. 18. PHOTO BY CHRIS HOWELL | DEMOCRAT

Reaching for the stars

S-C's Ellison accepted at Yale University

By Faith Bemiss-McKinney
faithb@sedaliademocrat.com

A senior at Smith-Cotton is reaching for the stars and will accomplish that goal with his acceptance at Yale University.

Parker Ellison, the son of Jason Ellison and Wendy McGinnis, plans to major in astrophysics at Yale. He found out he was accepted at the university in New Haven, Connecticut, last week. Yale is a top-rated school for the study of astrophysics, and Ellison told the Democrat he participated in the Yale Summer Program in Astrophysics the previous summer. He enjoyed the program so much that Yale became his top choice for college.

On Thursday, Dec. 21, Ellison said being accepted into an Ivy League college seems unreal.

"I'm extremely grateful," he added. "I just didn't think it would ever happen.

"I've always loved space," he continued. "I thought I wanted to be a pilot or an engineer. Then I realized when I took engineering classes that I liked the physics problems more than I liked the actual hands-on type of building stuff."

He said that's when he realized astrophysics was an excellent career choice and applied for the summer program at Yale.

"I used research telescopes; we studied a supernova," Ellison said. "And then we actually wrote a paper about it.

"My team was actually invited to do a follow-up research paper, and a staff member offered to co-author it," he continued. "So, we're working on that right now."

The research paper is about proving a way of classifying supernovas.

"They all have different types," he explained. "And we used this method from the 1970s. It hadn't really been proven,

See **YALE | A6**

Parker Ellison, a senior at Smith-Cotton High School, was accepted at Yale University, where he will study astrophysics. He is the son of Jason Ellison and Wendy McGinnis. PHOTO BY FAITH BEMISS-MCKINNEY | DEMOCRAT

Seated with SCHS senior Parker Ellison are his parents, Jason Ellison and Wendy McGinnis; back row, from left, S-C Principal Wade Norton, Team SCREAM Assistant Coach Mindy Gray, Team SCREAM Head Coach Michael Wright, S-C Bands Director Max Meigel, S-C National Honor Society Advisor Lorin Blackburn Thierfelder, sister Kate Ellison, S-C Bands Assistant Director Drew Fischer, Senior Class Counselor Katie Ellis, Community Café Advisor Corie Hickman, S-C English teacher Michael Kailus, and Sedalia 200 Superintendent Dr. Todd Fraley. PHOTO COURTESY OF SEDALIA SCHOOL DISTRICT 200

Above-normal temperatures expected for Christmas in Pettis County

By Zach Bott
zachb@warrensburgstarjournal.com

With the winter weather season approaching, the Star-Journal reached out to the National Weather Service to see what the people in Johnson and Pettis counties should expect over the coming weeks and how they should be preparing.

"Through Christmas, we're going to be seeing above normal temperatures and out there in the Warrensburg and Sedalia areas," NWS Lead Forecaster Chris Bowman said. "Probably looking at highs in the upper 50s to maybe even 60 degrees on some days."

With the lack of cold temperatures, Johnson and Pettis county residents can wait until 2024 for snow. However, Bowman says there is still precipitation on the way. Rain of "about an inch to maybe an inch-and-a-quarter" should be expected.

"(In) Missouri, the weather is very highly variable being in the middle of the country," Bowman explained. "You can usually get the system bringing cold air from Canada (and) we can usually get systems bringing in moisture from warm air from the south and moisture from the Gulf of Mexico."

See **TEMPS | A6**

On East Third Street, at the Sedalia Public Work Barn, a city snow plow waits as blowing snow wafts off the roof Thursday, Dec. 22, 2022. While Sedalia has experienced mild temperatures and little precipitation this December, Sedalia received about 1 inch of snow during the pictured 2022 snowfall, according to the National Weather Service, along with temperatures as low as -7. FILE PHOTO BY FAITH BEMISS-MCKINNEY | DEMOCRAT

A News / Sports
Obituaries A2
Opinion A4
Weather A6
Comics A8
Sports Calendar A10

B Living / Classified
Community Calendar B3
Classified B6

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OBITUARIES

Hillory Arlen Joy

Hillory Arlen Joy passed away on Wednesday, December 20, 2023, at Boone Hospital. He was born to Charles H. Joy and Pauline Georgia Howard on September 11, 1931, in Urich, MO.

Hillory graduated from Smith-Cotton High School in 1949. He continued his education at the University of Missouri until 1950, when he enlisted into the U.S. Navy as a 2nd Class Aviation Boatmate on the Franklin D. Roosevelt in Norfolk, VA.

In 1951, he came together in the marriage union with Juanita Ann Means in Norfolk, VA. Having three children, they were married for 61 years until the passing of Juanita in 2012.

In 1955, Hillory went to work at Sedalia Implement Co., founded by his father, Charles, and Uncle Paul Root. In 1960, he bought out his uncle, and in 1968, he bought out his father, becoming full owner of the business. When his children were old enough, he enjoyed having them work alongside him at the business until he retired in 1985.

During the time that he owned the Sedalia Implement, he was also co-owner of Walnut Hills Country Club from 1970 until 1977, when they sold the Country Club to the Sedalia Country Club.

Upon retiring, he entered a new life stage with his love of golf. Playing many golf courses all over the United States, he was invited to play in Pro/Am tournaments in Las Vegas and Palm Springs, playing with exciting people like Phil Mickelson, Joe Peschi, and Bill Murray. Hillory made many holes in one. But one particular accomplishment was one day at the Sedalia Country Club, he made two holes-in-one in one 18-hole round. He still holds the record at the Country Club. He even made it into several big-city newspapers.

Hillory was preceded in death by his parents, his wife, Juanita, and his sister, Bobby Fairfax.

Hillory is survived by his long-time companion, Linda Smith; two sons, John (Susanna) Joy and Mike (Debbie) Joy; one daughter, Julie (Dennis) Sieving; one sister, Suanne (Larry) Reed; nine grandchildren, and 11 great-grandchildren.

An entombment will be held at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, December 27, 2023, at Memorial Park Cemetery with full military honors by the United States Navy and Sedalia VFW Post 2591.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to The American Cancer Society or the American Heart Association in the care of Rea Funeral Chapel.

DEATH NOTICE

Peters

Mark Andrew Peters, 52, of Sedalia, died Wednesday, Dec. 20, 2023, at his home.

No services are planned at this time. Arrangements are under the direction of McLaughlin Funeral Chapel in Sedalia.

FUNERALS

Elsie May Janney

2:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 23 at Memorial Park Cemetery in Sedalia. Arrangements are under the direction of Nelson-Berna Funeral Home in Rogers, Arkansas, and Heckart Funeral Home in Sedalia.

Hillory Arlen Joy

11 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 27 at Memorial Park Cemetery in Sedalia. Arrangements are under the direction of Rea Funeral Chapel in Sedalia.

Joyce J. (Ives) Williams

11 a.m. Friday, Dec. 29 at Heckart Funeral Home in Sedalia. Arrangements are under the direction of Heckart Funeral Home.

Mary Ann Dietz

2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 23 at Hadley Funeral Home in Windsor. Arrangements are under the direction of Hadley Funeral Home.

Joe D. Wilbanks

2 p.m. Saturday Dec. 30 at Stover United Methodist Church. Arrangements are under the direction of Fox Funeral Home in Cole Camp.

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SedaliaDemocrat.com

Photo Submissions

We invite readers to submit photos for "Community Snapshot," which features images of local residents and events. Images must be current, in JPEG format and must be the property of the person submitting the photo. Please include your name, city and a contact telephone number with your submission (phone numbers will not be published). Please also include the names of all persons in the photo and any additional information. Email your submissions to news@sedaliademocrat.com.

POLICE REPORTS

This list is a sampling of crime in Sedalia and the surrounding area. Information is taken from official police reports, which do not necessarily contain statements from all parties involved in each case.

Sedalia Police Department Arrests
Dec. 21

6:35 p.m.: Santiago Cucul Choc, 29, of the 4200 block of West Main Street, was arrested after a vehicle stop near West Broadway Boulevard and South Grand Avenue. Choc didn't have a driver's license and was transported to the Sedalia Police Department, processed, and released with a summons.

9:28 p.m.: Jammy Morgan Newland, 22, of the 3500 block of Grand Avenue, was arrested after a subject check on a vehicle on West Seventh Street near South Kentucky Avenue. The registered owner was known to have a failure to appear warrant from Henry County, and Newland was intoxicated. She was transported to the Pettis County Jail for driving while intoxicated.

Incidents
Dec. 21

12:02 p.m.: An officer responded to a report of fraud in the 1700 block of South Stewart Avenue. The reporting party stated she was scammed into paying an electric check to a person claiming to be an Evergy representative. The payment was stopped.

Missouri State Highway Patrol Arrests
Dec. 21

5:19 p.m.: Victor L. Houston, 47, of Quincy, Illinois, was arrested in Saline County for driving while intoxicated and speeding. He was transported to the Saline County Jail and placed on a 24-hour hold.

Compiled by Chris Howell.

CRASH REPORTS

Gravois Mills man hurt in Morgan County rollover

Michael S. Dawson, 55, of Gravois Mills, suffered minor injuries at 2:50 a.m. Friday in a Morgan County accident.

According to a Missouri State Highway Patrol report, Dawson was driving a 2015 Nissan NV 2500 north on state Route 5 when he traveled off the right side of the roadway, overcorrected to the left, and returned to the roadway. His vehicle skidded off the left side of the roadway and overturned.

Dawson was wearing a seat belt and was transported to Lake Regional Hospital in Osage Beach by Mid-Mo Ambulance District.

Information is taken from preliminary Missouri State Highway Patrol reports, which do not necessarily contain statements from all parties involved.

Compiled by Chris Howell.

Grieving & often overlooked, Palestinian Christians prepare for somber Christmas

By Mariam Fam
Associated Press

It's normally a moment of pure joy for the Rev. Khader Khalilia: the excitement, the giggles, the kisses, as his young daughters — in their Christmas pajamas — open their gifts. But this year, just the thought of it fills Khalilia with guilt.

"I'm struggling," said the Palestinian American pastor of Redeemer-St. John's Lutheran Church in New York. "How can I do it while the Palestinian children are suffering, have no shelter or a place to lay their heads?"

Thousands of miles away, near Jesus' biblical birthplace of Bethlehem, Suzan Sahori has been working with artisans to bring olive wood Christmas ornaments into homes in Australia, Europe and North America. But Sahori is in no mood for festivities: "We're broken, looking at all these children, all this killing."

In a traditional season of merriment, many Palestinian Christians — in Bethlehem and beyond — are gripped with helplessness, pain and worry amid the Israel-Hamas war. Some are mourning, lobbying for the war to end, scrambling to get relatives to safety or seeking comfort in the Christmas message of hope.

In the occupied West Bank, Sahori, executive director of Bethlehem Fair Trade Artisans, an organization selling crafts, will pray for peace and justice. She's grateful she's safe — but wonders if that could change. She's also angry.

"The joy in my heart is stolen," she said. "I'm saying, 'God, how are you allowing all these children to die?' ... I'm mad at God; I hope He forgives me."

In better times, she finds the Christmas spirit in the Bethlehem area unmatched: It's in songs cascading into streets bedecked with lights, markets displaying decorations, and the enthusiasm of children, families and tourists snapping photos with towering Christmas trees.

Now, it's all quieter, somber. Tree lighting ceremonies she attended last year have been scrapped.

The heads of churches in Jerusalem have urged congregations to forgo "any unnecessarily festive activities." They encouraged priests and the faithful to focus on Christmas' spiritual meaning and called for "fervent prayers for a just and lasting peace for our beloved Holy Land."

Thousands of Palestinians have been killed in Israel's ongoing offensive in Gaza, launched after Hamas' Oct. 7 killings and hostage-taking in Israel.

Days before Christmas, the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem said two Christian women at a church compound in Gaza were killed by Israeli sniper fire. The Israeli military said troops were targeting Hamas militants in the area; it said it was investigating the incident and takes such reports very seriously.

Khalilia is striving to comfort the distraught amid his distress.

"It's hard to watch. It's hard to do your job," he said. "People are looking for us to walk with them in their suffering."

He worries about family in the West Bank; a brother lost his income working for a hotel as travel cancellations pummeled tourism.

Khalilia, who's from a town near Bethlehem, said his daughters will likely get fewer presents, with the savings going toward helping children in Gaza.

Many in the U.S., he said, don't realize that Palestinian Christians exist — some ask if he converted from Islam or Judaism.

He tells them, "When you sing 'O Little Town of Bethlehem' on Christmas Eve, remember that Jesus was born in my hometown."

There are 50,000 Christian Palestinians estimated to reside in the West Bank and Jerusalem, according to the U.S. State Department's international religious freedom report for 2022. Approximately 1,300 Christians lived in Gaza, it said. Some Christians are also citizens of Israel. Many Palestinian Christians live in diaspora communities.

Susan Muaddi Darraj, a novelist in Baltimore, said Christians embody a diversity of Palestinians that gets erased. "Our existence … defies the stereotypes that are being used to dehumanize us."

This Christmas, family gatherings have become more important for comfort, she said.

"Especially in the diaspora ... where, for us, life feels like it's stopped but everyone else around us is going about their daily business."

Wadie Abunassar, a Palestinian Israeli in Haifa, said many in his Christian community are trying to balance the somber atmosphere with the Christmas message.

"Jesus came in the midst of darkness" and Christmas "is about giving hope when there's no hope," said Abunassar, a former Catholic Church spokesperson. "Nowadays, more than ever, we need this Christmas spirit."

It hasn't been easy.

"Being Israeli citizens, we feel the pain of our Jewish compatriots," he said. "Being Palestinians, we feel the pain of our Palestinian brothers and sisters."

In Bethlehem, the Rev. Munther Isaac, pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Christmas Church, said tears flow during Sunday services. Many are anxious; some have packed up and left.

Isaac was part of a group that traveled to Washington to advocate for a ceasefire.

"A comprehensive and just peace is the only hope for Palestinians and Israelis alike," said a letter signed by several Christian pastoral leaders in Bethlehem. Addressed to President Joe Biden, it asked him to help stop the war.

The signatories said they lamented all deaths, Palestinian and Israeli.

"We want a constant and comprehensive ceasefire. Enough death. Enough destruction. ... This is our call and prayer this Christmas."

Israel, whose forces have faced a ccusations by some of using excessive force, says it aims to destroy Hamas and accuses it of endangering civilians. Israel and its U.S. ally are also increasingly facing international alarm over the scope of deaths, destruction and displacement in Gaza.

Isaac's church is displaying a nativity scene where a baby Jesus figure, wrapped in a back-and-white Palestinian keffiyeh, is lying in the rubble. Making the display was an emotional and spiritual experience, he said.

"We see Jesus in every child that's killed, and we see God's identifying with us in our suffering."

This holiday season, longtime Gaza resident Suhair Anastas is wracked with guilt: She's managed to escape the war in Gaza while others haven't.

A Jordanian Palestinian, Anastas had been living in Gaza, where her late husband was from.

For more than a month, she and her 16-year-old daughter sheltered in a Catholic church's school there. Death felt particularly close when a deadly Israeli airstrike struck a Gaza Greek Orthodox Church compound housing displaced people. Israel's military said it had targeted a Hamas command center nearby.

"You go to sleep ... thinking, 'Will I wake up the next morning?'" Anastas said.

Her trip to the border — which involved driving, walking, taking a donkey-pulled cart and a cab — was terrifying.

"The bombings were around," she said. A friend's daughter, a child, kept asking: Are we going to die?

Anastas hopes to return to Gaza, but she's unsure what's ahead, or if her home will still be there.

Among the many questions over the future of Gaza and its more than 2 million people, is if its tiny Christian community will remain — and for how long.

Those still inside include Sami Awad's relatives. A Palestinian American, Awad said he failed to get U.S. help for his family members, who don't hold U.S. passports, to leave.

—

Associated Press writer Melanie Lidman in Jerusalem contributed.

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Bill Stewart
John Burdick

Our heartfelt appreciation goes out to all the volunteers who contributed on the event day. This includes the team from MVCAA Head Start, educators from Sedalia Public #200 School, and members of various public safety departments like the Sedalia Police, Fire, and EMS, Pettis County Fire District, the Pettis County Sheriff's Office, and the Missouri State Highway Patrol.

We extend a special note of gratitude to Aaron Berry and Nick Camirand of the Sedalia Police Department, and Preston Hesselbacher from the Sheriff's Office, for their exceptional commitment and effort in making this program a success.

Our profound thanks also to the Woody family for initiating this wonderful program, and allowing us to carry it forward.

None of this would've been possible without the leadership of Larry Klein, Sales Manager at W-K CDJR.

Wishing a Merry Christmas!

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CONTRIBUTING COLUMN

The light is coming

Liz Schleicher
Contributing Columnist

The light is coming
I heard a bird sing
In the dark of December.
A magical thing
And sweet to remember.
"We are nearer to Spring
Than we were in September,"
I heard a bird sing
In the dark of December.
- Oliver Herford

It seems almost cruel that the week before Christmas, one of the busiest weeks of the year, would also be the darkest. Holiday stress often coincides with seasonal illness and seasonal depression to produce a pre-Christmas breakdown for cranky, overstimulated children and parents just trying to get everything done before the 25th. Why couldn't we just celebrate Jesus' birth in June, when the weather is mild and everything is in full bloom?

I believe there is a reason for everything, often a preternatural one. And in the case of Christmas, the long darkness before the great Feast of the Nativity carries deep spiritual meaning.

In the book of the Wisdom of Solomon (a book of the Catholic Bible considered apocryphal by Protestants), the coming of God is described thus: "For while all things were in quiet silence, and the night was in the midst of her course, thy almighty word leapt down from heaven from thy royal throne, as a fierce conqueror into the midst of the land of destruction."

And in the Gospel of John, He is described similarly: "In him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it."

The birth of Jesus was never meant to happen on a mild and beautiful sunny day conducive to busyness and business. No. Christ appeared like a lightning bolt in the night, spectacularly illuminating a world destined to misinterpret him and lighting "sparks among the stubble" in the hearts of those who had been waiting for his coming.

Brilliant, fierce light on the most desolate nights of the year. A bird singing in the dark of December. The symbolism is intentional. It reminds us that there is nowhere Christ cannot go and nothing he can not do. He can reach down even into the blackest depths and conquer them simply by being present. And he is. Everywhere and always.

Surrounded by stress and sickness, cold and night, 'tis the season we need Jesus the most. We are the people the prophet Isaiah spoke of, the ones who walk in darkness and dwell in the valley of the shadow of death. In just a few days, we will celebrate the Light who leapt down from heaven. These last dark days before the Nativity are a yearly test of both our patience and our faith. So keep going. Persevere. Hold on just a little longer. Both physically and spiritually, we are nearer to spring than we were in September.

Liz Schleicher lives in Green Ridge and is a wife, stay-at-home mother, writer and rare cancer survivor.

CONTRIBUTING COLUMN

Looking forward to the gift of good food

Deborah Mitchell
Contributing Columnist

We started giving food for Christmas gifts the first year we were married. I read Gourmet Magazine every month, and because my mother always gave our friends stöllen and spiced tea at Christmas, and because I had learned that I love cooking, I thought I'd give it a try. Additionally, a lot of people were on our Christmas list, and I thought that cooking would fit our newlywed budget better than buying a "thing" for everyone on the list.

I knew that I wanted to make poppy seed bread. One of Mother's friends gave me that recipe only after I swore that I would never share it with anyone. The recipe makes seven little sweet, tender loaves containing at least a million calories each.

Mary Alice Lamy had introduced us to Jezebel sauce, which looks hideous but tastes really good when poured over cream cheese and spread on crackers. One ingredient is problematic, however: pineapple preserves. I found, though, that around Christmas, Bing's carried it. So Jezebel sauce was in.

I also decided to make cranberry tea. Micaela, my roommate and friend from Thayer, gave me this recipe. It isn't really tea, but instead is a mixture of orange, cranberry, and pineapple juices, and is heated with cinnamon sticks until the whole house smells like Christmas.

My BFF Susan's mother, Sweet Hazie, gave me her recipe for Nuts and Bolts, alias Chex Mix. It's different from any other Chex Mix, probably because of the cayenne pepper.

I also tried deviled pecans that year: pecans roasted in butter, Worcestershire sauce, Tabasco, and garlic salt. They, like the Nuts and Bolts, have quite a spicy kick.

The gift baskets were so successful that we've continued the tradition for 40 years. After that first year, though, I branched out. One year, I saw something in Gourmet that I wanted to try: Chocolate sauce and hazelnut puree were layered in a glass container, so that it looked like stripes in the glass. It was beautiful! I made that, although I had no idea what hazelnut puree tasted like.

One year, I made red pepper jelly after reading a Gourmet article that convinced me I could do it. One year, I made chocolate raspberry truffles, also from Gourmet, much to the delight of some of my friends. One year, I got Micaela's recipe for Millionaires, pecans doused with caramel and dipped in chocolate. They were a big hit.

Martha Stewart's Christmas book is filled with recipes, decorating tips and DIY decorations. I didn't do the DIY decorations, but I went through all the recipes, determining which ones looked good. I decided on a lemon pound cake with lemon glaze. Instead of one big cake, though, I bought little bundt cake molds and made tons of little lemon pound cakes with lemon glaze.

That book also taught me how to make marshmallows. I had no idea that marshmallows could be made at home. I always thought they were bought at the grocery store in a bag that said "Kraft." Surprise, surprise! Instead of just puffy pillows, though, I made them in fun shapes, such as hearts or Christmas trees. I included a hot chocolate mix one year, so that my friends' children could have hot chocolate and marshmallows. I found out later that one friend never told his children about the marshmallows, and ate them all himself.

Ina Garten showed me how to make orange marmalade, and so for each of the past 10 years or so, I have given away homemade orange marmalade. Fortunately, I usually have a jar or two left over for Max and me.

Regardless of my trying to mix it up, a few things have remained the same every year: poppy seed bread, deviled pecans, and Nuts and Bolts. Lately, as I choose and prepare the items I will cook that year, I remember my mother, and how proud she was of the bread she made – and how, years later, friends told me that they looked forward to Christmas morning when they ate the stöllen she gave their family.

Maybe someday, people will remember what I make in the same way. I hope so. That would be a gift to me.

Deborah Mitchell is a Sedalia attorney.

Letters to the Editor Policy

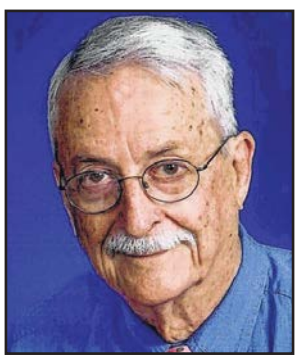
The Sedalia Democrat welcomes letters from its readers on topics of general public interest. Persons with questions concerning Letters to the Editor may contact the Democrat at 660-826-1000 during regular business hours. Please note the following guidelines for letters and their submission:

- All letters to be considered for publication must include the name and address of the writer and a daytime telephone number where the writer may be reached during normal business hours.
- All letters must be signed. The name and hometown of the writer will be published.
- Letters must be 250 words or less.
- Letters may be mailed to:

Letters to the editor, Sedalia Democrat, 111 W. Fourth St., Sedalia, Mo., 65301 or emailed to news@sedaliademocrat.com.

CONTRIBUTING COLUMN

A Christmas story minus Santa Claus



Doug Kneibert
Contributing Columnist

When I was a kid, if I'd taken a "Christmas" word-association test, I would have immediately responded, "Santa Claus!" If a religious thought crossed my mind, it was quickly shoved aside by the jolly old man in the red suit.

Coming home on the bus after seeing a movie on Christmas Eve, my older brother informed me there was no Santa Claus (a special treat he had saved for the night before Christmas). What passed for my Christmas spirit took a nosedive. No Santa? It can't be!

Traumatic as it was, I managed to make the transition from Santa Claus to the realization that my parents bought my Christmas gifts.

Santa Claus requires parents to lead their children to believe in a myth. Sustaining that myth gets more difficult as their children grow older.

My family made frequent trips to St. Louis from Poplar Bluff, and during the Christmas season, I was struck by how many Santas I saw on street corners. My mother informed me they were only "Santa's helpers," not the real McCoy.

If they were helpers, I wondered about their black rubber boots, the cigarettes that dangled out of their mouths, and their bargain-basement Santa suits with no padding. Why didn't Santa have higher standards for his helpers?

When our daughter was born, my wife and I agreed to raise her without Santa Claus. We never regretted that decision, and Sally seemed to take it in stride.

The main problem with Santa Claus is that he diverts our attention from the one who should be the central figure of the Christmas season. The Easter Bunny has a similar role. For those so inclined, both are dispensable.

Once our children had flown the coop, my wife and I set about simplifying Christmas in our home. We replaced the Christmas tree with an Advent wreath with its candles and readings. We set up our prized creche scene in a prominent place in the living room. While we still decorated our home, it was minimal.

Should any readers get the wrong impression, I'm not putting down families that make Santa Claus part of their Christmas observance. After all, I was raised that way, and we continued the tradition with our two sons.

I'm merely passing on what we discovered: there's an alternative way to celebrate the Christmas season at home that bypasses Santa and focuses on the one for whom Christmas is named. That was another change we never regretted.

Doug Kneibert is a former editor of the Sedalia Democrat.

UN says more than 1 in 4 people in Gaza are starving because of war

By Najib Jobain, Jack Jeffery and Colleen Barry
Associated Press

RAFAH, Gaza Strip — More than half a million people in Gaza — a quarter of the population — are starving, according to a report Thursday by the U.N. and other agencies that highlights the humanitarian crisis caused by Israel's bombardment and siege on the territory in response to Hamas' Oct. 7 attack.

The extent of the population's hunger eclipsed even the near-famines in Afghanistan and Yemen of recent years, according to figures in the report. The report warned that the risk of famine is "increasing each day," blaming the hunger on insufficient aid entering Gaza.

"It doesn't get any worse," said Arif Husain, chief economist for the U.N.'s World Food Program. "I have never seen something at the scale that is happening in Gaza. And at this speed."

Israel says it is in the final stages of clearing out Hamas militants from northern Gaza, but that months of fighting lie ahead in the south.

The war sparked by Hamas' deadly Oct. 7 rampage and hostage-taking in Israel has killed nearly 20,000 Palestinians. Some 1.9 million Gaza residents — more than 80% of the population — have been driven from their homes, and many of them are crammed into U.N. shelters.

The war has also pushed Gaza's health sector into collapse. Only nine of its 36 health facilities are still partially functioning, all located in the south, according to the World Health Organization. WHO relief workers on Thursday reported "unbearable" scenes in two hospitals they visited in northern Gaza: Bedridden patients with untreated wounds cry out for water, the few remaining doctors and nurses have no supplies, and bodies are lined up in the courtyard.

Bombardment and fighting continued Thursday, and internet and communications that had been knocked out for several days gradually began to return across the territory.

U.N. Security Council members are negotiating an Arab-sponsored resolution for a halt in fighting to allow for increased aid deliveries. A vote on the resolution has been postponed twice this week in the hopes of getting the U.S. to support it or allow it to pass after it vetoed an earlier cease-fire call.

Thursday's report from the U.N. underscored the failure of weeks of U.S. efforts to ensure greater aid reaches Palestinians. At the start of the war, Israel stopped all deliveries of food, water, medicine and fuel into the territory. After U.S. pressure, it allowed a trickle of aid in through Egypt. But U.N. agencies say only 10% of Gaza's food needs has been entering for weeks.

This week, Israel began allowing aid to enter Gaza through its Kerem Shalom crossing, which boosted the number of trucks entering from around 100 a day to around 190 on Wednesday, according to the U.N. But a blast Thursday morning hit the Palestinian side of the crossing, forcing the U.N. to stop its pickups of aid there, according to Juliette Touma, spokesperson of UNRWA, the U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees. At least four people were killed, the nearby hospital reported. Palestinian authorities blamed Israel for the blast, but its cause could not immediately be confirmed.

Israeli President Isaac Herzog said Israel has been working to increase its inspection of aid trucks to 300 or 400 a day and blamed the U.N. for failures in delivery. The amount of aid could triple "if the U.N., instead of complaining all day, would do its job," he said, without elaborating on what more the U.N. should be doing.

Egypt's Rafah crossing has limited capacity for trucks to cross. U.N. officials say delivery of aid within much of Gaza has become difficult or impossible because of fighting, and more than 130 U.N. personnel have been killed.

The report released Thursday by 23 U.N and nongovernmental agencies found that the entire population in Gaza is in a food crisis, with 576,600 at catastrophic — or starvation — levels. "It is a situation where pretty much everybody in Gaza is hungry," Husain, the World Food Program economist, said.

"People are very, very close to large outbreaks of disease because their immune systems have become so weak because they don't have enough nourishment," he said.

Israel has vowed to continue the offensive until it destroys Hamas' military capabilities and returns scores of hostages captured by Palestinian militants during their Oct. 7 rampage. Hamas and other militants killed some 1,200 people that day, mostly civilians, and captured around 240 others.

Hamas fired a barrage of rockets at central Israel Thursday, showing its military capabilities remain formidable. There were no immediate reports of casualties or damage.

The United States has continued to support Israel's campaign while also urging greater efforts to protect civilians. The U.S. wants Israel to shift to more targeted operations aimed at Hamas leaders and the group's tunnel network.

The Health Ministry in Hamas-run Gaza said Tuesday the death toll since the start of the war had risen to more than 19,600. It does not distinguish between civilian and combatant deaths.

On Wednesday, the WHO delivered supplies to Ahli and Shifa hospitals in northern Gaza, where Israeli troops have demolished vast swaths of the city while fighting Hamas militants.

Israeli forces have raided a series of health facilities in the north in recent weeks, detaining men for interrogation and expelling others. On Thursday, troops stormed the Palestinian Red Crescent's ambulance center in the Jabaliya refugee camp, taking away paramedics and ambulance crews, the group said.

In some health facilities, patients who are unable to be moved remain, along with skeleton staff who can do little beyond first aid, according to U.N. and health officials

Ahli Hospital is "a place where people are waiting to die," said Sean Casey, a member of the WHO team that visited the two hospitals Wednesday. Five remaining doctors and five nurses along with around 80 patients remain in Ahli, he said.

All of the hospital buildings are damaged except two buildings where patients are now being kept — the orthopedics ward and a church on the grounds, he said.

Inside the church, it was "an unbearable scene," he said. Patients with traumatic wounds struggled with infections. Others had undergone amputations. "Patients were crying out in pain but were also crying out for us to give them water," he said.

Israel's military says 137 of its soldiers have been killed in the Gaza ground offensive. Israel says it has killed some 7,000 militants, without providing evidence. It blames the high number civilian deaths in Gaza on Hamas, saying it uses them as human shields when it fights in residential areas.

