

Shorts

Center Food Bank at New Location, Open to All

CENTER — The Center Food Bank has moved and is open Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Center Social Services Office, 220 Worth St. According to the Center Food Bank, “Everyone is welcome to receive food assistance at the Center Food Bank, no application is required.”

Del Norte Food Bank Distribution is Dec. 18

DEL NORTE — The Del Norte Food Bank will hold its December distribution on Saturday, Dec. 18, from 9-11 a.m. The Del Norte Food Bank serves residents of the Del Norte and South Fork areas. Anyone in need of food assistance is welcome. For more information, call 7657-2872.

Live Nativity on Dec. 19 at Gateway Church

DEL NORTE — The Gateway Team Up Kids Ministry is having a Live Nativity from 4:30 to 6 p.m. on Dec. 18 at Gateway Church in Del Norte. There will be free hot cocoa and other refreshments available to attendees.

Girl Scout Troop 30104 collecting pajamas Dec. 18

MONTE VISTA — Girl Scout Troop 30104 is collecting new children’s pajamas for Hope and Home Foster Care Agency. Donations can be dropped off on Saturday, Dec. 18, from 12 to 2 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, 705 Second Ave., Monte Vista.

SLVH Foundation seeks gently used medical equipment

ALAMOSA — San Luis Valley Health Foundation is asking for gently used wheelchairs, crutches, walkers and other medical equipment. With the supply chains still being affected by COVID-19 any help with donations would be greatly appreciated. For questions or to make pick up or drop off arrangements, contact Kelly Gurule with the SLVH Foundation at 719-587-5707.

Douglas County may use COVID money to buy SLV water

RWR presents plan to spend \$20 million for vital Valley resource

BY PRISCILLA WAGGONER
DOUGLASCOUNTY — Douglas County Commissioners held a town hall meeting Thursday night, Dec. 9, to get public feedback on how to spend the \$68.2 million the county received

from the American Rescue Plan. Despite being 200 miles away, people in the San Luis Valley tuned in to hear what the commissioners had to say, thanks to a Thursday morning alert from Cleave Simpson, state senator and general manager of the Rio Grande Water Conservation District.

Renewable Water Resources (RWR), the Denver-based group

attempting to purchase water rights in the San Luis Valley to export to Douglas County on the Front Range, submitted a request to Douglas County Commissioners to spend \$20 million of COVID relief funds in advancing their plan to export water.

“I am reaching out to you as a key stakeholder who has joined us in opposing this detrimental water export plan,” Simpson’s alert read.

“RWR continues to communicate that their plan has the support in the valley through the manipulation of a survey they conducted. I assure you this is not the case. We are organizing to fight this proposal. Please share this information with your network. We have worked together to successfully stop similar plans and we will do it again.”

Please see WATER on Page 6A

CSU SLV Extension holds retirement party

BY MECHEL MEEK
MONTE VISTA — The Colorado State San Luis Valley Extension Office held an open house and retirement party on Friday, Dec. 10, celebrating the service of Extension Agent, Family and Consumer Science, Mary Ellen Fleming and Office Manager Maxine Lujan, who are both retiring after serving for over 35 years with the extension.

On a cold and blustery day, a warm party was held inside the San Luis Valley Extension Office in Monte Vista celebrating the achievements and thanking two integral employees. Cake was provided by a local 4-H member and was a big hit with the staff.

Many people from nearby communities came to the celebration and open house. The extension is a vital part of the farming community of the San Luis Valley.

CSU Extension has recognized Fleming many times for her work with

the San Luis Valley community, serving the SLV since 1999.

“Fleming has made use of her bilingual skills to offer educational workshops in Spanish to the valley’s migrant population,” according to CSU Extension.

Lujan started at the SLV Extension office as the 4-H secretary in 1986 and was promoted to Office Manager in 2002. As the 4-H secretary and later the office manager she was a public face of SLV Extension.



Photos by Mechel Meek

The Colorado State San Luis Valley Extension Office held an open house and retirement party on Friday, Dec. 10, for Mary Ellen Fleming and Maxine Lujan, two of people that worked for the extension for more than 35 years.

Traffic stop leads to arrest, drug seizure

BY MECHEL MEEK

CENTER — Center Police Department Officer Eidy Guaderrama stopped a vehicle on Friday, Dec. 10, which led to the arrest of Adam Kokesh, 40, of Arizona.

According to CPD Chief Dale Meek, “Officer Guaderrama stopped a vehicle traveling through Center without license plates. The operator was very erratic in his behavior.”

Center Police Department allegedly seized illegal ‘magic’ mushroom aftermarket pills during a traffic stop on Friday, Dec. 10.

Photo courtesy of Center Police Department

According to CPD, during the traffic stop, the driver was acting unpredictably and did not wish to cooperate with Officer Guaderrama’s request for a license, registration and insurance.

Due to the behavior of the driver and subsequent investigation, CPD K-9 Kitt was deployed to check the vehicle for narcotics. K-9 Kitt indicated that drugs were present, and the suspect Kokesh was found to have warrants out of Wise County, Texas, for possessing dangerous drugs.

During a search of the vehicle, 302 aftermarket pills were allegedly found containing so-called psychedelic “magic” mushrooms, weighing 46 grams.

Please see ARREST on Page 2A



Subdistrict No. 1 considering increasing over-pumping fees

EDITOR’S NOTE: This is the second of a two-part look at Subdistrict No. 1 — past, present and future.

BY PRISCILLA WAGGONER
ALAMOSA — People far beyond the San Luis Valley and even Colorado state lines are watching what happens in Subdistrict No. 1 closely.

The formation of Subdistrict No. 1 stemmed from a core value among locals and most rural Westerners: that growers, not state bureaucrats, should be the ones to restore and manage the water beneath their feet.

The farmers leading the effort to create the subdistrict knew it wouldn’t be easy. Water agreements never are. The Rio Grande River — the primary

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Courtesy photo

The formation of the San Luis Valley’s Subdistrict No. 1 stemmed from a core value among locals and most rural Westerners: that growers, not state bureaucrats, should be the ones to restore and manage the water beneath their feet.

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OBITUARIES

Harry A. Fluck

Harry A. Fluck was born in Marion, Ill., on Jan. 19, 1940, and was the second of seven children born to Alfred "Mutt" Fluck and Ida Broeking Fluck. He graduated from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, Ill., in 1962 with a Bachelor's of Science, and received his Master's in Forest Management from Michigan State University in 1969 after serving in the Air Force for a 5-year tour.

In 1965, he met and married Patricia "Pat" K. Chrouch Fluck in Germany while serving his tour of duty in the Air Force. After returning to the States and achieving his Master's, the couple moved to Steamboat Springs, Colo., where Harry began his career with the US Forest Service.

All three of the couple's children were born there.

Harry and Pat finally settled in South Fork, Colo., in 1978 after being transferred all over Colorado, to raise their three children. In 1992, Harry was sworn in as the first Mayor of South Fork, and he proudly served multiple terms as both Mayor and Town Trustee.

Harry retired from the Forest Service in February 1995, and received a phone call shortly before his retirement party that his first grandchild was being born. He thoroughly enjoyed his retirement, spending time with family and friends, and AT'ing in the forest he loved.

Harry is survived by his wife Pat,



his children — Henry Fluck (Tammy Bur Fluck), James Richards (Amber Robinson) and Ellie Fluck, and his grandchildren — Hank Fluck (Amber Jones Fluck), Dane Fluck, and Zackary Richards, and his brothers and sisters — Louis Fluck, Susie Tregoning (Dennis Tregoning), Linda Eckols, Judy Peebles (John Peebles) and John Fluck (Janice Fluck).

He was preceded in death by his parents Alfred "Mutt" Fluck and Ida Broeking Fluck, and his brother Phillip Fluck.

There will be a Celebration of Life service at the Chapel of the South Fork, Sunday, Dec. 19, 2021, at 2 p.m. followed by an Ice Cream Social to celebrate Harry's life. To express condolences, please visit www.rogersfunerals.com.

Rogers Family Mortuary in Monte Vista is in care of the arrangements.

Shirley Boyce

Shirley Boyce, a resident of Grand Junction, passed away on Nov. 24, 2021. She grew up in Wisconsin and received her nursing degree in Chicago.

She joined the Air Force and served at Eglin Air Force Base. She married Jim Walker and started a family and settled in the San Luis Valley in 1961 where she worked as a nurse. The family lived briefly in Bolivia where she volunteered at a nonprofit medical clinic.

Upon returning to Monte Vista, she and Jim divorced, and she continued working as an RN. She was part of a group of nurses that started San Luis Valley Homecare. In 1983 Shirley married Wayne Boyce, and after she retired, they moved to Grand Junction. Shirley volunteered at the Respiratory Rehab Unit at St Mary's, and pursued training to volunteer for county emergencies.

Shirley loved to create art and knitting. She explored knitting techniques and designs throughout her life and created a business called Boyce Designs. In Grand Junction she enjoyed friendships in the knitting community and coordinated fellow knitters to



donate hand-knit items to assistance programs. She taught classes at a local yarn shop and repaired knitted items.

She was preceded in death by her husband Wayne Boyce, and survived by her three children Becky Walker, Kelly Walker, and Jennifer Walker, two grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

In memory of Shirley, the family encourages donations to HopeWest Hospice www.hopewestco.org/shirley-boyce/. Full obituary at www.brownscremationservice.com/obituary/Shirley-Boyce.

Patrick Rowan Rios June 27, 1964 — December 1, 2021

Patrick Rowan Rios passed away on December 1, 2021. He was born on June 27, 1964 in Alamosa, Colorado, to Daniel A. and Gloria Valadez Rios of Monte Vista, Colorado.

Patrick was always so full of life and ready for a party. He travelled all over the world and made friends wherever he went. Patrick loved the Rolling Stones and even attended concerts all over the world. He attended Adams State University and became a realtor. Patrick was an avid reader and a hard-working individual; and will be remembered for his kindness and his dedication to his clients.

Patrick is survived by his parents, Daniel A. and Gloria Valadez Rios of Monte Vista, Colorado; his brothers, Mike Rios of Monte Vista, Colorado, Daniel Rios, Jr. of Del Norte, Colorado; his wife, Joanne Sykes; and Colten Corrigan, who Patrick considered a son; and countless relatives and friends to include Nancy Corrigan and Kim Miller, who were like sister's to him.

A celebration of Patrick's life will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 18, 2021 at the Franciscan Retreat Center, 7740 Deer Hill Grove, Colorado Springs, CO 80919.



Damian Sean Trow

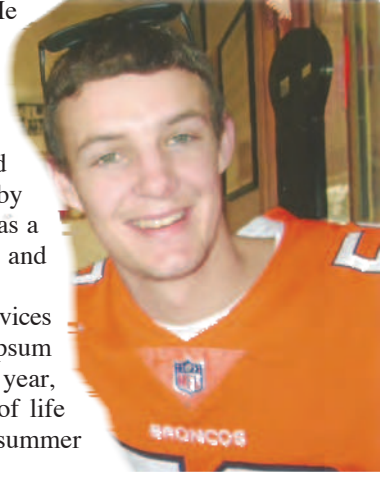
With great sadness, the "families" of Damian Sean Trow announce his passing from this life on Friday, Dec. 3, 2021. Damian was born in Aurora, Colo., on April 15, 1994, to David Trow and Tracy Rogers Trow. At the tender age of 27, Damian took his own life.

After graduation from Creede High School, Damian moved to Edwards, Colo., attended Colorado Mountain College, taking courses that would lead to his "dream to be a full-fledged fire fighter."

Damian is survived by his parents David and Tracy, his younger brother Dylan, and his dog "Maddie." He also leaves behind his second family, David's wife Amber and Damian's stepsisters Serenity, Taylor, and

Hannah and stepbrother Troy. He is also survived by a variety of grandparents, uncles, aunts, and cousins, all whom he loved dearly. In addition to his many relatives, he is missed and mourned by those who served by his side as he proudly served as a member of both the Gypsum and Eagle fire departments.

Cremation was chosen and services are tentatively planned at Gypsum sometime after the first of the year, with a memorial celebration of life in Creede sometime in the summer of 2022.



Obbie Lee Dickey

Longtime Del Norte resident Obbie Lee Dickey, 91, passed away on Dec. 11, 2021. He was born on Oct. 1, 1930, in Stonington, Colo., to Theodore Arthur and Amber (Herford) Dickey. Obbie was a farmer and rancher all his life. He was involved in the Colorado Cattleman's Association as well as the Colorado Outfitters Association. He loved riding horses and fishing.

Obbie is survived by his sons, Robert (Jody) Dickey and Gary (Brigitte) Dickey, as well as numerous grandchildren, nieces, nephews and extended family.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife Willa Lee Dickey and his brothers, Ralph Dickey and Quinton Dickey.

Cremation was selected and services will be held later. In lieu of flowers, contributions are suggested to the Rio Grande Hospital or the San Luis Valley Cancer Center and may be made in care of the funeral home office.

To express condolences to the family, please visit www.rogersfunerals.com. Rogers Family Mortuary in Monte Vista is in care of the arrangements.



Please see MORE OBITUARIES on Page 7A

ARREST

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"Please be aware of this drug, as it has been crushed and put into capsules for sale," Chief Meek said.

Kokesh was charged with suspicion of unlawful distribution, manufacturing, dispensing or sale of a schedule 1 controlled substance.

This is the latest in a string of drug arrests in Center. Psychedelic mushrooms can be deadly when

ingested, with some of the side effects listed as nausea, paranoia, panic, hallucinations and psychosis. According to medical professionals, psilocybin, the active ingredient in psychedelic mushrooms, is classified as a schedule 1 drug which means that it has a high potential for misuse and has no accepted medical use in the United States.

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OPINION & EDITORIAL

The New Math

When Ol' Dutch was in the 5th grade — shortly after the earth cooled according to Miss Trixie — the educators took it upon themselves to change to what was known then as “new math.” All of us at the time were doing fine with the old math plus, it had taken man to the moon and back, but schoolbook salesmen and others convinced the teachers that new was better.

All of us in school struggled to understand this new-fangled scrunching of numbers and although I cannot for the life of me recall the differences between the two methods, we all had a hard time adapting.

Over the past two weeks Miss Trixie and I have kept the grands several times and the evenings involved doing homework with them. Watching them do some complicated mental exercise for their math in another “new math” kind of madness and almost gave me seizures.

Gone were the days of borrowing from a neighboring number and simply subtracting. Now we draw boxes and boxes and make up things in order to get “close” to an answer. And I do think the lack of borrowing from neighbors probably has negative social ramifications as well. How else can we learn to get along with others and borrow their tools if not through mathematics?

There are even educators who insist that mathematics is not an exacting science and so answers need not be correct to be right. All you have to do is get close to make it count. And to think of all the bad grades I got in past years for generally being close.

I fear the future as the engineers who design bridges and scientists who invent new cures for diseases will only have to get “close” to an answer to be correct.

Imagine driving over a bridge across a deep chasm and the engineers that designed it only had to get an approximate alignment. There you are minding your own business driving to grandmother’s house when suddenly you find a massive piece of roadway missing. Suddenly exact numbers do seem to make a difference.

Or getting a shot of some vaccine that was not thoroughly tested with exacting standards as always done



Trout Republic
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

in the past. Wait a minute? Ol' Dutch worked for an engineering firm for many years and one of the funniest times I can recall while working there is we were all in a meeting and there was a question raised involving some small addition problem. Everyone in the room reached for a calculator to add up a simple number and Ol' Dutch actually laughed out loud.

They asked what was so funny so I pointed out to the room full of brainiacs how dependent we were on calculators and they all had to admit they were helpless or seemingly so without technology in a box. Even a small box. There we were adding up 7 plus 5 plus 9 clickety-click. Ridiculous.

After a lifetime of engineering, construction and railroading experiences I have to say that most of what I have experienced took calculations made by someone and none of them were approximations. Why just imagine building a house and having a tape measure with only the foot measurements marked. Hey, just get close. That way we do not hurt your feelings for being what we used to call “wrong.”

But hey, close is good enough for hand grenades and sex as they say and those seem to work out fine most of the time anyway. However, both can lead to some form of destruction so even close there is not good enough.

Kevin Kirkpatrick and his Yorkie, Cooper, fish, hunt, ATV or hike daily. His email is Kevin@TroutRepublic.com. Additional news can be found at www.troutrepublic.com



YOUR NIGHT SKY

BY DARLENE DANKO

Winter Solstice

Winter is finally here, almost. Our weather has been so strange, one week cold and the next week so warm that it’s hard to believe winter will soon arrive. The December solstice comes on Dec. 21 at 9:48 p.m., which is the longest night of the year. That’s when winter arrives.

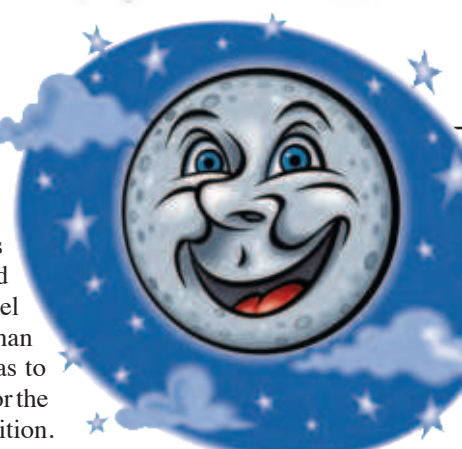
This is when the Sun reaches its southern most point for the year, which is why the southern hemisphere is entering summer, while we enter winter. It also gives us our longest period of darkness and shortest period of daylight for the year. Great for sky watching if you don’t mind the cold!

What’s interesting is that the longest days of the year come each December for the entire planet. These days are measured from one solar noon to the next. Earth takes about half a minute longer to complete a rotation in December. That doesn’t seem like much for one day, but it does add up over three months. We can’t measure this with our clocks, but a sundial could.

Earth’s perihelion, our closest point to the Sun, comes early in January. When we’re closest to the Sun, Earth moves a little faster in its orbit around the Sun. This causes us to travel through space a little farther than average each day, and Earth has to rotate a little farther on its axis for the Sun to return to its noontime position. This creates the longer solar day.

Because of this, the northern hemisphere’s earliest sunset precedes the winter solstice, and our latest sunrise of the year comes after the winter solstice. The southern hemisphere is just the opposite. The actual time depends on how far north or south we live, but can be one or two weeks before or after the solstice.

Because we’re closest to the Sun in early January, our winter is the shortest of all of our 4 seasons, and the opposite happens with the summer solstice. Since Earth is farthest from the Sun in early July, it moves more slowly in its orbit. So our summer, and the southern hemisphere’s winter are the longest seasons. Winter is 88.99 days, spring is 92.76 days, summer is 93.65 days



and fall is 89.84 days.

That’s enough seasonal education. The Ursid meteor shower always peaks around the solstice. This year it’s the night of Dec 22. Obviously, the best time is early in the morning of the 23rd. Sometimes they have a burst of 100 meteors per hour, but usually only 5-10. So if you’re up early, look in the north near the Little Dipper. They’ll be visible for several nights.

This is the last night for the Geminid Meteor shower. Hopefully, you got to see it. The full moon is on the 19th, but it occurs late on the 18th. So that’s an early morning viewing after 3 a.m. Venus is still shining brightly in the SW after the sun sets, and soon Mercury will appear.