———

Jeffery reported from Cairo, Barry from Milan, Italy. Associated Press writers Lee Keath in Cairo and Bassem Mroue in Beirut contributed.

An old-fashioned Christmas at Primrose

Connie Chevalier, the activities director at Primrose of Sedalia Retirement Community, holds a handmade ornament created by one of the residents. Chevalier said around 30 residents created the tree's ornaments, popcorn garlands, and paper chains. "We decided to go back in time when life was simpler," Chevalier said.
PHOTOS BY FAITH BEMISS-MCKINNEY | DEMOCRAT

The Primrose of Sedalia Retirement Community Christmas tree is a labor of love with ornaments and garlands created by residents. Residents decorated the tree on Thursday, Dec. 21 during Primrose's Christmas party. Resident Carol Lewellen shared her Christmas stencil patterns so other residents could make cutouts of Santa, reindeer, and teddy bears. "It was such a beautiful memory we will cherish," Activities Director Connie Chevalier noted.

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G2005 International 4300 Moving Box Truck, 748,471 Hrs Showing, 259,537 Miles Showing , Title Will Be Marked Miles Exempt, International DT466, Diesel, Water Cooled Engine, Six Plus One Manual Transmission, 274" Wheel Base, Air Suspension, 295/75R22.5 Front Tires, 11R22.5 Rear Tires, Steel Rims, 27' X 98" Moving Box w/ 5' Mom's Attic, Left, Right And Rear Doors, 10' X29" Aluminum Loading Ramp, The Carfax Includes Only The Original Components In This Report. Some Of Those Components Could Have Been Changed Or Replaced, VIN: 1HTMMAAN75H102798;

1999 Freightliner FL70 Moving Box Truck, 068,213 Miles Showing, Title Will Be Marked Miles Exempt, Not Actual Miles, 3126 Caterpillar, Diesel, 6-Speed Manual Transmission, 254" Wheel Base, 33,000lbs Gross Vehicle Wt. Rating (GVWR), Spring Suspension, Air Brakes, 11R22.5 Front Tires, 11R22.5 Rear Tires, Steel Rims, Heater, AC, Radio, 24' X 92" A.M Haire Moving Box w/ 5' Mom's Attic, Left, Right And Rear Doors, 10' X29" Aluminum Loading Ramp, VIN: 1FV6HJBA6XHA10792.

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Our office will be closed on Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

Have a safe and happy holiday season!

SEDALIA DEMOCRAT
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Wishing You & Your Family
A Merry Christmas
& A Happy New Year!

HOLIDAY CLOSURES
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Monday, Dec. 25th
Monday, Jan. 1st

*Transactions must be made before 4:00 P.M. on Friday, December 29th, to be credited for 2023.

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Parker Ellison, right, captain of the Smith-Cotton Band's percussion section, performs with freshman Zane Pfannenstiel during the Homecoming pep assembly.
PHOTO COURTESY OF SEDALIA SCHOOL DISTRICT 200

Yale

From Page A1

and so that's what our paper is trying to do. We're trying to say this method actually works."

Ellison said there are many fields of study in astrophysics, but his goal is to do research and publish papers. He added he finds it fascinating to look through a telescope and see the stars as they were eons ago.

"It's literally looking back millions of years into the past," he said. "It's really cool in a sense. I think everybody is kind of drawn to space.

"Using these amazing research telescopes that I got the opportunity to use last summer, that is really when you get into it," he continued. "And you're looking at things that are billions of years old — stars that have probably already died."

Ellison has been on the Principal's Honor Roll for two years and is the recipient of the Sedalia School District 200 district-level John T. Belcher Scholarship. He is captain of Team SCREAM, the Smith-Cotton competitive robotics team, and is a three-year letter winner in that program.

He is vice president of the S-C chapter of the National Honor Society, secretary of the Community Café Club, a Math Team board member and three-year letter winner, and secretary of the Tri-M Music Honorary Society. Ellison is also a three-time letter winner in band, where he is first chair and captain of the percussion section.

In a Sedalia 200 media release, Director of Smith-Cotton Bands Max Meigel and Team SCREAM Head Coach Michael Wright expressed their pride in Ellison.

Meigel said Ellison is a dedicated leader.

"Getting to teach fantastic students like (Parker) is part of what makes this job special," he noted. "We absolutely couldn't do what we do without student leadership like Parker.

"His dedication, his hard work, his ability to persevere and pull other students up with him is something that doesn't come around every day," Meigel added. "I think those are the traits that make him special, and that's certainly what has made him a fantastic member of the band."

Wright added he was excited about Ellison's accomplishments.

"Parker Ellison's acceptance to Yale is a testament to his exceptional qualities as a student, leader, and person," he said. "I'm thrilled for Parker and his family — what an incredible accomplishment! I have no doubt he'll continue to achieve greatness at Yale and beyond."

Meigel said Ellison's effort conveys to students that anything is possible.

"I think it is proof that it is all about the work you are willing to put in," Meigel said. "There are few students I have met that have worked harder than Parker Ellison, and I think that one of the great things about Sedalia 200 is it provides opportunities and support for students who want to push themselves, who want to go that extra mile, or seven miles, or 1,000 miles all the way to Connecticut."

Faith Bemiss-McKinney can be reached at 660-530-0289.

Temps

From Page A1

Bowman says that it's not out of the ordinary to see the winter weather extend into the spring months. In fact, at one point during his now 14-year career at the Pleasant Hill office, there was snow in early May.

"I think it's safe to say that we'll have a couple winter systems," Bowman said. "As far as the predictability goes for when and how much there is, there's no way to say with any level of confidence."

Snow and sleet brings the potential dangers of slipping, aquaplaning, and increasing likelihood of crashes. So, Bowman advises to drive slow, maintain a distance, and maybe pack a winter driving kit including socks, extra clothes, hats and gloves. He also recommends to check the weather frequently, as there is no telling what'll come when you wake up in the morning.

"People should always be keeping track of the forecast throughout the year," he said, "but it's probably more important in the wintertime where you really do have that potential to have a quick drop in temperatures."

Zach Bott can be reached at 660-747-8123.

Biden pardoning thousands convicted for marijuana on federal lands and in D.C.

By Zeke Miller
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden is pardoning thousands of people who were convicted of use and simple possession of marijuana on federal lands and in the District of Columbia, the White House said Friday, in his latest round of executive clemencies meant to rectify racial disparities in the justice system.

The categorical pardon Friday builds on a similar round issued just before the 2022 midterm elections that pardoned thousands convicted of simple possession on federal lands eligible. Friday's action broadens the criminal offenses covered by the pardon. Biden is also granting clemency to 11 people serving what the White House called "disproportionately long" sentences for nonviolent drug offenses.

Biden, in a statement, said his actions would help make the "promise of equal justice a reality."

"Criminal records for marijuana use and possession have imposed needless barriers to employment, housing, and educational opportunities," Biden said. "Too many lives have been upended because of our failed approach to marijuana. It's time that we right these wrongs."

No one was freed from prison under last year's action, but the pardons were meant to help thousands overcome obstacles to renting a home or finding a job. Similarly, no federal prisoners are eligible for release as a result of Friday's action.

But the order expands the grounds on which pardons are issued. In the last round, people were pardoned for simple possession under only one criminal statute. Friday's pardons also apply to several other criminal statutes, including attempted simple possession.

Biden's order applies only to marijuana, which has been decriminalized or legalized in many states for some or all uses, but remains a controlled substance under federal law. U.S. regulators are studying reclassifying the drug from the category of drugs deemed to have "no currently accepted medical use and a high potential for abuse," known as "Schedule I," to the less tightly regulated "Schedule III."

The pardon also does not apply to those in the U.S. unlawfully at the time of their offense.

Biden's proclamation effectively pardons the covered people, but they will need to submit applications to the Justice Department's pardon attorney office to receive certificates of pardon that can be used for housing and employment purposes.

Biden on Friday reiterated his call on governors and local leaders to take similar steps to erase marijuana convictions.

"Just as no one should be in a federal prison solely due to the use or possession of marijuana, no one should be in a local jail or state prison for that reason, either," Biden said.

THE WEATHER

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SEVEN-DAY FORECAST

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
64 / 55	59 / 42	47 / 29	36 / 29	41 / 25	41 / 25	41 / 23
Cloudy with spotty drizzle	Rain; breezy in the a.m.	Cooler with rain	Cloudy and colder	Remaining cloudy	Partly sunny	Sunny

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today	7:28 a.m.
Sunset tonight	4:56 p.m.
Moonrise today	2:14 p.m.
Moonset today	4:08 a.m.

Full	Last	New	First
Dec 26	Jan 3	Jan 11	Jan 17

WEATHER HISTORY

Snowflakes were reported in Florida at Tampa and Sarasota on Dec. 23, 1989. Tampa had a reading of 30 degrees. In contrast, the Northeast was in the midst of a winter "heat wave" on this day in 1990.

ALMANAC

Sedalia Regional Airport Thursday

TEMPERATURES

High	59
Low	49
Normal high	41
Normal low	23
Record high	66 in 1967
Record low	-12 in 1983

PRECIPITATION

Thursday	0.02"
Month to date	1.86"
Normal m-t-d	1.57"
Year to date	34.63"
Normal y-t-d	42.96"

HEATING DEGREE DAYS

Index of energy consumption indicating how many degrees the average temperature was below 65 degrees for the day.

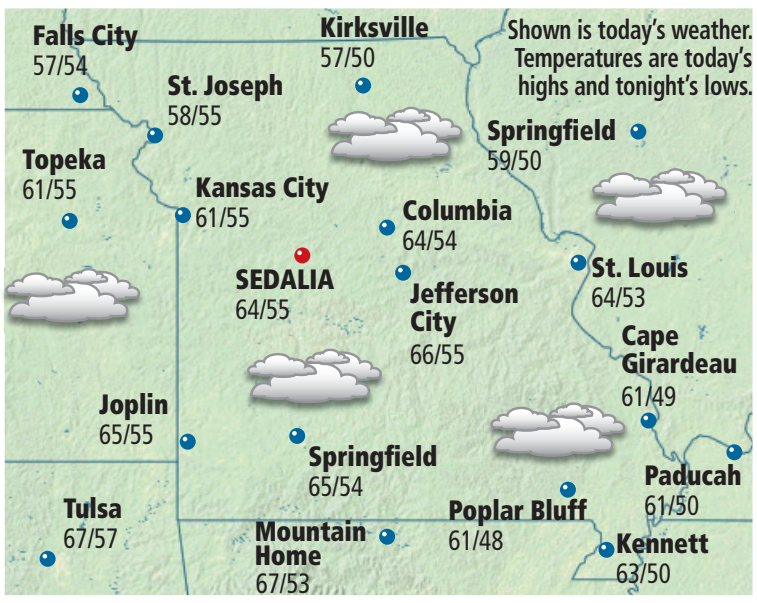
Thursday	11
Month to date	450
Season to date	1195
Normal season to date	1698
Last season to date	1470

RIVER LEVELS

In feet as of 7 a.m. Friday

Blackwater	Stage	Chg	Fld Stg
Blue Lick	7.07	-0.16	24
Valley City	2.83	-0.13	22
Lamine			
Otterville	1.13	-0.01	15
Missouri			
Boonville	3.07	-0.08	21

Forecasts and graphics provided by **AccuWeather, Inc.** ©2023



BRANSON
High: 69. **Low:** 53. Cloudy and warmer today with spotty drizzle. Overcast and mild tonight with a little rain late. Periods of rain tomorrow.

KANSAS CITY
High: 61. **Low:** 55. Cloudy and mild today with spotty drizzle. Cloudy, becoming breezy late tonight with rain at times. Periods of rain tomorrow.

ST. LOUIS
High: 64. **Low:** 53. Warmer today with a thick cloud cover. Cloudy tonight with a couple of showers late. A little rain late tomorrow afternoon.

NEW YORK CITY
High: 46. **Low:** 40. Mostly cloudy today. Cloudy tonight. Areas of drizzle early tomorrow morning; otherwise, rather cloudy. Monday: more clouds than sun.

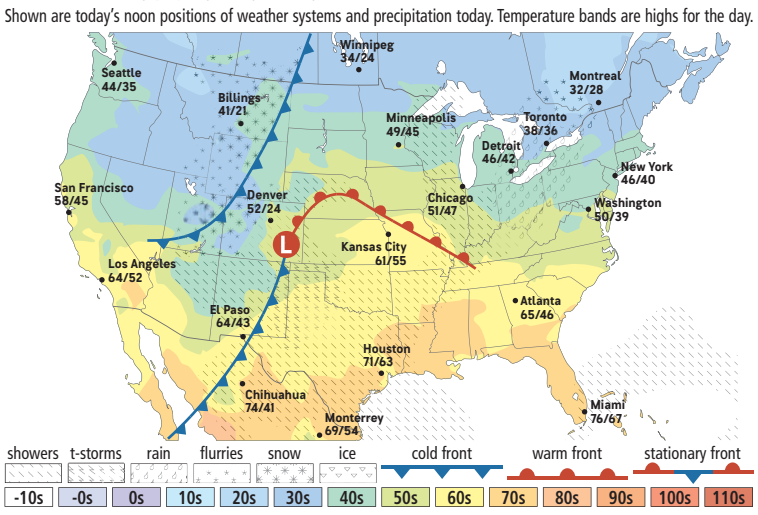
LOS ANGELES
High: 64. **Low:** 52. Clouds and breaks of sun today. Partly cloudy tonight. Areas of low clouds early tomorrow, then sunny. Monday: plenty of sunshine.

NATIONAL WEATHER

	Today Hi/Lo/W	Sunday Hi/Lo/W
Atlanta	65/46/pc	67/55/c
Baltimore	50/37/c	54/38/c
Billings	41/21/c	34/19/sf
Boston	42/36/pc	45/40/c
Buffalo	42/40/r	45/39/sh
Charlotte	62/38/pc	63/47/s
Chicago	51/47/sh	56/48/sh
Cleveland	47/44/r	53/46/sh
Dallas	68/59/sh	69/43/r
Denver	52/24/c	34/14/sn
Detroit	46/42/r	51/43/c
Honolulu	81/69/sh	80/67/s
Houston	71/63/sh	69/49/r
Indianapolis	51/47/sh	60/48/c
Las Vegas	67/43/pc	58/40/pc
Milwaukee	49/44/c	53/47/sh
Nashville	64/48/sh	68/54/pc
New Orleans	70/61/sh	67/61/r
Norfolk	55/40/c	57/44/pc
Oklahoma City	62/54/c	64/33/r
Orlando	77/59/pc	77/63/c
Phoenix	64/52/c	66/47/pc
Pittsburgh	47/43/r	52/39/sh
Portland, ME	38/28/pc	42/32/c
Portland, OR	47/37/pc	46/39/sh
Sacramento	56/39/s	56/39/pc
St. Louis	64/53/c	64/53/r
San Francisco	58/45/s	56/47/pc
Seattle	44/35/pc	44/37/sh
Washington, DC	50/39/c	55/39/c

Weather (W): **s**-sunny, **pc**-partly cloudy, **c**-cloudy, **sh**-showers, **t**-thunderstorms, **r**-rain, **sf**-snow flurries, **sn**-snow, **i**-ice

Shown are today's noon positions of weather systems and precipitation today. Temperature bands are highs for the day.



Summary: Showers and thunderstorms will develop across the southern Plains as a storm moves into the region today. This storm will also bring some snow to the Rockies. Areas of drizzle can occur in the Great Lakes.

Checkered history of poinsettia's namesake and origins get new attention

By Morgan Lee
Associated Press

SANTA FE, N.M. — Like Christmas trees, Santa and reindeer, the poinsettia has long been a ubiquitous symbol of the holiday season in the U.S. and across Europe.

But now, nearly 200 years after the plant with the bright crimson leaves was introduced in the U.S., attention is once again turning to the poinsettia's origins and the checkered history of its namesake, a slaveowner and lawmaker who played a part in the forced removal of Native Americans from their land. Some people would now rather call the plant by the name of its Indigenous origin in southern Mexico.

Some things to know:

WHERE DID THE NAME POINSETTIA COME FROM?

The name comes from the amateur botanist and statesman Joel Roberts Poinsett, who happened upon the plant in 1828 during his tenure as the first U.S. minister to the newly independent Mexico.

Poinsett, who was interested in science as well as potential cash crops, sent clippings of the plant to his home in South Carolina and to a botanist in Philadelphia, who affixed the eponymous name to the plant in gratitude.

A life-size bronze statue of Poinsett still stands in his honor in downtown Greenville, South Carolina.

However, he was cast out of Mexico within a year of his discovery, having earned a local reputation for intrusive political maneuvering that extended to a network of secretive masonic lodges and schemes to contain British influence.

IS THE 'POINSETTIA' NAME LOSING ITS LUSTER?

As more people learn of its namesake's complicated history, the name "poinsettia" has become less attractive in the United States.

Unvarnished published accounts reveal Poinsett as a disruptive advocate for business interests abroad, a slaveholder on a rice plantation in the U.S., and a secretary of war who helped oversee the forced removal of Native Americans, including the westward relocation of Cherokee populations to Oklahoma known as the "Trail of Tears."

In a new biography titled "Flowers, Guns and Money," historian Lindsay Schakenbach Regele describes the cosmopolitan Poinsett as a political and economic pragmatist who conspired with a Chilean independence leader and colluded with British bankers in Mexico. Though he was a slaveowner, he opposed secession, and he didn't live to see the Civil War.

Schakenbach Regele renders tough judgment on Poinsett's treatment of and regard for Indigenous peoples.

"Because Poinsett belonged to learned societies, contributed to botanists' collections, and purchased art from Europe, he could more readily justify the expulsion of Natives from their homes," she writes.

A CHRISTMAS FLOWER OF MANY NAMES

The cultivation of the plant dates back to the Aztec empire in Mexico 500 years ago.

Among Nahuatl-speaking communities of Mexico, the plant is known as the cuetlaxochitl (kwet-la-SHO-sheet), meaning "flower that withers." It's an apt description of the thin red leaves on wild varieties of the plant that grow to heights above 10 feet (3 meters).

Year-end holiday markets in Latin America brim with the potted plant known in Spanish as the "flor de Nochebuena," or "flower of Christmas Eve," which is entwined with celebrations of the night before Christmas. The "Nochebuena" name is traced to early Franciscan friars who arrived from Spain in the 16th century. Spaniards once called it "scarlet cloth."

Producer Pablo Perez walks amid his potted poinsettias in a greenhouse in the San Luis Tlaxialtemalco district of Mexico City, Thursday, Dec. 14, 2023. The universal Christmas icon is native to Mexico where the poinsettia is commonly known as "la flor de Nochebuena" or Christmas Eve Flower and by some as "cuetlaxochitl," as it is called in Nahuatl.
PHOTO BY MARCO UGARTE | AP PHOTO

Additional nicknames abound: "Santa Catarina" in Mexico, "estrella federal," or "federal star" in Argentina and "penacho de Incan," or "headdress" in Peru.

Ascribed in the 19th century, the Latin name, Euphorbia pulcherrima, means "the most beautiful" of a diverse genus with a milky sap of latex.

SO WHAT IS ITS PREFERRED NAME?

"Cuetaxochitl" is winning over some enthusiasts among Mexican youths, including the diaspora in the U.S., according to Elena Jackson Albarrán, a professor of Mexican history and global and intercultural studies at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.

"I've seen a trend towards people openly saying: 'Don't call this flower either poinsettia or Nochebuena. It's cuetlaxochitl,'" said Jackson Albarrán. "There's going to be a big cohort of people who are like, 'Who cares?'"

Most ordinary people in Mexico never say "poinsettia" and don't talk about Poinsett, according to Laura Trejo, a Mexican biologist who is leading studies on the genetic history of the U.S. poinsettia.

"I feel like it's only the historians, the diplomats and, well, the politicians who know the history of Poinsett," Trejo said.

THE MEXICAN ROOTS OF U.S. POINSETTIAS

Mexican biologists in recent years have traced the genetic stock of U.S. poinsettia plants to a wild variant in the Pacific coastal state of Guerrero, verifying lore about Poinsett's pivotal encounter there. The scientists also are researching a rich, untapped diversity of other wild variants, in efforts that may help guard against the poaching of plants and theft of genetic information.

The flower still grows wild along Mexico's Pacific Coast and parts of Central America as far as Costa Rica.

Trejo, of the National Council of Science and Technology in the central state of Tlaxcala, said some informal outdoor markets still sell the "sun cuetlaxochitl" that resemble wild varieties, alongside modern patented varieties.

In her field research travels, Trejo has found households that preserve ancient traditions associated with the flower.

"It's clear to us that this plant, since the pre-Hispanic era, is a ceremonial plant, an offering, because it's still in our culture, in the interior of the county, to cut the flowers and take them to the altars," she said in Spanish. "And this is primarily associated with the maternal goddesses: with Coatlicue, Tonantzin and now with the Virgin Mary."

A LASTING FIGURE IN HISTORY

Regardless of his troubled history, Poinsett's legacy as an explorer and collector continues to loom large: Some 1,800 meticulously tended poinsettias are delivered in November and December from greenhouses in Maryland to a long list of museums in Washington, D.C., affiliated with the Smithsonian Institution.

A "pink-champagne" cultivar adorns the National Portrait Gallery this year.

Poinsett's name may also live on for his connection to other areas of U.S. culture. He advocated for the establishment of a national science museum, and in part due to his efforts, a fortune bequeathed by British scientist James Smithson was used to underwrite the creation of the Smithsonian Institution.

Holiday deliveries stolen? What to know about porch piracy and what you can do about it

By Haleluya Hadero
Associated Press

NEW YORK — You found the perfect holiday gift online. You ordered it. A notification arrived on your phone, showing the package had arrived. But when you open your doors, the parcel is nowhere to be found.

If this has happened to you, then count yourself among the unlucky group of shoppers who fall victim to package thefts — or porch piracy, as it's commonly known.

Here's what you should know about the issue, and what to do if it happens to you.

HOW BIG OF A PROBLEM IS PORCH PIRACY?

It's hard to tell. Most police departments don't track package theft in its own category, which means there's a lack of national data.

The FBI's figures do show burglary offenses and larceny-theft — a category that includes shoplifting, pickpocketing, and instances of package theft — have decreased overall in the last 20-plus years. But since both categories are broad and the agency doesn't keep tabs on specific incidents of package thefts, it's challenging to know whether the problem is getting better or worse.

Some police departments have started to segregate reports of package theft into their own category, which does show some worrying signs. In Denver, Colorado, for example, there's been more than 1,260 reported incidents of package thefts this year, up from roughly 750 four years ago.

Some industry surveys show it's a headache for many online shoppers. A product research company called The Chamber of Commerce said it surveyed 1,250 U.S. consumers in October and found that 26% of them have been victims of package theft. The problem was roughly split between urban and suburban areas, it said, and only 18% of consumers who've had packages stolen reported it to police.

Another report, which used a variety of sources and was compiled by the bank Capitol One, showed 14% of Americans were victims of porch piracy last year. It said those thefts amounted to $29.2 billion in losses.

WHAT ARE COMPANIES DOING ABOUT IT?

Retailers and delivery companies are trying to combat the problem in a variety of ways.

UPS and FedEx, for example, allow customers to delay package deliveries if they're not home or divert them to other pickup locations, either for free or with a fee.

This year, UPS also rolled out a feature called DeliveryDefense that uses AI to assess delivery risks and generate a "confidence score" for addresses where merchants need to ship packages. If the address has a low score, merchants can offer customers in-store collection or UPS pick-up points, which include CVS and Michaels stores as well as other local businesses. UPS spokesperson Jim Mayer said 350 retailers are using the service, but declined to provide examples.

Retailers like Amazon and Walmart also allow customers to track their orders and prepare for deliveries, or pick them up in stores.

Amazon, which has a limited physical footprint compared to Walmart, has lockers where packages can be picked up at third-party locations, as well as its subsidiary Whole Foods. The company also gives its Prime members the option to have packages placed inside secure locations like their garage by Amazon drivers.

In addition, retailers and brands are partnering with companies that offer shipping protections, and choosing to take on those expenses or offer it to consumers who want to pay for it.

One of these companies, Extend, noted that it works with 400 retailers, merchants and brands like Anne Klein and LensDirect, which sells contact lens and glasses. Rohan Shah, the founder of Extend, says high-end retailers who are focused on retaining customers are choosing to pay for warranties. But the majority are offering it to consumers as an add-on.

WHAT DO I DO IF I CAN'T FIND MY PACKAGES?

Retailers say customers should check their order status and confirm whether a package was delivered. If the delivery was finalized, they say customers should ask other members of their household or their neighbors to see if someone else accepted the delivery.

If that doesn't work, the best thing to do would be to reach out to the company from which you purchased the item.

Shah, from Extend, said retailers are often trying to determine if customers are telling the truth, and looking at things like the shopper's prior history of reporting stolen packages to determine how they should respond. Some, he said, are asking customers to file police reports, which most people don't want to do whether they're lying or not.

"There are these points – what I like to call friction or 'gotchas' – where (retailers) will try to minimize customers filing these claims because they know it's going to cost them," Shah said. "It's a bit of a headache for all parties involved."

Ben Stickle, a criminal justice professor at Middle Tennessee State University and a leading expert on the topic, said retailers are generally willing to replace stolen packages, which might be driven by a desire to maintain their brand reputation and customer loyalty.

Amazon encourages customers to contact customer service if they don't have their package in hand within 30 days of expected delivery. Customers who ordered items from Amazon's third-party sellers should contact those merchants, the company says on its website. Walmart also says customers should reach out to the company.

Target includes a clause on its site that says the risk of loss passes to the buyer after the company delivers an order to a carrier. Still, the company says on its site that customers who can't find their deliveries can request a replacement or a refund online.

If retailers aren't helping, Consumer Reports says customers should contact the shipping company. If the purchase was made with a credit card, it might also be worth checking the credit card company's benefits to see if it includes insurance for lost or stolen items, they said. Homeowners or renters insurance might also help, it noted, but those policies usually have deductibles of $500 or more.

WHAT DOES THE LAW SAY?

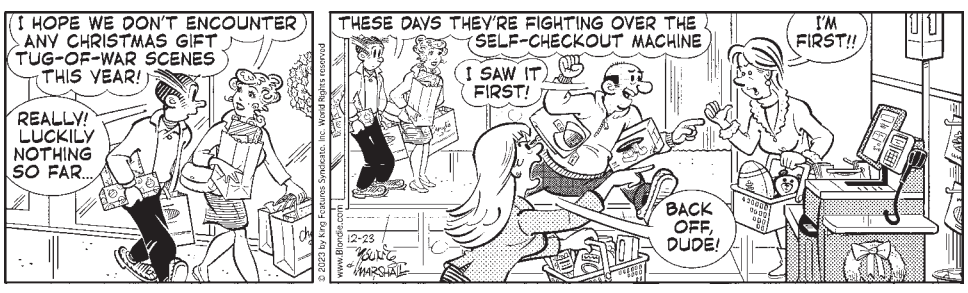
Stealing packages delivered by the U.S. Postal Service is a federal crime. But punishment for taking parcels delivered by private carriers, like UPS or Amazon, falls under state laws, which can differ.

A bill to expand federal penalties to packages delivered by private carriers was introduced in Congress last year by U.S. Rep. Dean Phillips, a Democrat from Minnesota. But the legislation hasn't advanced.

Meanwhile, some states — including Texas, New Jersey and Michigan — have been changing their own laws in the past few years to impose more stringent penalties on porch piracy.

BLONDIE

BY DEAN YOUNG AND JOHN MARSHALL



BEETLE BAILEY

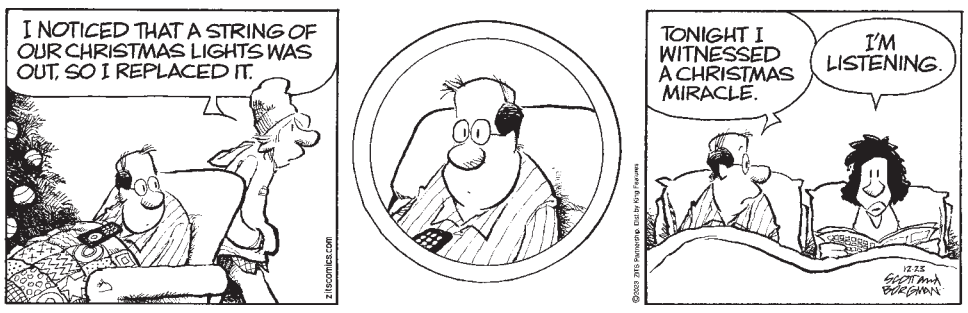
BY GREG WALKER, BRIAN WALKER AND NEAL WALKER

HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

BY CHRIS BROWNE

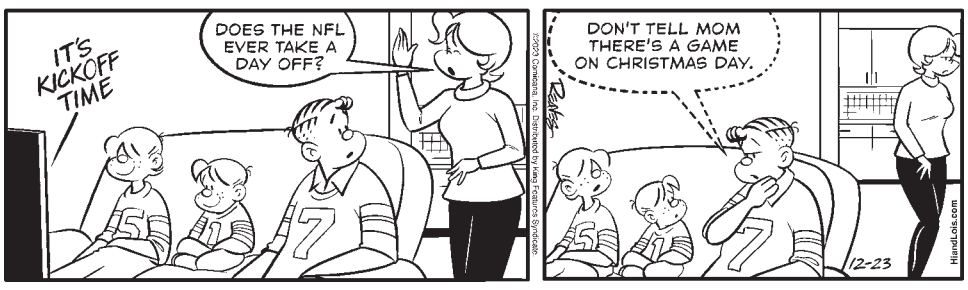
ZITS

BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



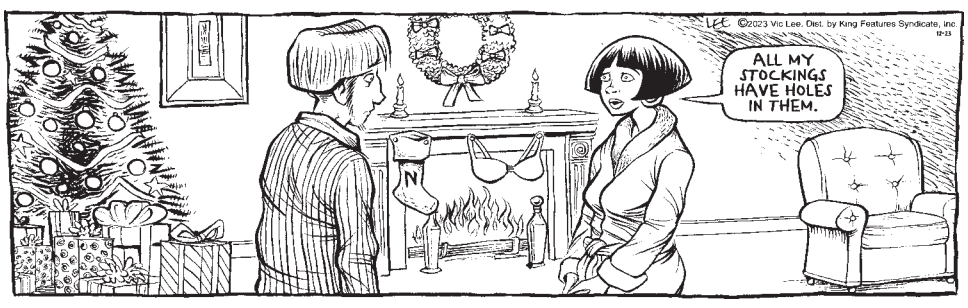
HI AND LOIS

WRITTEN BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER; DRAWN BY CHANCE BROWNE



PARDON MY PLANET

BY VIC LEE



RHYMES WITH ORANGE

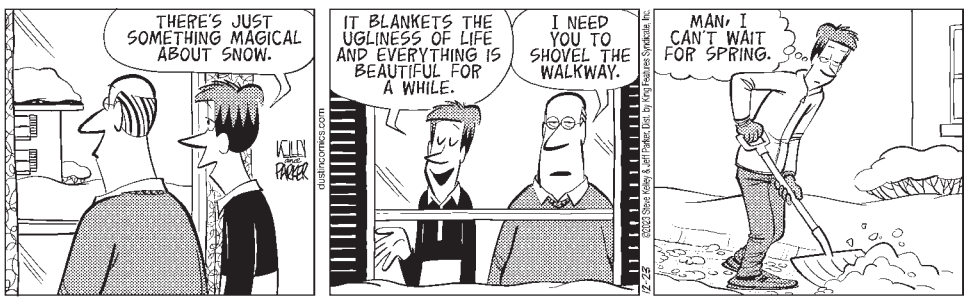
BY HILARY PRICE

THE BRILLIANT MIND OF EDISON LEE

BY JOHN HAMBROCK

DUSTIN

BY STEVE KELLEY & JEFF PARKER



DENNIS THE MENACE BY HANK KETCHAM

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Snoozes
5 Church leader
9 Della's boss
10 Isolated
12 — a limb
13 Pine product
14 Be an omen
16 Corp.'s superior
17 Hole number
18 Speculate
20 Milano of TV
22 General Bradley
23 Score speed
25 Bar mixer
28 Riviera nation
32 Washing machine cycle
34 Gangland gun
35 Flock father
36 Gift
38 Be penitent
40 School event
41 Wyoming's — Range
42 Birch's kin
43 Uses a needle
44 Blue hue

DOWN

1 Kind of network
2 Blood line
3 Debate group
4 Transmission gap
5 "Gay" city of song
6 Bullring cry
7 American marsupial
8 Puzzle
9 Momma's mate
11 Door sign
15 Language topic
19 Shortly
21 RR stops
24 Probed with a stick
25 Small herring
26 Speaks
27 Reduce in rank
29 Meeting slate
30 Make void
31 Mink's cousin
33 Some tourneys
37 Store event
39 At this moment

T	A	B	S			S	E	W	S	
A	L	L	O	Y		T	U	R	I	N
C	L	O	N	E		O	R	A	T	E
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C	A	P	E	R		T	A	P	I	N
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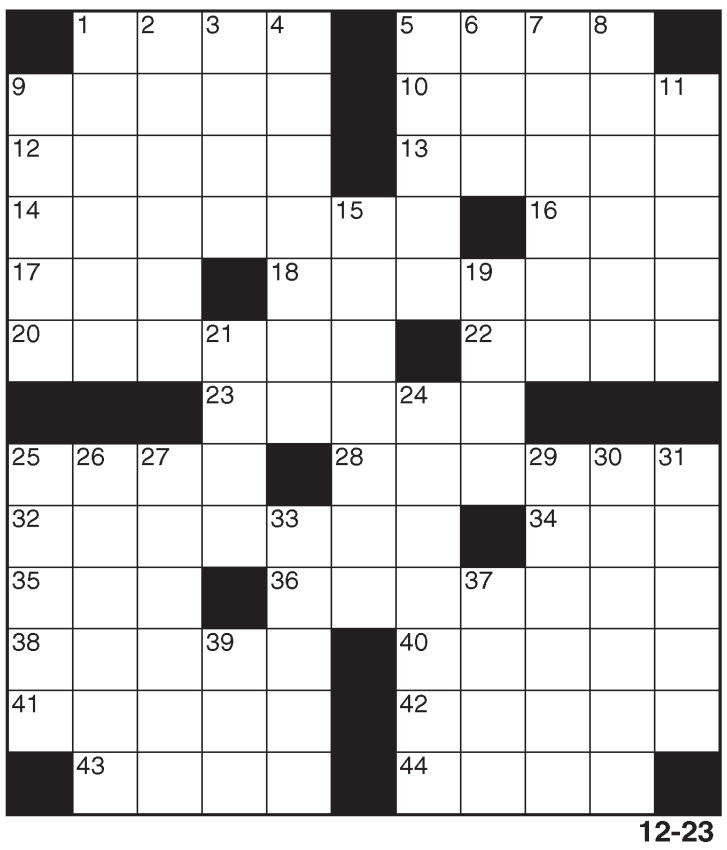
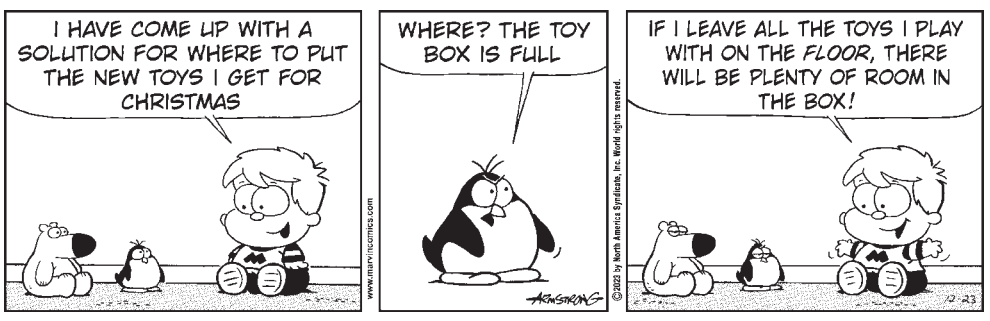
Yesterday's answer



12-23

MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG



THE LOCKHORNS

BY BUNNY HOEST & JOHN REINER

"OH, WE NEVER TALK POLITICS . . . THAT GIVES US EVERYTHING ELSE IN THE WORLD TO ARGUE ABOUT."

SUDOKU

To play sudoku, use logic to fill the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9 only once. Puzzle difficulty increases from Monday to Sunday.

King Classic Sudoku

		1	8			5	7	
			2					
	8		5	3		9		
8						4		2
		5	1				6	7
4							5	
				5				
	4		9		1			8
			3	2		1		

Difficulty: ★★★★ 12/23

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Answer to previous puzzle

8	1	7	3	9	6	2	4	5
9	4	3	8	5	2	7	1	6
6	5	2	1	7	4	9	8	3
4	3	1	2	8	5	6	9	7
2	8	9	7	6	1	5	3	4
7	6	5	4	3	9	8	2	1
3	2	6	9	4	7	1	5	8
5	9	4	6	1	8	3	7	2
1	7	8	5	2	3	4	6	9

Difficulty: ★★★★ 12/22

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Chiefs aim to lock up AFC West, continue dominance of Raiders on Christmas

By Dave Skretta
Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The one-sided nature of the Chiefs' recent history with the Las Vegas Raiders perhaps appropriately mimics the way the AFC West has turned into a one-team division since Andy Reid arrived in Kansas City just over a decade ago.

After second-place finishes in his first three seasons, Reid has led the Chiefs to seven straight division titles, and they could clinch their eighth on Monday with a victory over the Raiders — or a tie if the Broncos lose to the Patriots the previous night. The only streak longer in NFL history belongs to the Patriots, who won 11 straight AFC East championships from 2009 to 2019.

"That's something we talk about at the beginning of the year: Our first goal is to win the AFC West," Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes said. "We have to be ready this week, and that would clinch our first goal if we are able to do that."

The Chiefs (9-5) also are trying to keep their hopes alive of earning the AFC's No. 1 seed and lone first-round playoff bye. They head into the weekend two games back of the Ravens and a game behind the Dolphins, whom they have already defeated.

See **CHIEFS | A13**

Kansas City Chiefs running back Clyde Edwards-Helaire (25) celebrates after his touchdown with tight end Travis Kelce (87) and running back Jerick McKinnon (1) during the second half of an NFL football game against the New England Patriots, Sunday, Dec. 17, 2023, in Foxborough, Mass.
PHOTO BY CHARLES KRUPA | AP PHOTO

Lincoln's Zaden Cole attempts a jumper over the arm of a Concordia defender in a W-K Holiday Shootout game in Sedalia on Dec. 13. The Cardinals have battled through injuries and an 0-5 start to win three of their last four games entering the break.
PHOTO BY BRYAN EVERSON | DEMOCRAT

Banged-up Cardinals bring it in Otterville

By Bryan Everson
bryane@sedaliademocrat.com

Lincoln boys basketball came into its W-K Holiday Shootout contest on Dec. 13 with Concordia in need of some good luck on the injury front.

Sophomores Dawson Parrott and Riley Sanders had revolved to the sideline, each with hand injuries. Senior Xavier Smith was out on a temporary basis due to illness.

It was foreseeable that the Cardinals, coming off an undefeated regular season last winter, would have to reconstruct after losing essentially every major piece of the rotation to graduation. All the knocks, however, had led to an 0-5 start that was far more challenging than anticipated.

"We've lost a lot of close games," Lincoln head coach Tyler Burke said at the time. "You see 0-5 and think, 'Oh, these guys [aren't so good].' But we've been in every game. We've got an inexperienced group. A young group. But they're talented.

That W-K game against Concordia didn't initially look like it would lead to a turnaround. Lincoln came out and trailed 13-10 after the opening eight minutes.

After that, though, there was tangible evidence of Burke's claims. The Cardinals limited the Orioles to single-digits in each quarter the rest of the evening. Offensively, the ball moved, leading to good looks in the paint and some open looks around the arc.

Lincoln ended up going for 23 points in the third quarter and went on to get their first victory, 60-38.

Before the game, Burke said that this year's team would always be one that had to rely on five guys to score, and the production was spread out in the win. Anthony Srader had 16 points and was joined by two others in double-figures, Ben Eckhoff (12) and Camden Everhart (11). Zaden Cole and Chase Young added eight and seven points, respectively.

Fresh off that experience, the Cardinals traveled to the Otterville Holiday Classic, a tournament that some years has felt like there's to lose.

The expectations this year were likely a bit different as the 6-seed, but it still ended with some good results, even if it came with more adversity.

See **CARDS | A10**

Washington Nationals' Trea Turner knocks the glove away from Houston Astros' Yuli Gurriel during the seventh inning of Game 6 of the baseball World Series Tuesday, Oct. 29, 2019, in Houston. Major League Baseball is widening the runner's lane approaching first base to include a portion of fair territory, shortening the pitcher's clock with runners on base by two seconds to 18 and further reducing mound visits in an effort to further speed games next season.
FILE PHOTO BY MATT SLOCUM | AP PHOTO

MLB widening the runner's lane to first, changing a rule that has caused World Series controversy

By Ronald Blum
AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK — Major League Baseball is widening the runner's lane approaching first base to include a portion of fair territory, changing a more than century-old rule that caused World Series controversy over interference calls.

MLB also is shortening the pitch clock with runners on base by two seconds to 18 and further reducing mound visits in an effort to speed games.

Another change adopted Thursday by the sport's 11-man competition committee requires a pitcher who warms up on the mound before a half inning to face at least one batter.

The new runner's lane overrides a rule that has existed since the National League mandated in 1882 that runners must be within the 3-foot box on the foul side of the base line during the final 45 feet between home and first. Violators were subject to being called out for interfering with fielders taking a throw. The rule was designed to prevent collisions; foul lines intersected the middle of bases until the bags were moved entirely into fair territory in 1887.

The change widens the lane to include 18-to-24 inches of fair territory until the edge of the grass, though MLB said it will allow a grace period for compliance because of the need to modify artificial turf surfaces.

The old rule has long sparked frustration because right-handed hitters necessarily begin their sprint to first base in fair territory, and the first base bag is fully in fair ground, too.

Umpires' interpretations of the rule have sparked disputes.

See **MLB | A13**

Florida State linebacker Kalen DeLoach (4) celebrates with defensive lineman Patrick Payton (11) after he intercepted a Florida pass late in the second half of an NCAA college football game Saturday, Nov. 25, 2023, in Gainesville, Fla.
PHOTO BY JOHN RAOUX | AP PHOTO

Florida State players and coaches still hurting, refocus to try and stay unbeaten

By Bob Ferrante
Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — The heartache won't go away. Not anytime soon, anyway. Not for Florida State players and coaches who were driven to earn a spot in the College Football Playoff and play for another title.

The Seminoles had to settle for the Atlantic Coast Conference championship, which followed a perfect regular season.

"Nobody can take that from us," senior defensive back Jarrian Jones said.

The CFP selection committee dropped Florida State (13-0) from fourth to fifth and outside the four-team playoff, a move it justified because of star quarterback Jordan Travis' season-ending broken leg. It prompted outrage from coach Mike Norvell and FSU administrators, and had state lawmakers crying out for answers.

No one felt the pain like the players who did everything right for months.

"I ain't going to lie, I'm going to be hurt with that for the rest of my life," Jones said. "It just feels like somebody ripped your heart out of the chest."

Since the playoff snub, Norvell and his assistants have been busy. They hit the road to visit 2024 commitments and a few prospects they'd like to flip on national signing day. They've hosted several transfer prospects, most notably quarterbacks Cameron Ward (Washington State) and DJ Uiagalelei (Oregon State). They've landed a commitment from Georgia defensive end Marvin Jones Jr., the son of one of the Seminoles' top linebackers in program history.

They've also tried to listen and advise players through upcoming decisions on their futures. Standout defensive end Jared Verse, running back Trey Benson and receiver Johnny Wilson are among those who have opted out of the Orange Bowl against Georgia (12-1) on Dec. 30. There could be more, although Norvell declined to discuss any juniors or seniors weighing choices.

See **FLORIDA | A13**

SPORTS CALENDAR

Saturday
ON AIR
COLLEGE BASKETBALL (MEN'S)

11 a.m. BTN — Mississippi St. vs. Rutgers, Newark, N.J.

FS1 — Butler at Providence

Noon ACCN — Detroit Mercy at NC State

1 p.m. FS1 — Seton Hall at Xavier

2 p.m. FOX — Arizona vs. FAU, Las Vegas

3 p.m. CBS — Vanderbilt at Memphis

FS1 — Villanova at DePaul

SECN — E. Kentucky at Alabama

7 p.m. FOX — St. John's at UConn

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

11 a.m. ABC — The 76 Birmingham Bowl: Troy vs. Duke, Birmingham, Ala.

ESPN — The Camellia Bowl: Arkansas St. vs. N. Illinois, Montgomery, Ala.

2:30 p.m. ABC — The Lockheed Martin Armed Forces Bowl: James Madison vs. Air Force, Fort Worth, Texas

ESPN — The Famous Idaho Potato Bowl: Georgia St. vs. Utah St., Boise, Idaho

6 p.m. ESPN — The 68 Ventures Bowl, South Alabama vs. E. Michigan, Mobile, Ala.

6:30 p.m. ABC — The SRS Distribution Las Vegas Bowl: Utah vs. Northwestern, Las Vegas

9:30 p.m. ESPN — The Easypost Hawaii Bowl: Coastal Carolina vs. San Jose St., Honolulu

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL (BOY'S)

6 p.m. ESPNU — GEICO Holiday Hoops at the City of Palms Classic: TBD, Third-Place Game, Fort Myers, Fla.

8 p.m. ESPNU — GEICO Holiday Hoops at the City of Palms Classic: TBD, Championship, Fort Myers, Fla.

NBA BASKETBALL

11:30 a.m. NBATV — Milwaukee at New York

NFL FOOTBALL

3:30 p.m. NBC — Cincinnati at Pittsburgh

7 p.m. PEACOCK — Buffalo at LA Chargers

NHL HOCKEY

1 p.m. NHLN — Dallas at Nashville

6 p.m. NHLN — Pittsburgh at Ottawa

SOCCER (MEN'S)

5:30 a.m. CBSSN — Serie A: Juventus at Frosinine

6:30 a.m. USA — Premier League: Manchester United at West Ham United

9 a.m. USA — Premier League: Newcastle United at Luton Town

11:30 a.m. NBC — Premier League: Arsenal at Liverpool

11:45 a.m. FS2 — Saudi Pro League: Al-Raed at Al-Ittihad

TENNIS

5 a.m. TENNIS — World Tennis League Day 3: Eagles v. Falcons

8 a.m. TENNIS — Ultima World Tennis League Day 3: Hawks v. Kites

Sunday
ON AIR
COLLEGE BASKETBALL (MEN'S)

12:30 p.m. ESPN2 — The Diamond Head Classic: TBD, Honolulu

3 p.m. ESPN2 — The Diamond Head Classic: TBD, Honolulu

5:30 p.m. ESPN2 — The Diamond Head Classic: TBD, Third-Place Game, Honolulu

8 p.m. ESPN — The Diamond Head Classic: TBD, Championship, Honolulu

IIHF HOCKEY (MEN'S)

11 a.m. NHLN — Exhibition: Canada vs. U.S., Gothenburg, Sweden

NFL FOOTBALL

Noon CBS — Regional Coverage: Seattle at Tennessee, Washington at NY Jets, Cleveland at Houston

FOX — Regional Coverage: Indianapolis at Atlanta, Detroit at Minnesota, Green Bay at Carolina

3:05 p.m. CBS — Jacksonville at Tampa Bay

3:25 p.m. FOX — Regional Coverage: Arizona at Chicago, Dallas at Miami

7:15 p.m. NFLN — New England at Denver

SOCCER (MEN'S)

7 a.m. USA — Premier League: Chelsea at Wolverhampton

TENNIS

8 a.m. TENNIS — Ultima World Tennis League Day 4: Final

Cardinals sophomore Xander Cole attempts a layup against the Orioles in the W-K Shootout game at State Fair Community College on Dec. 13.
PHOTO BY BRYAN EVERSON | DEMOCRAT

Cards

From Page A9

Lincoln opened with a 45-30 win over Hermitage (8-4). In the semifinals, the Cards fell short to Iberia (8-3) by six points, but went and got the better of Northwest (10-3) on Thursday, 50-46.

"We played well in two of the three Otterville tournament games and really have put together a stretch of four games where we have to be proud of our defensive effort," Burke said. "It was nice to get Riley Sanders into the rotation and get him a chance to play, but then we lost Anthony Srader to injury, so our injury-plagued season continues."

Burke complimented Eckhoff's consistent scoring in the paint and his effort to lead the team in rebounding. And the win over Northwest was certainly a highlight to leave with. "That was a big win for us, because Northwest is well-coached and having a good season," he said. "We want to win any game we're playing against a conference opponent."

At the time when the Cards were winless, Burke said, "It's been tough on them, tough on everybody. We all have expectations for our program, our team, and our season, and right now it's not going the way we want it to. But if we can build consistency and have some improvement in a few years, it could be drastically different."

The results in Otterville seem to show that to be true, and with a healthy team, different could look like Lincoln being a contender when the Kaysinger Conference Tournament rolls around.

HOROSCOPES

By Georgia Nicols

Moon Alert: Avoid shopping or making important decisions after 10 p.m. PST. The Moon is in Taurus.

Happy Birthday for Saturday, Dec. 23, 2023: You are an optimist with a strong sense of purpose. You are hardworking and a planner. You have been supportive to others this year. Next year is about learning and teaching. Explore philosophies that give you greater self-awareness and get you closer to the true meaning of your life.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★ Keep your eye on your possessions today to avoid loss, theft or damage, because something unexpected could impact your money or your possessions. Definitely, things are loosey-goosey and confusing. Therefore, be mindful. Keep your eyes open. Don't fall for any snake oil stories. Tonight: Be aware.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★ Today the Moon is in your sign lined up with unpredictable Uranus, which is why you feel restless, even impulsive. You might suddenly do something different or go off in a new direction. Unfortunately, issues are not entirely clear, so be careful. Guard against knee-jerk reactions to avoid later regrets. Tonight: You're strong.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ You might feel restless today because unexpected energy is taking place at a subconscious level for you. This is why you might feel at loose ends and not know what to do. Or you might keep changing your mind. When talking to bosses and parents, make sure you know what they expect from you. Be clear. Tonight: Solitude.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ A friend might surprise you today. In fact, you might be surprised by a member of a group. This could be because there is some confusion involved. They might not meet your expectations, or vice versa. Misunderstandings also might relate to news in the media, politics or religion. It's a tricky day! Tonight: Friendships.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ Be careful dealing with authority figures today (including parents and the police), because an element of confusion could send things in the wrong direction. People are too quick to act or too quick to make assumptions. Stop and give everything a sober second thought before you do anything. Tonight: You're noticed.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ Travel plans might suddenly change today. However, in all likelihood, they will change because of some kind of confusion or indecision. (Yes, it's maddening.) However, issues are not clear today; furthermore, people keep changing their minds. Stay steady. Tonight: Explore!

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ Keep an eye on your banking and finances, and property that you share with others, because something unpredictable might impact these areas today. Don't be caught snoozing. An element of surprise definitely exists today that can impact you financially or with your assets. Tonight: Stay sharp.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★ A spouse, partner or close friend will do something that catches you off guard today. You might be surprised or perplexed because there might be an element of confusion, possibly even deceit. Therefore, tread carefully. Keep your eyes open. Tonight: Cooperate.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ Be careful today, because with Mars in your sign, you're more aggressive than usual. (You might not realize this.) Meanwhile, unexpected events related to your job, your health or a pet might create confusion or something upsetting. It's important to know what is actually going on before you react. Tonight: Work.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ Parents should be extra vigilant today, because this is an accident-prone day for your kids, especially with poisons or bad food. Social events might be canceled. Romance might be disappointing due to misunderstandings. Be smart. Don't jump to hasty conclusions when you don't have the full picture. Tonight: Socialize.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ Confusion and turmoil might take place at home today or within the family. Small appliances or computer glitches could be a problem. Communications will likely be mixed up due to faulty information or insufficient information. Don't act until you know what you're doing. Don't be quick to blame. Tonight: Cocoon.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★ Transportation delays are likely today. Likewise, confused communications can lead to misunderstandings related to travel, short trips or something to do with errands and appointments. This is also an accident-prone day, so pay attention to everything you say and do. Tonight: Listen carefully.

BORN TODAY
Actor Finn Wolfhard (2002), actress Estella Warren (1978), singer-songwriter Eddie Vedder (1964)

Britain's Anthony Joshua, right, lands a blow on Ukraine's Oleksandr Usyk during their world heavyweight title fight at King Abdullah Sports City in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, Sunday, Aug. 21, 2022. Anthony Joshua and Deontay Wilder were once the main characters in heavyweight boxing's soap opera but now they are extras. Wilder and Joshua are in the kingdom this weekend and fighting simply to stay relevant. FILE PHOTO BY HASSAN AMMAR | AP PHOTO

Wilder, Joshua jostle for position as heavyweight scene simmers before Fury-Usyk unification bout

By Steve Douglas
Associated Press

Deontay Wilder and Anthony Joshua were once the main characters in heavyweight boxing's soap opera.

Now they are extras.

While Tyson Fury and Oleksandr Usyk continue preparations for a Feb. 17 unification bout in Saudi Arabia that will determine the division's first undisputed champion this century, Wilder and Joshua are in the kingdom this weekend and fighting simply to stay relevant.

Wilder, the WBC champion from 2015-20, was dethroned by Fury in February 2020 and has fought only twice since. What kind of shape will the 38-year-old American be in when he takes on Joseph Parker, the WBO champion from 2016-18?

After that comes the main event on what has been labeled the "Day of Reckoning" as Joshua, the former WBA, IBF and WBO titleholder, fights Otto Wallin, a New York-based Swedish journeyman. Joshua has underwhelming wins over Jermaine Franklin and Robert Helenius on his record since back-to-back defeats to Usyk that left his career at a crossroads.

Whether Wilder and Joshua have the belief after their damaging losses to become heavyweight champion again is open to question. They are most likely to fight each other next — provided they both win in Jeddah — and the winner of what would be a big-money bout would, in theory, be in position to challenge for a world title.

"It's the closest that it's ever been in history," Wilder said this week of a potential meeting with Joshua that he regards as "the biggest fight in the world."

Maybe five or six years ago, but surely not anymore.

Not with Wilder having fought only Helenius since completing that trilogy against Fury in October 2021.

And not with Joshua appearing vulnerable and fragile after three losses in a five-fight span from 2019-22, crushing an aura he had built.

"I think he's lost his confidence and momentum," Wallin said of Joshua ahead of their fight, echoing the thoughts of many in boxing. "You can see the decline ... Joshua looks unsure of himself."

Joshua, a 34-year-old Brit who has been world champion twice after winning gold at the 2012 Olympics, has twice changed trainers to fuel his career rebuild and has been working with another — Ben Davison, who was once in Fury's corner — for the Wallin fight. A long-time media darling, Joshua has been more tight-lipped since arriving in Saudi Arabia and seems to be all business this time.

"This position I am in is not a joke. It is serious," Joshua told British newspaper The Daily Mail. "I understand why I am here and what I am doing. I understand the pressure that comes with it."

Wallin, a southpaw like Usyk, is not a big puncher like Joshua and has won his last five fights on points. He is on a six-fight winning streak since losing to Fury in September 2019 but none have been against a top heavyweight.

As for Parker, the New Zealander's loss to Joe Joyce of Britain in September last year was a third defeat of his career but he has at least kept busy in the meantime with three straight wins against unheralded opponents.

The same cannot be said of Wilder, around whom there is most curiosity this week — not least because the "Bronze Bomber" last fought outside the United States in 2014.

It's the first time he has fought in Saudi Arabia, seemingly the new home of heavyweight boxing because of the lucrative purses the kingdom offers. It's the third time for Joshua — and it'll no doubt be a fourth if he and Wilder win to set up their likely fight in the spring of 2024.

Saints' aggressive play-calling ends up coming back to hurt them in loss to Rams

By Joe Reedy
Associated Press

INGLEWOOD, Calif. — New Orleans coach Dennis Allen knew coming into Thursday night against the Los Angeles Rams that the Saints couldn't be conservative in their decisions. Not when they were facing a resurgent Rams offense and with the Saints' own playoff hopes on the line.

New Orleans' aggressiveness though turned into one of its biggest shortcomings in its 30-22 loss.

The Saints turned it over on downs three times, which the Rams converted into 13 points. Derek Carr's only interception of the night also resulted in Los Angeles scoring a touchdown on its ensuing possession.

"We came into this game wanting to be aggressive. Knowing the type of team and the offense that we were playing, kicking field goals wasn't going to be the way to go and try to win this game," Allen said.

Allen's second fourth-down gamble would end up being the most fatal. The Saints trailed 10-3 with a minute remaining in the first half and had fourth-and-5 on the Rams 42. Carr felt pressure on his right side from linebacker Ernest Jones and had to throw it before tight end Juwan Johnson knew it was in the air.

New Orleans Saints head coach Dennis Allen answers questions after an NFL football game against the Los Angeles Rams, Thursday, Dec. 21, 2023, in Inglewood, Calif. PHOTOCREDIT: PHOTO BY RYAN SUN | AP PHOTO

Five plays later, Matthew Stafford hit Demarcus Robinson on a 4-yard touchdown pass and the Saints trailed by two touchdowns with 21 seconds remaining before halftime.

"That was huge, and it hurt when we didn't convert," said Carr, who was 27 of 40 for 319 yards, three touchdowns and a pick.

The Rams also got the ball to start the second half and extended their lead to 13 points on Lucas Havrisik's second field goal.

"That 14-point swing (at the end of the first half), that's huge momentum to lose," defensive end Cameron Jordan said.

New Orleans did rally with 15 points in the fourth quarter, but their hopes for a comeback were dashed when Puka Nacua recovered an onside kick with 3:52 remaining. The Rams then ran out the clock as the Saints didn't have any timeouts.

The loss was similar to the Saints' 33-28 loss to the Detroit Lions on Dec. 3. New Orleans also fell behind big early in that game only to see its rally fall short.

After leading the NFC South at the midway point, the Saints have dropped four of their last six. At 7-8, their lone viable path to the playoffs appears to be winning the division.

New Orleans closes with division opponents in its final two games, including Dec. 31 against Tampa Bay. The Buccaneers, who beat the Saints 26-9 on Oct. 1, are 7-7 going into Sunday's game against Jacksonville.

The Saints then close with Atlanta (6-8) on Jan. 7. The Falcons won the first meeting 24-15 on Nov. 26.

"At this point, we are who we are. We have two games left, there's no sugarcoating this," Jordan said. "It's frustrating to be in this position. We have to win out at the end of the day. There's no excuses."

Report: Footballs in New England were deflated in Chiefs game; Pats not to blame

By Jimmy Golen
Associated Press

The special teams footballs used in Sunday's game between Kansas City and New England were reportedly underinflated — not by the Patriots, this time — an ironic throwback to the Deflategate scandal that captivated the football world for parts of three seasons and led to penalties against the team and quarterback Tom Brady.

MassLive.com reported on Thursday that the Patriots complained to the officials during the first half of the Chiefs' 27-17 victory that the balls used by the punters and kickers — which are specially marked, and referred to as "K-balls" — were too soft. They were tested at halftime and found to be inflated to 11 psi, the website reported, instead of the league-mandated range of 12.5-13.5 psi.

After the 2015 Deflategate fiasco, when the NFL ruled that the Patriots were intentionally using underinflated footballs, the league took control of the game balls away from the teams.

"We were aware of it in the first quarter," Patriots coach Bill Belichick said Friday. "You have to talk to the league what happened on that, because we don't have anything to do with that part of it. They control all that."

An NFL spokesman did not respond to an email from The Associated Press seeking comment. Patriots kickers were not available during Thursday's open locker loom period. Chiefs coach Andy Reid said on Thursday that he hadn't heard of any issues but told reporters, "I'm not worried about all that."

The website reported and Belichick confirmed that the Patriots sensed something was wrong when Kansas City's Harrison Butker, who has put 87% of his kickoffs this season into the end zone for touchbacks, sent his game-opening kick only to the 3 yard-line. During the first half, both teams' kickers missed field goals, including a 39-yard attempt that was Butker's first miss of the season.

"I think you could see that by the kicks," Belichick said. "Butker had a perfect season going."

The balls were checked at halftime and fixed. Butker made two field goals in the second half and every kickoff for both teams reached the end zone.

Belichick wondered why the balls weren't fixed sooner.

New England Patriots head coach Bill Belichick, center, turns away after shaking hands with Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes (15) following an NFL football game, Sunday, Dec. 17, 2023, in Foxborough, Mass.
PHOTO BY MICHAEL DWYER | AP PHOTO

In the scandal that came to be known as Deflategate, the Patriots were fined $1 million and docked two draft picks and Brady was suspended four games for what the league found was a scheme to provide improperly inflated footballs for the AFC championship game against the Indianapolis Colts in January of 2015. In a 243-page report, an NFL investigator zeroed in on two equipment managers — one who referred to himself in a text message as "The Deflator" — and concluded that Brady was "at least generally aware" of the illegal deflation plans.