LETTER

Monte Vista Elks thank community for support

Editor,
The Monte Vista Elks sends a huge thank you to all those who helped to make our Annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner a success. Thank you to Wilbur-Ellis, San Luis Valley Federal Bank, Sunflour Bakery, Top Value (Summit) Market, and the Ski Hi Stampede

Committee — you are so appreciated. To our volunteers who worked tirelessly for a week — peeling, cooking, decorating, cleaning up, washing dishes, and serving — you are all the backbone of our Lodge and truly exemplify our beliefs in charity and brotherly love.

Thank you, Chairman C.E. Glunz, Jere Metz, Kathy Metz, Ken Anderson, Dallas Anderson, Kelli Lister, Nate Lister, Joe Dillon, Butch Haught, Jim Prentice, Jen McQuitty, Shari DeSautell, Dawn Martin, and Jarrad Martin for all your hard work. And to our members’ daughters, Azzy Lister,

Elizabeth McQuitty, and Autumn McQuitty, we appreciate your parents volunteering you — thank you.

And a special thank you to all who came down and ate or took a take-out dinner. You are the reason we enjoy doing this every year.
Monte Vista Elks Lodge #2456

CENTER POST-DISPATCH

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FEES

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source of the water that feeds the aquifers by seeping into the ground — was already over-appropriated more than a century ago with more water rights decreed than the river could support. Hydrologists at that time miscalculated the river's normal flows, and to this day water experts are still learning about the complexity of the aquifers here.

The law of that river, called the Rio Grande Compact, further complicates things by requiring that Colorado deliver a certain amount of water flow to New Mexico every year. That agreement was signed in 1938 when the population and number of growing operations here were just a fraction of what they are now.

Adripping spree during the 1950s and 1960s led to the creation of thousands of wells and granting of individual water rights by the State Engineer, the same state agency that would start shutting some of those wells down 40 years later.

For some farmers, short-term, high-commodity prices overrode the long-term necessity to use less water as climate change was affecting water supply in unforeseeable ways.

Creating a subdistrict was local farmers' only way of buying themselves more time. The state agreed to let them continue drawing from the aquifer on the condition that they replenish the water to a certain level by 2031. Should the subdistrict fail to reach that target, the State Engineer's Office — whose staff closely monitors water levels and tracks the subdistrict's plans for restoring them — will shut down their 3,000 wells until the aquifer reaches that level on its own.

The subdistrict's plan is crafted unlike any other in the state. "Subdistrict number one is the first experiment in sustainability where we don't just mine the resource," says Mike Sullivan, deputy director of the Division of Water Resources. Mining the resource — another way of saying mining to extinction — is solely focused on extraction and managing water to last for a longer period of time with no focus on putting water back into the aquifer. "Subdistrict one's plan is the only one I know of anywhere that's focused on sustainability and achieving the long-term goal of living within our means, which is the only way agriculture will last into the future."

That leaves local farmers, at least those actively paying attention, regularly checking a graph https://rgwcd.org/images/Wells/Change_in_Unconfined_Aquifer_Graph_1.pdf on

the Rio Grande Water Conservation District's website that tracks the subdistrict's progress toward that target. When the line shows the aquifer's water level going up, they feel hopeful. When the line goes down, hearts sink with fears of state regulators showing up to shut off their wells.

This is new territory in terms of state regulation. State Engineer Kevin Rein has not tipped his hand on whether his office will wait until 2031 to take action, or do so sooner if the line on the water graph isn't heading in the right direction quickly enough.

John Kretsinger, a farmer and rancher who bought land in Alamosa in 1989, recalls a conversation years ago when he asked an official in the State Engineer's Office whether it might give farmers some leeway if they're not making fast enough progress. The official pointed to the water pump where they were standing by. "Do you see a mitigation switch on there? No, you don't because there are only two switches. One for on and one for off. That's how we mitigate."

As Marisa Fricke, who manages the subdistrict, tells it, local farmers knew "better than anyone what was happening to the water levels." Most, she says, "knew something had to be done, and they knew the state would do something if they didn't."

Most, but not all. Some reluctant subdistrict members still believe their 50- and 60-year-old drilling permits guarantee them the right to a certain amount of water, regardless of what direction the line on the graph is heading. It hasn't been easy for growers who are still farming the way their dads and granddads did — and for those lured by temporarily high commodity prices — to reduce their water use by changing their ways.

Lawsuits have been filed. Conflicts have erupted between those who farm by flooding their fields and those who irrigate with center pivots. Owners of smaller, less profitable farms have complained they're more at risk than owners of bigger farms with deeper pockets.

"There weren't many kumbaya conversations," Kretsinger says. "Things got pretty tense. Nobody ever swung a punch, but voices were raised — quite loudly, at times."

It took until 2011 for Subdistrict No. 1 to become fully operational. The group is governed by farmers elected to a board by other farmers and has committed to a plan that relies on the law of economics to govern individual behavior.

At first, farmers who drew more

water for irrigation than what they put back were assessed an over-pumping fee of \$45 per acre foot. (An acre foot is equal to a sheet of water one acre in size that is also one foot deep, and is about the amount that would support three to four families for a year.)

Some farmers were paying the fee for just one- or two-acre feet, Fricke says, but others who kept up their old habits of drawing more than they put in were paying from \$50,000 to \$300,000 each growing season.

Despite persistent drought, water levels began to recover during the first few years. But, because many of the members continued to draw more than they were putting back, the subdistrict raised fees to \$75 an acre foot in 2012. The line on the graph, with some bumps along the way, slowly continued to head upward, causing Simpson and others to be hopeful.

But then came 2018. Severe drought conditions plus low snowpack wiped out three years of progress in that single year. The line on the graph plummeted, showing the aquifer was almost a million acre-feet below target. That prompted a warning from the state engineer stating he recognized all the work the farmers had done, but that his office may not wait until 2031 to shut down the wells if the line in the graph didn't head upward quickly.

"I may have to do something that will make your lives very hard," Rein told the group who had gathered for an in-person meeting that year.

The subdistrict's board voted to raise over-pumping fees to \$90 per acre foot.

The following year, 2019, was, according to Fricke, a "fabulous year for moisture" and everyone expected that some of the water that had been lost would be partially recovered. But farmers and hydrologists alike were shocked when measurements in the aquifer showed little improvement.

That prompted a threatening letter from the state engineer in 2020. The subdistrict's board raised over-pumping fees to the current level of \$150.

In 10 years, the subdistrict has



Courtesy photos



collected more than \$70 million in fees, which it has used to financially reward members who are doing the most to conserve. Money has also been used to buy private water rights, pay for farmers to temporarily let their land go fallow, and to take acreage permanently out of production.

But, at least so far, the \$150 over-pumping fee has not been high enough to force the level of conservation that's needed. The subdistrict now has a decade to replenish the aquifer with 900,000-acre feet of water — the amount of water that serves all of the residences in Denver for six years.

"It's hard to wrap your head around how much water that is," says Travis Thompson, communications manager with the Denver Water Board.

That challenge brings the subdistrict to a crossroads.

The subdistrict's board is poised in mid-2022 to vote on raising the over-pumping fee from \$150 to \$500 per acre foot. The 233% increase, if approved, would up the ante so much that most farmers would not be able to afford over-pumping. Raw economics would either force them to cut their water use or go out of business.

As drought deepens, climate change intensifies and the aquifer's water level continues to drop, San Luis Valley's

grand, one-of-a-kind experiment of collective self-governance is shaping up like an extremely high-stakes game of sustainable-farming "Survivor."

If the state does not intervene and shut down wells before 2031 — a very big if — Nissen Farms and other early adopters of hard-core conservation will be far more likely to stay in business long term.

Others, temporarily buoyed by commodity prices that enable them to pay much higher fees for excessive water usage, will not if those prices fall.

But if the state, not seeing enough progress, shuts off wells before 2031, the game could be over for everyone.

"The subdistrict is just doing what it was created to do," says Don Shawcroft, a 64-year-old rancher who runs cattle in Conejos County, in defense of the proposed \$500 over-pumping fee. "This Valley relies on agriculture, and agriculture relies on water. If that water is shut off — or worse, used up — none of these towns will survive."

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Photo courtesy of Caroline Gray of the SLV Research Center

The San Luis Valley Research Center held a Potato Post Harvest Storage Workshop on Thursday, Dec. 9.

SLV Research Center Holds Potato Storage and Quality Workshop

By MECHER MEEK

CENTER — The San Luis Valley Research Center held a Potato Post Harvest Storage Workshop on Thursday, Dec. 9.

Dr. Sastry Jayanty of Colorado State University, San Luis Valley Research Center, Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture said, "I organized a workshop on maintaining tuber quality aspects during long-term storage."

Jayanty explained that the workshop topics also discussed warehouse best practices, and how to improve storage to reduce rejections by distribution centers.

The half-day workshop started with a welcome speech, followed by a presentation by Jayanty on maintaining quality during the warehousing of potato stock.

Next on the agenda was a presentation by Jason Tillman, of Monte Vista Potato Growers, about

potato warehouse challenges and opportunities.

After a short coffee break, Dr. Mike Thornton, of the University of Idaho, spoke about the Idaho Potato Quality Project.

Next up was seed storage considerations by Steven McKechnie, of Agro Engineering, and the final presentation was by Jimmy Ridgway, of Yara North America, who spoke about calcium.



Photo by Deanna Lopez

The Colorado Workforce Center hosted a job fair on Tuesday, Dec. 7, at the Saguache Community Building.

Workforce Center holds job fair in Saguache

By MECHER MEEK

SAGUACHE — The Colorado Workforce Center hosted a job fair on Tuesday, Dec. 7, at the Saguache Community Building.

The job fair was attended by local employers, including the Center Police Department.

"We are always looking for people that are interested in impacting their communities by becoming a police officer," said CPD Chief Dale Meek, adding that qualified candidates are becoming harder to find.

The job fair was well attended with many potential employees talking with all types of employers from around the San Luis Valley.

Throughout the United States, there is a surge in open job postings, mostly due to the reopening of businesses during the COVID pandemic. It is difficult for employers to find qualified candidates that are interested. Job fairs such as this one enable both employers and potential employees to get together.

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Center Coffee with the Chief discusses recent crime trends

By MECHEL MEEK
CENTER — On Saturday, Dec. 11, the monthly Coffee with the Chief was held at the Center Consolidated United Methodist Church. The meeting was attended by over a dozen community members who were greeted with doughnuts and fresh coffee.

Center Police Department Chief Dale Meek started the meeting by speaking about the hiring process of CPD. He explained that they are in the process of hiring one officer to fill a vacancy.

Meek also said, "After two years with the department, Officer Lopez is leaving. Officer Guaderrama will

be taking her place as the School Resource Officer." Meek also discussed that the number of calls for service and reports was much higher than last year. He said the police department is going to increase the technology available to the officers in the 2022 budget year. This technology will allow the officers to be more efficient in their tasks, such as report writing.

He said the department is hoping to add another officer position in the 2023 budget, as the town will be annexing the North 90 acreage, creating a larger area to be patrolled by CPD.

Sgt. Aaron Fresquez was in

attendance, and he discussed his K-9 training in North Carolina. This training was a train the trainer class for K-9 officers. Fresquez became certified to train the K-9 dogs and the officers who handle the dogs.

Fresquez said, "We had to teach all 16 guys how to handle their dogs." This certification allows him to train handlers and dogs from scratch and enables the department to train dogs in many different tasks including tracking, and even bomb detection.

The citizens in attendance were happy to have the opportunity to ask questions of Fresquez about the specifics of the training and how the dogs are trained.

Free COVID at-home rapid testing kits available

STATE — In an effort to aid Colorado residents and school-aged children, the state has recently announced that it will also be providing free-over-the-counter COVID-19 rapid test kits, directly to people at home.

The program will use Abbott BinaxNOW rapid antigen tests that show results within 15 minutes of

taking the test. The program has been designed to allow parents, guardians, and caregivers a way to test their children at home.

While the program is geared toward helping parents and school-aged children, all Coloradans are welcome to sign up for the Rapid At-Home COVID-19 testing program kits.

The Colorado Department of

Public Health and Environment has an individual enrollment form on its website for the kits. The kits will be mailed free of charge and contain four tests each. Multiple kits for the rapid testing can be ordered separately and are also free of charge.

For more information on the rapid test kits, visit the CDPHE COVID website at covid19.colorado.gov.

WATER

Continued from Page 1A

RWR is up against some stiff competition. Not only are they requesting nearly a third of all money Douglas County received in COVID relief funding, but they are also only one of 17 proposals that, collectively, are requesting \$247 million. And water is only one of five areas of priority the commissioners have set for funding.

But even within that field, the topic of water solicited the most comments from participants, both in person and online, and the most substantive comments from two of the three commissioners.

Commissioner Abe Laydon described himself as a Latino who has family roots in the San Luis Valley that go back five generations and said he would not want to do anything that would be harmful to the communities here.

"But I'm also not a fan of policies that would purport to keep people from the American Dream," he said, "and there are members of my family who, frankly, struggle in southern Colorado. So, I would like to see people I know and people I don't know be able to achieve that, if they choose to do so."

Commissioner George Teal was slightly more definitive, stating he has interest in any project that brings water to Douglas County.

"Our job is to provide for the people in Douglas County. But I also grew up in Greeley County and spent summers working on irrigation, so I know how important water is," he said. "But I want to take a look and see what the impacts actually are in the San Luis Valley and make sure we put together a win-win."

The third commissioner, Lora Thomas, did not weigh in on the water one way or the other but has indicated that, without qualifying the statement, she is not in favor of taking action that would be injurious to another community.

San Luis Valley residents, both former and current, also made their sentiments known.

Jared Romero, a native of the San Luis Valley, said, "I believe if you approve the RWR proposal, you will be doing detrimental things to fellow Coloradans. I ask you to consider the residents who live in the San Luis Valley and consider the current state of water in that region. The RWR proposal is in direct contradiction with the Colorado State Water Plan and

will have detrimental effects on the three U.S. Fish and Wildlife refuges, the Sand Dunes, national parks, wildlife, agriculture and tourism in the region. Additionally, the authors of this proposal appear to be taking water from a water-stressed, rural, Hispanic population and sending it to a predominately white, affluent, Front Range community."

Another participant, who attended the meeting in person, said she had spent 20 years in the San Luis Valley with experience in land use and had worked to stop the last tran-basin diversion effort. She spoke about the importance of water in the aquifer supporting the Great Sand Dunes and how the Sand Dunes and other sites are national treasures, not just state or local.

"These are really important decisions you're making and I ask you to make them with the state and the nation in mind," she said.

Simpson sees significant problems with the proposal, not the least of which include blatantly false and misleading statements. But he and others are not taking it lightly.

"They have a lot of obstacles and challenges to do what they propose to do," Simpson said. "This isn't a new threat. They've been around trying to get this done for about three years and their premise directly contradicts everything we've been working to accomplish in the Valley.

But we're taking this seriously. And if this proposal advances any further, we're prepared to meet them every step of the way. Until then, I strongly recommend the Douglas County Commissioners hire a third neutral party to examine the RWR proposal to see how many claims they're making are inaccurate and how many others are just false."

When asked for a comment on the proposal, Conor Cahill, press secretary for Governor Jared Polis, issued this statement on the governor's behalf.

"The Governor continues to oppose the diversion of precious water resources from western Colorado," the governor's office stated. "The San Luis Valley has experienced some of the most severe drought conditions in the state. When we look at water in the West, and how we have adapted to the lack of it, and seasonality of it — the state has created a large, interconnected network where someone owns just about every drop. The Governor understands that solving this water shortage isn't just an individual challenge, but it becomes a challenge involving many states, localities, tribes and individuals who have to work together. We are monitoring this situation, working to get more details, and would urge all involved to work together to protect our most precious resource."

Public Notice Rio Grande Water Conservation District Appointment

The Saguache County Board of Commissioners are accepting letters of interest for appointment from an individual who would like to serve as the Saguache County representative to the Rio Grande Water Conservation District Board whom resides South of Saguache County Road L, have an interest in both surface and ground water, have an interest in agricultural and represent municipality water interest.

Letters of Interest may be addressed to the Board of County Commissioners and submitted to the Saguache County Administration office in the basement of the courthouse or mailed to PO Box 100, Saguache CO 81149. The deadline for letters of interest is Friday, December 17, 2021. The Board of County Commissioners will review comments and make a decision on this request at their regular meeting on Tuesday, December 21, 2021.

No. 1615 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, December 2, 9 and 16, 2021.

Saguache County Board of Commissioners Seeks Saguache County Planning Commission Members

Saguache County Board of Commissioners are seeking members and alternates from:
Town of Saguache surrounding area – member and alternate
La Garita/Center area – member and alternate
Town of Center and surrounding area - alternate
Cochetopa area – Member and alternate
Moffat and surrounding area – alternate
Hooper and surrounding area – alternate
Villa Grove and surrounding area - alternate
At Large for All of Saguache County – alternate
Crestone and surrounding area - alternate

The representative must be a property owner or property manager and reside in the area they are interested in representing. Regular member terms are for three years and the alternate terms are for one year.

Saguache County Planning Commission meets on the last Thursday of each month in the Road and Bridge meeting room. The Planning Commission may also have work sessions throughout each month to work on the Saguache County Master Plan and different items. If you are interested, please send a brief letter of interest stating qualifications and interest to: Saguache County Land Use, Attn: Amber Wilson, PO Box 326, Saguache, CO 81149 prior to Friday, January 7, 2021. Should you have any questions please call Amber Wilson at 719-655-2321.

No. 1616 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, December 9, 16, 23 and 30, 2021 and January 6, 2022.

AT&T Mobility, LLC is proposing to modify antennas on a 165-foot overall height self-supporting lattice telecommunications structure off County Road 46 AA, Saguache, Saguache County, Colorado (38° 09' 48.5" N, 106° 07' 57.3" W). The tower is expected to be lit utilizing FAA Style E: Dual Lighting, Red and Medium Intensity White Lights. AT&T Mobility, LLC invites comments from any interested party on the impact the proposed undertaking may have on any districts, sites, buildings, structures, or objects significant in American history, archaeology, engineering, or culture that are listed or determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under National Historic Preservation Act Section 106. Comments may be sent to Environmental Corporation of America, ATTN: Annamarie Howell, 1375 Union Hill Industrial Court, Suite A, Alpharetta, GA 30004 or via email to publicnotice@eca-usa.com. Ms. Howell can be reached at (770) 667-2040 x 405 during normal business hours. Comments must be received within 30 days of the date of this notice.

In addition, any interested party may also request further environmental review of the proposed action under the FCC's National Environmental Policy Act rules, 47 CFR §1.1307, by notifying the FCC of the specific reasons that the action may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment. This request must only raise environmental concerns and can be filed online using the FCC pleadings system at www.fcc.gov or mailed to FCC Requests for Environmental Review, Attn: Ramon Williams, 445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20554 within 30 days of the date that notice of this proposed action is published on the FCC's website. Refer to File No. A1205933 when submitting the request and to view the specific information about the proposed action. X2323 NJF

No. 1617 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, December 16, 2021.

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SLVH: Time to get flu vaccine

STAFF REPORT
ALAMOSA — “Now is the time to get your flu vaccine,” stated Lynette Grant, SLV Health’s Infection Prevention Practitioner.
 Grant has seen what contagious diseases can do to patients with her nursing experience. She has a Bachelor’s in Business Administration from Adams State and an associate’s degree in nursing.
 She worked on medical-surgical units in several hospitals in Nashville. When she moved to the San Luis Valley several years ago, she was a public health nurse and director. Then she worked in long-term care and has

learned quite a bit about COVID and other infectious diseases.
 Dec. 5-11 was National Influenza Vaccine Week.
 “We are already seeing flu in the San Luis Valley with hospitalizations,” remarked Grant. In recognition of National Influenza Vaccination Week, San Luis Valley Health proclaims December as the month to recognize the importance and value of all vaccines to keep our population safe from serious diseases.
 From measles and polio to influenza and COVID and everything in between, vaccines have been proven to save lives for centuries. In 1798, the

first smallpox vaccine was developed. Diseases such as rabies, tetanus, diphtheria, typhoid, tuberculosis and more, wreaked havoc on various populations until vaccines were developed.
 “As a reminder, the flu vaccine can often help reduce the severity of illness in people who get vaccinated but still may get sick. Getting vaccinated also reduces the risk of flu-associated hospitalizations,” explained Grant.
 Flu shots are widely available in the San Luis Valley. To get your flu vaccine at SLV Health, call the clinic closest to you, at 719-589-3000.

OBITUARY

Martha Jane Olson Walker

Martha Jane Olson Walker, 63, died peacefully in her sleep from complications of kidney disease, while in hospice care in her home, Thursday, Nov. 25, 2021.
 Martha spent much of her childhood surrounded by natural beauty as her father was a naturalist for the National Park Service Bighorn Canyon, Bryce Canyon, Capitol Reef and Death Valley were her childhood playgrounds. She graduated high school while her dad was assigned to Death Valley in 1977.
 She was born Nov. 23, 1958, in Slayton, Minn., to Virgil and Helen Olson. She married Ron Walker on April 25, 1981. They made their home in the Minneapolis area.
 Martha worked at Unisys Defense Systems from 1978 to 1995. She had an eye for detail.
 Two children, Anthony and Dustin, were born to Martha and Ron while they lived in the Minneapolis area.
 Martha and Ron loved visiting her parents at their mountain home in Jasper, Colo. In 1996 Martha, Ron and

the boys relocated from Eagan, Minn., to Monte Vista, Colo. Martha retrained to become a certified nursing assistant. She worked at Home Lake Veterans’ Center for nearly 20 years. She was personable and understanding with her patients. Martha was easy-going and especially loved raising her sons. She and Ron drove their boys from one end of Colorado to the other for their sporting events. She adored their many dogs and cats, goats, chickens and even a horse.
 Though she was an outdoorsy, country girl, she also loved fashion and make-up. She could rock platform high heels with the best of them. She relaxed in the evening by playing solitaire and doing word puzzles.
 Martha was preceded in death by two infant brothers, Steven and Andrew and her parents Helen (Minehart) and Virgil Olson.
 She is survived by her husband Ron Walker Monte Vista, Colo., and her sons Anthony Walker (Stephanie) Monte Vista, Colo.; and Dustin Walker Alamosa, Colo.; her sister



Jenny Lowe Monte Vista, Colo.; and brother Jeffrey Olson Spokane, Wash.; niece Kristin Loney (Brian), Ariz.; and Andrew Olson (Beth) Spokane, Wash.
 All of these she loved and touched deeply. She will be dearly missed.
 Memorials may be sent to Hospice del Valle visit /hospicedelvalle.org/ donate.

San Luis Valley Scoreboard Basketball 2021-2022

BOYS BASKETBALL			
Del Norte 47	.....	Lamar	39
Alamosa 55	.....	The Academy	41
Sierra Grande 53	.....	Primero	39
Creede 54	.....	Cripple Creek-Victor	35
Sanford 59	.....	Swink	25
Fowler 35	.....	Monte Vista	32
Center 60	.....	Creede	40
Sargent 56	.....	Sangre de Cristo	21
University 54	.....	Alamosa	44
Sierra Grande 63	.....	Hoehne	22
Fowler 42	.....	Del Norte	28
Lamar 31	.....	Monte Vista	29
Sanford 61	.....	La Junta	58
James Irwin 39	.....	Centennial	38
Sierra Grande 58	.....	Kim/Branson	43
Lake County 60	.....	Sargent	22
La Junta 54	.....	Del Norte	42
Sanford 31	.....	Fowler	28
Manitou Springs 59	.....	Alamosa	40

GIRLS BASKETBALL			
Alamosa 66	.....	The Pinnacle	14
Lamar 47	.....	Del Norte	24
Sierra Grande 50	.....	Primero	6
Sanford 65	.....	Swink	14
Fowler 43	.....	Monte Vista	22
Sargent 35	.....	Sangre de Cristo	21
Hoehne 71	.....	Sierra Grande	18
Cotopaxi 43	.....	Moffat	13
Monte Vista 37	.....	Del Norte	20
Sanford 38	.....	La Junta	19
University 47	.....	Alamosa	20
Kim/Branson 46	.....	Sierra Grande	23
Centennial 54	.....	James Irwin	26
Monte Vista 39	.....	Swink	32
Sargent 43	Lake County	10
Sanford 51	Lamar	27
Manitou Springs 53	Alamosa	45

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Finding Joy in Your Everyday Life

John 10:10 has been one of my favorite scriptures for many years. It says: “The thief comes only in order to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance (to the full, till it overflows)” (AMPC). This verse clearly shows us that God wants us to enjoy our lives—in abundance, to the full, until we’re overflowing with joy!
 I remember when God gave me the revelation that it’s His will for me to enjoy my life. It was life-changing because I used to be a miserable person who was emotionally unstable and couldn’t be happy unless I got my way most of the time. Because of the abuse I had experienced throughout childhood, I was insecure, angry and didn’t trust anyone. But once I started seriously studying God’s Word, I came to realize that He didn’t want me to live this way. I could be healed and whole in my mind and emotions, and I could learn how to really enjoy my everyday life.
 Now, when I say God wanted me to enjoy my everyday life, I’m talking about doing ordinary life with calm delight and a smile on my face (see John 15:11). It’s about not dreading the daily responsibilities you have to do to whether you like it or not, things like cleaning the house, mowing the grass, going to work, and the list goes on and on. And it’s not a “working for the weekend” mentality or an attitude that says “I’ll be happy when...I get to go on vacation” or “the kids are back in school” or “I get that promotion” and so on.
 It seems today that most people believe they have to wait for their circumstances to change before they can enjoy life. But the truth is you can make the decision to enjoy your ordinary life and make it extraordinary, regardless of your circumstances.
Doing Life with God
 One of the ways you can take ordinary life and make it extraordinary

is to learn to do every single thing you do *with* and *for* God. We make a mistake when we separate our sacred life from our secular life. We can be just as close to God in the grocery store as we are at church. And He wants us to do *everything* we need to do WITH Him.
 It actually adds an edge of excitement when we let God be involved in everything we do. He’s everywhere, all the time, and He’s just as interested in the routine, mundane tasks of our lives as He is in the more “spiritual” things we do.
 It’s amazing to realize that God wants to have fellowship with us—He wants to spend each day with us. Don’t just settle for seeking Him once a week at church or when you’re in a desperate situation. Decide that you are going to enjoy your everyday relationship with God!
The Truth About Real Joy
 The abundant life Christ offers goes deeper in our hearts than the way we *feel* about things. It’s an amazing thing when we learn how to have the peace and joy only God can give in every area of our lives, instead of the type of enjoyment that’s just based on emotional excitement.
 The joy of the Lord is much greater than simply feeling happy. It brings peace and contentment to your soul, even when your circumstances are difficult and don’t make any sense. Nehemiah 8:10 says, “The joy of the Lord is your strength.”
 This kind of joy makes the Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday routine enjoyable. And since most of life is Monday through Friday, we need to enjoy it!
The World Can’t Give It to You
 In John 15:11 (NIV), Jesus says, “I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.” The Amplified translation



says “that your joy and gladness may be of full measure and complete and overflowing.” In the ten verses leading up to this one, Jesus is talking about abiding in Him, because that’s the key to living with His joy.
 Abiding means “to live, dwell and remain in”; it’s not just visiting once a week at church. It’s having a personal relationship with Christ, being one with Him and doing life together. The truth is apart from Jesus, we can do nothing of real value, but with Him, we can bear much good fruit (John 15:5).
 God wants to abide with you every day, all throughout the day. He doesn’t just want you to seek Him when you go to church or when you’re desperate. His desire is to have a personal relationship with you, so you can experience His presence in everything you do. That’s when your everyday life is really enjoyable!
 For more on this topic, order Joyce’s three-teaching CD series **Joy and Enjoyment**. You can also contact us to receive our free magazine, *Enjoying Everyday Life*, by calling (800) 727-9673 or visiting www.joycemeyer.org.
 Joyce Meyer is a New York Times bestselling author and founder of Joyce Meyer Ministries, Inc. She has authored more than 135 books, including **BATTLEFIELD OF THE MIND** and **AUTHENTICALLY, UNIQUELY YOU** (FaithWords). She hosts the *Enjoying Everyday Life* radio and TV programs, which air on hundreds of stations worldwide. For more information, visit www.joycemeyer.org.
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Courtesy photo

Years of drought and over pumping by some farmers and ranchers has taxed the San Luis Valley's aquifer. Some like Nissen Farms recognized what was happening and changed their farming methods, while others continued as they always did. In 2006, Subdistrict No. 1 was formed locally with the goal of restoring the 'unconfined aquifer' and avoid the state from stepping in.

All eyes are on Subdistrict No. 1

Will San Luis Valley farmers save their aquifer — and themselves?

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the first of a two-part look at Subdistrict No. 1 — past, present and future.

BY PRISCILLA WAGGONER

ALAMOSA — From her family's farm near Mosca, Erin Nissen can see the Great Sand Dunes

in the distance. Whether through a window or from the porch, the towering 700-hundred-foot ridges of sand are always in view, a constant reminder of what she fears may come.

"That's how we could end up if we're not careful," the fourth-generation farmer says. "If we keep on draining the aquifer like we've been, our farm could end up being

Please see AQUIFER on Page 3

SdCNHA to host traveling pop-up exhibit on oldest communities

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

ALAMOSA — Rural villages of Northern Rio Grande National Heritage Area, in Northern New Mexico, and the Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area in Southern Colorado, represent some of the oldest land-based communities in the United States.

They form a cohesive regional culture that is connect by shared family linages, traditions, histories, and a distractive dialect of Spanish. Juan B. Rael (1900-1993), a linguist and folklorist from the village of Arroyo Hondo, was one of the first scholars to document the storytelling tradition of the region. Rael traveled to 23 villages during the 1930s and 1940s, collecting more than 400 stories from over 97 storytellers.

Inspired by the work of Sanford University Professor Juan B. Rael, students of Dr. Estevan Rael-Galvez of New Mexico Highlands

Please see SdCNHA on Page 3



Center Christmas Parade is Dec. 18



CENTER — According to the Town of Center Facebook page, "The Center Christmas Parade has been moved to Saturday, December 18."

The annual Center Christmas Parade is presented by the Kiwanis Club and the Town of Center. The parade lineup will be on 2nd Street beginning at 12:30 p.m. with the parade to start at 1 p.m. with a route around town.

Santa will be at Casa Blanca Park after the parade. There will also be raffle tickets available for purchase at local Center businesses with the drawing winner announced at Casa Blanca park after the parade and you must be present to win.

People wanting to participate in the parade must sign up at Town Hall, with cash prizes awarded for the best float.

Cat Laws

I was reading the paper to the cat last week. She tries to keep up on current events, particularly stories about politics and alien landings. We got to a story where a few obscure animal rights groups have called for the nation's 66 million pet cats to be kept indoors for life.

"Why?" asked Miss Kitty.

"Well," I answered, "This says that free roaming cats kill from 8 million to 217 million birds a year in Wisconsin alone."

"My, I had no idea there were that many birds in Wisconsin."

"Yes, and one person was quoted as saying 'We don't want our house companions going out and killing other animals.'"

"What about mice?" asked Miss Kitty scratching behind her ear.

"They don't say, but they are also worried about you being eaten by coyotes."

"Then why don't they keep all the coyotes indoors for life? It's like making people bolt and bar their homes and stay inside during prime shopping hours. Why don't they just



keep all the criminals indoors for life?"

"Good question, but they say cats are domesticated animals and coyotes are wild animals and they don't want to appear anti-wildlife."

"Mice are wildlife, and so are birds. It's all part of the food chain."

"They apparently want to remove cats from the food chain. For your own protection, of course."

"I thought it was to protect the birds," said Miss Kitty, ever vigilant to flaws in my logic, "And besides, do they really enjoy that odiferous cat box in the laundry room. It's bad enough to walk around in a Tupperware Toilet if you're a cat. I've always envied camels. Sand as far as you can see. Go anytime you please."

"They suggested humans who want their cats to spend time outdoors need to invest in an outdoor enclosure or walk their cats on a harness."

Miss Kitty got indignant, "You ever tried to walk a cat in a harness! We're not dogs, you know! I've spent a lifetime keepin' your place free of rodents and vermin and this is the thanks I get. So I eat a bird now and then. And another thing, I've lost more friends to car tires than coyotes. Why don't they have speed limits slow enough to let cats get out

of the way?"

"Wait a minute," I protested, "It isn't me, it's just a story in the paper."

"Sure," she huffed, "But some self-appointed cat lover will weasel or badger you into makin' me a house cat. You'll fall for it and take me prisoner. Next thing I know you'll be takin' me for walks in a cat harness. Not for me, buckaroo, I'm leavin'."

"Wait," I pleaded, "Where will you go..."

"Well," she said, "I've always wanted to see Wisconsin."

Baxter Black, former large animal veterinarian and irregular commentator on National Public Radio, is America's best-selling cowboy poet. He is a frequent performer at national stock shows and rodeos as well as in many smaller local events. He is author of several books, including Cactus Tracks, Croutons on a Cow Pie, Hey, Cowboy, Wanna Get Lucky? and Dunny and the Duck. Baxter Black can be contacted via e-mail at: vikki@baxterblack.com



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Silver Thread Public Health grateful for gifts from Alpine Ministry

STAFF REPORT
MINERAL COUNTY — Alpine Ministry, located at the Mountain Views at Rivers Edge RV Resort off Airport Road, has been an instrumental and consistent donor to the Mineral County Public Health Food Bank for several years. “Silver Thread Public Health District would like to take a moment, as we enter into the season of giving and receiving, to extend a very special thanks to important donors in our community,” STPHD officials stated. The Resort closes at the end of September, so in that sense, Alpine Ministry puts an enormous effort into providing bags of groceries for the food bank from June through September and they did so again even as the pandemic continued to impact lives.

The programs that have benefited from their collection include but are not limited to the vaccination program along with other health-related needs plus additional monies made available for Food Bank purchases. The \$2,500 in gift cards and \$1,000 in funding have created tremendous support and value and have been far-reaching throughout Mineral County neighborhoods. “Each of us in Silver Thread Public Health and those of us in our community using these services are so thankful to witness the generous and selfless giving. This pandemic has shown us our vulnerability and these specific acts of giving like the countless number of checks and K-belle gift cards donated by so many wonderful people including the silent donors, have warmed

our hearts tremendously knowing how important it is to be kind to everyone,” STPHD officials stated. A couple of residents who have used the food bank’s services said that the quality of the food remains better than ever and this coupled with the K-Belle gift cards has helped them overcome the fear, hardship and anxiety that could have consumed them and their families, especially as it relates to how COVID-19 has sent many into isolation and quarantine and, often, without pay. “We are all so incredibly thankful for these gifts from Alpine Ministry, Mountain Views RV Park, Ladies Aid and all others who are always quietly working hard — we just want to simply thank you all for your act of giving,” STPHD officials stated.



Photo courtesy of STPHD
 Tara Hardy, Silver Thread Public Health Director, and Janet Reynolds, Mineral County Public Health Office Manager receiving gift cards for distribution to those in need throughout the community — Alpine Ministry members including Jimmie Pottsberg, who is handing cards to Reynolds.

SLV Health welcomes new pediatrician

SUBMITTED ARTICLE
ALAMOSA — Jason Kalan, M.D., joined the San Luis Valley Health Pediatrics Clinic in Alamosa. Dr. Kalan has spent most of his career in Denver and Colorado Springs and previously studied in Ohio and Texas. He graduated from the University of Cincinnati with a Bachelor of Science and completed his Doctor of Medicine from the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine. Kalan completed his residency at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center Dallas at the Children’s Medical Center and is board certified with the American Board of Pediatrics. He specializes in behavioral and developmental pediatrics. When he isn’t spending time with his family, he loves reading about classic automobiles and looks forward to the San Luis Valley’s car festivals.



under the age of 18 years old. The SLVH Pediatric Clinic is located in the Regional Medical Center in Alamosa at 106 Blanca Ave. and can be reached at 719-589-8004.

Christmas tree and firewood permits available in Monte Vista

STAFF REPORT
MONTE VISTA — Permits for cutting Christmas trees and firewood on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands are available online and from the San Luis Valley Field Office in Monte Vista. Christmas tree permits are \$10 per tree and may be purchased online at forestproducts.blm.gov at any time, or they may be purchased from the field office Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Permit sales run through Dec. 24. BLM lands are largely available for harvest, except for Wilderness Study Areas. Permits exclude cutting willow, alder, and bristlecone pine. “With the purchase of a Christmas tree permit, families can take part

in the time-honored tradition of selecting and cutting their own holiday tree,” said San Luis Valley Field Manager Melissa Garcia. “We recommend bringing along a hand saw, rope or twine, extra food, water and blankets when you cut your tree.” Warm clothes and boots, tire chains, a shovel, and emergency supplies are also important to bring along. A BLM permit is required for firewood cutting and removal from BLM public lands and costs \$10 per cord. Permits purchased from the U.S. Forest Service are not valid for cutting firewood on BLM. For more information about forest products on BLM lands, call the San Luis Valley Field Office at 719-852-7074.

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AQUIFER Continued from Page 1

nothing but sand.”
Nissen, 30, has reason to be anxious. Drought and excessive pumping by some farmers have drained water levels in the aquifer to an almost unprecedented level, leaving the San Luis Valley at a crossroads and local water officials faced with a decision that could put some farmers out of business.

Nissen runs Nissen Farms with her father, Lyle, whom fellow growers in the Valley describe as being “head and shoulders above everybody else” when it comes to sustainable farming.

“Lyle was doing things 20 years ago that nobody was even thinking about,” says John Kretsinger, a farmer and rancher who bought land in Alamosa in 1989 because it had one of the most responsive aquifers in the country.

In the years before Kretsinger transplanted himself from Texas to Colorado, the Valley was rich with farms growing a cornucopia of vegetables — turnips, spinach, broccoli, carrots, and lettuce. In the late 1940s, the Valley produced enormous crops of peas with entire freight cars full trucked out every week.

Don Shawcroft is a 64-year-old rancher who runs cattle in Conejos County. His family came here in the 1800s, and the Valley he remembers is a far cry from the Valley he sees now.

“When I was a kid, there were some places where the ground was so marshy, you couldn’t ride a horse across,” Shawcroft says. “Water coming out of some of those wells that were dug early on would shoot straight up in the air and over the house. Those days are over. All that water has been pumped out of the

ground.”
Now, with only 7 inches of rainfall per year and “barely half the groundwater that was available just a decade ago,” everything on the Nissen’s farm — every seed they plant, every decision they make — “is all based around water,” Nissen says.

Decisions like adding radish and green manure to the soil so it retains more moisture. And choosing crops based on how much water they will need and when they will need it. And tracking how much water the farm pumps, down to 0.08 inches, and recording that amount every single day. And, ultimately, calculating how much water they can put back into the aquifer, whether through recharging ponds or other surface water, to replace what they have withdrawn.

“We’re doing different things all the time so we can keep cutting back. But it’s hard, and it’s getting harder,” Nissen says.