The Patriots defended Brady, countering that the league's scientific evidence was flawed. Brady appealed to NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell and then the federal courts; after a 2nd Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals panel reinstated his suspension, Brady sat out the first four games of the 2016 season.

New England went on to win the Super Bowl. Despite playing only 12 games, Brady was the runner-up in MVP voting.

In response to the scandal, the NFL changed its procedures to put pregame control of the footballs in the hands of the officials, not the individual teams.

AP Sports Writer Dave Skretta in Kansas City, Missouri, contributed to this report.

Reports: Prized pitcher Yamamoto agrees with Dodgers on $325m deal

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Prized free-agent pitcher Yoshinobu Yamamoto and the Los Angeles Dodgers have agreed to a $325 million, 12-year contract, according to multiple reports.

Yamamoto is set to join Japanese countryman Shohei Ohtani with the Dodgers, who signed the two-way superstar to a record $700 million, 10-year deal last week.

The Dodgers did not confirm the agreement with Yamamoto on Thursday night. MLB.com and ESPN were among the outlets citing anonymous sources in reporting the deal.

The New York Yankees and New York Mets were among the many clubs that pursued Yamamoto.

It's the third major pitching coup for the NL West champion Dodgers this offseason. In addition to Ohtani, the team signed right-hander Tyler Glasnow to a $136.5 million, five-year contract after he was traded from the Tampa Bay Rays to Los Angeles.

Ohtani made a video pitch to Glasnow to join him in Hollywood.

"It was important to Shohei that this wasn't the one move we were going to make," Dodgers President of Baseball Operations Andrew Friedman said at Ohtani's introductory news conference last week.

Yamamoto was 16-6 with a 1.21 ERA this season, striking out 169 and walking 28 in 164 innings. He is 70-29 with a 1.82 ERA in seven seasons with the Orix Buffaloes. Yamamoto struck out a Japan Series-record 14 in a Game 6 win over Hanshin on Nov. 5, throwing a 138-pitch complete game. Orix went on to lose Game 7.

Orix posted the 25-year-old right-hander on Nov. 20 and Major League Baseball teams had until Jan. 4 to sign him.

Yamamoto's deal with the Dodgers would be the largest and longest ever guaranteed to a big league pitcher.

Ohtani was a two-time AL MVP with the Los Angeles Angels before becoming a free agent this offseason and moving to the Dodgers.

Yamamoto pitched his second career no-hitter, the 100th in Japanese big league history, on Sept. 9 for the Buffaloes against the Lotte Marines. The game, watched by MLB executives, extended his scoreless streak to 42 innings.

Japan's Yoshinobu Yamamoto delivers a pitch during the fifth inning of a World Baseball Classic game against Mexico on March 20, 2023, in Miami. Yamamoto, the most prized pitcher on the free-agent market, has agreed to a $325 million, 12-year contract with the Los Angeles Dodgers, according to multiple reports.
FILE PHOTO BY WILFREDO LEE | AP PHOTO

A two-time Pacific League MVP, Yamamoto also threw a no-hitter against the Seibu Lions on June 18 last year. His fastball averaged 95 mph and topped out at 96.6 mph in Japan's semifinal win over Mexico at the World Baseball Classic in March. He threw 20 fastballs, 19 splitters, six curveballs, six cutters and one slider in a 3 1/3-inning relief outing. Batters swung at 11 of his splitters and missed four.

Following hard-throwing 21-year-old sensation Roki Sasaki, Yamamoto gave up two runs and three hits in 3 1/3 innings with four strikeouts and two walks, allowing Alex Verdugo's RBI double. Yamamoto was charged with a second run when Isaac Paredes hit an RBI single off Atsuki Yuasa.

Under the MLB-NPB agreement, the posting fee will be 20% of the first $25 million of a major league contract, including earned bonuses and options. The percentage drops to 17.5% of the next $25 million and 15% of any amount over $50 million. There would be a supplemental fee of 15% of any earned bonuses, salary escalators and exercised options.

AP Baseball Writer Ronald Blum in New York contributed to this report.

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MLB

From Page A9

The New York Mets' J.C. Martin was in fair territory when he was hit on the left wrist by pitcher Pete Richert's throw following his sacrifice bunt in the 10th inning of World Series Game 4 in 1969. That allowed Rod Gaspar to score the winning run from second against Baltimore as plate umpire Shag Crawford and first base umpire Lou DiMuro failed to call interference.

The call went the other way in the seventh inning of World Series Game 6 in 2019, when Washington's Trea Turner was called out for interference by plate umpire Sam Holbrook when he was hit on the back of the right leg by Houston reliever Brad Peacock's throw, a decision upheld in a video review.

"It's just going to make things easier for the ballplayers and the umpires," Holbrook said this week of the change. "Players can run straight to the bag, especially the right-handed hitters. It's been talked about for a while. I think they're trying to do the right thing."

The out cost Washington a run when Anthony Rendon homered, and Martinez was ejected for arguing after the half inning, needing to be restrained by bench coach Chip Hale.

"I don't know how long that rule has been in place, probably a hundred years," Martinez said the following day. "These judgment calls are difficult. The umpires do the best they can on getting it right. I know that."

When Turner was called out for interference on a throw to first by Chicago Cubs catcher Willson Contreras following an errant pitch on a third strike on May 19, 2021, Martinez was ejected by umpire Chris Conroy. The manager picked up the first base bag and slammed it to the ground and then kicked it. After another similar call went against Washington on June 14, 2023, Martinez printed out a photo showing where the baserunner was and held it up during his postgame news conference.

A similar play occurred in Game 2 of the 1998 AL Championship Series, when a throw by Yankees first baseman Tino Martinez after Travis Fryman's 12th-inning bunt struck Fryman on the back and rolled on the infield dirt. Second baseman Chuck Knoblauch screamed at plate umpire Ted Hendry for an interference call and pointed toward first rather than chase the ball as Enrique Wilson scored the tiebreaking run from first.

The changes were approved by the committee over objections from all five players who voted.

"As they made clear in the competition committee, players strongly feel that, following last season's profound changes to the fundamental rules of the game, immediate additional changes are unnecessary and offer no meaningful benefits to fans, players, or the competition on the field," the union said in a statement. "This season should be used to gather additional data and fully examine the health, safety, and injury impacts of reduced recovery time; that is where our focus will be."

Speeding games remained a priority for the committee, too.

Nine-inning games averaged 2 hours, 40 minutes during the regular season in the first year of the pitch clock, down from 24 minutes from 2022 and the lowest since 1985. That speed-up carried over to the postseason, where nine-inning World Series games averaged 3:01, the fastest since 1996. However, the average increased over the course of the season from 2:37 in April to 2:44 in September.

Mound visits are being cut to four from five, with a defensive team still getting an additional visit in the ninth inning if it has none left after the eighth. A catcher can signal for a mound visit, stopping the clock, without heading to the mound, and the clock will resume after a foul ball when the pitcher has the ball and is ready to resume the game, eliminating the requirement he also be on the mound — MLB hopes that eliminates pitchers walking onto the grass next to the mound.

MLB said the requirement to have a reliever who warms up on the mound face at least one batter was instituted because a pitcher took the mound for an inning and then was replaced without throwing a pitch 24 times last season, plus twice more in the World Series.

MLB withdrew its proposal to have the plate umpire reset the pitch clock immediately after a batter uses a timeout. The committee tabled two proposals: one that would require pitchers to work from the stretch position with runners on base, eliminating hybrid windup/stretch deliveries that were used by 8% of pitchers last season; and another designed to prevent fielders from blocking runners at bases.

Seattle chairman John Stanton heads the committee, which met by Zoom and includes St. Louis CEO Bill DeWitt Jr., San Francisco chairman Greg Johnson, Colorado CEO Dick Monfort, Toronto CEO Mark Shapiro and Boston chairman Tom Werner, along with umpire Bill Miller. Players include Milwaukee's Corbin Burnes, Arizona's Zac Gallen, Toronto's Whit Merrifield and San Francisco's Austin Slater along with alternates Ian Happ of the Chicago Cubs and Cole Irvin of Baltimore.

Chiefs

From Page A9

They Chiefs have an easier finishing stretch than either of those teams, and it begins with Las Vegas (6-8), which they have beaten six straight times and 11 of the last 12 in a series dating to Sept. 16, 1960, when the Chiefs were in Dallas and the Raiders in Oakland. In fact, the Raiders have won only once at Arrowhead Stadium since Oct. 28, 2012.

"It's a team that I'm just tired of losing to," said Raiders cornerback Amik Robertson, who thought back to their 31-17 loss to the Chiefs in late November. "We've got the pieces. We've got the guys to be able to beat that team, and unfortunately we took an 'L.' That's something I thought about for a long time. I'm happy that it's back, that we've got an opportunity."

Despite the lopsided nature of the rivalry, the Chiefs and Raiders remain just that: rivals.

There is a mutual hatred between the franchises, borne of the days of Len Dawson and Jim Otto, nurtured through the era of Bill Kenney and Jim Plunkett, and continuing into the present. Mahomes is 10-1 in his career against the Raiders.

"Any time you play a team like this," Raiders quarterback Aidan O'Connell said, "you got to stay within yourself. Play one play at a time. Obviously there is history between the two teams, but I think any game you have to lock in on each play, each situation, try to stay ahead of the sticks and just make smart decisions."

PLAYING ON CHRISTMAS

This is not the first time the Raiders and Chiefs have played on Christmas Day — the Chiefs won 31-30 in overtime in 2004, when Larry Johnson and Tony Gonzalez had two TDs apiece for Kansas City. The Chiefs also have a Dec. 25 win over the Broncos in 2016 and a Christmas loss to the Dolphins in the divisional round of the playoffs in 1971.

The only other game the Raiders have played on Christmas was in 2017, when they lost at Philadelphia.

AND PLAYING SANTA

Mahomes gives his offensive line gifts each year, and this year it was tricked-out golf carts that the big fellas whipped around the Arrowhead Stadium parking lot. Raiders wide receiver Davante Adams heard about it and was impressed, but noted that his own rookie QB probably won't have anything quite so extravagant lined up for his guys.

"It's a lot better than some gifts that I've seen quarterbacks give across the league. That's a hell of a gift," Adams said, "but Aidan's bank account I don't think is ready for that. So he'll do that when he's ready."

FLUKE OR FABULOUS

The Raiders raised plenty of eyebrows a week ago, when they set a franchise scoring record in their 63-21 victory over the Chargers. They scored a club-record 42 points in the first half, and eight different Raiders reached the end zone.

Now, they need to prove that it was not a one-off occurrence.

"We're not expecting to have 60 points every time we go out there, but it was more the style and togetherness that we played with," Adams said. "When you can go out there and play together like that and everybody does their job and play at a high level, it's fun. So, hopefully we can continue to do that."

FINISHING MATTERS

The Raiders have gotten off to good starts in two of their last three games against Kansas City, jumping out to a 17-0 lead in their October 2022 matchup and leading 14-0 earlier this season. In both cases, the Chiefs rallied for victories.

SPEAKING OF FINISHING

The Chiefs are last in the NFL in fourth-quarter scoring, averaging 2.8 points per game — a full point behind Arizona, the next-to-last team. They were shut out by New England last week and managed only a field goal the previous week against Buffalo.

"We've got to do better there," Reid said. "Bottom line, you have to score."

AP Sports Writer Mark Anderson in Las Vegas contributed to this report.

Florida

From Page A9

All while commiserating a wild, 24-hour span in which they celebrated the program's first ACC title since 2014 only to be left out of the CFP the next day.

"It's been challenging," Norvell said. "You basically got 12 hours to celebrate what was an unbelievable accomplishment for this team. Then you had to learn how to work through disappointment, hurt, frustration, anger, every bit of it. And you're 18- to 22-year-old kids and a 42-year-old coach."

Norvell called it one of the toughest two-week stretches of his coaching career. But he also refused to let Florida State's accomplishments go unrecognized.

"I will always have the feelings of what happened," Norvell said. "But at the end of the day, I wasn't in that room. It wasn't my choice, so my beliefs of what it is, that's that. … I'm so proud of what and who this team is and what they represented for 13 weeks of the season.

"It doesn't take away from what these guys have accomplished throughout the course of this year."

Florida State practiced Tuesday as the team continued preparing for Georgia. Quarterback Tate Rodemaker and Brock Glenn led the offense. All-ACC selections defensive end Patrick Payton and linebacker Kalen DeLoach guided the defense.

The Seminoles are pushing forward in hopes of finishing the year undefeated. Florida State has won three national titles and won't be able to secure a fourth in 2023, but there is a chance for a perfect finish to an imperfect season.

Jones has been among the most vocal, saying he is looking forward to his NFL draft preparations but insisted he would play in the Orange Bowl.

"We set out to win every game that was put in front of us," Jones said. "That doesn't take away from me going out here and doing what I have to do for my brothers. I wasn't the only one who got left out of the playoffs. We all got left out of the playoffs.

"It was big for me to just come back and do what I got to do."

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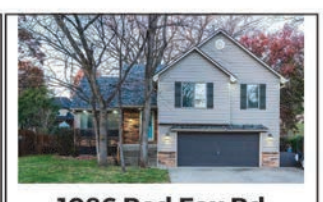

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Remembering humility and gratitude this holiday season

Nicole Cooke
Democrat Editor

At the end of every local news article we publish in the Democrat and Star-Journal, we include contact information for the writer. That makes it common for readers to call our offices with a specific question about an article they read, not realizing we're the writers and aren't affiliated with the organizations we interview.

That's been the case with the article I wrote about Johnson County Christmas Cheer for the Star-Journal in October. Since then, I've received countless phone calls from people wanting to sign up their families for assistance. A few called in the last two weeks asking when they could pick up their items. I connected every single one with Christmas Cheer organizers so they could get answers.

I know that Christmas Cheer – and Community Santa in Pettis County – serves so many residents who need extra help this time of year, but personally receiving phone calls made that even more evident.

In between those calls asking me about Christmas Cheer, I also got a few people asking for help of any kind because the end of the year had taken a turn for the worse for their families. They called the newspaper because they didn't know where to even begin.

The first such call was just before Thanksgiving from a woman who called the Star-Journal asking for information on holiday assistance. I offered her a list of nonprofits and other random contacts in Johnson County that hopefully were able to help. I also just listened as she told me about the impossible struggles facing her family this year.

But I realized that the second I hung up the phone, I had barely said anything to offer a little comfort in that moment. I could hear in her voice how stressed she was about what the holidays would look like at her house this year due to circumstances beyond her control. I tend to do that – I jump into action when someone says they have a problem or need something from me, and I forget that saying "I'm sorry" or "How are you doing?" or any form of comfort can also be a form of assistance. While actions are helpful in the long term, sometimes we just need to hear someone tell us it will be OK in the short term.

I wish I had told her that she should never feel humiliated – her words – for asking for help. Being vulnerable enough to tell a stranger that you feel humiliated for needing help might be even more brave than asking for help in the first place. I wish I had let her tell me a little more about her family and how she was feeling; I could tell that I was probably one of the first people she had confided in, outside her family unit.

She told me her family usually donates to local charities, but they now need those charities for the first time. I could've said her kindness helped strangers before, and now the kindness of strangers would be helping her. We're all here to support one another, and we can only hope to receive kindness in return someday.

I know many parents work hard to provide their children with a good, safe life, but sometimes their dollars don't stretch as far as they'd like. Just last month, Carol McMillin with Community Santa told me that a good chunk of their applicants are in that exact spot: they have income from a job but not enough to cover the extras that are needed or wanted during the holiday season.

Christmas this year will look different for my family as well. While I am lucky enough to make ends meet, there are several people who won't be part of our celebrations. After Andy and I collectively lost three grandparents in less than a year, not to mention friends and family who also lost loved ones, it can be hard to feel joyful even when Christmas music is blaring, every commercial is about buying gifts, and you feel expected to exude holiday spirit at all times.

I didn't think to tell her any of those things, and I didn't save her phone number. So here I am, just a few days before Christmas, sharing those thoughts with our readers instead. Hopefully, this column reaches those who could use some comfort this holiday season. Hopefully, it also finds those who could use a reminder of the giving spirit that is so prevalent during this time of year.

I hope we all feel some gratitude for what we have while also allowing ourselves to feel sadness or grief if things aren't turning out as planned.

I hope that regardless of how many gifts are under the tree, we can enjoy the company of loved ones and remember what's really important in our lives. I hope we can still share some kindness with others, whether holding open the door, offering a smile, passing on a "Merry Christmas" greeting, or helping to carry a heavy load; we don't always know what someone is going through.

Wherever you live, whatever you celebrate, whoever you spend this time of year with, I wish you all happy holidays.

Turning out the lights

Country Acres Christmas Lights open for final season in Knob Noster

By Annelia Nixon
annelian@warrensburgstarjournal.com

Donna and David Grygierczyk pose under the 41-foot-tall Tribute Tree at the Country Christmas Acres in Knob Noster. After 41 years, the couple has decided that 2023 will be the last Christmas season for their annual holiday light show and display. PHOTOS BY ANNELIA NIXON | WARRENSBURG STAR-JOURNAL

KNOB NOSTER – After 41 years, Country Acres Christmas Lights founders Donna and David Grygierczyk are letting go of their annual Christmas light show.

Donna and David said they love hosting the light show; however, the amount of time, work and effort that goes into planning, prepping and executing it is tiring.

"My wife and I are getting a little bit older," David Grygierczyk said. "I'm in my 60s. I love the display but I've built it all in a way that it's like a kit. It's easy to assemble but it still takes help. We rely on a lot of volunteers and over the years, I've always had the same people that I know I can count on to help me, but it's getting to the point now, as hard as it is to say, it's time. It's time to shut it down."

A big undertaking

David said he and some volunteers begin setting up the display in September so it can be ready in time for Thanksgiving, which is normally the day the annual light show premieres. He said part of the setup includes pushing pixels into matrix mats. He said the matrix mat that hangs over his garage door, in particular, has a little more than 11,000 pixels that have to be pushed in manually.

According to Country Acres Christmas Lights' brochure, "Overall there are more than 12,000 LEDs, 64,799 pixels and 194,493 computerized channels."

The lights are accompanied by music varying from traditional Christmas and children's songs to patriotic songs. Community members can choose to play the music through their car's radio by turning their dial to 107.1, or they can hear the music while walking the property. There are 40 songs divided into various playlists. One playlist comprising about 10 or 11 songs runs on a loop per night. David said if people want to hear all 40 songs, they have to visit Country Acres for four consecutive nights. Attendees have the option to vote on a song to be played by scanning a QR code.

While listening to the music, people can also sit under the 41-foot-tall Tribute Tree, which pays homage to first responders who served in the armed forces. David, who once served in the military, said the Tribute Tree is the primary feature of the show.

Another unique feature of the display is the dollhouse, a shed consisting of a collection of more than 60 animated Christmas-themed dolls. Donna Grygierczyk said she first received an animated doll from her mother as a gift in 1989, and eventually, she and her mother began building dollhouses for her collection. After her mother's death, Donna wanted the doll her mother bought her to be part of the Country Acres Christmas Light Show but she said for seven years, the doll has not been fully functioning.

"A couple years prior to her passing, the first doll she gave me quit working," Donna said. "It would light up but it wouldn't move and so I made sure that this doll was going to be in the dollhouse. I got everything set up. I plugged everything in and that doll worked. After I unplugged it and waited for the season to come, the doll did not work. Seven years in a row, that doll will work the very first time I plug it in and doesn't work again."

Smiling faces

David and Donna said they are sad to let the show go because they've put smiles on so many faces and they've helped many people over the years. Although David said it's difficult to choose a highlight moment since putting on these displays, they recalled an incident that they said warmed their hearts.

"We dress up like Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus," David said. "Three or four years ago, we had a family sitting on our lap, taking pictures and telling us all what they wanted. When they left to walk through the display, the little boy came back to me and he said he would really like to have a bed for Christmas. It still kind of brings tears to our eyes."

See **LIGHTS | B4**

Visitors to Country Christmas Acres at David and Donna Grygierczyk's home in Knob Noster are encouraged to tune their radio to 107.1 to hear the music playlist. The light show is synchronized to the music.

A thank you message from Donna and David Grygierczyk for a donation to the Country Christmas Acres' dollhouse collection. Country Christmas Acres is open everyday from 5:30 to 11 p.m. during the holiday season.

BIRTHDAYS

Curry

Josephine "Jo" Curry will observe her 87th birthday on Dec. 29.

She was born on Dec. 29, 1936.

Birthday cards may be sent to Jo at the Sylvia G. Thompson Residence Center, 3333 W. 10th St. Sedalia, Mo. 65301.

Randall

Kathleen "Kathy" Randall will observe her 80th birthday on Dec. 30.

She was born on Dec. 30, 1943, in Pettis County.

Kathy was married to the late Larry Randall.

Before retiring, she worked at a factory. Her hobbies include reading, bingo, and playing on her computer.

Kathy has four children, Terry Randall, of Cole Camp, Mikey Randall, of Sedalia, Lorrie Rodgers, of Mora, and Lisa James, of Missouri; and 13 grandchildren.

Birthday cards may be sent to Kathy at the Sylvia G. Thompson Residence Center, 3333 W. 10th St. Sedalia, Mo. 65301.

NEW BOOKS

Sedalia Public Library
Fiction

"The Serpent and the Wings of Night," by Carissa Broadbent (fantasy).

"Lone Oaks Crossing," by Janet Dailey (romance).

"Wild and Distant Seas," by Tara Karr Roberts (historical fiction).

"Lost Hours," by Paige Shelton (mystery).

"Two Dead Wives," by Adele Parks (suspense).

"What Waits in the Woods," by Terri Parlato (suspense).

"On the Way to Us," by Carolyn Brown (romance).

"The Year of Goodbyes and Hellos," by Kelly Irvin (Christian fiction).

Nonfiction

"Stuff They Don't Want You to Know," by Ben Bowlin.

"Endgame," by Omid Scobie.

New Movies

"The Exorcist: Believe"

"Five Nights at Freddy's"

POPULAR BOOKS

Boonslick Regional Library
Fiction

"The Fiction Writer" by Jillian Cantor

"Iwo, 26 Charlie" by Peter T. Deutermann

"A Curse of Krakens" by Kevin Hearne

"Blood Betrayal" by Ausma Zehanat Khan

"The House of Love and Death" by Andrew Klavan

"The Girl in the Vault" by Michael Ledwidge

"The Talk of Coyote Canyon" by Brenda Novak

"Knowing You" by Tracie Peterson

"The Narrow Road Between Desires" by Patrick Rothfuss

"Where the Dead Wait" by Ally Wilkes

Nonfiction

"Pretty Boys Are Poisonous: Poems" by Megan Fox

"This Wheel of Rocks: An Unexpected Spiritual Journey" by Marya Grathwohl

"Task Force Hogan: The World War II Tank Battalion That Spearheaded the Liberation of Europe" by William R. Hogan

"The Official MIND Diet: A Scientifically Based Program to Lose Weight and Prevent Alzheimer's Disease" by Martha Morris and Laura Morris

"Silent Cavalry: How Union Soldiers from Alabama Helped Sherman Burn Atlanta—and Then Got Written Out of History" by Howell Raines

DIVORCES

These people were recently granted divorces in Pettis County Circuit Court:

Lucas J. Nicks and Alexus M. Nicks;

Rachel N. Sallee and Trisdon Monaghan;

Olivia M. Griego and Ethan L. Capps;

Brandi M. Bowlin and Robert D. Bowlin;

David O. Leicher and Sherry L. Leicher;

Jaylla Nelson and Joseph Nelson;

Natalie V. Ilin and Andrey V. Ilin.

CLUB NOTES

From left, Mike Powers, President of the Martin Warren Chapter MOSSAR, Greg Gladfelter, and Diana Gladfelter.
PHOTO COURTESY OF MARTIN WARREN CHAPTER MOSSAR

Daughters of the American Revolution Osage Chapter

The Osage Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution met in the home of Betsy Wiley on Dec. 16 for its annual Christmas Tea.

Members brought Christmas cookies to share and exchange and made cookie plates to be delivered to Della Cline, Ada Biggs, Ruth Keele, Mary Frances Herndon and the Pettis County Ambulance District. There were 14 members and prospective members present.

The Osage Chapter will be in recess until the next meeting at 9 a.m. Feb. 17 at the Boonslick Regional Library. Women ages 19-99 are welcome.

Ringen Brushy 4-H

The regular monthly meeting of the Ringen Brushy 4-H Club was held Dec. 13 at the Smithton School cafeteria. There were 17 members and three officers present. The roll call question was, "What do you want for Christmas?"

The meeting was called to order by Buzz Harris, president, and the minutes were recorded by Josie Peck, secretary. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. The treasurer's report was read and approved.

Under Old Business:

Laura Peck shared fundraising committee ideas: Birthday bags, Valentines for local nursing homes, making baby items to donate, and cleaning Ringen Brushy schoolhouse.

The club discussed whether it should pay $5 for the shirt per member. R.J Asbury motioned to pay $5 per member to go toward their shirt and Chase seconded.

Under New Business:

Julie talked to the group about the Lower Scholarship. This scholarship awards funds to use toward supplies for future 4-H projects. Applications are due Jan. 19. One has to complete a project record as well as the Missouri Recognition form and also have to give a small presentation to determine how much money they receive.

R.J Asbury did a demonstration on how to clean clippers and Porter Shroder demonstrated how to brush a rabbit.

The Recognition banquet awards were handed out to members who were not present at recognition night.

The Ringen Brushy Club was awarded the Bronze Seal, Distinguished Club, Service to Community, First Place window, and the chapter scrapbook won.

Under Announcements:

Future meetings will be Jan. 10, Feb. 14, March 13, and April 10 at the Smithton School cafeteria.

Cindy announced that the club needs project leaders for several groups.

A reminder was noted to bring boxed cake mix and canned icing for the January meeting.

R.J. Asbury made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Hayden Shmidt seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned, and members enjoyed refreshments.

Community Retired Teachers Association

The Community Retired Teachers Association met Dec. 20 at Christ and Trinity Lutheran Church.

Barbara Schrader was the guest speaker. She spoke about her experiences as a music teacher and what she learned while teaching. She then played several Christmas songs on the violin.

Carolyn Hays conducted the business meeting. Volunteer hours and donations were listed. Jeanne Curry read the minutes, which were approved. Members then met at the Sedalia Senior Center for lunch.

The next meeting will be March 20 at the church. All retired school personnel are invited to attend.

Sons of the American Revolution Martin Warren Chapter

Greg Gladfelter, of Warrensburg, was awarded the 35-year Membership Medal and Certificate at the Dec. 9 meeting of the Martin Warren Chapter, Missouri Society, Sons of the American Revolution (MOSSAR).

Gladfelter's wife, Diana, participated in the ceremony. Gladfelter was one of the 63 people who attended the Martin Warren Chapter chartering luncheon meeting on Dec. 3, 1988. He served as Treasurer for a few years and remained a member until 1993. For a few years, he was inactive. His membership in the Martin Warren Chapter was reactivated some time ago and his membership is in good standing.

During the 30th anniversary year, the Martin Warren Chapter awarded the Charter Chapter Member Award and the lapel pin of crossed flags, the U.S. flag and the SAR flag, to Gladfelter. The Martin Warren Chapter is now celebrating its 35th anniversary and the Chapter presented Gladfelter with the 35-year Membership Label Pin and Certificate.

The Martin Warren Chapter meets at 10:30 a.m. at the RISE Café in Warrensburg on the third Saturday of the month, except in December on the second Saturday. The Chapter does not meet in February, July and August. Those interested in becoming a member of the National Society SAR may contact the Chapter Genealogist, Mark Parks, at mark.e.parks@gmail.com.

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MEALS ON WHEELS

Meals on Wheels is a nonprofit organization that delivers meals to seniors, the homebound and handicapped citizens of Sedalia. The food is prepared by Superior Vendall and is delivered by volunteers. Meals cost $4. For more information on receiving meals or becoming a volunteer, call 660-826-5039.

Meals will be delivered by Cornerstone Baptist Church.

Monday: Closed for Christmas.

Tuesday: Meatloaf, posh potatoes, tomato and cucumber salad, cookie and milk.

Wednesday: Pulled pork on bun, cottage cheese, potato chips, banana and milk.

Thursday: Ham and beans, cornbread, coleslaw, tropical fruit and milk.

Friday: Pork fritter on bun, macaroni salad, baked beans, orange and milk.

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BRL2GO SCHEDULE

Boonslick Regional Library

Monday

No Run: Christmas Day

Wednesday

9:45 a.m. to noon: Boonville, Walmart

1:30 to 4 p.m.: Lone Elm

Friday

No Run

SENIOR MENU

The menu at the Sedalia Senior Center for Dec. 25-29 includes:

Monday: Center closed.

Tuesday: Center closed.

Wednesday: Lemon pepper fish, scalloped potatoes, stewed tomatoes, wheat roll, and peaches or a chocolate chip cookie.

Thursday: Swiss steak, liver and onions, mashed potatoes and gravy, carrots, wheat roll, and Mandarin oranges or molasses drop cookie.

Friday: Glazed ham, yams, broccoli, wheat roll, and mixed fruit or cook's feature.

Community Calendar DECEMBER

To have your event or meeting listed, send details to faithb@sedaliademocrat.com or call 660-826-1000 ext. 1481.

SUNDAY

AA meets at 417 W. Pettis St.

8:30 to 10:30 a.m.: Breakfast for everyone at Christ and Trinity Lutheran Church, 2101 W. 32nd St.

Noon and 7 p.m.: Alcoholic Anonymous 12x12 Non-smoking group, Sunday through Saturday; at 417 E. Pettis St., 660-310-9922, sedalia12x12aa@gmail.com.

1:30 to 2:30 p.m.: Open Door Soup Kitchen, 417 W. Pettis St. Call 660-827-1613.

7 p.m.: Narcotics Anonymous Because We Care and 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at First Christian Church, 200 S. Limit Ave. For more information, call 660-221-2221.

MONDAY

Christmas Day

TUESDAY

8 a.m.: Central MO Business Builders (BNI) at Heckart Family Center, 903 S. Ohio Ave.

11:30 a.m.: Open Door Soup Kitchen, 417 W. Pettis St. Call 660-827-1613.

Noon: Flat Creek Family and Community Club, for luncheon. Call 660-827-0591 for location information.

Noon: Sedalia Optimist Club, in Room C at the Heckart Community Center, 1800 W. Third St.

12:30 to 4:30 p.m.: Birthright Pregnancy Center, 1810 W. 11th St., Tuesday through Friday; and other hours by appointment. The office number is 660-826-9060.

6 p.m.: NarAnon meetings at LifePointe Church, 2921 W. Broadway Blvd.