But what is hardest, she notes, is “when we see other farmers doing nothing.” Because what other farmers do is crucial to the Nissen’s operation.

Though father and daughter have complete control of their own farming practices, they are part of a group of 300 farmers bound together because of the collective depletion of the aquifer.

Water bureaucracy can be a snoozer, as can hydrology. So, for the purposes of this story, suffice it to say that the group, called Subdistrict No. 1, was formed as a political subdivision and corporate body in 2006 by holders of surface-water and ground-water rights in Alamosa County and parts of Rio Grande and Saguache counties — the heart of this alpine desert

valley — specifically for the purpose of taking action to restore what is called the “unconfined aquifer.” That’s the water table closest to the surface, which is not to be confused with the “confined aquifer” several layers deeper underground.

The gist of the collective — and why people far beyond the San Luis Valley and even Colorado state lines are watching it so closely — lies in the idea that, because there are too many farmers relying on a finite and ever-dwindling layer of groundwater in a time of prolonged drought and climate change, everyone using that water is inextricably tied.

About half of Subdistrict No. 1’s members are farmers who, like the Nissens, are committed to sustainable farming. The other half are not and continue to pump more water from the aquifer than they return to it.

No matter what members are growing or how they grow it, no matter if their families have worked the land for generations or if a farm or ranch was bought last year by anonymous hedge funders, members of the subdistrict have united in hopes of keeping their water fate in local hands rather than in those of state water regulators, who have the power to shut down their wells.

The collective actions of Subdistrict No. 1 ultimately could have more of an impact on the future of the Nissens’ farm — or any other — than the actions of individual farmers themselves.

In Colorado, the dynamics of hydrology are not the only powers and factors farmers need to fear when they take more water out of the ground than they put back in. State government has authority, wielded through the Office of the State Engineer within the Division of Water Resources, to step in and shut off irrigation wells when farmers fail to live within their means. It is power the state will use.

During a severe drought in 2002,



Erin Nissen Miller



Don Shawcroft

farmers in Adams, Weld and Morgan counties along the South Platte River were locked in a legal battle over farmers’ excessive use of groundwater for irrigation impacting the rights of farmers who relied on surface water to irrigate. The State Engineer stepped in and shut down wells — 8,000 of them — until farmers using groundwater could develop a plan to replace the water they had depleted, reducing injury to the senior surface water rights holders. The shutoffs were devastating to farmers and their communities. And for the owners of about 2,000 wells, the impact was permanent since the wells were never turned back on.

Three hundred miles to the southwest, farmers in the San Luis Valley watched the state’s response along the South Platte as it was unfolding in 2002, and what they saw was the writing on the wall. Groundwater regulations from the state were coming, and the levels of water in the aquifer, tracked since 1976, were of great concern. In the 2002 drought — the worst ever on record in the valley — withdrawals had caused an unprecedented decline of almost 400,000 acre feet. The levels continued to decline to almost 800,000 acre feet in 2006.

Cleave Simpson is a fourth-generation San Luis farmer and rancher and head

of the Rio Grande Water Conservation District. As he tells it, his community realized the state could just as easily come in and shut down their wells, too, and that they had to find a way to collectively manage their aquifer.

“I can’t say what was in the heads of those farmers on the South Platte. I think they knew about their problem, but they didn’t act on it aggressively enough,” Simpson says. “We were determined to have a different outcome. We were going to find our own solution.”

That determination — and the decision to create the subdistrict in 2006 — was driven by two factors:

Shutting down all 3,000 wells to the Valley’s unconfined aquifer until its water levels were restored would mean the suspension of almost all agriculture production for at least a year, if not longer. A year of not actively farming and ranching would strip between \$400 million and \$500 million from the valley’s economy annually and devastate not only growers, but also other businesses and local governments. Property values also would likely plummet because farmland depreciates when its wells are red tagged and water is shut off.

The likelihood of such shut offs increases each year that levels in the aquifer continue to drop.

SdCNHA Continued from Page 1

University’s Department of Media Arts and Technology produced this multimedia exhibition on behalf of the Manitos Community Memory Project.

The goal of this project was to create a digital community archive of the cultural heritage of the region. In bringing light the research of Juan B. Rael, and the stories he collected, the hope was to inspire the next generation of storytellers. The exhibition encourages visitors to share their own stories as they contribute and inspire future heritage “guardians.”

In collaboration with New Mexico Highlands University, Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area was graciously lent a pop-up exhibit

temporarily to host multiple pop-up exhibits around the Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area.

Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area invites the community to explore the exhibit at the San Luis Valley Museum in Alamosa, which will host the exhibit from Dec. 6 to 17.

The pop-up exhibit will also be at the Fort Garland Museum & Cultural Center in the summer of 2022 on a date that is yet to be determined.

For more information about the Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area, visit sangreheritage.org. If an organization is interested in hosting the pop-up exhibit, contact Shannon Powers, Grants and Projects Coordinator, at info@sdcnha.org.



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RGH receives Summit Award at 21st annual Night of Excellence celebration

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

The Summit Award is the highest award of excellence presented at the HealthCare Service Excellence Conference. It is awarded to qualified, innovative, and progressive individuals, teams, and healthcare facilities who have made outstanding progress towards improving the patient experience and staff engagement. Individuals, teams, or organizations must be nominated to be eligible for a Summit Award.

Rio Grande Hospital received one Summit Award, three Pinnacle Awards and 13 Breakthrough Awards. Dr. Heidi Helgeson received the highest honor, the Summit Award for Motivating Administrator. Amanda Lewis, PA-C received Pinnacle Award for Customer Focused Provider.

“Rio Grande Hospital was very proud of all their team members and these amazing accomplishments,” RGH officials stated.

In 2021, the Summit Awards committee received 240 nominations from 21 different healthcare organizations spanning 10 states. 68 of the nominees were chosen as Pinnacle Achievers (the best of the best), and 19 of those were presented the Summit Award at the Night of Excellence held on Wednesday, Nov. 10.

The 2021 Breakthrough Awards were open to all Service Excellence Initiative™ participants and alumni and highlights improvements and achievements of Patient Satisfaction and Patient Experience Scores within an organization. These awards were presented during the Breakthrough Awards Luncheon and serve to draw attention to and reward excellence in score improvement.

Both the 2021 Summit and Breakthrough Awards are presented by Custom Learning Systems during the annual HealthCare Service Excellence Conference, held this year at the Hilton La Jolla Torrey Pines, La Jolla, Calif. The HealthCare Service Excellence Conference is dedicated to delivering evidence-based solutions to help hospitals and other healthcare facilities improve the overall patient experience.



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FOR SALE

Custom built, impeccable quality, full log home located just minutes from the town of South Fork, Colorado. The 4443 sq. ft. home and 1015 sq. ft. bunkhouse provides a total sq. ft. of 5458. Features in the home include a massive rock fireplace, 3 bedrooms, 3-1/2 bathrooms, loft that boasts a futon plus two-window beds, office, playroom, and a large living room for you to enjoy with family and friends. The wrap around deck will allow you to experience world-class high mountain views. Above the garage is a custom log guest quarters with a spectacular kitchen, bath, large living room, and bedroom combined into one unit. Bear Creek subdivision offers controlled access through a gated entrance. MLS #738155

107 Marmot Lane • South Fork
Bernadette Gingrass • Steffens & CO. Realty
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FOR SALE Organic Peddler Casita Bonita Inn located in Del Norte, Colorado DEEDED ACREAGE: 47 Acres +/- Almost 3 full lots IMPROVEMENTS: Currently there are a total of 4 great rental units on the property with a historic small log cabin that provides a lot of possibilities. 1. 648 sq. ft. Cozy 1 Bedroom Casita includes a living room, bath, and kitchen. 2. 920 sq. ft. Log cabin has an open floor plan with one bedroom, bath, and kitchen. 3. 2240 sq. ft. Building has been remodeled into 2 separate rental units: **The beautiful Cordwood unit is 861 sq. ft. with one bedroom, bath, living room, gourmet kitchen, gas fireplace, and fabulous attached courtyard. **The Historical adobe 1536 sq. ft. home has 3 bedrooms, one bath, full kitchen, living room, and nice front yard. 4. 168 sq. ft. historic log cabin that can be remodeled into an additional rental unit. The views are panoramic in all directions providing a peaceful atmosphere. ACCESS: Year-round off U.S. Hwy 160. ZONING: Residential/Commercial \$690,000 MLS # 770529 14475 US 160 • Del Norte

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FOR SALE This 2500 sq. ft. building is located at 102 North Main St., in the thick of tourist traffic, in historic Creede, Colorado. The building is divided into two separate and operating retail spaces, but a common interior door could make this a large operating space. 1. Elk Country Boutique on the corner of the building is a T-shirt Shop. 2. Creede Olive Oil Shop. Both businesses draw visitors as they walk the town shopping for unique gifts. Utilities include electric, pellet stove, Creede water & sewage, and phone. Each business has its own electrical meter and is paid for by that tenant. 1. Elk Country Boutique T-shirt Shop has an extremely high recap rate but will need to be kept as a T-shirt shop to obtain maximum income on the building. 2. Creede Olive Oil shop rents for \$1300 per month year-round. The estimated total recap rate based on the above description is 15% to 20% annual return on investment. This historic building is located on Main Street in Creede, Colorado, and is a thriving business. Creede is a major vacation destination and sportsmen's dream paradise. \$692,000 MLS #774985 • 102 N Main Street • Creede

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LOOK IMPROVED PRICE \$66,900 Seller Motivated!

This Parcel is located in the mountain town of South Fork, Colorado. Located in the majestic San Juan Mountains. You will find a variety of historic motels, hotels, medical clinic, grocery store, repair shops, restaurants, shopping for the active sportsman, RV and ATV dealers. The avid golfer will enjoy the play at Rio Grande Golf Club and Resort. The winter sport opportunities are boundless as well. Wolf Creek Ski Area is famous for the most snow in the country and only 20 minutes away. South Fork, Co is a popular destination for skiing and those who love snowmobiling, four wheeling, hiking and camping. Come enjoy this majestic place. MLS #781184

SOLD

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Over 1/2 acres with these three buildable lots. Just off the paved county rd. road. Good mountain views from this level building site. \$21,500 MLS#778351

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IMPROVED PRICE \$649,900 THIS HOME YOU HAVE TO SEE TO BELIEVE!

• 3 bedroom • 2 bathroom

This could be your new home. Amazing Custom - Built Full log Home - Entry room, living room, large kitchen with island, lots of cabinet space, laundry. This home has beautiful wrap around porches that offer great views of the mountains and cliffs. The attached double garage is 576 Sq. Ft. with concrete floor. The home is fully fenced. Additional 2,000 sq. ft. workshop. MLS#772697

181 Doe Circle • South Fork
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SOLD

FOR SALE

Wonderful custom home site located on the Rio Grande Golf Course in South Fork, Colorado. Beautiful fairway and mountain views and just moments from the Rio Grande River. A perfect place to build your dream home or vacation home with year round access and public South Fork water and sewer. Enjoy the beautiful outdoors, great golfing, fishing and magnificent skiing at Wolf Creek during the winter season. Call and schedule your viewing today! \$62,900 MLS #784728

134 Rio Grande Club Trail • South Fork
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Immaculate & charming home! This lovely 4 bedroom, 2 bath home has been in a family for several decades, and loved and cared for as you can see in the pictures. It has open spaces, wood laminate floors, lots of storage, and a big kitchen that is great for cooking and entertaining. There is a laundry area with closets, a pellet stove hot water baseboard heat, a 2 car garage, a nice patio area, and an additional shed in the back. Call today to preview! \$289,000 MLS#787149

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Prime Commercial Property! Awesome building on Highway 285 that would work great for any type of business. This building is insulated, heated, and has a beautiful office space with huge hanging doors on both ends of the building. The building is located on a 0.75 acre commercial lot! \$179,000 MLS#787380

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This lot is ready to build with utilities installed underground to property. This lot is on the 13th fairway of the renowned Rio Grande Club & Resort. Sit on your back deck and enjoy the views of the golf course, cliffs along the mountainside and views looking down the valley of the course to Del Norte Peak. Water and sewer to the property including paved roads maintained by the HOA. Enjoy fishing close by, mountain hiking, ATVing, and the Wolf Creek ski resort approximately 20 miles away. \$59,900 MLS#787736

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This home sits on a very large lot that equals almost 1 acre! Lots of potential for this home to be just as you love it with some TLC. Large living room with a fireplace and big windows with lots of light! Two bedrooms with a 3rd room that was a bedroom at one time and could be turned back into a bedroom or used as an office area. Storage room with lots of space. \$148,000 MLS#788147

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Great access with 101 feet of exposure just off of US Highway 160! This property offers multiple options! It would work great for mobile homes, developments, or a commercial building. All utilities are available, but would need to be tapped into. This is the perfect property for your next project! Call to view! \$175,500 MLS#789021

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Winter activities abound in the San Juans

BY LYNSIE FERRELL

SANLUIS VALLEY — As winter makes its appearance and recreation enthusiasts patiently await the arrival of snow, now is a good time to make plans for the coming holiday season.

As the holidays approach many on the west end of the San Luis Valley are eagerly anticipating snow to begin winter activities that have been the source of winter fun in places like South Fork and neighboring communities.

So far this year, the San Juan Mountains have received some snow and businesses, as well as local organizations, are ready to hit the mountains with snowmobiles, cross country skiing, sledding, snowshoeing and more.

South Fork is at the center of well over 300 miles of trails that can be accessed through several Forest Service roads leading into the backcountry. Many of the trails that have immediate access from town or just beyond are groomed and cared for year-round.

Snowmobiling is one of the more popular activities in the area due mainly to the access to trails throughout the region. Places like

Beaver Creek and Cross Creek offer about 23 miles of passable trails for more experienced riders and offer views of the San Juan Mountains along Forest Service Road 359.

Fox Mountain and Park Creek trails are a great way to get out in the backcountry on Park Creek Road 380. This trail leads to large open meadows that can be a snowmobiler's dream of a winter playland with plenty of room to reach high speeds and glide over the powder that usually resides there in the dead of winter.

Besides snowmobiling, some look for more quiet activities. Winter can be a peaceful time of year when the world takes a deep breath and silently holds it until spring. The area is rich in cross-country skiing trails that offer spectacular views and a chance to see wildlife. Local organizations like the Powder Busters and Silver Thread Outdoor Club host outings to these trails that they also help keep groomed throughout the winter. A free map is available at the South Fork Visitor Center.

Other activities include ice fishing at the many reservoirs in the area

like Beaver Creek which is easily accessible during the winter months. Other ice fishing locations include Tucker Ponds and Big Meadows Reservoir which requires either snowshoes, cross country skiing, or snowmobiles to gain access but the trip is worth the effort with lakes packed full of late-season fish.

Winter in the San Luis Valley is a wonderful time to see what the Colorado lifestyle is all about, though caution is needed when venturing out into the backcountry, especially if it is for the first time. Many local groups, like the two listed above, are a great way to get an introduction to what people need to know about the mountains during the winter months.

Some of the simpler things to remember hold true no matter what season it is and that is to inform people of where you plan to adventure, when you plan to return, and to always be familiar with the surroundings before venturing out into any area.

For more information, the South Fork Visitor Center is a source of information or by visiting www.southfork.org.



Free COVID at-home rapid testing kits available

STATE — In an effort to aid Colorado residents and school-aged children, the state has recently announced that it will also be providing free-over-the-counter COVID-19 rapid test kits, directly to people at home.

The program will use Abbott BinaxNOW rapid antigen tests that show results within 15 minutes of taking the test. The program has been designed to allow parents, guardians, and caregivers a way to test their children at home.

While the program is geared toward

helping parents and school-aged children, all Coloradans are welcome to sign up for the Rapid At-Home COVID-19 testing program kits.

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment has an individual enrollment form on its website for the kits. The kits will be mailed free of charge and contain four tests each. Multiple kits for the rapid testing can be ordered separately and are also free of charge.

For more information on the rapid test kits, visit the CDPHE website at cdphe.colorado.gov.

December Community Events, Fundraising at Center United Methodist Church

BY MECHEL MEEK

CENTER — Center United Methodist Church is inviting all members of the community to attend its upcoming events for the holiday season.

Yoga is held every Friday at 9:30 a.m., except on Christmas Eve. Bible study will be held every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. with a special focus on the Redemption of Scrooge. Movie Night will be a double feature this month, to be held at 6 p.m. and will be showing

the “Muppets Christmas Carol” and “Nativity” and is an opportunity for a family-friendly event for the holiday season.

Blue Christmas Service will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 21, at 6 p.m., and Christmas Eve Service will be held in Saguache at 5 p.m. and in Center at 7 p.m. with regular services held every Sunday. The church is also asking that the community help them raise funds.

According to Vicki J. Ratzlaff, Center Finance Chairman, “Our

little church also has something to be thankful for, a wonderful Memorial Donation has brought our deficit in the checking account to minus \$5,670.69. This is still a cause for concern for our church as we continue to have our bills to pay.”

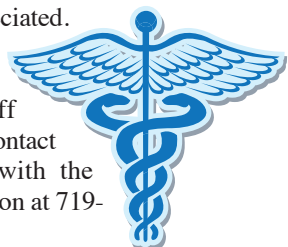
Donations can be made via the mail to Center UMC at P.O. Box 626 Center CO 81125, by text at 719-628-1830, or online at www.umofcenter.org via their donation link.

SLVH Foundation seeks gently used medical equipment

ALAMOSA — San Luis Valley Health Foundation is asking for gently used wheelchairs, crutches, walkers and other medical equipment. With the supply chains still being affected by COVID-19 any help with donations would

be greatly appreciated.

For questions or to make pick up or drop off arrangements, contact Kelly Gurule with the SLVH Foundation at 719-587-5707.



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- Kip's Grill
- MJ's Cafe
- Tommyknocker Tavern

❄️ **Entertainment** ❄️

Creede Repertory Theatre presents
Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol
December 3-18

Find Something For Everyone On Your List



Courtesy of Rio Grande Hospital

Rio Grande Hospital held a groundbreaking for its new South Fork Clinic on Friday, Dec. 3. Dr. William Moeller will be the full-time physician when it opens in 2022.

RG Hospital breaks ground on clinic in South Fork

By LYNDIS FERRELL

SOUTH FORK — After months of preparation, Rio Grande Hospital held a groundbreaking ceremony for its new clinic in South Fork on Friday, Dec. 3. Hospital staff, clinic staff and members of the construction and design crew gathered at the new location located on Jackson Street just inside South Fork. Earlier this summer, the Rio Grande Hospital announced its plans to bring a new clinic to South Fork. RGH CEO Arlene Harms released preliminary plans for the clinic in August along

with the hospital's plans to create a new wellness center in the coming year. "We are building a new clinic in South Fork, and we are really excited," Harms said. "South Fork has been a committed area for us and their patients and even though it dwindled down to very few for a short time, we kept our clinic there open and running. We have been trying to fix it and trying to keep it running as best we can, patch the holes, keep the roof from leaking and it is just time for us to get a new building there."

The new clinic will be built in a vacant lot near the Old Firehouse Restaurant just east of town. "At the same time that we decided to build a new clinic, we will be welcoming back a full-time doctor that is committed to the area. We will have a great presence there along Highway 160 and we are just very excited about the project," Harms said. According to his bio provided by Rio Grande Hospital, Dr. William Moeller has been in practice for 22-years. He was the chief staff at a location in

Grand Junction as well as a board member of Community Hospital. He enjoys fishing, golf, and the mountains. Dr. Moeller is excited to be back in South Fork with his wife Crissy and their two dogs. The new clinic will have six exam rooms and two consultation rooms with state-of-the-art equipment. The new building will have an open floor plan that utilizes natural lighting and efficient heating and cooling systems. Rio Grande Hospital hopes the clinic will be open in the spring of 2022.



Dr. William Moeller

Thanksgiving at Wolf Creek carves out some fun

By LYNDIS FERRELL

WOLF CREEK — Five more inches of fresh snow fell on the slopes of Wolf Creek Ski Resort over the Thanksgiving holiday which made for wonderful conditions for early-season skiers who ventured to the San Juan Mountains over the weekend. Tuesday, Nov. 23, proved to be an answered prayer for the resort when five inches fell overnight just in time for their holiday opening. The resort is reporting a 14-inch midway depth and early spring conditions with hopes for more snow on the way, though the forecast is currently looking bleak. "It was another great Thanksgiving at the resort, and we are hoping now for more snow," said owner Rosanne Haidorfer-Pitcher. The resort is reporting that early-season skiers have access to about 25% of the mountain with the Treasure Stoke, Bonanza, Raven, Nova and Lynx lifts operating from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Magic Carpet is open for the Wolf Pup Program on the weekends until more snow can accumulate.

Crews are continuing to harvest snow and focus on the coming busy season. "Warmer and dryer than expected weather has delayed daily operations until more snowfall and cooler temperatures move in. At this time, Wolf Creek will be closed Monday thru Wednesday; but will re-open Thursday through Sunday (Dec. 2-5) until the next significant snowfall," Haidorfer-Pitcher reported.

Wolf Creek Ski Resort had a successful Thanksgiving weekend and received five inches of new snow just before the Thanksgiving holiday weekend.

Photo courtesy of Wolf Creek Ski Resort



Commodities distribution in MV on Dec. 15

MONTE VISTA — Commodities will be distributed at 10 a.m., Wednesday, Dec. 15, at the Church of the Nazarene gym in Monte Vista by the Chapel of South Fork. You must be a resident of Rio Grande County and meet household income guidelines to receive commodities.

Girl Scout Troop 30104 collecting pajamas Dec. 18

MONTE VISTA — Girl Scout Troop 30104 is collecting new children's pajamas for Hope and Home Foster Care Agency. Donations can be dropped off on Saturday, Dec. 18, from 12 to 2 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, 705 Second Ave., Monte Vista.

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Tips and tricks for cutting out cookies

Baking is a holiday tradition in many households. The aroma of freshly baked cakes, pies and cookies wafts through the air of many homes this time of year, and that makes the holiday season even more special.

Cookies are a tradition passed down through the ages. In medieval Europe, small, spiced cookies were exchanged as treats, and people still bake and share gingerbread cookies today.

Cut cookies are some of the most popular cookies to make during the holiday season. Some families may have their share of favorite cookie cutter shapes and dough recipes. Certain techniques can make holiday baking sessions easier and ensure consistent results.

- Work on a lightly floured, cool surface, such as a cutting board or stone counter top. Never work on a warm surface, which can cause dough to spread and stick.

- Roll out the dough between two sheets of baking or parchment paper. Betty Crocker recommends a thickness of about 1/8 inch, unless noted in the recipe. This prevents the dough from sticking, and parchment enables you to easily transfer rolled-out dough to a refrigerator or elsewhere.

- When rolling out dough, portion it out into a few smaller amounts to roll out more easily. This will also help it to chill more readily.

- Cookies cut most easily when the dough is chilled. Refrigerate the dough for as long as possible, ideally an hour or more — even overnight. The more chilled, the firmer the dough will be.

- Rubber rolling pin rings that slip onto each side of the rolling pin can help ensure that the dough is being rolled out to a uniform thickness.

- Dip cookie cutters into flour with each cut. Work from the center and move out to the edges when cutting out your designs. Try to maximize space and avoid scraps and rerolling.

- Some expert bakers say that metal cookie cutters cut cleaner than plastic ones. Whichever cutter you use, cut the cookie by pressing straight down; try not to twist or jiggle the cookie cutter when using it. Doughs with a high butter content can help, as the extra grease helps separate the dough from the cutters.

- If cut cookies have gotten warmer, place them in the freezer for a few minutes to firm up again and then cook. This will guarantee the cookies will not spread or distort while baking.

Extra steps may seem like they will take a lot of time. However, the extra effort and attention to detail will help produce cookies that win rave reviews.

RGNF offers continued forest product sales through Dec. with some office hours limitations

STAFF REPORT

MONTE VISTA — Rio Grande National Forest announced Monday, Dec. 6, that Christmas tree and firewood permits will remain on sale at offices throughout December. Visitors seeking forest products permits will find continued services but, due to recent staffing changes, some offices will have limited walk-in hours and services.

While some offices may be open, forest products such as firewood and

Christmas tree permits, will only be available on certain days. Visitors are encouraged to call the office prior to visiting.

Permits will be available daily, at all offices, except as noted below:

- Saguache Ranger District — Firewood and Christmas tree permits available only on Thursdays
- Monte Vista Headquarters — Firewood and Christmas tree permits available only on Fridays

RGNF anticipates varied office closures at all locations for the holidays.

Christmas tree permits may be purchased at RGNF vendors and online. See RGNF's Christmas tree page online, for more information.

Firewood cutters are reminded that all 2021 permits will expire on Dec. 31. Firewood season will be over and permit seekers will need to wait until the 2022 permits arrive before resuming cutting activities. RGNF anticipates

announcing the 2022 season in late January or February.

Contact numbers for Rio Grande National Forest offices are:

- Conejos Peak RD in La Jara — 719-274-8971
- Divide RD in Del Norte — 719-657-3321
- Saguache RD in Saguache — 719-655-2547
- Headquarters in Monte Vista — 719-852-5941

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High Valley Community Center getting into holiday spirit

Submitted Article
 Hi, community members! We hope everyone had a filling, fun and fantastic holiday. We are so excited to celebrate the new month and get into the holiday spirit. We will be open for regular hours (Tuesdays-Thursdays from 4-6:30 p.m., Fridays from 8 a.m.-5 p.m.) until Dec. 17. Our December Fabulous Fridays will be spent here at HVCC cooking, playing, crafting and more! Remember we need your help to keep you updated. Keep an eye out on our website for updates. We suggest parents/guardians also sign up for the Procure app, as that is our main platform for HVCC and HVCC sports updates. Questions? HVCC staff is more than happy to help. Give us a call at 719-657-2172 or email us at hvcc@thehvcc.org. This week's theme was, "Positive Attitude". The kiddos learned the importance of positivity — shifting your mindset to approach problem-solving as an opportunity rather than a challenge. The activities of the week were binary code bracelets, vampire bookmarks, and an "I Am" poem. Friday the kiddos participated in a salsa-making competition and enjoyed time outside. Enjoy your week, everyone! Don't forget to check out our website, www.thehvcc.org for program updates and information.



Courtesy of Mineral County 4-H

The Mineral County 4-H decorated the city of Creede and Basham Park. The Creede community joined and hung lights while singing Christmas carols. A hot lunch was served by 4-H members.

4-H lights up Creede

BY LYNSIE FERRELL
CREEDE — The Mineral County 4-H group hit Basham Park on Sunday, Dec. 5, and turned the entire area into a holiday wonderland with the help of several volunteers and community members. "It was a really great day," said Mineral County 4-H Program Coordinator Sunday Cook.

The day was bright and clear with the sun shining as the 4-H members set about creating a festive holiday display. The City of Creede donated \$5,000 to the purchase of lights and holiday decorations. Creede City Clerk Sarah Efthim-Williamson requested the donation and ordered the lights.

Not only did the community help hang the lights and decorate the trees but local businesses donated time and efforts toward the project as well.

"Mineral County Councilman Jesse Albright arranged for Randy Riggs to transport a cherry picker from South Fork so we could get the lights strung high up in the cottonwood trees," Cook said. "Creede resident Dick DePriest donated the cherry picker. The Creede Hotel made delicious hot chocolate and cookies for the club and member Ryder Whitehorn and his parents, Jason and Amy Whitehorn, opened up the Creede

Trading Co. and gave all the kids fudge."

Basham Park was full of holiday joy and community togetherness.

"We wrapped aspen and cottonwood trees in new lights, we put up the town Christmas tree in the park and decorated it and put up holiday flags and light displays along Main Street. In all, around 35 4-H members, siblings, parents, club leaders and volunteers participated. It even involved members screwing in 3,000 lightbulbs — which the youngest ones did this. It really was a county-wide effort," continued Cook.

Mineral County 4-H President and local high school senior Carter Simon was pleased with all the support.

"Decorating went well," Simon said. "Thanks to a solid group of people in Creede who help out and care for their community."

"The response to this 4-H community service project was outstanding. We had so much help from local businesses, 4-Hers, parents and volunteers. Everyone who showed up from the youngest Cloverbud on, worked hard and contributed. The end result is sure to get us all in the holiday spirit," finished Cook.

The next Mineral County 4-H meeting will be held on Jan. 9, 2022.



Courtesy of High Valley Community Center

High Valley Community Center welcomed back students after a long Thanksgiving break to learn about positivity.

Puzzle Sponsored by MDS Waste & Recycle



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CLUES ACROSS

1. Greasy powder (abbr.)
5. Rural Free Delivery (abbr.)
8. Amount of time
11. Greeting
13. Form of "to be"
14. Israeli diplomat
15. Outfit
16. The 13th letter of the Hebrew alphabet
17. Deceptive movement
18. Anxious
20. Popular Letterman guest
21. Saints' signal caller
22. Intoxicate
25. Relationship
30. Ask for one's hand in marriage
31. Popular Will Ferrell film
32. Gargle
33. Warning sensation before migraine
38. Returned material authorization (abbr.)
41. Erases
43. At ease
45. Small branch of an artery
48. Mother of Hermes
49. Body part
50. Cavalry sword
55. Wellness chants
56. Helps little firms
57. Afflicted
59. Peep
60. Nellie __, journalist
61. Spiritual leader

Solution to last week's puzzle

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

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10
11				12				13		14	
15								16		17	
	18				19			20		21	
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25	26	27	28	29							
30								31			
32									33	34	35
					38	39	40		41	42	
					43			44			
	45	46	47								
48					49				50	51	52
55					56				57		58
59					60				61		
62					63				64		

62. Doctor of Education
63. Affirmative
64. Cheek

CLUES DOWN

1. Popular kids' game
2. Away from wind
3. Round water pot
4. Drink quickly
5. A simple type of jet engine
6. Something for nothing
7. Painkiller
8. Siskel's pal
9. Strong spirit distilled in Turkey
10. Again
12. Imitate
14. Icelandic poems
19. Jacob __, American journalist
23. No (Scottish)
24. Newborn
25. Credit term
26. Nonprofit research group

- in CA
27. Male offspring
28. Important baseball stat
29. A way to compel
34. Fiddler crab
35. Jewish equivalent of "Sir"
36. Every
37. Midway between east and southeast
39. Anti-slavery treaty
40. A friendly manner
41. Military figure (abbr.)
42. Area units
44. Sudden incursions
45. Expressed pleasure
46. Covered with hoarfrost
47. Job
48. Donkey
51. Swiss river
52. Prejudice
53. Actor Idris
54. Light dry-gap bridge (abbr.)
58. Criticize



SLV Research Center Holds Open House for Farmers and Community

By MECHHEL MEEK

CENTER — The San Luis Valley Research Center held an open house on Thursday, Dec. 2, to show a selection of its current crop of potato varieties to the surrounding farmers and community.

The warehouse building was opened to the public who were greeted by the staff of the Research Center. Potato samples were laid out for viewing and information was given about each variety from the ubiquitous Russet to the exotic Masquerade bicolor variety and

everything in between.

Technical information was given about each variety, including growth time, resistance to disease and suitability standards for use as chips or fries.

Research Associate Caroline Gray said, “We are excited to host live events, such as the Open House, at the San Luis Valley Research Center again. Interaction

with growers and the local potato industry is crucial to the success of the Potato Breeding Program.”

The open house was attended by growers and local government representatives. The event allowed participants to view the potato samples first hand, to discuss the merits of each variety and was a chance for growers to gather, reconnect and discuss the new

varieties.

Some of the samples viewed were also able to be purchased by growers to plant in their fields next year.

The event was capped off with lunch for the attendees. The next event at the SLV Research Center is a Potato Postharvest Storage Workshop on Dec. 9 starting at 9 a.m. and concluding with lunch.



Photo by Mechhel Meek






The San Luis Valley Research Center held an open house on Thursday, Dec. 2, to show a selection of its current crop of potato varieties.

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Santa



December 15,
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Dear Santa Claus

Bill Metz

Mrs. Heidi Stevenson - First Grade

Dear Santa,
How are you! I ma very good!
How is are elve buby! Can I have
sum mor slime and a baby bol
! I will giv you and the rage
coocee and sum mic!

Your friend, Addisyn
Martinez

Dear Satna,
How is it going dwon
chimdees. I am big fan. I want
toy Titanic and a toy blac prl.

Your friend, Rowan Tirrell

Dear Santa Claus,
I hafe bin rilee good. Will you
please get me a cat and a
pad. Thank you?

Your friend, Leslye
Hernandez

Dear Santa,
How are the
elves? I wud like
a scabbard. I wud
like a LOL. I wud like a
yo-yo. I will leve cucez
and mlick.

Your friend, Tahlya Soto

Dear Santa,
You aer so goud at a
present I wot a squishy
anb a stretch armstrong and
chines snax.

Your friend, Faith Bousquet

Dear Santa,
I want a PS3 and call of duty
black ops. Thank you santa. And
GTA sanreas.

Your friend, Bryndyn Patrick

Dear Santa,
I wont a little puppy anb a nu
bres. I aso wont nu shoes.

Your friend, Autum Rodriguez

Dear Santa,
How is Mrsis cloc? I loved the
er dri cla last heer! I wuld love a rc
atv and a rc monster car.

Your friend, Theo Hurst

Dear Santa,
For Krismus I wot a tablit and a
abee goda. I will leev you charee
cukees.

Your friend, Sonny Ochoa

Dear Sata,
I wprnt a robot 4welr. Arbot dog
and a gostbtors toy.

Your friend, Preston Lee

Dear Santa,
I want a toy Lol. I wit a nu jacket.
I wot a no slippr. I was vare goood.

YOur friend, Jazmine Marquez

Dear Santa,
How are you are you taking kar
uv the raedear? I wot a pet rabbit.
And I raile wot a rnth! Can you
help me with persnits and love?

Your friend, Sarah Schoonover

Ms. Allison Harrison - Second Grade

Dear SANTA and MRS. CLASS,
ThanK you for going all of the
world! Your awesome!! I would
like Please a nintendo Switch
also I have been good. And a
picTure of you and a Karaoke
machine that looks like this. And
a camera.

From Kai

Dear Santa and Mrs. Clause,
Merry christmas santa and mrs.
clause i would LOVE a new tablet
please and a new apple hone
please and a playstortich for my
bruthur.

Kassidy Martinez

Dear Santa,
Thank you for all your hard work
this year. I have been extra kind.
Please I would like phone.

I love you Santa, Violet

Dear Santa,
Thanks for the presents from last
year. This year I would like to get
the new mario party. It is called
mario party super stars.

From: Jeremiah merry christmas

Dear Santa,
I want a nintendo switch.

I love you you are the best,
Connor Alley



Dear Santa,
For Christmas I would like
a barbie dreamhouse, popits,
princess barbie, new gloves
and new puppy.

From, Penelope

Dear Santa,

For Christmas I
would like a barbe
dremhouse, and
barbe sets, LOL's
indoor playground,
indoor carnival

From Teagyn

Dear Santa,

For Christmas I
would like a Phone and
a toy dog.

From, Jazmin

Dear Santa,
For Christmas I would like a
huvrbord.

From, Phyllis

Dear Santa,
For Christmas I would like
bullseye, the alien, and tRex from
toy story.

From Manny

Ms. Amy Montoya - Second Grade

Dear Santa,
Merry Christmas Santa. How is
roodof? I think I am in the good
list but cud I please have headset
for Christmas? Why I want this
gift so my back dosint hert wile
I sitting. If you give me this gift
I wuld say thank you and the
feeling I wold be so excited.

Sincerely, Aiden

Dear Santa,
Hi Santa! I'm really excited
for Christmas and I wanted to
ask you something, am I bad or
good. I also wanted to tell you
something else. What I want for
Christmas I really really want a
puppy. And if I did get the puppy
I'll be verry verry happy. And
thank you for reading this card
and bye.

Sincerely, Ashley

Dear Santa,
How is the toys shop and the
candy cane shop? I'm cindu
nis and cindu nody. Ples can
you bing be a big t-Rex. Merry
Christmas Santa I play with the
big t-Rex ples. I feel happy and
tank you.

Sincerely, Rey

Dear Santa,
Hi, Santa are you good at the
North Pole? I am good at home
and on the nice list. Pez can give
me a drum. Thank you fol my
praznts. I have presnts bekoz you
are the best Santa.

Sincerely, Landen

Dear Santa,
Hi Santa, are you good at the
North Pole? I am good at home
and on the nice list. Pez can give
me a drum. Thank you fol my
praznts. I have presnts bekoz you
are the best Santa.

Sincerely, Landen

Dear Santa,
For Christmas I would like a stufe
skurle,PSfive.

From, Lincoln

Dear Santa,
For Christmas I would like
games for Nintendo and pokemon
and Xbox and popits, and new
clothes.

From, Nehemiah

Dear Santa,
For Christmas I would like a pupy
and a PS5 orPS4

From, Jordan

Dear Santa,
For Christmas I would like a
horses, and a barbdreamhouse,
pokymon cards, huvrbord.

From, Gianna

Dear Santa,
For Christmas I would like a
bunch of popits please and I wont
a OMG dolls to please. I also wont
a electic scootr.

From, Aspen

Dear Santa,
For Christmas I would like a PS5
or a real minea play set with a real
minea.

From, Athena

Dear Santa,
Hi Santa, how is misis claus? I
have to be onist im on the body
list but I will get u a peasant and
the best. Can I ples have a par of
erpods. If you got me erpods I will
b so happe and I will be so gud
neex christmas. And we will giv
you coco have a gud christmas
Santa.

Sincerely, Zammuel

Dear Santa,
Hi Santa. How are you today?
I dont no if im on the noty or
nice list. Oh this is wat I want for
Christmas please. I would realy like
to have for christmas please 20
minybrans. First reson I think there
so cute. Second reson I colect
minybrans. Oh and last reson I
could allso yous them as doll ford
for my dolls. And if you did give
me this I would fell so happy and
thankful and thank you so much
good by.

Sincerely, Mallori

Dear Santa,
Good greetings Santa how are
you? Is everything ok? I don't
know if I was Good or bad? But
can I have thes toys a bat mobile. I
would like a bat mobile is tha it can
run on watter. if you give it I will be
so happy!

Sincerely, Lupe

Dear Santa,
Santa, ¿Dónde duermes? Y
dónde están tus renos? Santa,
estoy en la lista de niños buenos?
¿Me regalas una cocinita por
favor. Si cuesta mucho, no te
preocupes y gracias.

Atentamente, Kenia

Dear Santa,
Hello How are you? I dont know
if im on the naught or nice list.
But can you please bring me a
VR headset cecuse it gets boring
just playing on a phone. I would
feel verry happy and I will bake you
cookies.