6 p.m.: Sedalia Runners Club-Track at Smith-Cotton Track.

7 p.m.: OIC Studios will present the SpoFest writing prompt/open mic event streaming live via Zoom, Facebook and OIC Radio. Signup and event guidelines at www.oicstudios.com/spofest-online.

7 p.m.: Women of the Moose, at the lodge, 119 Winchester Dr.

7:30 p.m.: Sedalia Chapter 57, Order of the Eastern Star, Masonic Temple, 601 W. Broadway Blvd.

WEDNESDAY

10 a.m.: TOPS (Take off Pounds Sensibly) Chapter 958, First Baptist Church, 200 E. Sixth St. First visit is free; 816-916-6237.

11:30 a.m.: Open Door Soup Kitchen, 417 W. Pettis St. Call 660-827-1613.

Noon: Sedalia Lions Club, Heckart Community Center, 1800 W. Third St.

5:30 p.m.: Amigos de Cristo, Teen Mom Classes at 3003 W. 11th St., 660-826-2788.

THURSDAY

Noon: Kiwanis of Sedalia, at Lamy's, 108 Pacific St.

1 p.m.: Sedalia Duplicate Bridge Club at First Christian Church, 200 S. Limit Ave.

6 p.m.: Women in Crisis Group, call 660-827-5555 for location.

6:30 p.m.: Sedalia Cadet Squadron Civil Air Patrol, Civil Air Patrol building, U.S. Highway 50.

6:30 p.m.: Sedalia Landlords Inc., Community of Christ Church, 2000 S. Ingram Ave.

7 p.m.: Fraternal Order of Eagles No. 4286, Lincoln.

7 p.m.: Mid-Missouri Artists, Warrensburg Community Center, 445 E. Gay St.

7 p.m.: Sedalia Bible Academy, Boonslick Regional Library, 219 W. Third St., Sedalia. For more information, call 660-826-9988. It is free and open to the public.

FRIDAY

No meetings.

SATURDAY

7 a.m.: Sedalia Runners Club-Group Run every Saturday at Clarendon and Katy Trail.

2 p.m.: Warsaw Cruisers at Cow Pattie's Restaurant, 604 W. Main St.

Ahead of 50th anniversary, 'Power Broker' author feels like a movie star

By Hillel Italie
AP National Writer

NEW YORK — Since the release a year ago of the acclaimed documentary "Turn Every Page," Robert Caro has been feeling a bit like a movie star.

"I walk up Broadway and kids recognize me," the historian and author of "The Power Broker" says. "If I linger a bit, they start talking about a chapter that they like. It's so wonderful."

The 88-year-old Caro, winner of virtually every literary prize, has long held at least semi-celebrity status. His better known admirers range from Conan O'Brien to former Presidents Bill Clinton and Barack Obama, and impatient readers regularly send emails to his publisher, Alfred A. Knopf, asking for an update on his fifth and final Lyndon Johnson book. (Still no release date in sight, Caro says.)

On this December morning, he's seated at a small table in the gift shop of the New-York Historical Society, engaged in another kind of ritual for public figures: autographs, available to anyone who buys one of his books from the society's store or website.

Caro has spoken around the country, and beyond, but he is also very much a New Yorker, a native Upper West Sider who used to visit the historical society as a kid and, for years, has lived close by. Every few weeks, he comes here and signs copies of his books, including the four Johnson volumes released so far and his debut publication "The Power Broker," the landmark Robert Moses biography that next fall will be featured at a society exhibit marking its 50th anniversary.

The signings are not public events, although one local resident, 28-year-old Shiloh Frederick, came in person so the author could autograph her copy of "The Power Broker." Frederick, who designs travel guides and other materials about New York City, has made several videos about Caro's epic narrative of Moses' reign as a municipal builder and its lasting impact.

"I was reading the book and it inspired all of these video ideas I wanted to share with other people," she tells Caro.

"That's the best thing I could hear," he answers.

He signed dozens of books, which the society will ship to customers; he sometimes just includes his name and the name of the book's owner, and he sometimes adds a personal message. One book was ordered by a 90-year-old priest in Rhode Island to whom Caro wishes a happy birthday. For a reader self-identified as a "young budding historian obsessed with history," Caro inscribes, "To a fellow history lover." For Frederick, he writes, "To Shiloh, who really understands."

"This is incredible. I am going to cherish this," Frederick says. "It's getting a place of honor on my bookshelf."

Historical society officials say "The Power Broker" is the most popular of the Caro books, understandable for a Pulitzer Prize winner that serves as an unofficial history of New York City in the 20th century. The NYHS, which acquired Caro's archives in 2019, is calling the fall exhibit "Truth to Power," featuring "interview notes, manuscript drafts, and other artifacts intimately connected with his writing process."

As well explained in "Turn Every Page," Caro and editor Robert Gottlieb fought bitterly while working on "The Power Broker," cutting hundreds of thousands of words from a book that still ran over 1,000 pages. The deleted sections, predating the internet era, have an aura among Caro followers that lost studio recordings might have for Beatles fans. Readers have long wondered if Caro preserved a chapter on the urban theorist and community activist Jane Jacobs, who successfully pushed back against Moses in the 1950s and '60s when he attempted to run an expressway through Lower Manhattan.

Caro grimaces when asked about the Jacobs section, not just because he's heard about it so often, but because, he says, he has no specific idea what's inside the boxes containing his "Power Broker" materials.

"I couldn't stand to look at the stuff, so I never opened the boxes," Caro says.

A society spokesperson declined to offer further details on the exhibit, saying it was too soon.

Interest in "The Power Broker" remains strong among the general public. The Moses biography has sold more than 17,000 copies this year, double the total of a decade ago, according to Circana, which tracks around 85% of print sales. During the height of the pandemic, "The Power Broker" appeared in the background during so many televised Zoom interviews, it became an unofficial status symbol.

The book inspires responses in other formats Caro never imagined while writing it. This fall, Frederick used her Instagram page to help lead an effort to tear down monkey statues widely regarded as racist that Moses had placed in a Harlem playground. The podcaster Roman Mars plans a yearlong tribute to Caro's book on his show "99% Invisible," his guests including O'Brien.

"My show is about architecture and design, and 'The Power Broker' is basically the bible of this," Mars says. "It made people like me think about how cities are built, how highways are made."

As readers await — and have awaited for more than a decade — the final Johnson volume, Caro's appearance at the historical society is a break from what has been an intense few months of writing since Gottlieb's death in June. The author has been working closely with Kathy Hourigan, who has served as a second editor on his books since he began the Johnson series in the 1970s. Hourigan is retiring this year as vice president and managing editor of Knopf Doubleday, part of a wave of buyouts at the publisher, but she will remain with Caro on a freelance basis.

The most Caro can say about the the fifth Johnson book is that it will be long, "very long." He has noted often that he already knows the last line, but that he does not work chronologically. He speaks of completing a "poignant" section on the funeral of Robert F. Kennedy, who was assassinated in 1968. But he is currently deep into the year 1965, when Johnson signed historic legislation on everything from voting rights to Medicare, while also making the ill-fated decision to send ground troops to Vietnam.

"The Vietnam War is so depressing. Honest to god, you find yourself just about crying to (hear about) these young kids who had to fight in the jungle," Caro says.

"The thing is," he says of Johnson and 1965, "it's everything about American power distilled through this one man, this one period."

Mickey Mouse will soon belong to you and me — with some caveats

By Andrew Dalton
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — M-I-C-K-E-Y will soon belong to you and me.

With several asterisks, qualification and caveats, Mickey Mouse in his earliest form will be the leader of the band of characters, films and books that will become public domain as the year turns to 2024.

In a moment many close observers thought might never come, at least one version of the quintessential piece of intellectual property and perhaps the most iconic character in American pop culture will be free from Disney's copyright as his first screen release, the 1928 short "Steamboat Willie," featuring both Mickey and Minnie Mouse, becomes available for public use.

"This is it. This is Mickey Mouse. This is exciting because it's kind of symbolic," said Jennifer Jenkins, a professor of law and director of Duke's Center for the Study of Public Domain, who writes an annual Jan. 1 column for "Public Domain Day." "I kind of feel like the pipe on the steamboat, like expelling smoke. It's so exciting."

U.S. law allows a copyright to be held for 95 years after Congress expanded it several times during Mickey's life.

"It's sometimes derisively referred to as the Mickey Mouse Protection Act," Jenkins said. "That's oversimplified because it wasn't just Disney that was pushing for term extension. It was a whole group of copyright holders whose works were set to go into the public domain soon, who benefited greatly from the 20 years of extra protection."

"Ever since Mickey Mouse's first appearance in the 1928 short film Steamboat Willie, people have associated the character with Disney's stories, experiences, and authentic products," a Disney spokesperson said in a statement to The Associated Press. "That will not change when the copyright in the Steamboat Willie film expires."

Current artists and creators will be able to make use of Mickey, but with major limits. It is only the more mischievous, rat-like, non-speaking boat captain in "Steamboat Willie" that has become public.

"More modern versions of Mickey will remain unaffected by the expiration of the Steamboat Willie copyright, and Mickey will continue to play a leading role as a global ambassador for the Walt Disney Company in our storytelling, theme park attractions, and merchandise," Disney's statement said.

Not every feature or personality trait a character displays is necessarily copyrightable, however, and courts could be busy in the coming years determining what's inside and outside Disney's ownership.

"We will, of course, continue to protect our rights in the more modern versions of Mickey Mouse and other works that remain subject to copyright," the company said.

Disney still solidly and separately holds a trademark on Mickey as a corporate mascot and brand identifier, and the law forbids using the character deceptively to fool consumers into thinking a product is from the original creator. Anyone starting a film company or a theme park will not be free to make mouse ears their logo.

Disney's statement said it "will work to safeguard against consumer confusion caused by unauthorized uses of Mickey and our other iconic characters."

"Steamboat Willie," directed by Walt Disney and his partner Ub Iwerks and among the first cartoons to have sound synced with its visuals, was actually the third cartoon featuring Mickey and Minnie the men made, but the first to be released. It features a more menacing Mickey captaining a boat and making musical instruments out of other animals.

In it, and in a clip from it used in the introduction to Disney animated films in recent years, Mickey whistles the 1910 tune "Steamboat Bill." The song inspired the title of the Buster Keaton film " Steamboat Bill Jr," released just a few months before "Steamboat Willie," which in turn may have inspired the title of the Disney short. The copyright wasn't renewed on the Keaton film and it's been in the public domain since 1956.

Another famous animal sidekick, Tigger, will join his friend Winnie the Pooh in the public domain as the book in which the bouncing tiger first appeared, "The House at Pooh Corner," turns 96. Pooh, probably the most celebrated prior character to become public property, took on that status two years ago when A.A. Milne's original "Winnie the Pooh" entered the public domain, resulting in some truly novel uses, including this year's horror film "Winnie The Pooh: Blood and Honey."

Young Mickey could get the same treatment.

"Now, the audience is going to set the terms," said Cory Doctorow, an author and activist who advocates for broader public ownership of works.

Jan. 1, 2024, has long been circled on the calendars of public domain watchers, but some say it serves to show how overlong it takes for U.S. works to go public, and many properties with less pedigree than Winnie or Minnie can disappear or be forgotten with their copyrights murky.

"The fact that there are works that are still recognizable and enduring after 95 years is is frankly remarkable," Doctorow said. "And it makes you think about the stuff that we must have lost, that would still have currency."

Other properties entering the U.S. public domain are Charlie Chaplin's film "Circus," Virginia Woolf's novel "Orlando" and Bertolt Brecht's musical play "The Threepenny Opera."

The current copyright term passed in 1998 brought the U.S. into closer sync with the European Union, making it unlikely Congress would extend it now. There are also now powerful companies, including Amazon with its fan-fiction-heavy publishing arm and Google with its books project, that in some cases advocate for the public domain.

"There's actually more pushback now than there was 20 some years ago when the Mickey Mouse act was passed," said Paul Heald, a professor at the University of Illinois College of Law who specializes in copyright and international intellectual property law.

In some instances, the U.S. goes well beyond Europe, and maintains copyright on work that is already public in its country of origin, though international agreements would allow the U.S. to adopt the shorter term of other nations on work produced there.

The books of George Orwell for example, including "Animal Farm" and "1984," both published in the 1940s, are now public domain in his native Great Britain.

"Those works aren't going to fall into the public domain in the United States for 25 years," Heald said. "It would be literally costless for Congress to pass a law saying, 'we now adopt the rule of the shorter term,' which would throw a butt ton of works into the public domain over here."

The color purple: A new movie and old hue rich in meaning and history

By Leanne Italie
AP Lifestyles Writer

NEW YORK — "I think it pisses God off if you walk by the color purple in a field somewhere and don't notice it," Shug tells Celie in Alice Walker's "The Color Purple."

In nature, among the priestly and royal, as a symbol of independence, pride and magic, purple is weighty in history and culture. Now, with the Christmas Day opening of the second film based on Walker's 1982 book, purple takes a seat at the box office after the historic popularity of "Barbie" and all things pink.

Consider it a many-layered cultural counterpart to its frothier cousin.

Power, ambition, luxury. Purple reflects them all. It also expresses creativity, independence, pride, peace, mystery and magic.

In contemporary history and fiction, it often represents something sought dearly. In the early 20th century, purple attire and signage signified loyalty and dignity among the suffragists. In Walker's novel, Celie, the main character, wants a pair of purple shoes but can't afford them, so she settles on blue.

Oprah Winfrey, who played Sofia in the 1985 film version of "The Color Purple," has donned purple frequently to promote the new musical she helped produce. And she wore a purple taffeta gown by Christian Siriano in her recently unveiled portrait for the National Portrait Gallery.

To Oprah, purple is "seminal." To others, it's a shapeshifter, said Laurie Pressman, vice president of the Pantone Color Institute, which analyzes and consults on color, including for the folks who made this year's "The Color Purple."

"It can take on so many contexts," Pressman said. "It's a color that stands out, that makes a statement, that has a singular presence in the world."

Some ways to think about purple, the hues nestled between blue and red:

PURPLE, THE DYE

The Romans conquered the Greeks in the second century B.C. and returned home with lots of pigments and dyes, writes Victoria Finlay in "The Brilliant History of Color in Art." The most celebrated was "purpura," which turned into a fashion phenom made with secretions of certain mollusks. The liquid transformed into purple when left out in the sun.

When Julius Caesar traveled to Egypt in 48 B.C. and met Queen Cleopatra, he noted her love of purple and embraced it himself. It's a love later taken up by Byzantine emperors. But before them, Caesar decreed that only Caesars could wear togas dyed completely purple.

Many, MANY mollusks were required to make purpura, which sometimes wasn't the color we know today. Finlay wrote that at least 250,000 were needed for half an ounce of dye. Ancient Tyrian purple, named for the town of Tyre in what is now southern Lebanon, was also rose, bluish red or velvety black, she writes.

Purple was reserved for royalty, priests and nobles at various times in history and in various places.

By the 14th century, the secrets of Tyrian purple were lost, according to the University of Chicago Library's 2007 exhibition "The Origins of Color." But all hail Tyrian purple! In 2001, through trial and error, the technique for making it resurfaced. Well before then, synthetic dyes, including purple, were available.

PURPLE, IN SONG

Phylicia Pearl Mpasi, a cast member in "The Color Purple," poses at the premiere of the film at the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures, Wednesday, Dec. 6, 2023, in Los Angeles. PHOTO BY CHRIS PIZZELLO | AP PHOTO

Prince's "Purple Rain." Jimi Hendrix's "Purple Haze." Juice WRLD's "Purple Devil." The rockers Deep Purple. The Grammy-winning song "Deep Purple," a No. 1 Billboard single for April Stevens and her brother, Nino Tempo, in 1963.

Purple has been peppering songs for decades, but no musical artist has been more closely aligned with the color than Prince. He became The Purple One after he and his band, the Revolution, put out "Purple Rain" in 1984 and a won a Grammy for it, along with an Oscar for the score to the companion film.

Though the song peaked at No. 2 on Billboard's Hot 100 in 1984, it forever connected Prince with the color. And he leaned in with his purple attire, purple guitar and purple piano. After his 2016 death, his estate worked with Pantone to come up with an official Prince purple, dubbed "Love Symbol #2."

Of the song's meaning and title, Prince once explained: "When there's blood in the sky … red and blue equals purple. Purple rain pertains to the end of the world and being with the one you love and letting your faith/God guide you through the purple rain."

Prince's Paisley Park estate outside Minneapolis remains bathed in purple at night.

In creating a world in sound, "purple doesn't have as clear a set of connotations" as some other colors, like the sadness of blue or the rage of red, said Nate Sloane, who specializes in the history of popular music and jazz at the University of Southern California's Thornton School of Music.

For musical artists, he said, that's freedom.

"Its ambiguity means you can explore more emotions and concepts that are less clear and established," Sloane said.

PURPLE, THE PROSE

The term "purple prose" stretches back to circa 18 B.C. and the "Ars Poetica" of Horace, according to Charles Harrington Elster in his 2005 book, "What in the Word?"

A phrase Horace used, the Latin "purpureus pannus," denoted an irrelevant and excessively ornate passage. Literally, it's a purple garment or raiment (think fancy). Horace's 476-line poem, a manual of sorts on how to write poetry, warns against "mediocrity in poets no man, god or bookseller will accept."

Generally speaking, purple prose came to mean writing that is laden with flowery descriptors and/or an oppressive structure with no real payoff to a reader. Consider this: Many writers of the 19th century were paid by the number of words they used or pages they produced.

"Purple prose doesn't seem to have become wholly pejorative until the 20th century when steep declines in the vocabulary and reading comprehension of college-educated Americans caused a panic in the education establishment and the newspaper industry," Elster wrote.

A blog post from the publishing site Reedsy offers this made-up example: "The mahogany-haired adolescent girl glanced fleetingly at her rugged paramour, a crystalline sparkle in her eyes as she gazed, enraptured, upon his countenance."

PURPLE, ON CANVAS

Monet, Chagall, Derain, Rothko, Matisse, Klimt. All were admirers of purple.

The color is said to have first surfaced in art during the Neolithic era, writes Hannah Foskett at the site Arts & Collections. The pre-Raphaelites in Britain especially loved purple.

Monet stands out for his use of violet in his Lily, Haystack, Snow and Rouen Cathedral series of paintings.

Another interpretation of purple, Foskett writes, is that it tires the eyes, "often symbolizing lust or sorrow in major artworks."

Color, in visual art, was helped along by the American portrait painter John Goffe Rand. In the 1840s, he invented a collapsible tube of tin in which to put his paint, rather than the pig bladders he and his counterparts had been struggling with for years, according to Finlay. With the invention of paint tubes, there were suddenly dozens of new pigments, including manganese violet.

"It was the first opaque, pure, affordable, mauve-colored pigment," wrote Finlay, "and it was seen as a wonder."

Lights

From Page B1

David and Donna said they were going to use money from their donation box to purchase a bed for the child but instead, they reached out to a friend who was involved with the nonprofit organization, Sleep in Heavenly Peace. The friend contacted the agency in Kansas City and the chapter's president gave the couple a call.

"He explained to me that they were backlogged but they won't say no to Santa," David said.

A collective effort was made and the family received a bunk bed.

"That's what he asked from Santa," Donna said. "He didn't ask for toys. So we did whatever we could to help this family out."

A growing light show

David and Donna said their Christmas display wasn't always a show. They started by putting up simple lights, and over the years, it has evolved.

"We've been doing Christmas displays in some form or fashion for the last 40 years," David said. "Starting out way back when we were just putting up regular Christmas lights, transitioning from things like handcrafted yard displays to large blowups, progressing to LED lights to our programmable pixels that we have now."

He said they've been putting on a programmable pixel display for the last nine years despite not knowing much about computers.

"He doesn't do computers," Donna said. "He said, 'Hey, I'm going to have a computerized light show.' The minute he said computer and lights in the same sentence, I said, 'Oh, this isn't going to be good.'"

David said he was fortunate to have a friend in Florida who helped him with the computer programming aspect of the show while he focused on setting up the display.

Thankful for support

David said they are also grateful to their neighbors who have supported them over the years.

The Country Acres Christmas Lights display and show has become an annual holiday tradition for many families in West Central Missouri. PHOTO COURTESY OF COUNTRY ACRES CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

"We've just been very fortunate for all of our neighbors — and I say all of them," David said. "I've never had a neighbor come knock on my door and say, 'You can't do this anymore.'"

David and Donna said they would also like to give their thanks to everyone who has donated over the years and to their volunteers who dressed up like Santa and Mrs. Claus when they couldn't, directed traffic and helped with other tasks. David and Donna don't want to see the light show shut down entirely and hope it will stay local, growing and going for many years to come.

Country Acres Christmas Lights, 1290 NE 140 in Knob Noster, is open daily from 5:30 to 11 p.m. On Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve, it will be open from 5:30 to 1 a.m.

Annelia Nixon can be reached at 660-747-8123.

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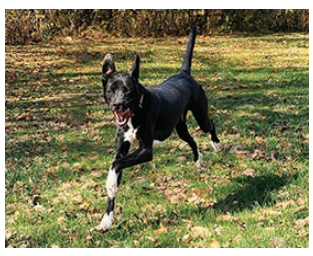

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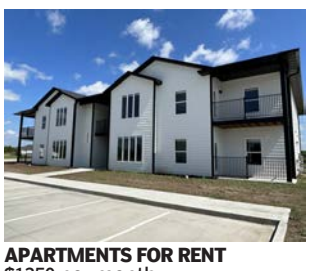

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Property consists of 2.57 acres and is offered in as in condition. Property may be viewed at any time.
Bids must be submitted to the Pettis County Clerk's Office located at 215 East 5th St. Sedalia MO in a sealed enveloped clearly marked "MAIN STREET BID" by 10:00 a.m. Thursday, December 28, 2023.
All bids must include bidder name and contact information.
Pettis County Commission reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids. Bids under $250,000 may not be considered. Bids deemed most advantageous to Pettis County will be accepted.
For additional information, please contact Facilities and Grounds Coordinator Bret Manuel at 660-620-0154 or by email at manuelb@pettiscomo.com
2x-12/19, 23, 2023

IN THE 18TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, PETTIS COUNTY, MISSOURI
Judge or Division: PROBATE
Case Number: 23PT-PR00218
PAUL ALAN KIRBY,
Deceased.
Notice of Letters of Administration Granted
(Supervised Administration)
To All Persons Interested in the Estate of PAUL ALAN KIRBY, Decedent:
On 12-14-2023, the following individual was appointed the personal representative of the estate of PAUL ALAN KIRBY, decedent, by the Probate Division of the Circuit Court of Pettis County, Missouri.
The personal representative's business address is:
KATHRYN G KIRBY, 1405 S. BARRETT, SEDALIA, MO 65301.
The personal representative's attorney's name, business address and phone number is:
LAURIE S WARD, SPANGLER WARD LLC, 514 S OHIO, SEDALIA, MO 65301, 660-827-1770.
All creditors of said decedent are notified to file claims in court within six months from the date of the first publication of this notice or if a copy of this notice was mailed to, or served upon, such creditor by the personal representative, then within two months from the date it was mailed or served, whichever is later, or be forever barred to the fullest extent permissible by law. Such six-month period and such two-month period do not extend the limitation period that would bar claims one year after Decedent's death, as provided in Section 473.444, RSMo, or any other applicable limitation periods. Nothing in Section 473.033, RSMo, shall be construed to bar any action against a decedent's liability insurance carrier through a defendant ad litem pursuant to Section 537.021, RSMo.
Date of the decedent's death: 12-NOV-2023
Date of first publication: 12-16-2023
Susan Sadler, Circuit Clerk,
by:/S/Darla Ebeling,
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Clerk
4X-12/16, 23, 30/23, 01/06/24

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The City of Sedalia is soliciting sealed bids from qualified contractors for the painting, decal or wrap application of the City's logo on the 1.5 million gallons Hydropillar located at 1401 Water Tower Road. The City is seeking a qualified artist or paint contractor experienced in large seal and logo application or similar projects and licensed to provide such services in the State of Missouri, who or which has relevant experience in Mid-Missouri.
To obtain a full copy of the Invitation for Bid packet, please contact Elizabeth Nations at (660) 827-3000 ext. 1166 or via e-mail at enations@sedalia.com.
All sealed responses to this IFB are due on Jan. 23, 2024 by 2:00 p.m. CST at which time the proposals will be opened by the City Clerk's Office in the Council Chambers in City Hall.
Sealed responses to the IFB must be addressed to the City Clerk's Office and mailed, couriered, or hand-delivered to:
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City of Sedalia
200 S. Osage
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The outside of the sealed response envelope must clearly state IFB 2024-013 City Logo Application-Water Tower. Any proposal received after the above stated date and time; will not be opened and will be discarded or upon request and at the expense of the bidder will be returned. The City of Sedalia retains the right to reject any and all bids submitted, and to waive any minor irregularity contained in any proposal.
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Behind 'Maestro' drama is raft of theater stars supporting story of Bernstein

By Mark Kennedy
Associated Press

This image released by Netflix shows Bradley Cooper as Leonard Bernstein, left, and Gideon Glick as Tommy Cothran in a scene from "Maestro."
PHOTO BY JASON MCDONALD | NETFLIX VIA AP)

NEW YORK — Leonard Bernstein was a towering figure on Broadway. So it seems only fitting that the new film darma of him leans on the Great White Way to get the story right.

Bradley Cooper's movie "Maestro" is studded with theater stars — 29 of the 38 principal cast members have a background in the theater, including Gideon Glick, Michael Urie, Greg Hildreth, Nick Blaemire, Ryan Steele, Zachary Booth and Gaby Diaz.

Look closely and you'll find actor-turned-director Scott Ellis playing Bernstein's manager, Harry Kraut, and rising stage star Jordan Dobson — whose credits include "Bad Cinderella," "Hadestown" and, significantly, "West Side Story" — playing a young conductor.

Casting director Shayna Markowitz said she didn't necessarily set out to land theater pros but it came naturally when she was trying to populate Bernstein's world authentically.

"There's kind of this amazing synergy between casting theater actors to portray people of the theater world and of Lenny's world," Markowitz said. "I just feel like we got really lucky with just these wonderful New York actors that are here and that wanted to be a part of this."

Markowitz worked with Cooper on telling the story of a conductor, composer, pianist who helped create such musical theater classic as "West Side Story," "Candide," "On the Town" and "Wonderful Town." Cooper stars alongside Carey Mulligan as Bernstein's wife.

Some selections seem inspired, like the casting of dancer Ricky Ubeda by choreographer Justin Peck. In 2015, "So You Think You Can Dance" winner Ubeda made his Broadway debut when joining the ensemble of a revival of "On the Town" and in "Maestro" he can be seen in a dream sequence of, yes, "On the Town."

But perhaps the best Easter egg is a scene in the movie when the cast is rehearsing "Candide" with Cooper conducting. Actor June Gable approaches Mulligan's character to ask a question. Eagle-eyed viewers will recognize that's the same Gable who was nominated for a Tony Award in the mid-1970s for "Candide."

"She knew Lenny Bernstein and so was having a full-on, out-of-body experience being in that scene with Bradley," said Markowitz. "She was like, 'It was crazy. I was crying. It was as if he was there.' So that was a cool moment."

Casting directors like Markowitz use a service that alerts talent agents and managers about upcoming roles and she will makes up her own lists of actors she thinks would be perfect, which she did for "Maestro."

"Every director works a little differently. Every project is obviously different and the needs are different. I adapt to how the filmmaker likes to work," said Markowitz. "I think you want to find the very best actors who are most suited for the roles. That never changes."

Glick, who has appeared on Broadway in "Spring Awakening," "Spider-Man: Turn Off the Dark" and was Tony-nominated for "To Kill a Mockingbird," auditioned on tape for the role of Tommy Cothran, music director at a radio station in San Francisco and a lover of Bernstein.

"Bradley created a very loose and immersive environment that was very, very playful and it sort of reminded me of that stage in the rehearsal process when you're doing a play or a musical where you're not being result oriented and you're just exploring and taking chances," said Glick. "I think you can feel that in the film."

Some parts in "Maestro" are very small roles — just a few seconds of film needing a day's work — but have deep significance for the theater community, like the legendary songwriting team of Betty Comden and Adolph Green — played in "Maestro" by Mallory Portnoy and Nick Blaemire.

"Actors sign on to do projects or audition for projects because they want to be a part of it. And so they understood the significance of both of those parts," Markowitz said. "Some actors just want to be a part of it no matter what and no matter how."

Ellis, a multiple Tony Award-nominated director, was coaxed back to acting by Cooper, a friend and colleague who had worked together onstage, most notably on "The Elephant Man" on Broadway.

Cooper thought his warm and loving relationship with Ellis could infuse the onscreen relationship he wanted to show between Bernstein and his manager.

"It was so relaxed and an incredible experience and something way out of my comfort zone," said Ellis, who estimated he last acted 30 years ago.

"I'm sitting there in a dressing room surrounded by these incredible actors who, as a director, I would go, 'God, I'd love to work with you on a piece.' But, all of a sudden, I realize, 'No, I'm just one of them.'"

In many ways, "Maestro" is the latest artistic watering hole for Broadway veterans, joining "Law & Order," "Glee," "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel," "The Good Fight," "The Gilded Age," "Fosse/Verdon," "Zoey's Extraordinary Playlist," "Only Murders in the Building" and "Smash."

Markowitz, who works across film and TV and who has cast "Dash & Lily," "Ocean's Eight," winning the inaugural BAFTA Award for best casting in 2020 for "Joker," said "Maestro" is special.

"This is a once-in-a-lifetime milestone film for sure," she said. "I feel so lucky to have had this experience, and I'm so happy with how people are receiving it as this really special thing, because it's it's very special to me."

Marvel kicked out Majors after conviction, throwing plans into disarray

By Jake Coyle
AP Film Writer

NEW YORK — Marvel had more riding on Jonathan Majors than perhaps any other actor. Now it's parting ways with him, and throwing years of plans for its cinematic universe in disarray.

Marvel Studios and the Walt Disney Co. dropped Majors from all future projects following the actor's conviction for assault and harassment on Monday, according to a person close to the studio who spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to speak publicly on the matter.

The swift move by Disney marked a stunning about-face for an actor who had been one of Hollywood's fastest-rising stars. A Manhattan jury on Monday found the 34-year-old Majors guilty of one misdemeanor assault charge and one harassment violation for a March altercation with his then-girlfriend Grace Jabbari.

Majors, who was acquitted of a different assault charge and of aggravated harassment, will be sentenced on Feb. 6. He declined to comment as he left the courthouse. Majors' attorney, Priya Chaudhry, said in a statement that "it is clear that the jury did not believe Grace Jabbari's story of what happened in the SUV because they found that Mr. Majors did not intentionally cause any injuries to her."

"Mr. Majors still has faith in the process and looks forward to fully clearing his name," said Chaudhry.

As the superhero studio prepared phase five of the Marvel Cinematic Universe, it cast the highly acclaimed Majors as the antagonist Kang the Conqueror. The character was to span several films and series as the Marvel Cinematic Universe's next-phase answer to Thanos, the villain of "Avengers: Endgame."

Majors had already appeared in " Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania" and the first two seasons of "Loki." He was to star in "Avengers: The Kang Dynasty," dated for release in May 2026.

The future of "The Kang Dynasty" is now unclear. Disney declined to comment on whether it will recast the role of Kang or pivot in a new direction.

The studio has been preparing for the possibility of Majors' exit from the franchise. But Marvel was limited in its ability to fashion rewrites due to the screenwriters strike that ran from May to late September. The studio recently hired screenwriter Michael Waldron to rework "The Kang Dynasty."

For Marvel, Majors' departure adds to a series of recent setbacks. Though its box-office success — nearly $30 billion worldwide from 33 films — is unsurpassed in movie history, the superhero factory has recently seen some atypical struggles. "The Marvels," released in November, has been the MCU's worst performer in theaters, with $204 million in worldwide ticket sales.

Majors also recently starred as a troubled amateur bodybuilder in "Magazine Dreams," which made an acclaimed debut at the Sundance Film Festival in January and was acquired by the Disney-owned indie distributor Searchlight Pictures. Following its premiere, an Oscar nomination for Majors was widely predicted.

"Magazine Dreams" had been dated to open in theaters in Dec. 8. But ahead of Majors' trial, Searchlight removed the film from its release calendar. Instead, on Dec. 8 t ext messages from Majors were read in the fifth day of the trial. In one, Majors begged Jabbari not to seek medical attention for a head injury sustained in 2022 , warning she had "no perspective of what could happen" if the truth got out.

In late February as "Creed III," starring Majors alongside Michael B. Jordan, was being released, Majors spoke in an interview with The Associated Press in the neighborhood of Chelsea, just a few blocks away from where his fight with Jabbari would weeks later spill out onto New York streets.

Majors then sounded acutely aware that his rapid new fame carried the risk of a downfall.

"Though I've not seen the boogeyman, I know it's out there," Majors said. "And I've been around to know it's comin'. I won't go down my rabbit hole of death, but it's comin'. But you outrun it. You just stay out of the frame. I'll stay out of the frame."

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Associated Press writer Jennifer Peltz contributed to this report

SEDALIA DEMOCRAT 2022

Letters to Santa

Dear Santa,
What I want for christmas. I want a ps5 and a jark my kitten. I want you to bring me money please. Sincerely, sterling.
Sterling, 8

Dear Santa,
I want christmax.
Trace

Dear Santa,
I want a monster truck.
Cole

Dear Santa,
I want a monster truck.
Kob

Dear Santa,
I want make-up.
Alexandra

Dear Santa,
I want a ferrari.
Zean

Dear Santa,
I want a phone.
Gabe

Dear Santa,
I want a phone.
Yulia

Dear Santa,
I want a unicorn.
Hamley

Dear Santa,
I want a talking unicorn.
Iris

Dear Santa,
I want a unicorn.
Ishmael

Dear Santa,
I want plushies!
Blake

Dear Santa,
I want a phone!
Bailey

Dear Santa,
I want a phone!
Niek

Dear Santa,
I want christmas poop that shoots out candy.
Keylea

Dear Santa,
I want a car.
Auner

Dear Santa,
I hope you don't get cold and eat lots of cookies. I want you to make all the kids happy. I want pokemon cards and a rc cyber truck.
Max, 8

Dear Santa,
I want a real monster truck.
Jonny

Dear Santa,
I want a watch.
Makena

Dear Santa,
Is rudolph real? Are elves real? I like your sleigh. I want crystals and a Sally doll.
Love, Mia
Mia, 8

Dear Santa,
I want to be spiderman.
Elias

Dear Santa,
I want dominoes.
Sophia

Dear Santa,
I want a doll.
Mirah

Dear Santa,
I want a barbie.
Grace

Dear Santa,
I want to be black panther.
Rere

Dear Santa,
I would like a doll.
Retna

Dear Santa,
How do your reindeer hold the sled?
Morgan

Dear Santa,
I want a doll house.
Hans

Dear Santa,
I want a kindle fire.
Nicholas

Dear Santa,
Can reindeer fly?
Maddie

Dear Santa,
What is your favorite color?
Guadalupe

Dear Santa,
Why do reindeer eat carrots?
Blake

Dear Santa,
What is your favorite cookie?
Yeva

Dear Santa,
What is your fav cookie, I want a sledhammer.
Trent

Dear Santa,
How are the reindeer? I want dinosaurs!
Grey

Dear Santa,
How are the reindeer? I want a book!
Mark

Dear Santa,
What is fav cookie, I want a LOL Dol.
Zoey

Dear Santa,
I want a LOL Dol, how are the reindeer?
Estev

Dear Santa,
I want barbie dream house, how are reindeer?
Ally

Dear Santa,
What is your cookie? I want a sweng
Rayden

Dear Santa,
How are the elves? I want pige and ele book.
Sophia

Dear Santa,
Usually. All i want for christmas is new clothing. I cant wait to see my elf Lala! And. my presents Now I will tell you what I want for christmas. Mama surprise. Smelly stickers and color pencills. Thank you! I love you so much!
Aliyah, 8

Dear Santa,
This year I would like these things Please: squishmellow, bunk bed, Baby Alive that eats and poops, some clothes, barbie doll house and barbie dolls,. Thank you santa for these things.
Mary, 7

Dear Santa,
I want 8 dogs, 7 footboll jersey and winter gloves. Thank you, santa.
Shane

Dear Santa,
I always want a big doll house, a toy shark, a pink pop It backpack and a lot of squishies. Please!! Thank you. I love you santa clause.
Azzy P., 6

Dear Santa,
I want for christmas:
1. Xodox,
2. $2,900,
3. Nerf gun,
4. Fortnite game,
5. Dog and cat,
Thank you!
Emmett, 8

Dear Santa,
I want my own.switch, and Forthite toys. I also want some minecraft pLushes. Thank you.
Fynn, 7

Dear Santa,
I lov christimas I want a robot stingray, a bocugun, and a shake keing Toy, slim. Please
Rowdy, 8

Dear Santa,
Christmas is my favorite holliday and the best. Santa likes cookies and milk. I want a go-kark for christmas. Sincerely, Kaiden.
Kaiden

Dear Santa,
For christmas I want a popit, backpack, a rainbow one. I also want a cat, swoshamill and one squishy. I want it to be a cat one, and I hope my wish comes true. I think chistmas is the best.
Camilla, 7

Dear Santa,
I want a ps5, christmas is the best I also want a go-kart. Sincerely, Gabriel.
Gabriel, 8

Dear Santa,
this is what i waritt, for chritmas:
1. A mellisa and dug toy
2. coloring Book please.
3. I want a color pencil set,
4. And a toy for my baby bhother
Thank you, valeria.
Valeria, 8

Dear Santa,
Can you give me the game of Poppy Playtime? And can you give me the game of super Mario maker two? I love the video games you gage me last year. I will give you good cookies!
Andrew, 8

Dear Santa,
I Love you.
Liam, 6

Dear Santa,
I Love you Satu. I Wot A Plushe and Lego Machin.
Lasehyeligun

Dear Santa,
A goo, A toy cat, A scarf. A Hat. Gloves.
Luke, 6

Dear Santa,
I want for crismis a unicorn. a toy catzpilar. lots of candy. pet dog and Hart Pilow.
Lydia, 7

Dear Santa,
I wut a free from renbow. I wut a sonic. I wut a conic.exe.
Dom, 7

Dear Santa,
I wut a phone.
Corey

Dear Santa,
crn, uelel, IPid.
Broelyn, 7

Dear Santa,
I want a macpuset. I want a lakebox safe. I wuand a lol in a box. I wunt a iyf. I wunt a cotingcanol.
Audrina, 6

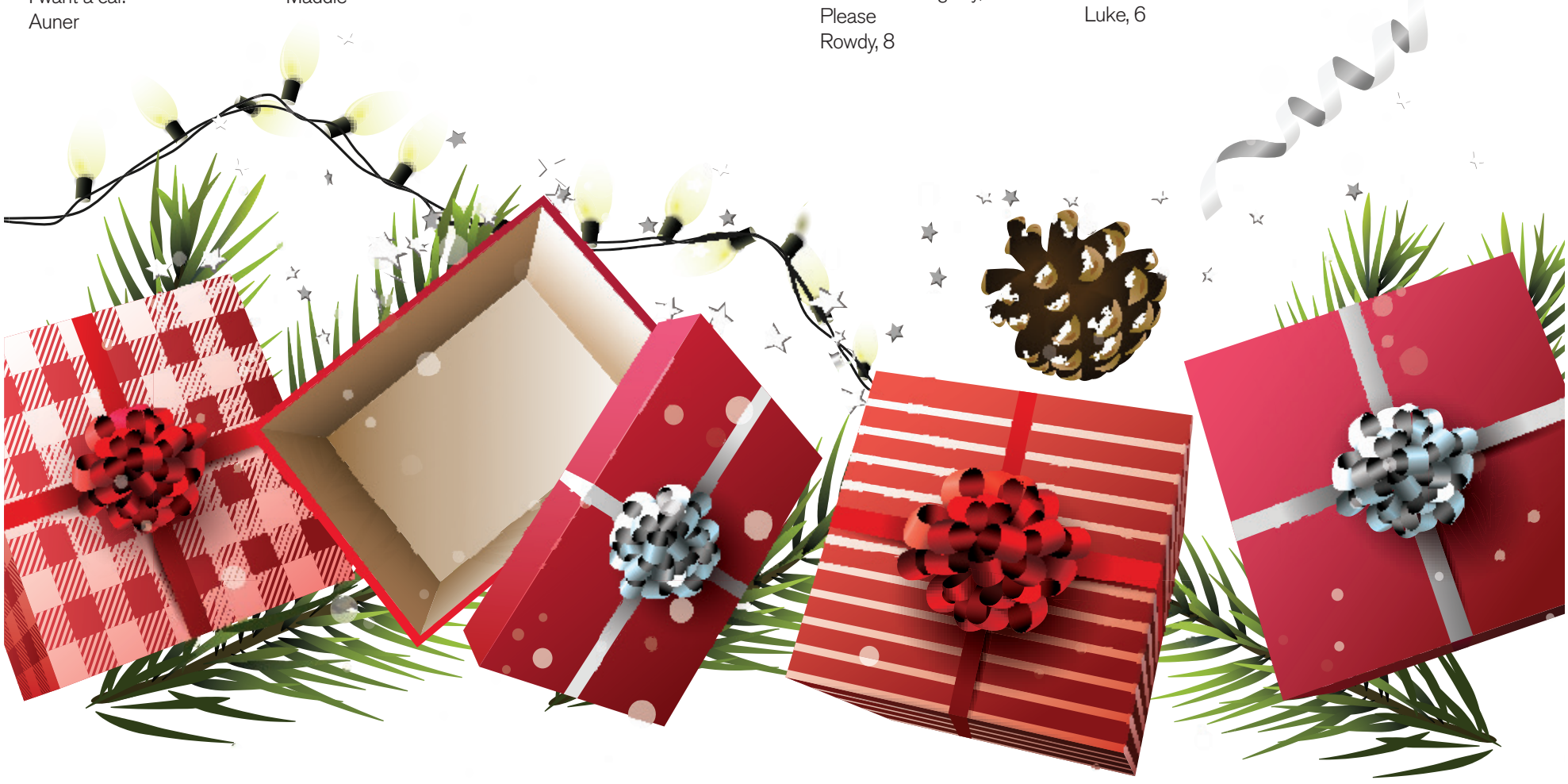
Dear Santa,
Fon, chypodr, boc, wodrbodr, blacefgrq, facshowbols, lemadsot.
Breaisha, 6

Dear Santa,
Can I have a laptop and anuthr cat. Ples! I <3 u.
Elenor, 6

Dear Santa,
I wut. RellliF DOG. IpBOX.
Odin

Dear Santa,
I wunt OMGdols and LOL dolls and cribabes and a skool awfit.
Elvie, 6

Dear Santa,
I want infunint mech. I want a Lanke xbox. I want nekes.
Ethan, 6



Letters to Santa

Dear Santa,
I wot a woch for chrismis mis ples. I wot a fon for chismis mis ples. I wot sum hedlis for chismis mis ples.
Rebekah, 6

Dear Santa,
I want a phone for christmas.
Zoey, 6

Dear Santa,
I wot a piez cat and a howeth ack.
Gavin, 6

Dear Santa,
Der sant clos, I wot a how friends at my has and a pup and a dog.
Gabby, 6

Dear Santa,
I waunt ploy-doh for christmas.
Brithany, 6

Dear Santa,
I wont too yuo, Santacloz gav, Me a big dol, haws a loval bol, haws uov the, alol sooproys.
Milana, 7

Dear Santa,
I waunt boyblades for christmas.
Nicolas, 6

Dear Santa,
I want to hav hazal back she is my favit cat evr.
Mila, 7

Dear Santa,
What I want for Christmas is some makeup, fake nails, a wig, markers, a colering book, new books, a puppy, a dress and a crown. Thank you so much for all the presents you gave me. Sincerely, Serena.
Serena, 7

Dear Santa,
Hpb, I have ben good. Help feed the pets and the babes. I would like to have Legos and telestope.
Cuxtis, 7

Dear Santa,
Hi! I bin good this year your elf was woching me today. I helped my dog. I want a Ipad for Chrismas and a pocmoeon. Thank you! I Love you you Aer thu best.
Harmony, 6

Dear Santa,
Hi! I have been nise this year.
Avery, 6

Dear Santa,
Hi I been good bi doing the laundry! I also did dishes. I would like to have chrzordcord and chransformr.
Brantley, 7

Dear Santa,
I have been good. I like doing What IM goT told I helped my friend up. I do dishes. I wld love fone and a highheels. I love you!
McKayla, 7

Dear Santa,
I ben nope and nise. I hav ben geteing frezrbox. I Held clean the Batnrom. TwiL Like a New Shoes.
Jacob, 7

Dear Santa,
wud like a play set wif hrs. I ben good. I klen up the hous and I help klen up the dog.
Milusia, 7

Dear Santa,
Hello I have been good this year I helped me xame be a I would like a new toy.
Straien, 8

Dear Santa,
Hello! I Hav ben good at setting up laundry and feed pets. I would like to haved iPad and a headphone and erbuds. Thank you!
Andy, 7

Dear Santa,
Hello! I have been cleening my room. I helped cleen at schooll. I helped with the laundry. I would Like to have LOL dolls and Barbes. Thank you!
Nayamoie, 7

Dear Santa,
Hi! I have been good this year. I helped clean the house and my llitl sistr. I make my bed. I wud like to have a kitin and a lot of dols. I Love You!
Josie, 6

Dear Santa,
Hello Santa! i have been good this year. I helped do laundry and I feed my pet and I clean my moms bed. I would like hot whels and bid meck toy. Thank you.
Isaac, 7

Dear Santa,
Hi! I have ben good! this yer! I have fed the pets. I help fed lizrd! I would like to have pokemn that pref ples cha fomoz! Thank you!
Jaxon, 8

Dear Santa,
Hi i been good this yer. I do not paut. I finish my homework in two days. I would like ot have a remote can and a lego car. you are the best!
Corbin, 6

Dear Santa,
Hi! I have been good. I helped pick trash. and i take car of my pets. I would like to have a Barbihows and a BarbiKampr. I love you!
Emsley, 6

Dear Santa,
Your the best. I lisn at scol. I wash dishs. I help clnen the hous. I help feed the dog and the cat food and wodr. I clen my room. I clen the yrd. I help pepl I wud lik to have a box en toy and yede and spaghete. I luv you.
Oliver

Dear Santa,
Hi! I have been good this yer. I did all of my hmwrk. I would like to have a buggy and a rel live pupe dog.
Elliott, 6

Dear Santa,
I have been good this year. Are you ready for this year! I would like gloe on nels, and a blue beny bag char, and a mack up kit for christmas thank you for the elves. have a safe flight love stella.
Stella D., 7

Dear Santa,
I have been good this year. Racer. your the best have a safe flight. Love, Mason.
Mason P., 7

Dear Santa,
Dear Santa, I have been good this year. For example, I helped my fnatn with clehes. I would like sum lagos for christmas. love Nevaeh.
Nevaeh, 7

Dear Santa,
I have been nice! I playyed vlebol wif sisth. I wud like a motrsikl a toy pleg. Merry Christmas! Love, Efrain.
Efrain, 6

Dear Santa,
I wut a valol. I wat a I wat a lov dophs. I wat a pefps 5. I wat a fron firp pat pol. From Keyshia.
Keyshia, 9

Dear Santa,
I want a scooter. can I have a bike?
Kiril, 6

Dear Santa,
Pleas a geem labrogene.
Omar, 8

Dear Santa,
can I have some Pokemon? and a shieumoko. Thank you.
Bella, 6

Dear Santa,
I Wot is a nuxxv bik. I Wot a nuVV QoSke. Thank youy Merr chrestmas!
Avianna, 6

Dear Santa,
Pokemon Sotu. cat to spider to. coocoo to.
Kinnick, 6

Dear Santa,
Can I glees hav gokemon cords for crismis.
Ava, 6

Dear Santa,
A dds, Actrr, A snowman, A Chair, A Chelf, A NutehdoSwich.
Olivia, 6

Dear Santa,
Legos, Robox, battle leg, bands, litsaber, legos.
Reid, 6

Dear Santa,
Pocket woch, litsabr, pokymon book, swich, bockoogon.
Braelynn H, 6

Dear Santa,
Barbys wit outfits.
Faith, 6

Dear Santa,
I want a..Panda bear stuffy, mermaid books, care bear stuffy, domamnos, toy clock, barbeys.
Audrey, 6

Dear Santa,
You are so nice thank you for spreading the cher to the Whole World nad Love To The Whole World.
Bella, 6

Dear Santa,
you are so Nice you are the Best prsin ever Becuse you give me toys. I Wish for a toye RC.
Keegan, 6

Dear Santa,
Pup Cat.
Natali, 7

Dear Santa,
Lots of Toys PLESE AND THANK YOU. MERRY LOVE MATTEO CHRISTMAS HOHOHO.
Matteo, 7

Dear Santa,
I want a Balnk perer, ipad, trains, nintedo switch, candy canes for christmas.
Owen, 6

Dear Santa,
I barbie car.
Dahiela, 6

Dear Santa,
I want barbie car. I want chrismas lits. AND ToyS.
MagAGy

Dear Santa,
I WANT presents FORC chrismus present.
William, 6

Dear Santa,
I LOVE YOU.
Emily, 6

Dear Santa,
I wut a Jorbot and truck and soldgers and train.
Mennet, 6

Dear Santa,
Heles, books, skatbard, dog, poster, iphon 14, huverbord, drum set.
Brynley, 7

Dear Santa,
POKEMON cards, 4 GOLD cards, Mewtwo.
Stetson, 7

Dear Santa,
Peperony, Candy, nets.
Ellie, 6

Dear Santa,
City, CAT, food. Ples and thank you.
Grace, 7

Dear Santa,
I have been good/bad this year. I helped MY baby brother. I would like same toys. love Leyton.
Leyton, 6

Dear Santa,
I have been good this year. I helped my mom I would Like a Slim for Christmas. Love Kassidy.
Kassidy, 7

Dear Santa,
I have been good this year. For example I helped my grandma.
Jayden, 7

Letters to Santa

Dear Santa,
I have been good This year. I would like a Micro-Fone Witha SPeaKer.
Kinleigh, 6

Dear Santa,
I want nintendoswitch for christmas I need it.
Ramisah, 7

Dear Santa,
I wana worm and acat and two dogs. Fum, Jaylanni.
Jaylanni, 7

Dear Santa,
I need food I want a phone I want a tree house. From Apis.
Apis, 7

Dear Santa,
I want art stuff for chrismus.
Vanessa, 6

Dear Santa,
I want a motorcycle for christmas.
Elliott, 7

Dear Santa,
I want for christmas i need a Beat.
Derek, 7

Dear Santa,
PS3, PS4, PS5, RCCAR, NerfGun, LAPTOP, XBox, SWITCH, DirtBike.
JaBari, 7

Dear Santa,
Lego, Telephone Smsung, Candies, PS5, Nerf, HOT WHEELS CAR.
Fypyis, 8

Dear Santa,
Dirt Bike, NERFGUN, PS5, I Phon, Switch.
Easton, 7

Dear Santa,
apple woch, Xbox, phon, PS5.
tristan, 9

Dear Santa,
What is your favorite color?

Dear Santa,
Where is the North Ploe?

Dear Santa,
What is your favorite cookie?

Dear Santa,
What is your favorite color?

Dear Santa,
Do you like kittens?

Dear Santa,
Why don't you come when it snows?

Dear Santa,
Do you like pink and purple?

Dear Santa,
R U santa?

Dear Santa,
When will you come to my house?

Dear Santa,
i wrld like a vr and a play stashin. thank you.
Jeremiah, 8

Dear Santa,
I wish I was not sick. I want a hub. I want a blanket. I want a lander. I want money.
Leyaiana, 8

Dear Santa,
I bin Good. for christmas I want SLim.
Love Rasika
Raska, 6

Dear Santa,
I been good. I WANT A BabE Doll. love Khloe.
Khloe, 7

Dear Santa,
I have benn good, I want doll clothes
Chloe, 7

Dear Santa,
I helped my mom. Love you.
Atikis, 7

Dear Santa,
Merry Christmas!!!
Dylan, 7

Dear Santa,
I want lots of DOGMAN BOOKS.
Wesley, 7

Dear Santa,
Apple Pen, Sand, makeup.
Talkyan, 8

Dear Santa,
Lego semi truck, Lego trailer, Lego jeep, luigis game card.
Ashton, 7

Dear Santa,
I want dinosar and candy. I want money thank you.
Jordan, 8

Dear Santa,
I wood like a phone and makeup. A big BAG.
Sophia, 8

Dear Santa,
2 PS5s, Dumbells, trampelen, dog and cat.
Bradly, 8

Dear Santa,
Skatbard, football and PS5 Hoovboard.
Gage, 8

Dear Santa,
I been good, I help MOM. I want som stuff.
Brenda, 6

Dear Santa,
I want Phone and cat.
Miannah, 6

Dear Santa,
Why do you eat cookie.

Dear Santa,
How are you Im doing wll and How are Mrs. claws and rudolph I really whant everyone to be happy on every day ! I now its alot but please santa Love, Alaina.
Alaina, 8

Dear Santa,
How is your Advent, how is all of your deer? I love christmas and SNOW! I love the day of christ was born.
Auggie, 9

Dear Santa,
I like the elf we got at our hous I like to find him when I wake up. He always hides in good places. Please say hie to Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Comet, cupped, Donner, dixion, blitson, rudolph. And for christmas I would like a nintendo Switch with games and I want the sky walkr saga for it all of the starwars movies and the all the pirats of the caribbean and xbox 360 games cats food for our cats and cat toy for our cats 3 ds game and is all I want for christmas. I hope you have a good christmas santa. From Corbin B, To santa.
Corbin, 9

Dear Santa,
This year has been grat being in 3rd grad and I cant Belive that Christmas is alredy hear. I hope that evryon has happy holidays and a happy New year you too! 2022 is lamost 2023! Can you believe it. Have Jolly Jolly Jolly CHRISTMAS - resa, 2022.
Eden, 8

Dear Santa,
Santa how is your workshop going? I hope its going good. Has Mrs. Claus been making lots of cookies? I can tell you what I want for christmas I want smash bros, squishmollow, go cart, cristal rock kit, PS4.
Limlee, 8 and a half

Dear Santa,
I have been asking for a pc and a Iphone and 400$ roblox gift card Silver pokemon and joradans cloths painting piano boos crss globe cubs hats pajamas plants candles candy. Love gabe.
Gabe, 8

Dear Santa,
how is rudolph is he fine or is he sick? What I really want for Christmas is a bigh slime kit, pokemon toys, pokemon cards, 3ds, and all pokemon. Nintendos witch games if you can. Also before i do where is myself sparkle let me know! Love Jabari.
Jabari

Dear Santa,
How is rudolp downing? Do you like chocolate cause we have a bungch. Can you gire me the lamo lego mincraft build for christmas and a lond on dary pokemon cit! And say i to the reindeer for me santa pleas. Stay cold, James WE LOVE YOU SANTA.
James, 8

Dear Santa,
How are you and Mrs. clause doing? For christmas I would like to have a new bike, munchkin bars, snow, and new friends, Low a durtbike and nikes. Love lorelei.
Lorelei, 9

Dear Santa,
hello, say hi to rudolph and Mrs. Claus and the elf. Santa can you give me a ty teddy bar. I hope you have a merry christams. From mariana.
Mariana, 8

Dear Santa,
how are you? I'm good. Can I tell you what I want ok I want a Iphone14, schishmelow, a dog, a snake, a nitio switch, Stoff for it. I'm sorry I'm asking for so much. I just want it all. How is Rudolph? Merry is so funny she wanted to play tictacto. I hope you like my cookes when you come to our home how is mrs. Clause.Love mia.
Mia, 9

Dear Santa,
I want a book about dinosaurs a mighty pups charged up DVD, a Might pup rocky and chase. How are you doing? Im doing grat. Please bring me a Nentendo switch.
Nicholas, 8

Dear Santa,
How are the randeer re they good. How are are are you redy for you flint around the world this yere. The thing I want for christmas is a fast rc boat.
Thomas, 8

Dear Santa,
Will you get me a Present? I want an Ipad thats all because I can play games on it and I can call people like my friends maily members or like other people I really sooperdooper like other people and I want a ipad like really really bad. So can you get it form me please. Thank you Love isabella.
Isabella, 9

Dear Santa,
I want a phone for my siter har name is ryleigh but you can give it to me to give to har it can frum both of us. Can you get me matt and rebecas hot choclate can give me of them 3 for me and the other 3 for ryleigh ples. Can you get my mommy and daddy bac to gether Pleasssssssssssss Can I get a watch to of them plesss santa can I get a vr head set but pink for me and ryleigh and I to shar ples santas also you are vary cool.
Ashlyn K., 9

Dear Santa,
Huver bord, Skates, Salt gun/bug gun, Dirt bike.
Kaiden, 9

Dear Santa,
I don't want any thing for I just want to be with my famil. Oh i want want a watch thats it.
Meleena, 9

Dear Santa,
I would like an oculus for christmas and I got all A+ in school i am very good.
Elias, 8

Dear Santa,
I want a grabby's doll house please make shere it has evoreything in it. Have a grate day oh make sher you tell Mrs. Claus it have a grate day too.
Grayclyn, 9

Dear Santa,
This year I have been really good! For christmas i sould like a puppy blante, a magic 8 ball, a soccer blanket, a hover 1, and a I phone 13 pro- with a puppy phone case.
Madi R., 8

Letters to Santa

Dear Santa,
This year I have been rally good this year for christmas. I would like a kitten, new cloths, and new shoes.
Keegan, 9

Dear Santa,
Hello i would like a new phone case with Gold ronning down the back it would be so cool.
Charlotte, 9

Dear Santa,
Santa you are the best! I dont want a lot for Christmas, This christmas on my wish list is new clotes, and a mini frige. Santa you are amazing! Sincerely Hannah.
Hannah, 9

Dear Santa,
Im so glad you are coming this year. My sisters are so exited for you coming. Do you relly have reighdeer that fly. What i really want for christmas is to spend time with my family.
Derek, 9

Dear Santa,
How are you? Im goud. For this christmas I want a laptop with a case, a skin care set, a tablet and firestick case, and a squichmellow. I hope you have a goud christmas. Yours truly hadley.
Hadley, 10

Dear Santa,
How are your elves. Are they making lots of presets. I know something i want from you. I want clips fir my hair to keep off my neak and out of my face.
Emery, 10

Dear Santa,
I wnat the nue iphone 2,758 pleas and a vr.
Arturs, 10

Dear Santa,
I want a puppy for chrestmus.
Harley, 10

Dear Santa,
I would like to get a new basketball hop and 285 sized baskeitbill, And for it to snow on 12/28/2022.
Jase, 9

Dear Santa,
I wish that you cah make slalida fun please. And new or has all of the fun on fair.
Raleigh, 11

Dear Santa,
Some people say thst uor fake but i donut that so can i have a ps5 mike, iphone pro max.
Jackson, 9

Dear Santa,
I have been nice.
Javian, 7

Dear Santa,
I have been good and good and helpful. Are you makeing lots of toys? I what robbux, and i what a footbloll and i what baxitbloll.
Simon, 7

Dear Santa,
Phone somsung and a pokemon box and lego box and mincraft set.
Yarik, 8

Dear Santa,
What i want for christmas is pokemon packs, pokemon pages, xbox, teddy bear, 3 mini brands, bean bag chair, iphone 14, rainbow water bottel.
Haven, 8

Dear Santa,
I wich four a top hat and. Taping shoes and a butin upshirt a black one. And a undr shirt. Your frend bryce.
Bryce, 8

Dear Santa,
I dont want that much all i want is for everyone to a awesome day. Your friend casein.
Casin, 9

Dear Santa,
I wnat a lot of stuff but if it is t much you don't have to get me all of it but i am going to tell you want i want and what i need, i want to have a desk. I need some food we are running low, i wnat a big stuff animal of stich.
Jazzlynn m, 9

Dear Santa,
It is nice to meet you santa i have i have been good and bad but i always hold a dream to get a dragon custom and another set of the ender drangon with the ender dragon uits self and steve. I also wanted to get a leafon and silveon plush. Your friand kali.
Kali, 9

Dear Santa,
I am going to ask for4 things something i need, something I want, somthing to wear and lastly somthing to play with. From bria.
Bria, 9

Dear Santa,
Marble run, robot transformr.
Callowa, 5

Dear Santa,
Repunzel stuff.
Raven, 5

Dear Santa,
Car toys.
Emily, 5

Dear Santa,
Pumpkin.
Pedro, 5

Dear Santa,
Stuffy dog.
Victoria, 5

Dear Santa,
Golden hover board, Nintendo switch.
Ford, 5

Dear Santa,
Dog and makeup.
Lolerdes, 5

Dear Santa,
Car toys.
Aiden, 5

Dear Santa,
Pencil bag.
Arcely, 5

Dear Santa,
Nintendo switch.
Anolerson, 5

Dear Santa,
Baby sea turtle.
Clayton, 5

Dear Santa,
Elsa stuff.
Zaylie, 5

Dear Santa,
Unicorn stuffed animal.
Alyse, 5

Dear Santa,
Miya, 5

Dear Santa,
I want a dog.
Mareo, 6

Dear Santa,
I want dinosaurs.
Tim, 5

Dear Santa,
All the stuff i wnat. First, my mom to momney. Next, my dad to have tme with me. Then, new shoes and cloths, last, a phone. Love riley.
Riley, 8

Dear Santa,
I want two new games called pokemon scarlet and kirbys dream buffet.
Ezra, 6

Dear Santa,
I wat a makeup and lols an! Barbes.
Kalia

Dear Santa,
I love decemder decas i love c.
Paisley, 4

Dear Santa,
Obez, jron, yonukorn, pixflir fon ipat.
Remi, 6

Dear Santa,
I wut toys.
Charles

Dear Santa,
I would like pokemon cords and i ned toys ples and thank you merry christmas!
Elijah W., 7

Dear Santa,
I would like a kaft. I would we ned me markers please and thank you merry christmas!
Layla, 7

Dear Santa,
Merry christmas! I want playdoh please.
Giovanni, 6

Dear Santa,
I would like a skabod. I would also like a now cnpotr. Please and thank you.