Sincerely, Aliyah

Dear Santa,
Merry Christmas. can you take
me to the north pole. am i on the
nis lis? can i ples hav a tedy ber
becuz i want it so bad. Thank
you

Sincerely, Daniesha

Dear Santa,
Merry Christmas Santa and the
elf pets and elfs. and please tell
misis clas marry christmas. pleas
I want this speshal present. I
know that at the parade of lights
I already told you wat I want for
christmas. And that present is
fox stuff animal.and am I on the
nice or the naughty list. And i
wish you a mery christmas.

Sincerely, Elizabeth

Mr. Anfernee Romero - Second Grade

Dear Santa,
How ar yu toda? I like yor red
soot. Can yu get me a ps5 and
a ps4 for Christmas? I did al
mi homework this yer. I hope
yoo hav a good Christmas.

Love, Jayden M.

Dear Santa,
How are you? I was wondering
what kind of milk do you like?
I feel like you need someing
differet. This Christmas I would
like to have a new outfit, shoes,
and stuff to decorate my
American girl doll room. I help
make the bed each morning and
I cleaned my room all year. I
think I deserve my gift. Please
be safe!

Your friend, Palak D.

Dear Santa,
I was good today, I clend my
room i tak cer of my dogs. I wot
a ntenoiw pless and thak you
and a bakit pless and thak you.
I like your red soot.

Love, Ameerah

Dear Santa,
How is Miss. Clause? What are
yor faveorit cookeys? Do you
have a favorit reindeer? I realey
love your red and white hat. This
year I weeld like a black winter
hat and a red tertleneck. I give
water to the horses.

Your Friend, Ryker

Dear Santa,
How are you? How are the
elves? I like yor red soot. I
rele want a dog this year foe
Christmas. I tue owt the dogs
and clead they cag this yer. Be
crefol travling on Christmas.

Love, Davine

Dear Santa,
How are you, I like your red
soot. What kind of cookies do
you like? For Christmas this
year I wood like V bucks and
Pokemon cards and I helped my
unkl clean his bed.

Your Friend, Ozzy

Dear Santa,
How are the elfce? I love
your beard i wish i cood have
one. For christmas i wut a new
game for my ntedo swich and a
thousand millun Vbucks. I helped
my mom clene the banyolso i
helped clene the hous have a
Merry Christmas

Love, Damian G.

Dear Santa,
How are you? Can you get me
a gift plect i want a ps5 and
sum red nickys because I tuck
my dog out side and i clene my
dogs ckage. I love you Santa

Love, Louis V.

Make It MERRY

As another holiday season comes together, we'd like to extend our best and brightest wishes to you, our valued customers, neighbors and friends. We hope your Christmas is crafted from all the comfort and joy that make this season so special!

We're proud to be a part of this close-knit community, and we value the fine folks who make us feel so at home here. Thank you for your support and friendship. We look forward to seeing you and serving you again soon in the coming year.

Valley Publishing

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835 First Ave. - Monte Vista

Dear Santa Claus

Dear Santa,
Hi how are you doing we do not have snow today how are the elves and roodaf and mrs. claus. What I want for christmas is....

Cow boy figur
buil hors fig
Sky wdrdsors vidio game
Dregonal
Surer mancomic
Yours Trooly Mason

Dear Santa,
Hi my name is Azalia all i want for christmas is a book and trompil and a ps5 and a PC and healty grandpa

From Azalia

Dear Santa,
How are you doing hope you have a good day. I wate a xboxl slime and a paw pchol movie. A pocket kif.

Love Cash

Dear Santa,
For Christmas I want..... Disney Princesses dolls.

Tiara yellow or blue would be nice. A green yoga ball to sit on and some pretty bows to put in my hair.

Thank you, Catalea Archuleta

Dear Santa,
I would like a binosaur cave I would like among us cars tool I want a big yellow Tonka Truck

Love Henry Martinez

Jocelyn Boyd - Fourth Grade

Dear Santa clause,
Hello how are you I hope that your Having a jolly good Year And make sure To Take care of mrs claus And the Elfs . What I Want For Christmas is That I hope people Have a good year And I Want A pc if you don't Know What a pc is it's a big Computer. Anyways I Should have These Things Because I'm A good kid i'm kind And Happy And i Help people. have a good year. see You next Year.

From, Eziquel

Dear santa
How are you i Hope you are doing good How are your elves doing for Christmas? I don't want that much, I just want two things. I want an iPhone and airpods. I have been trying to be nice to my baby brother

By jr Benito

Dear santa,
How are the elves and the rande. I have trying to be good. Me and my mom are cleaning the house with my mom. And i just want I thing a new bike of my mom ples and thank you. I hope you have a Merry christmas

Emma

Dear Santa Clause,
Hello, how are you and Rudolf? I hope you are doing good and I have been trying to be nice to my little sister and I want a Nintendo Switch for Christmas.

Have a nice Christmas from, Destrella

Dear Santa,
I hope you are doing good with your elves and Ms Claus. I have been getting good grades A's and B's. I have been trying to be nice to my little sister. I was wondering if you can get me a calendar. I know it's a small thing but I really want to put my dates on it. I will leave some egnog and biscotos and some candy canes for the reindeers.

Your Friend, Lily

Dear santa,
How are you and the rain deer. I would like pit viper sun glasses and a military sweater. I have been trying to de nice to my little cousin and my family.

From, Ayden

Dear Santa clause,
I hope you and everyone at the north pole are doing good. I just want to say two things I would like for Christmas are my Family and to spend time with hole Family. And have dinner with them and also I have been keeping my grades up and from nou on I will ask if my parents are doing good and I always like spending time with my grandparents. I hope you have a good time for you and mrs. Clause for christmas.

Ignacio

Dear Santa
Hi, how are you? I'm doing good I want to tell you that I like your letter last year/ I like it. I am riley trying to be good and if you could I want a fake nails set. please and thank you. I hope you can do it .

From, Devehnee

Dear Santa,
I hope you and mrs.Clause and the elves and the reindeer are all doing ok what i want for christmas is a new pet white or black or brown bunny and one more thing if that is ok is some led lights because I have been nice to my older sister.

From, Korissa

Sabina Malouff - Fourth Grade

Dear Santa,
How are you doing at the North Pole and how are all the elves and Mrs. Claus and the reindeer? I hope you and everyone are doing good. I love your red suit. I think it is so cool. Will you get me a skateboard and madin 2022 for my ps3 for Christmas first? My last game is broken. Next, I've never had a skateboard. Last I think they would be real fun to play with the new toys. Have a good Christmas Santa.

Love, Easton

Dear Santa,
I hope you and your family are doing well. See you this Christmas. I will get you some cookies, maybe. Here is my list of stuff I want to get this Christmas (If you can make it for me) Can I please have some false nails. Maybe earrings or nail polish. If you can't get me some, can you get me some stuffed animals or shoes or clothes. That's all I really want. Thank you for getting me stuff for Christmas every year, Thank you.

Sincerely, Emma

Dear santa
How are you doing.
Santa I want a dirtbike for christmas a ktm 65 sx for christmas. And a hellcat toy cowboy and cowboy pants and cowboy hat. And cowboy chaps.

Jackson

Hey Santa,
I just wanted to let you know what I wanted for Christmas this year. First of all I would love to have Scouty (my elf on the shelf) talk to me. You know, having something that moves, I like to have it make a sound at least. Second of all would love to have an

Oculus quest 2, it's so cool to have your very own reality. Third of all, I would love to have mario odyssey. Fourth I would like to have dinosaur finger ling. That's all I would like to have, But I made another christmas letter with all my gifts that I want. That's all.

Sincerely, Liam Brimhall

Dear santa and elf,
What I want for christmas is a red rc boat,a Nerf gun, glasses, drone, rc car, PS 4,Hot wheels, car I can drive in mustang, super bike for kids, miko robot,madden 22. That's all I got a present for saber. Looks like he's been working out.

Happy holidays, Phoenix

Mrs. Elizabeth Garcia - Fourth Grade

Dear Santa Clause,
I hope you and Mrs. Clause and the elves are doing well. I know you are tired because Christmas is coming, but I do want to ask for a few things for Christmas this year. I would like some new pokemon and some new nerf guns for christmas. I've done my chores and am doing well in school and have been taking care of my new dog and my old dog by feeding them and getting them water.

I hope I made the nice list this year. I hope you and Mrs. Clause have a great christmas.

Sincerely, Alex

Dear Santa Clause,
I hope you and Mrs. Claus are doing well and it might be hard with getting everything together this year because of COVID-19 But can I tell you what I want for Christmas this year? I would like to get is new shoes this year and I have been really good this year. I have done my homework and I do really well in class. I hope I made a nice list this year. I hope you have a nice Christmas.

Your Friend, ElijahJ

Dear Santa Clause,
I hope you and the Elves and Mrs. Clause are fine. I have been Good this year all I want is a 100 Dollar playstation card And new PS5 Controller and a new PS5 Headset and I have Been good this year

Your friend, Xander

Dear Santa Clause,
Hi santa how are you and Mrs. Clause because i'm doing great I bet you are good though. I hope your deer are good too. Are you busy with Christmas and deer? Are you excited for New Year because I am. I am selling candy canes for the student council so if you want any you can get some. So what I think you have wanted to hear is that what I want for christmas is family being together and no fites from my cousins. I've been really good. I've done all my chores and homework.

Sincerely, Riggins ross Ps. your the best

Dear santa clause,
I hope you have a good Christmas and a mail and I hope you are not busy on Christmas eve because I would like a tv to myself and ps4 that all i want. Have a good Christmas eve.

Lexus

Dear Santa,
I've been good this year. I cleaned my room. How is elf and the ring deer Mrs claus? I want a video game called doom2 and a pop it i hope you have a good christmas.

Love, Miguel

Hey Santa Claus,
How are you and the elfs doing today? I hope your doing ok today but anyways now I want to tell you what I want for Christmas this year so what i want for christmas is 1. I want a hoverboard 2. I want a phone 3. I want my step dad to be with us if he comes down for christmas and why i deserve it is because I been a good girl lately and I havent got in to trouble so thats why i think you should get it for me for christmas so thats all i wanted to tell you but any ways i wanted to say good bye.

Your friend, Kayleigh Jade Wills

Dear Santa Clause,
I hope you are doing well at the north pole. How are Mrs. Claus and the reindeer and the Elves doing? I would like to tell you some things I would like for Christmas. First I would like a BB gun second i would like a ironman lego set last i would like a nerf gun. I have been a good boy this year. I helped my grandma and my mom and I donated to the food bank multiple times. I hope you have good christmas.

Sincerely, Elijah A.

Santa,
What I want for Christmas is a new phone cace and I also what to get better at school at ela stuff in in school and one more thing some airpods and if we can get some snow if you can do that? If not it is ok. Oh ya i almost forgot can i get some led light? Can I please just get one of these? It would be my dream.

Love, Serenity

Dear Santa Claus,
I wish for a New Bike, a new scooter, and a new headset. Cuz i do lots of chores at home and at kidcneshin

Xavier

Dear santa,
I want some new shoes and some more books. I also want some new pajama pants, that's all I want. Thank you. I hope Mrs clause is doing good. I hope you have a good day and I hope you and Mrs Claus have a good Christmas bye bye.

Lilli

Dear Santa,
How are you doing? Are you ready for Christmas this year? Can I have two wild kratt toys? I been good this year.I helped around the house.

From, Chet.

Smith - Third Grade
Dear Santa,
How is the reindeer? How are you and Mrs.Claws doing? This year I want art stuff. I think I deserve art stuff because every time someone gets hurt I help them. I help my mom clean the house. I take care of my dogs.

From Aniyah duran

Dear Santa,
What's new, I would love it if you got me Hyrule Warriors Age of Calamity, I would feel bad for my grandparents to get me that 60\$

Game. Say, I've tried to not be a spoiled brat, too much. I've also tried to go outside more, and not play video games all day, and do activities you know, that stuff.

Your friend, Finnegan

Dear Santa,
Hello Santa, I hope you are having a good year. For Christmas I want a gaming pc and a skateboard because I've been good all year. I'm cleaning my room more, and when my mom calls my name I go to her. Thank you, bye.

Michael

Dear Santa,
How are you? I hope you are doing well.

This year I would like a barbie house for Christmas. I think I should have it because I do everything my dad says.I think I should have it because I do chores when I need to. I think I should have the toy because I am eating all of my dinner. What I want for christmas is lego's because I have been taking showers.I think I should have the toy because I been making my bed and that is all for now Thank you for my present. THANK YOU AGAIN!!!!!!

MICHELLE

Dear Santa and your Elfs, How are you doing? I hope you're doing well. So I invented a gaming console that makes you feel like you're in the game and it makes sure you can't move so you don't punch anything. That's really all I want. I'll be waiting with cookies and milk to have a good year! WAIT! I'm not done. I'll also take a pc also known as pufferfish that knows a commodity joke or two. I've been trying to help my mom but she says "I'm OK" . It kinda makes me sad. I'm just tryna help my mom out. Okay now I'll let you go have a good year!

Love ya bud -Ben :)

Dear Santa

Greetings Friends
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Dear Santa Claus

How are you doing? Are you doing ok? This year I've been a good boy because I always listen at home and at home I always feed my pet dog and I buy her food. At home I also check on her. This year I want a pet hamster because I never had an inside pet. The end. Wait, I didn't forget the cookies.

Your friend, NiKing

Dear santa
How are you doing? I hope all is good.

This year I'd like my family together again. I think it should happen because it's not the same without the family together and it would make me and my sister so happy and my mom and dad so happy.

Love, Mila

Dear santa,
I hope you are having a good year. I want an iphone 13 pro please?

Hope that's not too much. I think I deserve it because I helped my mom clean the car. I'm gonna try to clean my room, that's also why I think I deserve it. I also think I deserve it because I listen to my teacher. Hope you don't have too much fun. lol

You're friend,
Love Destin.

Dear Santa,
How are you today? How is the year going? This is what I want for this year. a iphone 6 please. and an Apple watch please. I do the lorde and I do the dishes and I sweep and I vacuum and the reason i asct for the phone is because my phone is not working any more. and i rile need a now watch it because rile need a now watch because my watch is bont were for me.

From, Brentlee

Ms. Torres - Fourth Grade

Dear santa,
Hope you're doing good.

Love, Isaac

Dear Santa,
Hi, how are you today? I would like to wish you an early Merry Christmas. My name is Parker Rose Whitmer and I am nine years old. For Christmas I would like a hero academia hoodie, hero academia 3 piece plushy, an I-pad, candy, scissors, and yashiro nene plushy. I hope you had a great day today.

Sincerely, Parker Rose Whitmer
Dear mr. .claus
How are you this year? I know I already sent a letter but I'm going to send you another one. I really want a wings of fire book series and I want it because I like to read. And I have been Good this year. I've been helbing my mom a lot. I have a few questions? First I want to know If you're doing good, and Mrs. Claus and Rudolf and you re ever rery need of a break. Have a happy new year!

Love, Elijah Sasser

Dear santa,
How have you been this year. by the way i have been great this year i have done my chores sometimes. and i really what a bike because my bike broke recently and now i cant ride it so i hope you have a good christmas this year

Sincerely Giselle

Dear Santa Clays
How are you? I'm doing really well! Hows mrs. claus? I know you've probably been super busy this year with all the kids asking for presents but I really want a hoverboard!!!! I know its much but I have been good all year! And I deserve it because me and my sister clean the kitchen every day after school! A hoverboard would be amazing because mine broke last year. I had to ride my twisted scooter. I hope you have the best Christmas ever!!

Love, shaylee



Dear Santa Claus
How are you doing? I hope Mrs. Claus is doing good. I am doing good. I am in 4th grade now. I really want a hoverboard. The reason I deserve this is because I help out with chores and I also get good grades. I wish you both a merry Christmas and have a good rest of the year.

Love Zelicia Pena

Dear Santa,
How have you been this year by the way i have been good this year i hope you and miss claus are doing well what i want for a present is in a nintendo because i was being a good boy at school i have been nice to my friend and family i hope rudolf is doing good well i hope you have a good day bye

Sincerely Alan

Dear Santa
How have you been? I hope your year has been great! Some things I wish for christmas, a phone, a bike, slime, 9popit, and a cardinals bed set.

Love Natalee to santa

Dear santa,
How are you doing Santa good. I really want a warden stuffed animal and aiden jacket and aiden mask and aiden warden. I have been a good good boy. I say good things to teachers and people and have a Merry Christmas santa.

Bi gryphon or warden

Gail Cassidy - Fifth Grade
Dear Santa,
Hello Santa! It's me Skylar, how have you been this past year? How's Mrs. Claus? I really hope you're both doing well. I know I've had my ups and downs, but I play with other people, I care about many others, and because of these reasons I really hope I'm not asking to much if you can get at least one of these things:
• Maybe more books, you can never have too many!
• Art supplies, I enjoy drawing or doing art.
• Some stuff for my walls, having these can help me focus on homework.
• Please can I have a desk chair? I use a folding chair and it keeps breaking!

I believe that's all I want or hope to get, even one would be greatly appreciated! Hope you like the tree, and I'll make you some fresh cookies! Merry Christmas!

Best regards, Skylar Fremouw

Dear Santa Claus,
How are you? Hopefully you didn't get Covid! Santa, you know how I have been working hard, I have good grades, and I help around the house alot. So after all my hard work I would very much appreciate it if you would give me some toys. So you know what I want I will give you a list.

1. A Nintendo switch.
2. A minecraft game for that said switch.
3. Some legos as well.

Just so you know, I have done a lot specifically to deserve these items. For example, I have all A's and I help people when they need it, and just to seal the deal, I will leave you some cookies as well.

Sincerely, Urijah M. Fielder

Dear Santa,
I hope you are doing great this year. I have been good this year and I help out more. I can be mean sometimes but I will try to be more nice. I can be nicer by helping my mom with housework. I hope you are being good to Mrs. Claus! All I want this year are:

1. I want a new pair of shoes.
 2. I want more earrings.
 3. I want more coloring books.
 4. I want more clothes.
- Thank you, Santa.

Love, Yakira

Dear Santa,
How have you been throughout this whole year? This year I have tried my best to walk through doors with a smile on my face and have a positive attitude. I do have my good and bad days but I choose to move on from some of them. I am promising you that I will do my best to be positive towards others. If you accept this offer I am hoping you could get me these things for Christmas.

- What I want:
1. I would like some jordans and some new air forces.
 2. Some cute shirts and crop tops (Not too short please).
 3. I would like some cute hoodies that could be black, white, or gray.
 4. I would like some more ripped jeans (not too ripped).
 5. I would like more makeup (not a whole lot).
 6. I would like to have some things for skincare.
 7. I would like some vIntage clothing.

I think I should get these things for Christmas because I have helped babysit my nephew, I have helped my mom do chores all around the house, I have worked on my attitude towards other people, and I am trying to talk and answer questions in class.

Sincerely, Bella Lopez

WITH HEARTFELT THANKS

Of the many fond memories we can recall, Your visits with us are the best ones of all!

The Legacy

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MONTE VISTA, CO

Dear Santa,
Hey Santa, how are you feeling this Christmas? I hope you are doing well. This school year I have been doing well. I'm trying to be a good student this year. I'm helping people with their stuff (like their homework). I do most of my homework now and I apologize to people when I bump into them. I'm being nice to people in my school. I'm not that mean anymore. Because of all of these things. I really would appreciate it if you could bring me the things I want for Christmas this year. They are:

1. A xbox series x
 2. A new phone
 3. Some robux gift cards
- I will put some cookies and milk for you to eat and drink.