Dear Santa,
I want a x Box I want sum x Box gamse I wunt Legos.
Clayton, 7

Dear Santa,
I wut video gams.
Cohen, 6

Dear Santa,
Merry Legos. Christmas show R-C car. Shark. Fish tank.
Boston, 6

Dear Santa,
Merry christmas! Santa I want a pigeon teddy bear. I want a bounsy house. I want a teddy bear grinch. I want a teddy bear duckuling. I want a book the pigeon has feling too. Happy holidays.
Jayden, 6

Dear Santa,
Merry chaistmas! For chaistmas i wood wut ereings. Thank you Ho Ho Ho.
Nora, 6

Dear Santa,
Battleships, Sirin hed, Lit hed.
Jage, 6

Dear Santa,
Dear santa I wish that i git gifts and play in the snow.
Demazyon, 8

Dear Santa,
I love you santa i wish I cud have a big bed merry christmas.
Grace, 7

Dear Santa,
Can I have a squishy and slime and a fone?
Eliana, 6

Dear Santa,
Can i have a scaotr what is your favrit cakes. Gessshuo grcukes. mer ry christmas santa.
Kylie, 7

Dear Santa,
Can I plez a fieik box. Merry christmas.
Mia, 7

Dear Santa,
Merry christmas I waint ascooter.
Kai, 6

Dear Santa,
Thank you. Merry christmas. Can youbay mea squishmallow.
Rrylynn, 6

Dear Santa,
I wont the morshmelcostom.
Gabriel, 7

Dear Santa,
Raxr pokemon goblin.
Royce, 7

Dear Santa,
I want a gond dnen pokeman kards. I want a huvrbord set.
Samuel, 7

Dear Santa,
Can i have pokemon cards x box 360, elekche scobtes, i phone 12, toy's for my younger brother, nintendo switch game card's, 10000 robux, $1,100 squshmellow, basket ball's, nacuto book's, nintendo switch lite, 1000 subscribe's on youtube ukulele, led comutec, led kexbord, piano, two no school day's red hoverboard, chick, lo stcuberry's donut's.
Seth, 7

Letters to Santa

Dear Santa,
Bdtmdocav coc e toce noBotdasie e iv ie.
Noah

Dear Santa,
Imin with a rad bow and a poaching bag a frid lago sont.
Vivian, 7

Dear Santa,
Lhoein menenemisikl ehobotbinisroe 4 spinmeloo.
Roel

Dear Santa,
I basing fo elot 2rde bot.
Isaac

Dear Santa,
1. Atx
2. Asren ptetrl
3. Nincraft gamescrd
4. Bobby you
5. cremshen
Jaxsan, 6

Dear Santa,
Ners books pokemon a stufahuml and godinpock mohcrs thos tiens you can stik onr widdow ihihers mrcsrs nebfoh nine brehs foxy boxy lojrfjuhs.
Penny, 7

Dear Santa,
Godin Polemon ntidoswich for hit 4 godin lamdogeue dog trable soko pecchoo.
Jake, 7

Dear Santa,
I wunt a cace. Famule pix or I wunt a danta wif mx I wunt a barbes I wunt a sistor I wunt a pipe I wunt a haws for burbes I wunt santa poxor.
Masha, 6

Dear Santa,
Omg doll new tustke hoodie new vens hietop new flwrsope new flups new lol doll skin ker loshine new fox book a fable peloe blushpdlit.
Zoey, 7

Dear Santa,
I wunt a magik, Mixey, I wunt borbes, I wunt headphone 5, I wunt babesy dols, I wunt bosel i wunt bublegmbls.
Lennox, 6

Dear Santa,
Hi santa what I wunt for crismsi is a pupy that dose chricks whin I tel it to.
Norah, 7

Dear Santa,
Terdmich your radaudolph we will lef cookies santa claus our.
Jeramiah, 7

Dear Santa,
I want a tuik rudo and I wuta tue bloon x box stufanmol everett and a angpanoa dogge wen ladgerne your.
Cory

Dear Santa,
Santa Clous can I ples hav a gift and burke elf my.
Charlotte, 7

Dear Santa,
Thank you for all the presents. I want a goo git zu for christmas please.
Kevin, 6

Dear Santa,
I luv santas now n your af boe can I hav a lulvd family can I hav some mor hot wheel cors.
Kellen, 7

Dear Santa,
HoHo HO Ho. Dear santa can I hav a ifon. Ind I wut a fonind I wut marrs in a curling dock.
Keegan, 6

Dear Santa,
I wont a life sizd robo fredz toy.
Treveon, 7

Dear Santa,
I want a present. I wants tufted animals. I want a present for my mom and for my dad. I want a tree.
Varvara, 6

Dear Santa,
We wish you can have a good cristmiss! Santa I wunt a pack of clothes I wunt a grookey hat I wunt a nether brother.
Camden, 7

Dear Santa,
I wut a coprdr. I wut Mi uom play showman. I wut Mi uom crismis chrey. I wut a now toblit. I wut a hamster. I wut macup.
Harmony, 6

Dear Santa,
I wut a Camera pispisa and fayou.
Gemma, 7

Dear Santa,
I like you you are cool bring me a X box books and wach I pad makens.
Kinnley, 7

Dear Santa,
Mr. can I have can i git figes can i have los cam I hav gifts for aviona and a giftfouh Brokin.
Edith, 6

Dear Santa,
I would like a toy tractor and a toy farm and a toy Simiy truck and cris Miss liss. Merry chrisMis.
Mavrick, first grade

Dear Santa,
I would like a intindoswich I hed a noo fingrord. Thank Q.
Paxton, first grade

Dear Santa,
I would like a wege mat. I would like some chapstick because my lips get verydriy in winter. Please and thank you. Merry Christmas!
Quinn, first grade

Dear Santa,
I would like some socks. I wot a atendow please and thank you. Merry christmas!
Damiah Sims, first grade

Dear Santa,
This year I have four things That I want for christmas number one I want, play food for dolls. I need, more art supplies for my pictures. one thing, I want to wear is a Justice outfit and a cheer outfit. The last thing I want to read is Junie b. Jones books. I also want my want my grandpa to come back to life because he died on 10/27/2022 ten days after my b-day. Mary christmas.
Rhianna, 9

Dear Santa,
Hi Santa I want a cat and a corgiso so much. I want that my dad can come. I want a good day. Thank you bye.
Ava, 9

Dear Santa,
I want more lululemon for christmas. And I want coco chanel prufam, And I want thes spora hantizer. I also want some makup. And I want preppy breclits. And I want necleses. Anew hevbord. And a pupy. And squish melof. And I want new cute close.
Veronika, 9

Dear Santa,
Can you plz give me a lego set and new shoes and winter gloves a nd a legos that glow dark. Thank You.
Sage, 9

Dear Santa,
Can I have 100,000,000,000,000 dallas. And a merry Chirsmas.
Joseph, 10

Dear Santa,
I need a phone for me and a toy for my Baby and I Want a Cat and a book for ABCD and a fish pet and a kite.
Mariah, 9

Dear Santa,
Can you my mom win the lottery ticket and can i have a iPhone12 and a big or little box of slime and a bluetooth hoverboard and a giant sqioshmellow and headphones and new books to read like chapter books and picture books so i can read to my mom and my brother.
Kamauriona, 10

Dear Santa,
Hello! This Christmas I want a new gover board and I also want a necklace with my name on it. Somthing else, I want is a book seris of Laura Ingalls Wilder's book's im reading one right now but I would love to read more! One other thing is some clay

bead's to make bracelets. I also want some sqishmellow's and I want some toys for my pet guinea pig. One last thing I want is a pack of sticker to put on my water bottle. That's all I want this christmas, I hope you have a wonderful christmas! Thank you for reading.
Kenia, 9

Dear Santa,
Thanks for everything you do! Most people dont belive in you. But osomeone told us "This class belives, so we will belive. You also bring so much Joy! To kids and other people. We have a chimey but, it's very hard to see. And small. But we have a door you can us. P.S. one night I saw my dad wrapping gifts but I didnt see ANYTHING!! Hope you enjoy this letter!
Kailyn, 9 almost 10

Dear Santa,
1. Lego
2. Game on my nitido
3. Candy
4. Pokemon
5. To be atracctive
6. Phone
7. Mindcraft
8. Laptop
9. Hat
10. Chiefe
Jaxson, 9

Dear Santa,
I'v been good this year. Are you ready for Christmas? I would like a Titanic and a toy car and a my frafritvr set up! Thank your a the best. Love Rustam.
Rustam Radacoenco, 7

Dear Santa,
I have been kind this year. Are youre byfon this year. I weob like afoh. Raberss have a safe flight. Love Lilliah.
Lilliah Thomas, 7

Dear Santa,
I have been good thank yeur. Are you ready for this year? Snaglob and a now set of shozz and closzz. Thak ILYC for making twetous. Love Daniel.
Daniel, 7

Dear Santa,
I have been this year. I am nice. Are you ready for this year? I would like kar, and HELLO ELVES for cknistmas. Thank you for the elves. Have a safe flight. Love Angelina.
Angelina Maksimov, 6

Dear Santa,
I have been kind this year. Have there been many good kibs this year? Thank you the elves.
Rosalyn Bond

Dear Santa,
Thice knid goohd this year. Are hoods for no. I want a toy for Chvlatmas. I lve the reindeer Have a safe flight.
Jesslynn

Dear Santa,
I hav ben goud this. Santa rae you rede for ckismas?I would like a mogro gell haws. Some a lols. Far krismas you rae the best. Love Alaina.
Alaina Hurlbrut, 6

Dear Santa,
I have been kind this year. Are you ready for this year? I would like a arctick fox snoglod and a great chvanva pokemon set. And a swetr. Yor elfs are veve kind. Have a saff fligt. Love Bryhlee Moon.
Bryhlee Moon, 6

Dear Santa,
I have been good this year. You rdi for crismas. I want daynson and see you for crismas. I like yor alf and you toys. Love Erik.
Erik Komarov, 6

Dear Santa,
What do you eat? Love Mason.
Mason

Dear Santa,
I want a yoyo. I like make up. Love Enca.
Enca

Dear Santa,
I want a snoglob. I want a robot. I want a borbi haos. Love Sunnie.
Sunnie

Dear Santa,
I want a robot. Love Oliver.
Oliver

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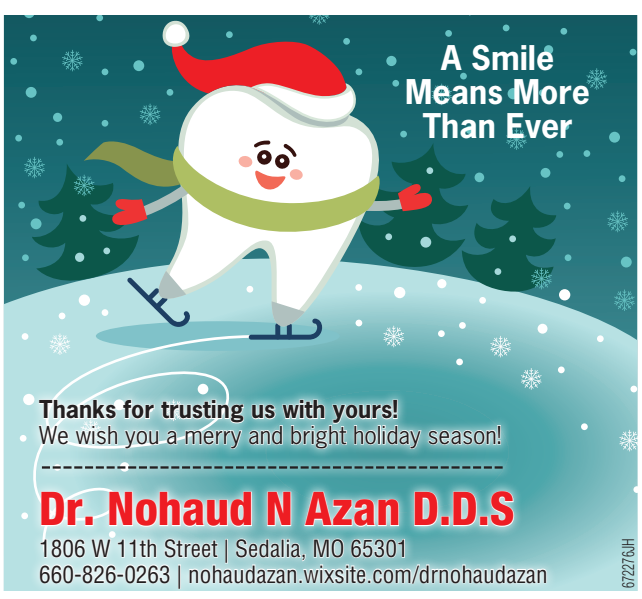

Letters to Santa

Dear Santa,
I want a bike. I want a flying toy. Love Sauriti.
Sauriti

Dear Santa,
I have been good this year. Are you ready for this year? Thank toys, elves.
Asia Anett

Dear Santa,
I am having a good time are you? I want a Rccar that can go on water. Have I been good? I want to take a picture with you. May I tak to you? From Kade hostetler.
Kade, 8

Dear Santa,
A Patrick Mahomes Squishys? May I have boxes, wood, a safe. I love you!
Harper, 8

Dear Santa,
I would like to have a dog for christmas I would like to have a sqishies, slims, and orbis. From Leah.
Leah, 7

Dear Santa,
Are you ready for Christmas? What is your favorite food? Can have a min brah toys please Thank you so much. Can I have a real bunny? From, Lizbeth Alvarado-Ruiz.
Lizbeth, 7

Dear Santa,
May I have fortnite, NerF gun and dinosaurs please? How are you?
Alan, 8

Dear Santa,
Have I been good? May I Please have LOL dolls and Play dough and alot of plants please? Thank you!
Delilah, 8

Dear Santa,
Can I please have a skateboard. Have I been good. Can I please have electric bike. Can I take a picture with you? What is your favorite food? Have you been goo. Are you rede for crismes. How many presents do I get?
Victoria, 8

Dear Santa,
Can have a pet puppy for christman, a pet fish any cind of fish will do.
Kate, 7

Dear Santa,
I want a car and a robot. And I want a wond and a dragin ballz toys. And one piec toys. And a spy nijay gadgets.
Richard, 9

Dear Santa,
I want a squishmallow. And rekis and a diary. Hope you are having a good day! And candy! Oh 1 omopre thing is a porit.
Peyton, 8

Dear Santa,
I want mqrior qg track.
Mj, 6

Dear Santa,
I wnat a newps4 game.
Theo, 5

Dear Santa,
iwanta wnic orni canr i de.
Kimber, 5

Dear Santa,
I wnat asonic racing game.
Juno, 6

Dear Santa,
I want elf on the shelf toys.
Hadlee, 6

Dear Santa,
I wnat a candy cane from santa.
Leah, 5

Dear Santa,
I wanta an elf and unicorn.
Betty, 5

Dear Santa,
I wnat a live nobot dinosaur.
Thatcher, 6

Dear Santa,
Merry christmas! I hotherbords christmas bjomoz barbie paintset toy panbo.
Olivia, 6

Dear Santa,
Merry christmas! Tue gamse, chris glufs for muke bloe up caboose house chrane chracke fat for chrismis.
Jordy, 6

Dear Santa,
Santa i eut my lonlu i wux a i 5k rem truck i lov you.
Evelyn, 7

Dear Santa,
Merry christmas i hope i am on the good fot christmas i want a barbie and legos or paint by naber an new scooter an chapter books dolls crowns and colening books a piccher of are elf ceven! I love are elf eleven THANK YOU!
Eleanor, 6

Dear Santa,
Merry choistmas nvd like a m cre, and a you badltle ship. Thank you.
James, 6

Dear Santa,
I would liek bingoand rolly plushies. Merry christnas.
Craelynn, 7

Dear Santa,
Grinch tedbeaer merrychistmas! Tha go.
Laimiwoke, 7

Dear Santa,
Santa i hope you arre not sick santa i hope your reindeer are ready for christmas because they maybe carrying present in the sleigh i want for christmas in a fake house, fake house, puppy surprise, kitty surprise, pony surprise sugary. Surprise bunny surprise lama surprise mama surpris.
Emma, 9

Dear Santa,
May i have squishy how are you? Can i please have balls, sand, playdough your teh best!
Kolby A., 7

Dear Santa,
I hope you have had a wonderful year.can i have at least one or two lego sets for christmas? Can you take a picture of you and your reindeer please? From elias.
Elias A., 8

Dear Santa,
Can i please have a big and small scwoshamel os, an bunny that is real please? A real monkey please?
Braelynn B., 7

Dear Santa,
Are you ready for christmas? Can i please have all of the pokemon cards dor christmas? Can i also please have ly careo and charmunder stction figures? Also can i have the pokemon card game bord? From emmett.
Emmett S., 7

Dear Santa,
for christmas i would lille magical mixey.i would alos like organizers fommybedroomanda newspaper of headphones,key board and mousefor a computer. Love Kennedy.
Kenedy, 9

Dear Santa,
I would like a nintendo switch game please and five nights at freddys characters. I hope you have a great holiday.
Alison, 9 ¾

Dear Santa,
You are one of my favorite people and you have one of the most famous holidays i know of. I wish i ted something for christmas, but i dont know what. I hope c.
Kjay, 10

Dear Santa,
Plese give me a phoen with a case plese. Thank you!
Adelynn A., 7

Dear Santa,
You are the best. I like you. I sing your song. I have bin good at school today.
Anthony, 7

Dear Santa,
I bin good. I will put cookies and mick. How are your elfs doe. By the way lets get to the man potent. I want to hav fox toy. Hi Miss closs.
Cate, 7

Dear Santa,
I like you bcus you are nis. Ples hav me a giff.
Zayden, 6

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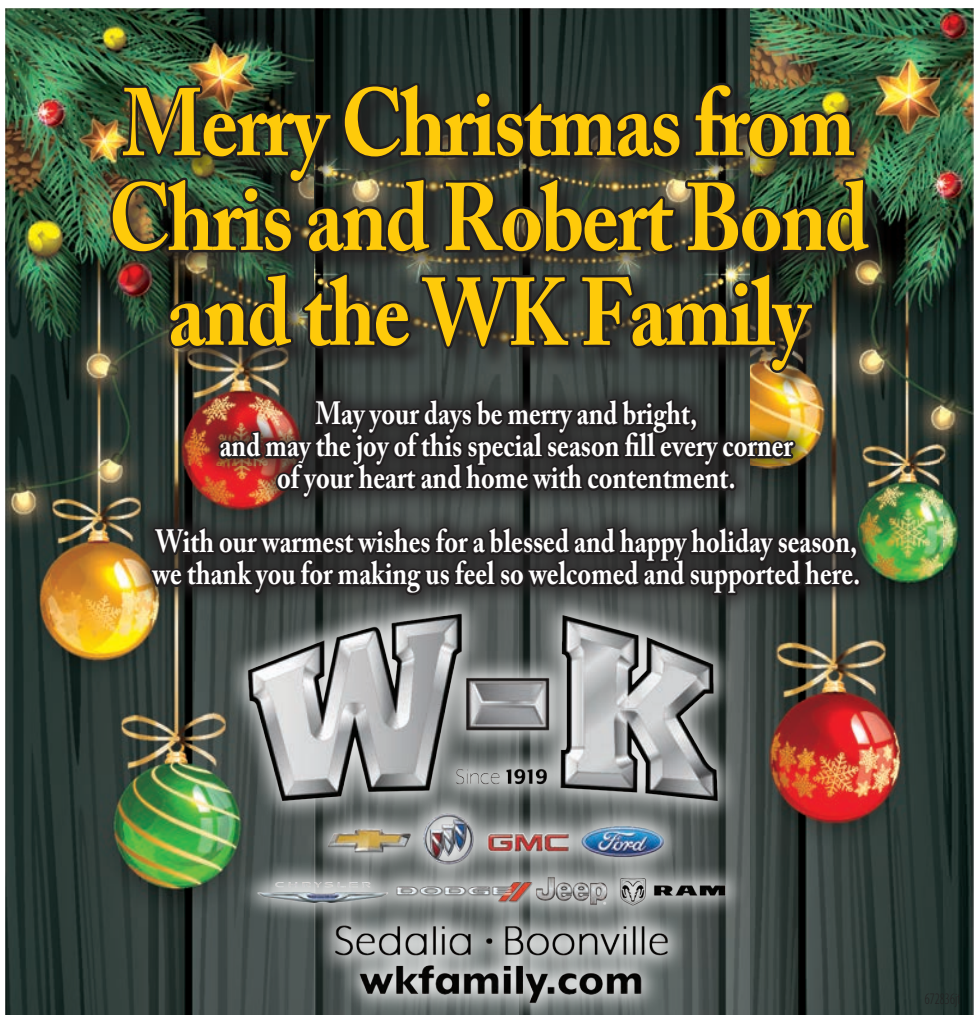


Letters to Santa

Dear Santa,
I reley wunt a pupey. But moldepoo because i am ulrgick. I like you because ou are so nin olsow I want a intndow swich. I olsow want a lol demhaws.
Isla K., 7

Dear Santa,
I wish you a goo day and happe new yer and i liked boll set.
Trinity B., 7

Dear Santa,
I hop you hav a gid new yer. Hay ear yor lf. I wont a toy cr.
Isaiah, 7

Dear Santa,
I am good can I have cool stuf I love.
Jacetynn, 6

Dear Santa,
Can i ples hav a play circhin for crismis. thank you.
Bristohm, 6

Dear Santa,
I wunt a plastic eat like lowgin.
Tanya F., 6

Dear Santa,
I wut a nentendoe switch and a that is all I wut.
Ayla, 6

Dear Santa,
I like you santa. I wut a lol spis. I wut toy tree ples and dec you. Ho ho ho.
Arantza, 6

Dear Santa,
I want a cat and I want toys cars and I want a rainbow unicorn stuffed. I want a hamster stuffed animal.
Aris, 6

Dear Santa,
I wut a basbat. I wut a popit. I wut a blaba. I wut a pesin for mi mom dad.
Lorenzo, 7

Dear Santa,
I wut a psfive. I wut a now kinchror.
Miles, 6

Dear Santa,
I wut a plush and I wut macup and LOL that is a tot and ples and thacyo.
Harper, 6

Dear Santa,
I wish i can have a toy puppy.
Addilyn, 7

Dear Santa,
I love santo treer good cookies bow hgwhferdooelf.
Aviona, 7

Dear Santa,
I want a rainbow stuffed animal anda and a hamster stuffed animal and a cat too. Penguins.
Olivia, 6

Dear Santa,
hello my name is Jocelynne, I want the pokemon game sword and shield, a new pokemon handbook, a new nintendo switch, and the vital hero wristband. Also I need long socks for winter, new clothes, coats, shoes, hats, and gloves. I also want a phone, science clothes, potions, and lab. Love Jocelynne.
Jocelynne, 8

Dear Santa,
I would like a woch. I would a bus. I would a Bucs. Merry Christmas!
Zerayah A.

Dear Santa,
I need a car for my mom. I want a nerf gun. Merry Christmas!
Konrad

Dear Santa,
I would hav toys. I want a dinoaur. Merry Christmas.
Zayne G.

Dear Santa,
I would like a dog. Merry christmas.
Alisha V.

Dear Santa,
I would like a viper snake to, Merry Christmas.
Zayne A.

Dear Santa,
I would like Batmen toys. Please and thank.
Curtis B.

Dear Santa,
I would like Pokemon cards. I also need clothes. Chapstick plates and thak you merry christmas.
Aiden R.

Dear Santa,
I wish you wold send a leter to me. I want a hunting game.
Kenton, 9

Dear Santa,
Hello my name is anhelina I want clothes and paint. I would like to take a trip to Ukraine. I would like to white cat.
Anhelina, 8

Dear Santa,
Santa I Need some coach and some food and some mack. Love chloe.
Chloe C., 9

Dear Santa,
I need shoes. I want PS5. I want a puppy. I need new clothes I want unside down challige.
Addicuss, 9

Dear Santa,
wnat I need for chrismas are cloths. What I wont for chrismas is rejected pokemon and the Goled pokemon. Your Frend Breck.
Breck, 9

Dear Santa,
Jackobe, 9

Dear Santa,
Klos Shoos Jakit kook Maskcamo hat glofs.
I luv you MOM

Dear Santa,
Santa can I have cloth, shos,soks,magnit. your frend markez.
Markez A., 9

Dear Santa,
I need a new pare of shoes. another thing I want is a game. and can you get my sister a phone. your friend Jayce.
Jayce, 8

Dear Santa,
Cocn you get me a dirt bike for wheeler a four million doller house a phone a tr a privat chef and pleas some pizza a 4 privat houses and a ps5 and a private Jet. your friend, Anthony.
Anthony, 9

Dear Santa,
What I really need for xmas is another pare of shoes but I can they be Poppy playtime style. your freind, Amelia.
Amelia, 8

Dear Santa,
For christmas I need a shelf, to steore some of my stuf, and I need some stuff for cat, in the back yard. and I want a hore mal nintendo Switch, a mincraft game, more treashurex aliens ahd robots adlition.
liam N., 9

Dear Santa,
I want a watch that has games on it and you can take pictures on it. I want one cat a husky that has blue eye and grey and white fur and it got to be a girl and boy. I want a Iphone and a Ipad to. A T.V in my room and I want a entendoeswich. your friend Arinna N.
Arinna N., 8

Dear Santa,
I hope you are having an awsome time and I have been a great kid, mayby a few mad times but that happens. Anyways I love you so much, bye!
Lemi, 9

Dear Santa,
I want a conpater because I want to research about stuff. I want a desk because I will be able to store me stuff like my write stuff. I want a rockpaper Because it is water proof and tearezizits.
Cruz, 8

Dear Santa,
For christmas i would like a fidget spinner, some nice clothes, a artbook, a muti-color penjand a guide a great art.
Bentley B., 9

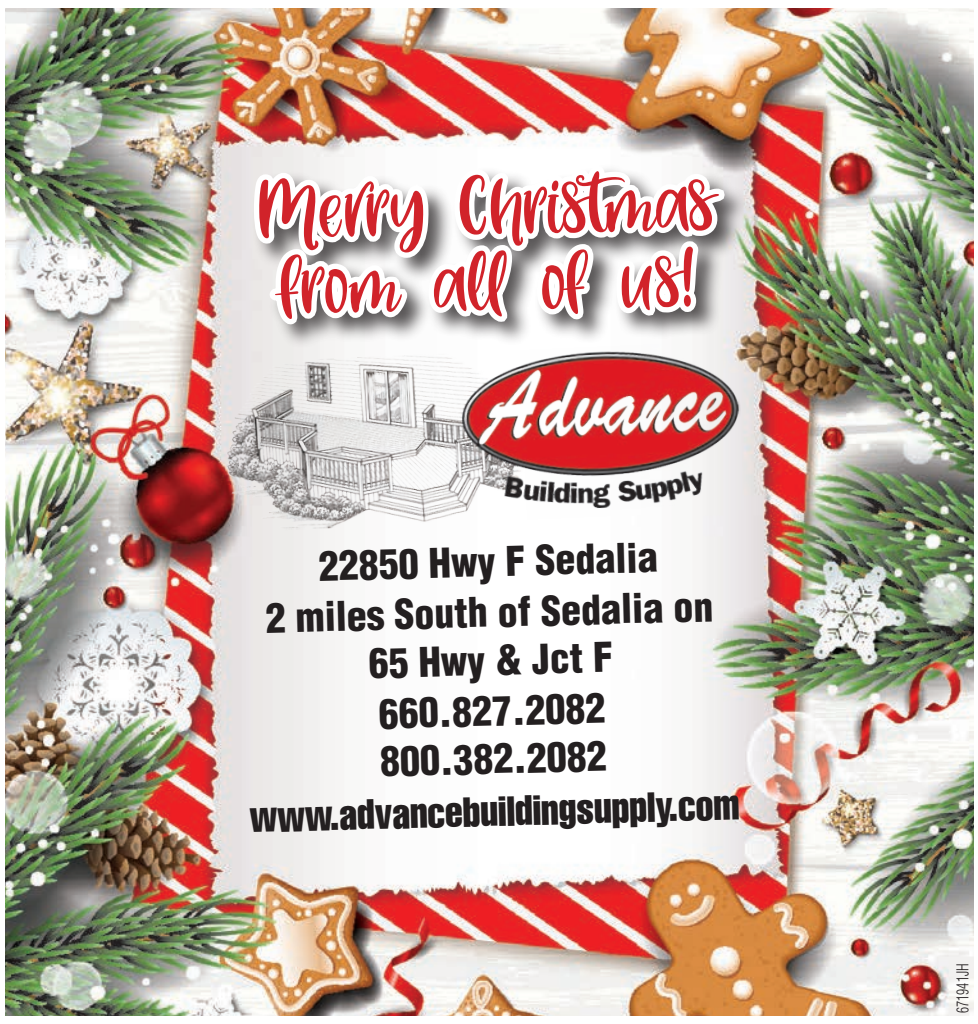
Dear Santa,
For christmas some food clothes shoes and books and squish mellows. Please and thank you. Love serenity.
Serenity, 8

Dear Santa,
For christmas I want 10,000 because i want to buy a car, and V bucks.
Isaac L., 9

Dear Santa,
We hope you have a good christmas. Thank you for all the gifts. This is what I wont for chirstmas I need new cloths shoes. what I want is a new computer. New bike an a hoverboard. Another thing is a new a Iphone. your friend Derronta.
Derronta, 9

Dear Santa,
I would like an origomy kit, mack up, close,shoes,baby dall Squishmoloe, and a mood neckis for bff. Love ,N'vada.
N'vada L., 9

Dear Santa,
I want a Barbie because I what To play with it, I need new clothes because I don't want TO be neced, I what a fox toy, I need new shoes, I what a souoshmellow. Love, Av.
Ava, 9



Dear Santa,
How you doing? How's the elves doing? Santa how's our elf doing? I hope he/she are not sick. Are you ready? Here's my list. I want a girl baby doll and thank you for baby Salor. He was a cute little one. I'm not saying that because his leg off. It's because I love babies so much.
Savannah, 8

Dear Santa,
You are my best friend and don't forget Mrs. Claus. This is what I want for christmas a drumset and green roller blades.
Sophia, 9

Dear Santa,
This year I want a Macbook Hir, 10 buffalo stuffed animals, 1 box of Brilliant sars, 1 box of Hidden facts, and a replica of the lombrardy trophy. Have a good Christmas Santa Clause. Love, Owen C.
Owen C., 8.5

Dear Santa,
Thank you for last years presents, I hope you + your reindeer are well, This year I would like point shoes size 4 maybe whatever you think. And I would like baby doll bed, clothes + shoes. And I would like, American girl doll car, shoes, squish mollow, Thank you Love, Abby.
Abby, 8