Love, Alex

Dear Santa,
How are you doing this year? I have tried my best to be a good kid. I have helped my family by sometimes cleaning, I always do my homework before I play Fortnite, and I have good grades in school. Because of this I would like to ask you for a few things.

1. Nintendo switch games
 2. Pet dot Stickers
 3. Sketching pencils
 4. Gaming chair
 5. New PS controller
 6. Washi tape
- Thank you and I will leave you milk and cookies for you.

Love, Gisel

Dear Santa,
Hi Santa, I hope you've had a great year. How is everything? I have tried to be a hard worker this year in school and I have also done well this year. I have been doing well on keeping my attitude better this year. Because of these things, can you please bring me the following things?

1. new shoes
 2. a ps4
 3. good grades this year
- So if you can, may you please bring me these things this Christmas? I would really appreciate it.

Love, John Cordero

Dear Santa,
Hey, how are you doing in the North Pole and how's Mrs claus? I am a good son and brother. I do my chores like: clean my room, do the dishes and take out the trash. Other examples of all the things I do are:
1. I mop the floor, I take out the trash, and clean the room.
2. I try my best to get good grades.
3. I try to be a good brother by helping my sister with chores.
For these reasons, I was hoping you would bring me a dirt bike and a flag.

Thank you, Eli Warren.

Dear Santa,
How have you been this year? I hope you, Mrs. Claus, Reindeer, and Elves are doing well! The reasons why I should be on the nice list is that I do my chores when I am told to and I help my mom around the house. I also help my grandpa a lot. Because of these reasons, I was hoping you would bring me for Christmas this year are:

1. mandalorian lego set the razor crest one.
 2. a visa gift card.
 3. bucks nintendo switch gift card.
- I promise you extra milk and cookies!
Love your friend Francisco valdez.
PS. Have a safe trip!

Dear Santa,
Hi Santa! How are you and Mrs. Claus this year? I have been the best this year. Here are some of the reasons why I should get the things that I really want this year.

- I've been:
1. Going out and training my horses more than I did.
 2. Helping around the house.
 3. Doing better in school.
 4. I help feed my animals.
- These are the things I really want for Christmas:
1. A new Phone
 2. Indigo
 3. A new saddle
 4. New L.E.D lights
 5. Hoodies and some Bail Bottoms
 6. New shoes

In addition to the things I mentioned above:
1. I've been helping around the house.
2. I'm getting my homework done.
3. I've been watching my younger brother while my parents are at work.

Thanks Santa! I hope you have a great Christmas and I promise to leave you extra cookies and milk!
Sincerely, Tirzah Dear Santa
Hey Santa, how have you been this year? Santa, I've tried to be a good person, sister, owner and daughter and also a good friend. Santa, this is what I would like this year...I would like a new bike, hoverboard, dirt bike, and, a real four wheeler, and more but thats some of the stuff I would like. This is why you should give it to me is because I've been wanting new stuff and been trying to be nice to others and I've been trying to be good by listening to my mom and family members. Also, I help my mom take care of my brother, my dog, and my grandma. I would also appreciate all the stuff you can get me and the stuff I've been wanting.

Thank you Santa!
Sincerely, Nevaya

Wishing You Happy Holidays!

FARM CREDIT
OF SOUTHERN COLORADO

Your Partner in Agriculture.

719-852-3341
159 Washington . Monte Vista

Dear Santa Claus

Dear Santa Claus,
Hi Santa, how are you? I hope you're doing great. This year I have been on my best behavior and have been doing well in school on my tests and listening to my parents. I also do all my chores and always do my homework. This year for Christmas I was hoping I could get some new things for Christmas for how good I have been this year?
I would like: 1. an oculus 2, some new air forces 3, some new tech decks to play with, some pokemon or yugioh cards.
I would very much appreciate it if you could bring me these things. Thank you.



Love, Andres
P.s How is Mrs.claus doing?

Dear Santa,
How have you been? How have your elves been, and how has Mrs.Claus been? This year I have been trying to help more around the house, trying to do all my homework ,and don't complain about getting up in the morning anymore. In addition to that I:

1. Help with the dogs.
 2. Get good grades.
 3. Come to school early.
- I have been trying my best to be good, because of all of these reasons, I would happy if you got me:

1. LED lights
2. Slime
3. Fidget toys
4. Nice colored pencils
5. Sketch books

Please and thank you.
Love , Kaylynn Medina

Dear Santa,
Hello Mr.Claus. How have you been? I have been a good kid and have been helping around the house and have been working hard for my A's in school. Because of these reasons, may I get these listed things for Christmas?

1. A laptop
 - 2 A BB gun shooting practice shooting target
 - 3 A motion sensed drone
- If you can get these things for me in the morning so I could have a surprised and happy face on Christmas day, I would be really thankful and I will make sure I don't give you an oatmeal cookie again.

Sincerely, Jayce.D

Dear Santa,
Hi! How are you? I have been a really good boy this year. I have been very respectful to my teachers, and I have tried very hard in school! For these reasons I was hoping that you could bring me some puzzles and some video games. Thank you, Santa.

Love, Nehemiah

Dear Santa,
For Christmas, I would like a lego set and a few games for my VR headset. I have been a very good boy this year and believe I fully deserve them. I would also like happiness for my family.

Thank you Santa and Merry Christmas!

Love, Marco Ornelas

Miss Graham - Fifth Grade
Dear santa,
Hi Santa, how are you? How are the reindeers? How are the elves doing? So Christmas is coming up and I want to tell you three reasons why I deserve all the gifts I want.

The first reason is because at school I always do my work. I also always say I'm sorry if I'm mean to other people.

The second reason is I always help my mum when she needs my help. I also do the dishes **SOMETIMES**.

The final reason is I always clean up after myself. I also pick up after my dog .

So what i want for christmas is blackpink merch and also leah ashe merch. The third reason is I do all my homework and don't have any missing work.

So those are all the reasons I think I deserve all those things for christmas. Have a good day and also have a good christmas.

Love Nevaeh D

Dear Santa Claus,
For Christmas I would like a PS5, an Apple watch, an apple (The food), and some cacti (to stab my big brother Jon). The reasons I think I deserve these gifts are I have tried hard to be nice to people, I have helped people, and I have tried VERY hard to be good this past year.

I think that these gifts would be good gifts because the Apple watch would make me able to see the time and if people have texted me during the school day.

The PS5 would be a good gift because it will let me get online with my friends more, and finally the apple is a healthy snack. I hope this letter finds you well and I also hope Ms.claus, your elves, your reindeer, and your plans are doing well.

Sincerely, Evan Enderle

Dear Santa
Can I get the Revolutionary war outfits and the old flag of the USA and English flag because it is a good gift because I love history and George Washington. It started when the tea got thrown off the ship.

I love to help the homeless people because they look so sad so my mom and I help them to get 50\$ or food. I like to help old people shovel snow and move stuff to homes. That's why I deserve the gift.

You friend, Dominic

Dear Santa,
How are you doing? What I want for Christmas is a dirt bike. I deserve it because I help my mom with cleaning the house, feeding the dogs 2 times a week, feeding horses every morning at 6, I watch the baby when my mom asks me to, I hold the door for people, and I help my grandpa build houses.

The reasons I think this is a good gift are because you can jump hills, they go really fast, and finally I can ride it with my brother Treston.

Merry Christmas, Taylynn

Dear Santa
These are some of the things I want for Christmas is a go kart that you connect to your hoverboard. The reason I deserve the gift is because I have been good. I help my mom clean at her job. I hold doors for my mom. This would be a good gift because I can wheelie in it. I can sit in it. I Can go fast in it and it is fun.I also want a rc rock climber.

I hold doors for the elderly. I am nice to my cousins. I also want it to snow. A Nintendo switch would be nice to to share with my family.

Sincerely Moizes Trujillo

Dear Santah
What I want for Christmas is my brother to let me play the game more because I want to play with my friends more. I am very kind to people that are sad. I am also doing my homework more.

It will make a good gift because I can make my friends more happy. It will also make me more happy. I also want to send a friend request to one of my friends on fortnite.

Another gift I want is a p.s.p (playstation portable) battery. To give to my dad because the battery broke on his. another reason is so he can have more fun.another resonis so he can have fun at work.

From adrian

Dear Santa
How are you doing? How are the elfs this year? What I really want for Christmas this year is BTS albums and Squish Mallows. My first reason why I deserve this is because I have been a good kid. Also I have been getting good grades. Additionally I have been taking care of my cat even since I found her, under a truck at my grandma's house.

This is the perfect gift for me because I love Squish Mallows and I love BTS. Also I am trying to build a Squish Mallow collection. I am also trying to make a BTS album collection. Lastly, I love their music and I love soft things like Squish Mallows.

I would love for you to get me these items for Christmas this year. If you do get me these I will be very happy and I will not let my dog get to them.

Merry Christmas! Love Jaylani



Dear, Santa
Hi santa how are you doing, is mis. Santa good? For Christmas, I would like to have a brown striped cat that has THE FLUFFIEST FUR. It will be good because it will be so cute and amazing. I will take good care of him and cherish it forever. It will make my family even more happy than ever. I deserve it because I have been going to school every day. I pay attention and I do not interrupt in class. I try my best in every subject and get good grades.

From, Logan



EXTRA, EXTRA Thanks & Merry Wishes

To our readers and community, we want to express our deep gratitude for your essential support through the events of 2021. We're committed to keeping you connected and informed, and we appreciate your continued trust in us.

We hope you have a healthy and happy holiday season, and we wish you all the best in the new year!



852-3531 • 835 First Ave. • Monte Vista

Dear Santa Claus



Hi santa
Para santa yo para navidad quiero estar bien con mi familia y quiero cumplis mis deseos y estar bien en la escuela sacar buenas notas para que mi mama este orgullosa de mi y pues uno de mis deseos estar con toda toda mi familia para navidad quiero que vivamos en mazatlan y eso tambien ya quiero ser grande para estudiar lo que quiero ser de grande para trabajar ayudar a mi mama y tambien quiero para navidad cuidar a mis hermanas chicas.

1, me eh portado bien con mi mama no le eh faltado al respeto
2, le ayudo a mi mama en casa lo hago le hago caso en lo que me dice
3, estudio intento hacer lo posible para sacar buenas

De Andrea.

Dear santa
Hello, how are you today? I'm great! I'm going to be telling you the three things I want for christmas. The first one, It doesn't matter but maybe a ps4 or ps5 whichever works is fine. I deserve this because I haven't been able to play my game because on my Nintendo my controller doesn't work anymore. Second is, a 100 dollar fortnite card. I deserve that because I've been really good latley and I can spend it wisely on fortnite skins. Third is to spend more time with my brother because my mom and dad split up so he spends nights back and forth so I hardly see him. Well santa that's all I want for this christmas.

Merry christmas love, Bella
Dear Santa,
I want a new xbox. It is a lot faster than my old one. It wont overheat as much as my old one and a lot cooler than my old one. Why do I deserve it? Well, I do amazing on my test and get 90 or 100. I got good grades.

I have A,Bs, and I'm nice to people because I help them and be their friend when they need one and stand up for them and hold doors for people.
Oh one more thing I want a new gaming chair because One It wont have a big hole in the middle of it. Two It would look cooler than having stuff on and stands on it. Three It would be confe in seand of not being confe And a lot more better than my old one.

From, Ryland Naranjo

Dear Santa
I hope you have snow in the north pole because we don't have any snow here. Could you send snow for christmas because our farmers really need it. I have been working really hard this year on getting my school work and home work done. For christmas i would like Nike shorts and a Nike sweater, socks and I american fighter shirt. I would also like a basketball shooter sleeve.

Also, could you bring Miss graham a surprise and my class too. I also deserve this stuff because I have all As. I also help my parents and help my brother. Why these are good gifts is because I need a new basketball and a new shooter sleeve and I also like the American fighter shirts and I need a new sweater and socks. I hope you eat lots of cookies and stay jolly.

Love Calleb G.

Dear Santa,
My name is Alexis. I am in fifth grade in Miss Graham's class. What I wish for is that all the kids feel joyful on Christmas day, especially those in need.

I would also like to have a hoverboard and a nintendo switch so I can play with my friends. Here are three reasons why you should consider it. The first reason is that I have made a walking group which walks people that live in the same area as me. The second reason is that I have been reading Harry Potter to my sister before bed. The third reason is that I have been trying to be the nicest person I could be. Why kids should feel joyful on Christmas day is a good wish. Even if they don't have much, they still should have the joyful feeling on Christmas day, it will make their year a bit more joyful and they will come to school with a joy in their hearts. Why having a hoverboard is a great wish is that many of the kids in my area have hoverboards and I really don't want to slow them down anymore. I dont want them to feel like they have to give me a turn on thiers and it would encourage me to go out more. Why having a nintendo switch is a good wish is that my friends especially, so that's why I really want to play with them on fortnight. It could help keep me busy and is could it's less expensive than a playstation.

Juno C.

Dear Santa,
This year for Christmas I would like Call Of Duty 3 and a hoverboard. These are good gifts because I get tired walking with my friends all the time and Call Of Duty so i can connect with my friends. Plus it is a fun game. Also they are not very expensive. I deserve it because I am nice to everyone. I am also honest. Plus I can be polite!

Centennial

Merry Christmas, Johnnie
Mrs. Debra, Ms. Sofia and Mrs. Tammy - Preschool

Dear Santa,
My name is Adaline. I am 4 years old. I live in Colorado. This year I've been nice. For Christmas I would really like a rainbow yoyo and blue slime. Thank you & Merry Christmas!
Love, Adaline DeLeon



Dear Santa,
My name is Amos. I am 4 years old. I live in the Rito. This year I've been nice. For Christmas I would really like a Venom costume, Nintendo Switch, Sonic game, and a Sonic toy. Thank you & Merry Christmas!

Love, Amos Sanchez

Dear Santa,
My name is Audiana. I am 3 years old. I live in town. This year I've been a good girl. For Christmas I would really like two barbie dolls. Thank you & Merry Christmas!

Love, Audiana Duran

Dear Santa,
My name is Corazon. I am 3 years old. I live at home. This year I've been nice. For Christmas I would really like a Princess doll and an Elsa skateboard. Thank you & Merry Christmas!

Love, Corazon Arellano

Dear Santa,
My name is Jacob. I am 3 years old. I live in San Luis. This year I've been nice. For Christmas I would really like Baby Shark toys and Sonic Mania toys. Thank you & Merry Christmas!

Love, Jacob Vigil

Dear Santa,
My name is Liana. I am 3 years old. I live far away. This year I've been nice. For Christmas I would really like a stuffy bear. Thank you & Merry Christmas!

Love, Liana Tan

Dear Santa,
My name is Luis. I am 3 years old. I live at my house. This year I've been nice. For Christmas I would really like a yoyo, and some chips. Thank you & Merry Christmas!

Love, Luis Molina

Dear Santa,
My name is Octavius. I am 4 years old. I live at home. This year I've been nice. For Christmas I would really like cars that go fast and a Santa Claus hat. Thank you & Merry Christmas!

Love, Octavius DeLeon

Dear Santa,
My name is Reyna. I am 4 years old. I live in San Luis. This year I've been nice. For Christmas I would really like a baby doll, puppets, and Zoo Phonics. Thank you & Merry Christmas!

Love, Reyna Nevarez

Dear Santa,
My name is Star. I am 3 years old. I live in a house. This year I've been nice. For Christmas I would like real cows and a baby doll. Thank you & Merry Christmas!

Love, Star Condon

Dear Santa,
My name is Zanaya. I am 4 years old. I live in Canon. This year I've been nice. For Christmas I would really like a Mermaid and pink slime. Thank you & Merry Christmas!

Love, Zanaya Montoya-Ozuna

Dear Santa,
My name is Zephaniah. I am 4 years old. I live in Chama Colorado. This year I've been nice. For Christmas I would really like a fast speed toy car for me and also for my brother Azzi. Thank you & Merry Christmas!

Love, Zephaniah Rael

Mrs. Valerie Serna, Ms. Bianca Sanchez and Ms. Densie Valdez - Prekindergarten

Dear Santa Claus,
My name is Zaidan, I am 5 years old. I live in El Rito, this year I have been really nice. I would really like it if you could bring me: an army costume, a hotwheel toy, and a monster truck.

Love, Zaidan Sanchez

Dear Santa Claus,
My name is Roman, I am 4 years old. I live in San Luis, this year I have been really nice. I would really like it if you could bring me: a nerf gun, hotwheels, and a Godzilla.

Love, Roman Velasquez

Dear Santa Claus,
My name is Samuel, I am 4 years old. I live in Costilla, this year I have been really nice. I would really like it if you could bring me: a monster truck, a dinosaur, and legos.

Love, Samuel Roybal

Dear Santa Claus,
My name is Justin, I am 5 years old. I live in San Luis, this year I have been really nice. I would really like it if you could bring me: a dinosaur, the galaxy, and a Godzilla.

Love, Justin Blevins

Dear Santa Claus,
My name is Valeria, I am 4 years old. I live in San Luis, this year I have been really nice. I would really like it if you could bring me: a real unicorn, a big doll, and stars.

Love, Valeria Chairez-Martinez

Dear Santa Claus,
My name is Priscilla, I am 4 years old. I live in San Luis, this year I have been really nice. I would really like it if you could bring me: a chocolate, a big doll, and a pony.

Love, Priscilla Martinez



Dear Santa Claus,
My name is Jaylina, I am 4 years old. I live in El Rito, this year I have been really nice. I would really like it if

you could bring me: a new backpack, a heart pillow, and a doll.

Love, Jaylina Sanchez

Dear Santa Claus,
My name is Romelio, I am 4 years old. I live in Chama, this year I have been really good. I would really like it if you could bring me: a monster truck and a transformer.

Love, Romelio Apodaca

Dear Santa Claus,
My name is Alianna, I am 5 years old. I live in Costilla, this year I have been really good. I would really like it if you could bring me: my little pony, L.O.L Baby, and a giant teddy.

Love, Alianna Vigil

Mrs. Vessels - Kindergarten

Dear Santa,
My name is Alyjah. I would like many things for Christmas this year. I would like a gabby doll house, phone, Barbie doll house, LOL water bottle, and a real horse. I have been a good girl.

Alyjah



Dear Santa Claus,
My name is Reigio. I am 5 years old. I live in Chama. This year, I have been really good. I would really like if you could bring me a monster truck and a mosasaurus toy.

Thank you and Merry Christmas!

Dear Santa,
How are you? I have been good. I wish for a big fairy, a little fairy and a purple unicorn.

Thank you, Love, Izarate

Dear Santa,
Your elf is amazing. I would like a 4 wheeler and a dirt bike.

Xavior

Dear Santa,
My name is Kamry and I am 5 years old. This year I have been very nice. For Christmas please bring me a tall giraffe, elf toy, workout clothes and a gingerbread girl.

With love, Kamry

Dear Santa,
Could you please bring me a barbie doll house, a Elsa doll house and lots of toys for Christmas.

Love Analia

Dear Santa,
I would like a princess snugly for Christmas.

Love Zayla

Dear Santa,
Would you bring me a big transformer and a real snake that does not bite for Christmas.

Your friend, Nasarrio

Dear Santa,
I would like a paw patrol stuffy and a stuffed snake for Christmas.

Love, Jazlynn

Dear Santa,
I would like a lot of toys for Christmas.

Be careful on your trip, Lupita

Dear Santa,

Hi I'm Alicia and I have been a good girl. All I want this year are books!

From, Alicia

P.S. Don't eat too much cookies!