Dear Santa,
I hope you are super weli and I hope your ready to fly through the night. What I would like for christmas big transformers and some books please. I love books so thats weight woiuld like some books. On christmas night please pato cort on one present in my friends from and frade. Please put im iss lov dude from wyatt. Love Wyatt.
Wyatt, 8

Dear Santa,
How is Rudolph doing? I will leave carrots out for all of the reindeer. I don't want any presents I just want family. from Gabe.
Gabe, 8

Dear Santa,
I hope you had a nice summer, and I know Mrs. Clause is busy making cookies. Speaking of cookies I'm going to leave some suger cookies out for you, and carots for the reindeer. Can I have, some air pods, a new American girl doll, a slime kit, a stress ball kit and world peace. Thanks Love Mj.
Mj, 9

Dear Santa,
How are you doing? I hope your Reindeer have been resting. Thank you for the presents last year. I've been good so I could get present this Christmas. For Christmas I have a list. The first thing I want is new shoes, legos, a new bike, and scooter!
Jude, 9

Dear Santa,
Hi!! I hope you and everyone are doing well! And that everyone is ready for the big day! (christmas) You, the elves, your Reindeer do so well getting around to everyone, and giving what everyone asked for. That I can't even decide what I would wish for! Everything you've done was perfect. I don't even care what you give me because of how good you are! Anyways, I hope you are doing well! Sincerely, Evie.
Evelyn, 9

Dear Santa,
I have been good. I hope you have fun delivering presents, I want a rp;;er coaster lego set, a drum set, and maybe some foot ball action figures, If you want to you can bring more but that's all for my list from, Samuel.
Samuel, 8

Dear Santa,
Hi my name is Leo steeves. I hope you and your Reindeer are ready for the winter? Thank you for giving kids all over the world presents, This year for Christmas I would like gray Dude shoes in a size 3 please. Thank you I live in Knob Noster White man AFB, Missour.
Leo, 9

Dear Santa,
I hope you are not freezing in the North Pole. I hope your Reindeers are ready for christmas! I will start with what I want most I want that my dad to walk again to play with me my mom and sister! For my mom I want her to have energy for us to clean. I also want a elf on the shelf one for me and one for my sister. You can choose something else you want us to have. Have a meary christmas Santa!
Evelin, 8

Dear Santa,
Thank you for all the gifts you have given from me and how are the reindeer doing? Now I am going to tell you wat I want fro christmas. Please can I have paint pens because when I grow up I want to be a Artist. Also can I have a note book because charlotte keeps steeling mine. Can I have a pink cow squish mellow? Can I have an America girl doll and baby clothes? And I would love some twistables. Love Allie.
Allie, 9.5

Dear Santa,
Hey santa what are the reindeer names? We hope you have Safe travels are Earth. Are you tired after your done giving presentes to children? What is like to live in the North pole? I like missouri. How are you doing clause and elves, we might leave out cookies. I hope you have a safe night. I been good this year. I want lego star wars sets, lego star wars ships and guy named cody.
Nate, 9

Dear Santa,
I want a new iphone, I also want a BFF necklaces, I want candym and I want a stuffed animal. Thank you santa.
Edith, 8

Dear Santa,
Lego blocks Legos sibese set I will be good gives good.
Rylee, 8

Dear Santa,
I want a vital hero and a phon please and a eler's glue squish's kit to with a vr head set and Pokemon with a Nerf hun and art things with a magic mixe christleball please and a warrior cat books and toy's and dog man books and a mary x mas to all!
Leah, 8

Dear Santa,
Did you get your magic? I want a new stuffed animal. I would also like a new note book. Love, Kinley.
Kinley

Dear Santa,
i want a spider man detbike i want a nerf gun with a nerf mask. Love, Kamryn.
Kamryn

Dear Santa,
new water bottle, new basketball, play doe, a gingerman ordmant, a christmas tree, christmas lights, slime ball, snowman that lights up, markers, nerf gun. Love Matt.
Mattnew

Dear Santa,
Hi santa can you by me rainbow legos and do you have maigic santa and I want play doh please I am a good boy and I want slime and blue toys and pepaing toy and pawprtle toy. Love Andy.
Andy

Dear Santa,
I want
1 A guineeapig
2 I want a five surprises
3 hee boh
4 LOL dolls
5 Slime
6 Clothing
Ryder, 10

Dear Santa,
I want a popit and I want to have a L.O.L dolls. I realy want a needoh cat. Have a merry christmas santa!
Aoife, 11

Dear Santa,
What I want for christmas is Roblox gift card because I never get hacked and I want a french bull dog and a bob cat and more art supplies and wendey's I also want more sweat pants more hoddies squish mellows Two more things I want coach Hinna to be my future Basketball coach and I want more friends.
Quinn B., 10

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Letters to Santa

Dear Santa,
I want a sketch book for christmas. I want a sketch book because I love to draw and I love to color. I've been drawing since 3. When I was three I was drawing stick people but know I'm good at a lot. I speacilize in heads I can draw boys and girls and I'm really good at it to heres an example.
AJ K., 10

Dear Santa,
Wut I wut is a stuff for my room and a guitar and candy in my stocking. And a phone case of my phone and spuish mellows.
Brynleigh S., 10

Dear Santa,
I want PS4 and I want a Lego and Bike and that what I won murry chritmas all of the people and that all. Merry chritmas.
Sakiboy S., 11

Dear Santa,
All I want for christmas is yarn for my crochet. Hamster. Crochet hooks, snacks, shiny rocks, more sleep, more money, candy, bigger house, LED lights.
Logan, 10

Dear Santa,
what I want is a 10 inch squishmellow that is a sassy sasquatch so yep and also a bird to have someone to talk to and thAts all hehe marry christmes!
Morgan, 10

Dear Santa,
for chistmas I want a dog, cat, guitar and a trip to unspeakable.
Nicholas L., 9/10

Dear Santa,
This christmas I want a dirt bike, a phone Axbox, a huggy wuggy Tesla, Computer I fon thrted nintinob switch, I fasin dolls.
Colton W., 7

Dear Santa,
Cre. This christmas I want everything huggy wuggy, Black panther, Ball, Squish mallows, Poppy, $100000000000000000000000.
Liam M., 6

Dear Santa,
I dont want to ask for a lot but I want a computer, mackup, shoes, socks Your doater Zakya.
Zakya, 9

Dear Santa,
I've been worrying about my mom lately can you get her something? Can the spherero be red? How's roudolph? Tell him I said hi please. Make a note for my Grandma Sue and Make it say that I miss her very much.
Falon R., 8

Dear Santa,
I love Christmas! What I what for christmas is a real life play kitchen with a pretend microwave I would like a Real littles backpack and some shopkins Real Littles shack Time surprises. And some toy food.
Abigail H., 8

Dear Santa,
My friend santa I need for christmas is rainbow friends and a big lego and rich.
Whitman A., 8

Dear Santa,
I would like a ps4 game because I like my ps4. I need clouth's beacuse i'm almost out. You'r firend kendrick.
Kendrick, 8

Dear Santa,
I want a PS4 call of duty "Modern War". I want one of the "Top 500 dragclick mouse" at least. To finish, I want a RGB keyboard. (or better)
Angelo, 9

Dear Santa,
I have been as good as my ability can go. I don't really care about the present I just want to have a good time. I do not want my elf to do anything bad. Love, Rowyn.
Rowyn, 8

Dear Santa,
Netendo swich, hiyrule warers age of calamity, legend of zelda tears of the kingdom, legend of zelda breath of the wild. I hope I get all those things. From: Noah B To: Santa.
Noah, 9

Dear Santa,
What I want for christmas is a phone.
Antonio, 9

Dear Santa,
Do your elves behave or are the bad. Do you spent all year making Toys. How many elves do you have. Who is your favorite deer. Mine is Dasher. Love, Reed.
Reed M., 9

Dear Santa,
I would like a ps5, a elf, a nerf parthenon, and 1,000 pocemon cards.
Graisen, 9

Dear Santa,
I have been der this year. He yorede this yeir I would for christmas. The dot doc wis to Thank you for this yes. Have a saf flight war.
Wesley, 6

Dear Santa,
This christmas I want computer, Nintendo switch, Unicorn slime.
Aria M., 7

Dear Santa,
This chrirtmas I want a dirt bike phone xbox computer basketball kodp $100 pet turtle crafty.
Batin J., 6

Dear Santa,
This christmias I want go pro and dama shein and cat a yo-yo Axbox a Tesla cat car insutnce unspeekubul 100 dolbills green atv and a sokr grzce and a sokr klees sokr sorss sokr soks and a sokr google apet turtle and a ginee pig and a hamstr a globe PS5 a $10.00000000.
Avram S., 7

Dear Santa,
This christmas I want remote control Black Panter car nintindo switch lambo car insurance iphone 13 pro pixel squishmallow its crafty pushe tesla $1000000000000 a king crown worth $1000000.
Wade C., 6

Dear Santa,
Tary this christmas I want Daisy from Super Mario Bros $10000 baby peck baby rosalina boise bo pep sre.
Natalie J., 6

Dear Santa,
I wat 7xo christmas a dol has a hatchable a prises dres soccer hot small Bar bishoes.
Deanna F., 7

Dear Santa,
X box, $1000, Lamborghini.
Makenna

Dear Santa,
Xbox, Tesla, Car insurance, $1000000 dolrs, Puppy, PS1 60000000000000, Slime, PS600000000000000000, $6 000000000000000000000000000000.
Aiden G., 6

Dear Santa,
I want a polar express model train and a peppa pig toy i want to left you cookies a milk we i asleep from cristian.
Cristian, 8

Dear Santa,
Thank you for all the presents you give me you are so sweet! You know me so well! You deserve the world! You bring me so much jpoy! Im so grateful for everything you do for the people! you dereserve all the cookies!
Riley, 7

Dear Santa,
Thank you for all the preasents you gave me you are the best i love your song santa so much. I love you so much. You desiver all the money. You should come to my house and eat all the cookeis. I wnat to see you in the night.
Alaysha, 7

Dear Santa,
I wanted a rainbow ancon freind bluepis and some stuff i like pecon robot remember then i was a baby and i wented to be with you.
Anthony, 9

Dear Santa,
Santa get everything on my christmas list. To santa love bryon.
Bryon, 8

Dear Santa,
Hope you are haveing a grate time. Oh and i have cocieas for you and caritas i rilly hope next yerea i can get a eilf on a shelf send it on deseber 1st and im going to name it speshall i rilly hope you like the name. Oh and next yera i got your back and kade.
Aiden, 8

Dear Santa,
You elfs are niuce becuase they help you makethe toys and cloths. Chrismas is one of my top favorites holidays i like chrismas because that i get presents and erey body else. Merry chrismas santa.
Cpiton, 8

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Letters to Santa

Dear Santa,
I like your Raindeir the are cool you are nice because you give us presents and you workvery hard so does your elfs to. Thank you for working hard and making the present.
Landon, 8

Dear Santa,
This yaer i would love if you could give my dada a vucashun so he can get more sleepin.
Athena, 7

Dear Santa,
I want my bff back to school. And new bedsetting. Game cube. Netendo meadow to come back in my class.
Lucy, 8

Dear Santa,
Hi santa how are your reindeer i hope you can get me a dog i love Dogs so muhc i hope you are feeling good today i save my evl chicken P.S. i love you santa.
Mena, 7

Dear Santa,
For christmas I would like some more toys. A new pillow for my bed. A super small chocolate fountain toy. And lock star toys.
Natalie, 7

Dear Santa,
Huverbord ocelis qwest one ocelis qwest two. Ps5, hug from santu, new lunch box, new backpack, a naw a naw play staysinch.
Maleik, 8

Dear Santa,
I have beber. I want are dirtbike and sooprgrl. Iphone forten and a bike and skate bod. Sowme pokemon, psfiv and a noow erpods.
Weston, 7

Dear Santa,
I watd rc cer and a vedo gam and my lost toy a noow mincrat lago set and a nerf gun.
Chris, 7

Dear Santa,
I want a lol and OMG doll, i want a dream house. I want a doll horses. And i want a pool. And a trampoline. I want a LOL hat i want a lol hat and a water Bottle.
Abigahin, 7

Dear Santa,
I wish for a microscope and a sloth spishmellow and a fanny pack that is pink a iphone 13. And a pufy coat like my moms. And earpods.
Joeyna, 7

Dear Santa,
this year i would like a soing mooing and fake glasis. Your friend laurel.
Laurel W., 7

Dear Santa,
I want barbie doll dreamhouse and a i phone.
Christine M., 7

Dear Santa,
I have been good this year. What i wish for is a go cart and air big truck for my dad. Love, max.
Max, 8

Dear Santa,
I want a motorcycle.
Cayden, 9

Dear Santa,
This year i want a new puppy. I want it to be a pug. I will play with him every day. I will take him with me everywhere with me.
Jackson, 7

Dear Santa,
I wunt 111,000000000 0000000000000,00000 000000000000$$$$$$ and a iphone.
Chad, 8

Dear Santa,
This year I have been really good! For christmas I would like hew clothes, loung board, basect ball shoes, Eathen who is in the air forec, phion, go to a concert of willow smith, picer of my two brothers, fack nails, makeup, and teacher cup.
Jayden, 9

Dear Santa,
This year I have been really good! For Christmas I would like new bike seat, magic 8 ball, Girl freind, Paper, and Phone.
Bryce, 8

Dear Santa,
This year I have been really good! For christmas I would like new dirt bike gloves, new cleats, new dirt bike strticers, a Iphone, a new girl friend, new teck decks, a hoodi blanket and a skate bord.
Cash, 8

Dear Santa,
this year Ive been good! For christmas I would Like a new bikie magic 8 ball, squishmellow, figits, soft banket, and slimekit.
Emmlynn, 8

Dear Santa,
For Christmas I would like, new clothes, Baby olive, hoverboard, long board, hoodie blanket, white Nike shoes, new clothes.
Emma, 8

Dear Santa,
This year I have been good! For christmas I would like a pocket locket heart necklaces.
Carley, 8

Dear Santa,
This year I have been good this year I want a new puppy, a snake, xbox ni my room, and a long board.
Dylan, 8

Dear Santa,
I ben god I need a toy car and I need dowing spil I wound doll and doll hoss I wut a makeup box I wut a pluyang tabl.
Shayda, 6

Dear Santa,
I like your elves. I would like a droun. Love, Axel.
Axel, 6

Dear Santa,
This christmas I want a vr headset and some shos and iPhon 14 por max and a PS5. I want xbox a puppy. I want a macbook and apple tv and a ticket to maxicon. I want a chira to play games and pira of hedphons. Your friend, Emi.
Emis, 9

Dear Santa,
This year I have been good! For christmas I would like some now cloths so I have something to wear, America Girl doll so I have someone to talk to, a magic eight ball so I can kown something, aq calculator to mimeris numbers, to see my boyfrind his name is talk. And I hope you have a good Christmas.
Annalise, 9

Dear Santa,
I would like a magic mixie, and coconut hand sanitizer from bath and body works. A kids makeup set. How are the reindeer Santa? I hope their being good. Love Audrey.
Audrey, 6

Dear Santa,
I hope that the reindeer are safe. I would like a scooter, dolls and a doctor's set. Love Lexie.
Lexie, 6

Dear Santa,
I hope you have had a goud year. I would like a drone with a camera. Love, Mason.
Mason, 7

Dear Santa,
How are you doing? I would like a stuffy. I would like a doll. Love, Addi.
Addi, 6

Dear Santa,
I would like a fluffy blanket that has unicorns on it and a barbie. I love you, santa! Love, Emma.
Emma, 7

Dear Santa,
I hope yuo have a good Christmas this year. I would like a guitar. I also would like a car that can drive on water, and a nerf g un. Love, Adler.
Adler, 7

Dear Santa,
Ho ho ho Dear Santa, For christmas it would be good if I got a guitar and I would like a pet bunny. Love Charlotte.
Charlotte, 6

Dear Santa,
How are you doing? I wanta Squish-mallow and a black blanket. Love, Audra.
Audra, 6

Dear Santa,
I hope your elves are ok. I want a stuffy penguin. Love, Chase.
Chase, 6

Dear Santa,
I wut a lunr X Box psfive 40 fun Xbox gamnset loptop.
Kameron

Dear Santa,
How are you doing? For Christmas, I would like a mermaid phone, purple hair dye, and purple glue nails that glow. Love Landyn.
Ladyn, 7

Dear Santa,
How do you fly? I would like Pokemon card, Monster trucks, I want elf on the shelf and toy binoculars. Love, Ayden.
Ayden, 7

Dear Santa,
I love you. I would like a football helmet and 1000 Pokemon cards. Love Josua.
Josua, 7

Dear Santa,
I hope you have a good day. I would like a rosary and a fidget and a board game. Love Millie.
Millie, 7

Dear Santa,
I would like a singing flamingo. How are you santa? Love, Leelay.
Leelay, 6

Dear Santa,
I would like an Lol doll, I would like a water bottle and a toy reindeer. Loe Anna.
Anna, 6

Dear Santa,
How are you doing? Santa, how are the reindeer doing? I would like lady bugs for Christmas. Love Sarah.
Sarah, 7

Dear Santa,
Have you been busy? I've been busy too. For christmas I want a paint ball gun and pokemon and an elf on the shelf. Love, Jacob.
Jacob, 7

Dear Santa,
How is Pudolph? How is pete? I will be really good! I would like drums, a guitar, a piano, five surprise eggs, a pool with a side, diving board, 2 gocarts and a goecart truck xoxo Love, Colt.
Colt, 8

Dear Santa,
I'm sure that you are busy! How is Mrs.Clase? I would like a Ipod? Watch the young elf! My elf got caught by 2 sneaky young elves. Love, Addilyn.
Addilyn, 8

Happy Holidays

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671687jn

Letters to Santa

Dear Santa,
How are you doing? How is Mrs.Claus? Are the reindeers doing good? Are the elfs working hard for Christmas? I would like new shoes, Also a kids phone, new pajamas, and some Barbie accesories. I Love you santa! Love, Ximena.
Ximena, 7

Dear Santa,
I have been a good girl, Thank you for the gifts last year! How is Mrs.Claus doing? I would like Rainbow High dolls and a Radio of Little Drummer Boy by Pentatonlx I want a Horse and a Horse Phone. Love Brooklyn R.
Brooklyn, 8

Dear Santa,
Are the elves doing good? Is Mrs.Clause doing good? Could you bring me and my brother an iphone 14 pro for Christmas? Love Greyson.
Greyson, 8

Dear Santa,
How are you? Can you tell the elves I said Hi please? Are you good? I am Looking for ward for Christmas! I Hope you co me. Love Mayela.
Mayela, 7

Dear Santa,
What are you doing? Can I go to the North Portal? Could you bring the gifts I want? Could I see an elf? Love, David.
David, 7

Dear Santa,
How are you and Mrs. Claus? How do your reindeer fly? Are the elves working hard? Can I please have an iphone 14 a X-box, a TV, and a lock for my door? Love Elijah.
Elijah, 7

Dear Santa,
Dera Sants, I wish for a dream kroose or a lol doll. mabe you can get me 5 more. let me see What I want 5 dall than is all. Your friend, Desteny.
Destiny, 7

Dear Santa,
I want a bike, games, scooter, rc car a veryyyy big Football, Football gloves, mine bike, dirt bike.
Your friend, Daniel.
Daniel, 8

Dear Santa,
You might know what I want from Jonny but I want to add two more thang can I have a ps5 and a gta5 game, because I have been working as hard as I can all year. Love, Brett.
Brett B., 8

Dear Santa,
I would like LOL's, fidgets, Pop it's clothes. Shoes, money for mommy. Sqishmalius barbies barbie doll dream house. Phone. Your friend, Kameron.
Kameron, 8

Dear Santa,
I wunt to ask how meny reindeer you have. I wunt a Wupey CoShon I want electric water gun. I hope you have a Safe Christmas! Love Gunner.
Gunner

Dear Santa,
I woulf like to go to my baby cousin house. I want a new helmet for my bike. Merry Christmas. Love, Jenson.
Jenson

Dear Santa,
I love you Santa I want a remote control robot and arcar and I want a robot sonic and a sonic lego set if you get me those things thank you.
Dylyn

Dear Santa,
I want barbie dolls. And. I want to see Sant. Love amelie.
Amelie

Dear Santa,
This year I been bad five times but I hope i'll get presants, Will I want, american girl doll suplies and shouse and clouths, candy, makeup, hoverboard, new born baby, new shouse and clouths, and nail polish.
J'vionna, 9

Dear Santa,
This year I have been really good! For christmas I would like a magic 8 ball,shoes,clothes, and a telescope.
Felipe, 8

Dear Santa,
How are you doing? I cant even wait for christmas! I would likea guitar.
Huylee

Dear Santa,
This year I have been really good! For christmas I would like new clothes, note pad, a american girl doll, hoverboard, a baby doll, and a swimming suit.
Acacia, 9

Dear Santa,
This year I have been really good! For christmas I would like white nike shoes, a tablit, a floating, a nike backpack, a nike set pans.
Broden, 8

Dear Santa,
I have been really good! For christmas I would like a hover board tree hoses.
Jayden, 8

Dear Santa,
How are you doing? For christmas this year i would liek a pockoball with with a mystery pokemon inside.
Jacsun, 7

Dear Santa,
How are you doing? I would like a xsox.
Max, 7

Dear Santa,
How are you doing Santa? I would like the mighty pupst would also litk the night castle with the pups and the flip and fly pups and vehicles.
Henry, 7

Dear Santa,
What I want for christmas is squshmelos I need cloths at my moms.
Corbin, 8

Dear Santa,
I wish for christmas is Hlabor lechrskat and nice shoe a puppy sum toy for my Brultd figt andB ike lechrpeano a tilapia Phone cas a waterbat Pokmakscas.
Ashley, 9

Dear Santa,
In this yeas I was working rilly hard at school so I think I nid a present it is a game were you can play with wour family it calls pie-in-the-face I want this game because it is rilly fun and I can have some time with my family I don't have any game to play at home thats why am asking for that plese can you gat me that. I dont nid anythec alse I love you rilly much Bye Santa.
Maria, 9

Dear Santa,
I dont riley know what for christmas but I can thingk of a fuyow things. #1 my famly is happy. #2 art book. #3 a ramboffrends plushy #4 a sonic lago set.#5 evrey one to be happy.
Rylan, 8

Dear Santa,
I fit 10-12 in sheets and I fit 8-9 in pants these thing are stuff that i need I would like some new closing some new shoes like boots and tenish shoes, some food, some books, pensel so i could give to my teacher so the class can use done with thing i need. Now thing I hope I can git animals, some pillowsandblanket pokemon, a bord game.
Makinzie, 9

Dear Santa,
This year I want a book about all the natinal parks. I also want new hiking boots.
Elsie, 9

Dear Santa,
Why does nothing happen in sedAlia? Why does new york get all fun. Not even kansas city is that cool.
Allan, 10

Dear Santa,
What I want for Christmas is a Samsung Flip phone, Nintendo Switch, Mario Kart, a lot of skincare, bath & body works and JVN products and a waver. Also an autobrush for kids. Have a wonderful Christmas Santa!!! Sincerely, Layla.
Layla, 10

Dear Santa,
It been long but I just want an Xbox and a new scooter and a soocer ball is all I want.
Chris, 10

Dear Santa,
I have been kind thai year.. Have there been many good kids this year Thak you forheeles have a safflight. Love Elena.
Elena, 6

Dear Santa,
How do you get to the north pole with out magic. I want a clock I also want a alex. How do you fine the north Pole. How do you get magic.
Cheryl

Dear Santa,
What dow your hous look like I Whus a good boy I whuot a bage OF Cande I Whant now Plado
I miss you santa. Ipands

Dear Santa,
I'm probably on one list of your so this is what i want: cute sweaters and shirts, cute skirts. 2 more shelf elves. Theennn, cute headbands, 10 cute squishmallows, Cinnamordsll bedse and sheets, pretty ring for,mom baby yoda pants for paul. Beauty & the beast for k .j and clothes and shoes for the babys. P.s, I want magnetiles 2. Sincerely Mla H.
Mia H., 9

Dear Santa,
I WANT A NEW WATERBOTEL THA'tS Ried. I like a good litel coW. I Want Playdo.
Mike

Dear Santa,
I want a toy car for christmas. I want a Elsa doll for christmas how old is comet.
Lydia

Dear Santa,
Thi year I wad love to have a switch. And a plaser of god. How do your elf's got magic?
Roy

Dear Santa,
How old aryou saNta? I would like a lol mom. I would like POPichrlGame I also would Like some Slim.
Kinsley

Dear Santa,
I would like a new bed for christmas I would also like a puppy. Have a good christmas.
Norah

Dear Santa,
I want a cat. I wanT a yooy. I want a podlo
Liliana

Dear Santa,
When is my elf coming? How is mrs. claus doing? Ill make you cookies. Please can i hace a rainbow high doll and raindow high socks abd car? I would like makeup and nail polish. I would like rainbow high clothes too. I also want shoes, beanies, gloves and a scarf.
Angelica, 7

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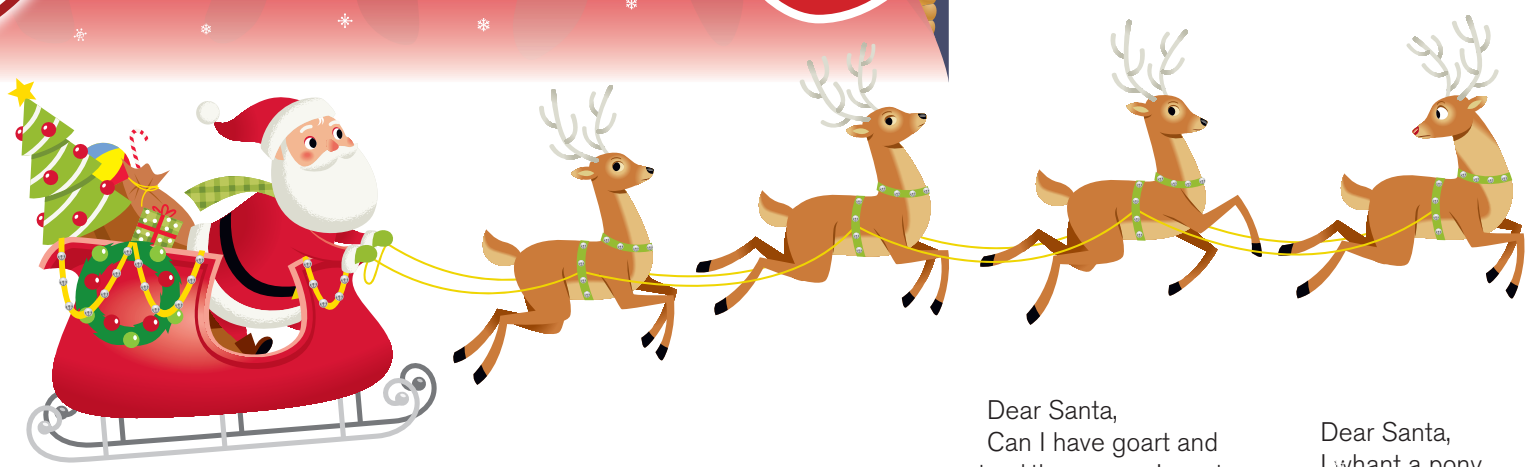
Letters to Santa



Dear Santa,
how are the elves doing they have hard workiknow! Is the bag heavy with the presents!!!!!! we will give you milk and cookies i want a mini hoop and basketballsshoes shoes love, jett.
Jett, 7

Dear Santa,
howaretheelves?when will my elfcome?santa i moved into a new house. Does myself know imoved intoahouse? Can you please get meanew google pixefon please? I lost my fan can you please bring the new google pixe fon for my dads house please?
Gigi, 8

Dear Santa,
how is rudolph? Thank you for the gifts last year santa! Can i go to the north porta; with you? Cosmo come back! I want a lock for my room a phone aaaa x box and earrings please santa for christmas can i get wat 1 want christmas santa. Love scarlett.
Scahlett, 8

Dear Santa,
Weboyodbreny s add yuobrecyr sac??? Pesiinstu.
Amelia

Dear Santa,
Santa Someone touch one of your elf. I would like to have a cat hiding Spot. one baby puppy.
Madyson
Dear Santa,
I want a dog. I want a cds.
Mathew

Dear Santa,
I want a games.
Larreus

Dear Santa,
I like make up. I like a cat. I like a pizza.
Payton

Dear Santa,
I like a ctn. I like a dog, I like a barbies.
Victoria

Dear Santa,
How are there reindeer? I want a toy watch.
Bell

Dear Santa,
How are the elves n I Waht a doll house.
Simon
Dear Santa,
I want 14 pro max and an ipad a doll and i want to have a sale and candy cae. And a big surprise!
Solomia, 8

Dear Santa,
Pok'e'mon Phone + headphone candy pooter skateboard candy.
Omari, 8

Dear Santa,
How are the reindeer I want a puppy dog.
Zora

Dear Santa,
What is your favorite cookie? I want a hunting set and an ipad.
Luke

Dear Santa,
What is your favorite cookie? I want a LOL doll.
Serenity

Dear Santa,
What is yoUR Favorite Cookie?
Yaroslav

Dear Santa,
My name is Briggs and my age is 8 and I theck you are the so cool. You are the best Santa ever I wnut a google pixel 7 pro and a ps5 VR headset and I also want a bunch of fitgets. LoVe briggs.
Briggs, 8

Dear, Santa,
This december I would like Mini desk, bullet Journal, IPhone, and leds. Your friend, Scarlett.
Scarlett, 7

Dear Santa,
Can I have goart and a ipod.the reason I want these thing's is because so I bont have to wastegas on the ranger atmy house. Also the reason I want the ipod is because so I bont have to use my sisters old ipod. This last two things I, want is 5 Baroys and a siderman pillow. From, kiara.
Kiara, 8

Dear Santa,
This year I would Like A iPhone 14 and PoPit's and Monet for mommy. TOY'S and New Friends and Booksand JoJoand Lay Lay to Santa closs From Kennedy.
Kennedy, 7

Dear Santa,
I wut… Demen slar Fuko pop. midcror a f Bee. a pomuranein a Nutcra. A skat bord.
Ariya, 8

Dear Santa,
I whant a pony.
Jenn, 7

Dear Santa,
I was great time I lover yeor rain deer I want a fox Plosh I want a big sqishmell Fox I want a Fox boots and Foxt oat and Fox and Fox car and Fox miennt and BaBy squishmellhat Fox and Fox books and Fox shoos and table and Fox chair and toys.
Ella, 8

Dear Santa,
please Ken have a doell for christmas Ples.
Ayslyn, 8

Dear Santa,
how are you doing? What have the elves making? How is Mrs. claws doing? I would like to have dresses a coloring book, and fancy shoes. Love Harper.
Harper, 7