WISHING YOU
Happy Holidays
AND A WONDERFUL NEW YEAR
La Jara
Health Mart.
Pharmacy
Pharmacy, Inc 412 Main Street • La Jara

Hope your holiday sparkles and shines, bringing health, joy and contentment to your heart and home.
(719) 274-5109

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year
Year from our family to yours!

Thank you for helping us serve another year in the San Luis Valley. Cheers to a great 2022!

Legends Premier Properties
810 First Ave. • Monte Vista
www.legendspremierproperties.com

Dear Santa Claus

Ms. Mondragon - Second Grade

Dear Santa, I would like a lot of cool cars for me and can my sister have dolly and roses for my mom

Thank you Cody WhitLock
Dear Santa, For Christmas I want slime, popit, lip gloss, basketball, cards, and cars, play dolly, play money, football, hats, that all I want for Christmas. P.s. I want a walktalk

Love Rosalia felix-Duran

Dear Santa, For Christmas I want slime, play doh, barbie dolls, LOL dolls, omg dolls, and

American Girl dolls, shopkins, icecream lipgloss, rainboicorns, and Rainbow high dolls.that all I want for Christmas and I hope everyone have a good Christmas. P.s I want teddybear
Love Alma felix-Duran

Dear Santa, I wut a gozlliu asfiger aos I wut a miggggozlliu
Fun Wyatt PS

Dear Santa, I wot a motkchro Bot and a Motkchro chuk
XOXOXOXO
Love, Favian Molina

Dear Santa, I want a toy house, and a Jumbo Popt, and a cashrt Jakit, and I am thankful for enething that you get me.
Love, Norrina

Dear Santa, I have been nice this year. How is it at the North Pole? Is it cold over there. This year for Christmas I would like to have a JoJo My life doll I promise to be good all year.
From Aryana

Dear Santa I whant for Christmas is a drone and adidas and pokemon cards and some glacis and then nikes.
From Adelina

Dear Santa, How have you been? Hopefully I am still on the nice list. If so here are a few things I would like. Chevy RC truck, monster truck that change under water, Master chief fighter. Also, do you like Hot coco? I am going to leave some out with your cookies.
Bentley Moody

Ms. Garcia - Third Grade

Dear Santa, This year I have been nice. I world like an iPhone or fidget toys. I have a new baby brother coming. Do you get any presents? You deserve it.
Love, Aaliyah

Dear Santa, This year I was nice because I helpd my mommy clean her room and with the dishes this year I'd like pop its and a jar of slime I need Raman noodles. Why do you have a lang beard?
Love, Allison

Dear Santa, I have den nis. I hpe you are doing wel. I hop you get around the world safely. I wud like a Batman figure and I also would lik an RC Car. I ned to have a gret Chismas and you hav one to.
Love, Damicio

Dear Santa, Hi Santa, I've been nice because I've cleaned my room many times. I helped my mom when she was sick and even when she wasn't. I want a hoverboard and I want Airpods this year. I need a pack of water to drink it all. Why are you so fat? Why do you have a beard? Why do you like milk?
Love, Destinee



Dear Santa, Hi, my name is Landon. This year I hope for two feet of snow and presents under the tree. This year for chrismas I would like a radio and a mini pop it backpack gel pens all of the diary of a wimpy kid books and to be with family merry chrismas Santa
Sincerely landon,

Dear Santa My name is Lucas. Espinoza how is it in the north pole I bet it is chilly I wonder how much elf's do you have I think you have 100 of them. What I would like for Christmas sponge bob shoes and sponge bob stuff and a hoverboard and a skate bord.
Sincerely Lucas.

Dear Santa, Have a happy Christmas and stay warm I would like a nice happy Christmas with snow. I would like a new Blanket.
Be safe! Toni.

Dear Santa, Before I start this letter I just wanna say Merry Christmas to everyone in the San luis valley. All I want for Christmas is for all of the families in the San luis valley to be together on christmas. Also for all of the families in San luis to have a safe christmas.
Sincerely, Lyric.A

Dear santa, Hope you and the grinch are getting along. Make sure you give Rudoff a bath. But I will ask for a couple of stuff. Well first I would like to get a pack of Tech decks. And a mini fridge and probly a pack of captain under pants books. And a couple more stuff Called a portable DVD player and a baby Yoda funko pop and one more thing can I get Japanese can dy. But thank you for reading all this you should be expecting me at the mall.
Talk to you next year From Esperanza

Dear Santa I hope you have a good year and travel safely around the world well this year I save money by selling cookies I raised 36 dollars so I can buy a gift at Walmart and put it in the box that says 'give a gift ' so what you do is you buy a gift and put it in a box and Santa takes it to kids that don't have a home or a family so they can get a present to well I want for this Christmas I want a good Christmas all day.
Your friend Anisa

Center

Mrs. Carla Vigil - First Grade
Dear Santa, How are you doing? I have been a good girl this year. Can you please bring me a chewawa and a picture of Ava Max . I will leave you cookies and milk.
Love, Ava Blu Gonzalez

Dear Santa, How are you doing ? I have been good this year. Can you please bring me xbox and a teddy bear.
Love, Yuriel Garcia

Dear Santa, How are you doing ? I have been good girl this this year. Can you please bring me pupl and a phone
Love, Arianna Perez

Dear Santa, How are you doing ? I have miky car and finger pig bank
Love, Emiliano Sanchez

Dear Santa, How are you doing ? I have been good this year. Can you please bring me car and and a guitarra
Love, Julian Dominguez

Dear Santa, How are you doing ? I have been good this year. Can you please bring me stuffed animal and a rale puppy
Love, Zaylii Little

Dear Santa, How are you doing ? I have been good boythis year. Can you please bring me phone and a wallit
Love, Tate Gylling

Dear Santa, How are you doing ? I have been good this year. Can you please bring me phone and a getor
Love, Lexani Rios

Dear Santa, How are you doing ? I have been glad this year. Can you please bring me phone and a puse
Love, Alicia Cendejas

Dear Santa, How are you doing ? I have been good Girl this year. Can you please bring me ball basket and a phone
Love, Daleyza Ornelas

Dear Santa, How are you doing ? I have been good girl this year. Can you please bring me ril unakorn and ril makup
Love, Emma Lynn Najera

Dear Santa, How are you doing ? I have been good this year. Can you please bring me phone and a purse
Love, Yaretzi Rios

Soon It Will Be Christmas Day

As we count the days until Christmas, we are moved to count the many blessings this year has brought us. Our hearts are filled with gratitude for the fellowship and support of our good friends, neighbors and customers here in the San Luis Valley.

Merry Christmas

May your holiday season and the coming year be rich in happiness, health and good fortune. Merry Christmas to you and yours!

Valley Publishing 719-852-3531
835 First Ave. • Monte Vista

Dear Santa Claus

Krista Gjellum - Second Grade

Dear Santa,
My name is Chetti. I play basketball at Alamosa Rec Center. This Christmas I would like a white Christmas. I would also like an American Girl Doll School. I also like a new iPad. I would like a happy Christmas. I would like my sister to get a red dress.

Thank you. Love, Chetti

Dear Santa,
My name is Alina. For Christmas I want fidgets, slime and a new blanket. For my sister, Sonya, some baby toys and for Yariisa, nails, and for my mom, I want her to get more sleep. Please tell the elves I said hi.

Love, Alina

Dear Santa,
My name is Jentrie. I help people. This Christmas I would like a LOL and an OMG because I would like a collection. My sister really wants COCO Melon stuff. Thank you!

Love, Jentrie

Dear Santa,
My name is Leylany. All I want for Christmas is an American Girl Doll, ice cream truck, an iPad, and a cat. Can you bring my cousin a unicorn stuffed animal and fidgets? Thank you, Santa.

Love, Leylany

Dear Santa,
Hi, my name is Jayden and I live in Center. I am 8 years old and I like to play video games, play outside, and read. I love to read! So anyways I would like a new toy Nerf gun and a 3D puzzle. I want my sisters to get the clothes they want. Thank you, Santa and tell the elves I said hi and Mrs. Claus.

Love, Jayden

Dear Santa,
This Christmas I want fidgets and a new basketball. I also want cross earrings that are wiggly and a winter coat with fur on the hood. Can you please get my dog dog toys and a bed.

Love, Elijah

Dear Santa,
I would like a marker maker, a mini fridge, sketchbook stuff, and Shopkins. Could you get my sister a Barbie, please and thank you.

Love, Kyerra

Dear Santa,
My name is Kaithlyn. For Christmas I want everybody to have a good Christmas. What I want for Christmas is Mini Brands. I also want everybody to get along. I also want a scooter. Merry Christmas Santa and Miss G.

Love, Kaithlyn

Dear Santa,
My name is Taisley but my family calls me Tais. I would like a Magic Workshop (it helps you learn math), a hamster, and a play pet. Can you help my Popop to have a great Christmas in heaven and for every dog and cat on the street to get food and an elf so an elf can take care of them.

Love, Taisley

Mrs. Mikeljack - Second Grade

Dear Santa,
Hi! To begin, I want a 84mph RC car because my cousin has a RC car and I love it. Next, I want my mom to have another kid and for it to be a boy because I want a brother. Last, I want a new phone because my phone won't work and I hope Mrs. Mikeljack comes to New Hope Ministeries in Walsenburg because my uncle is the pastor there. Oh, and I have been really nice this year.

Love, Daniel V

Dear Santa,
Hi! This year I rily would like a OMG dolls and shoes and LOL home because they are cool. Finally, I wish that my mom gets a new car. I have a question for you. Are the elves kids or just workers and how good is it up there?

Love, Kenzy G.

Dear Santa,
Hi! How are you Santa? How is the North Pole, Santa? I wish that this year is a little fridge because I can put my makeup and face masks in there. I am also hoping to get some new clothes because I need some for winter. Finally, I wish that my mom gets a new phone because hers broke. I hope you eat all the cookies in the world and hoping to see you Santa. I have been both naughty and nice because I was mean to my mom and I helped Mrs. Mikeljack.

Love, Ryann B.

Dear Santa,
Hi! How many elves do you have? How do the raindeers fly? Santa, I really hope I get new clothes because some of my clothes don't fit me. I also hope I get a stuffed animal so I can sleep with it. Finally, I wish my mom can get a new car because if it breaks she can get a new one for Christmas. I hope you can eat my cookies and milk in a cup. My wish for Santa is that he can get to homes safe!! I have been nice because I listen to my family. I was naughty when I slapped my 12 year old sister. Sorry Santa.

Love, Genesis M.

Dear Santa,
Hi! I have a question for you. How are you doing this year? I have another question for you. How dus your randear fly? I really want some popits for Christmas because it makes a loud noise. I am also hoping to get shoos because I need tenny shoos. For my mom I want a ifone because my mom broke her fone. I've been nice and naughty.

Love, Ivy C.

Dear Santa,
Hi! Happy Christmas! I want to tell you what I want for Christmas. I want an amongus popit that is big and a basketball and that is it. I no that I bin naughty and I am sorry for being naughty. I will try not to be naughty. I am sorry.

Love, Santiago R.

Dear Santa,
Hi! Santa, I have a question for you. How do you drive your slae? How do your rendeers glide? The first thing I want is games for my Ntendo in case there is no wifi I have a game to play. The next thing I want for Christmas is shoes to wear. The third thing I want is for my family is clothes for them to wear. I hope your trip of all the states is good. I have been nice and naughty because I help people and a little naughty because I yell at my family.

Love, Jayden A.

Dear Santa,
Hi! Santa, how are you? I only want two things. A real phone. Second, and a phone case because I love them and I can text my sister on snap chat. For my cousin Breel I want OMG dolls because she likes them. I have been naughty and nice. I help Kylie with her homework and she has been getting lots of good grades. Get a lot of cookies.

Love, Corinne R.

Dear Santa,
Mary Christmas! My question is how do your rayndirs fly? Santa, this year I really would like a camera because I love taking fodouse. I am also hoping to get clothes because clothes are really cute. Finally, I wish that my family comes to see us like when my uncle is coming. I hope you do not get caught. I have been both nice and naughty because I got really mad and I have been nice by helping people.

Love, Valentina M.

Dear Santa,
Hello! I am wondering how many elfs do you have? So Santa, I hope I get a lpad with a pen. And I also want a skate bord. And can you get Hannah a new figure doll? Any kind because she collekts them. And I hope you can find my house because I have been both naughty and nice and I don't know why.

Love, Kylie

Dear Santa,
Ho, ho, ho, ho! This year what I really would like is my grandma because I love her. I am also hoping to get me anothr iphone and a new cat.

Love, Evonne G.

Dear Santa,
I want my mom and an lpad. I have a question. Are you the dad of the elfs? I am also hoping to get an lpad and mommy. Finally, I wish that my momy will get mony. I wish for Santa to get tons of cookis. I have been nice.

Love, Nicole G.

Miss Massey - Second Grade
Dear Santa,
How are the reindeers? So for this Christmas I wold like an apple watch because my brother has the airpods but don't worry I want one of the ones that has games on it. Next I want some American doll accessories one more thing I want that my mom and Dad bont have work. And have a mery Christmas.

Love, Islai

Dear Santa,
How are the reindeer doing? I want a Nintendo Switch to play pirates. I want a iPhone to play minecraft. I want a Xbox for Kevin because his dog passed away. Merry Christmas!

Love, Pablo

Dear Santa,
What is your favorite thing to do on Christmas? I want a Rc car F450 because it is fun to play with and I can drive it into the snow. I want a flip phone because my other phone doesn't work. I want a jersey shirt for Elijah because it will make him happy. Merry Christmas, Santa! Hopefully you can give me all things.

Love, Zahid



Dear Santa,
Do you have a dog? First, I want Fidgets because I've Never had Fidgets. I want a Bakugo hoodie. I love when he does his motions. I want another cat for my other cat is lonely. I love the presence!

Love, Leticia

Dear Santa,
For Christmas I would like RoBucks I wat Robucks to bay clothes. Next I want 5 LOLs because they're fun to play with. Last I want a phone for my brother so he can call my mom. Happy Christmas.

Love, Liliana

Dear Santa,
What is your favorite color? I would like fidgets because they are fun to play with. I want IPhone because I can watch Tictok. I want for Ariadne a Nintendo Switch because she is nice. Have a great Christmas!

Love, Alyssa

Dear Santa,
How are the reinders doing? I want 15 fidgets. I want fidgets Becus they or Fun to Play with. I want a roller dord Becus thay or Fun to ride. I want a iPad For Ximena to text. I lov you.

Love, Yaritzell

Dear Santa,
How do the elves make toys? For Christmas, I would like fidgets because they are fun to play with. I would also like Robucks because I can buy pets and clothes. The last thing is cars. They are for my brother so He can play with then and That's all I want. I am 8 years old I have been bad and good This year.

Love, Ariana

Dear Santa,
How are you doing? I want a Hover Board so I can ride it. Next I want a TaBlet so I can use it. I wish my grandma feel good. Merry Christmas!

Love from, Daniela

Dear Santa,
How do you make toys. For Christmas I would Like Fidget toys. I would lik Fidets because they are fun to play with. I also want Robucks to buy pets and clothes. I want a iPad for Yaritzell. And I want a Robucks for Alyssa. Have a merry Christmas

Love, Ximena

Dear Santa,
How are the reindeer? For Christmas I want fidgets. They are fun to play with. I want an ipad to play game's. I want an ornament for my mom so she can hang it on the Christmas tree.

Love, Ariadne

Dear Santa,
What is your favorite cookie? I want a Nintendo Switch and a bacheball. I want Zahid toget a Hoodie for Christmas. I hope you have a Good day.

Love, Austin

Haskins Elementary - Miscellaneous

Dear Santa
My Name is Rosa. I am 4 years old. I have been very nice this year. Some of the things I did were playing with my sister and ate burrito y huevito with ketchup. My Christmas wish list is. Bike , Knee pads and safety kit for bike, roller skates and leaves to decorate my window

Love Rosa

Wishing you and your family a wonderful Christmas

The greatest gifts are the people who bring warmth to our hearts and smiles to our faces. Thank you for brightening our days with your visits. We hope the holiday season and the coming year deliver all of the wonderful things you deserve and more. Best wishes from our home to yours!

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It's time to celebrate! With gratitude, we wish you a very happy holiday.

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Dear Santa Claus

Dear Santa
Hello! My name is April and I am 9 years old. I live in center Colorado I have been very good this year and I have been thinking of what I would like for Christmas.

1. 2 giraffe stuff animals
2. giraffe cup
3. real baby giraffe.

I am very excited for your visit and will leave out snacks for you and your reindeer.

Love April

Dear Santa
Hello! My name is Arely and I am 9 years old. I live in center Colorado I have been very good this year and I have been thinking of what I would like for Christmas.

1. New snow boots
2. a cheetah cup
3. real baby bunny

I am very excited for your visit and will leave out snacks for you and your reindeer.

Love Arely

Creede

Mr. Jason Hinds - First Grade
Dear Santa,
Ples can you get and can you poot the scwishy spider man.

From, Hezekiah

Dear Santa,
I lev sum cookies and milk for you to et. And can I hav lol dols and mrmade dolls.

From, Jacey

Dear Santa,
I wot a beg popet. Haw or you? Haw or your elfs. I wot a pupu. Asow I wot a toy for my baby brudr. He wots a tabet and I wel gev you milk and cookies.

From, Anaya

Dear Santa,
I wot a puppy wut is good and playflol and ceot.

From, Daniel

Dear Santa,
I wot a elf. I wil lev cookiees and milk and I whot a bat and I whot a bran tiklr.

From, Esaias

Dear Santa,
I am gunu get milk and cookies for u elf. I wot a gine pig. Mere krismis and fr yr elf.

From, Anna

Dear Santa,
Can I ples hav roluskas and a popit and lol dols I wont a scrishe and a ifone IO I am going to lev you cookies and milk.

From, Elisha

Dear Santa,
Haw are you I will mak cookies for you Can I have a shrt and a popit and a puppy and a bran tiklr.

Frum, Leroy

Dear Santa,
How or you dooen. I mis you can I hav a noo dol hows with dols. I em go to giv you cookies en milk.

Love, Ava

Dear Santa,
I will leav some cookies and milk for you may I have a naw pare of rooler scates pleas

From, Emily

Dear Santa,
I love you how was your elf and I wot a big popit and I wot a labgnee for my mom and my sissy and ps5

From, Damian

Dear Santa,
How are yr elfs and reindeer I would like a makup set and skish melo and can i hav cloz.

From, Adonia

Dear Santa,
Can I have the game where you get the stuff out of the human's body. And the game where you have a hook and the fish spin around and they go up and down and they open their mouth and then you need to try to get the hook in their mouth and pull them out. I wanted Hot Wheels. And Mini Brands Toys.

From, Brantley



Ms. Stephanie Hester - First Grade

Dear Santa,
I want a presint for my mom and dad. I want to see you Santa. How are you dooeng. I'm l on the note (naughty) list. I'm l on the nis (nice) list. I want to flote (float). I want mor moosh sqooshi.

Love, Josie

Dear Santa,
I wont hot weels. I wont to see you. I wont to see rootof (Rudolph). I wont to flot (float). I wont a chrampul (trampoline). I want a foor weelr (4 wheeler). I wont a drt bike.

Love, Creede

Dear Santa,
I like you and I want Freddy Faz Bear. All the parts! I want a stuffed Freddy Faz Bear.

Love, Axel

Dear Santa,
I wont A santa hat liyce (like) yours.

Love, Clay

Dear Santa,
I wont Hotweels. I wont Freetee Fasbir (Freddy Fasbear). I wont stift Fatdee (a stuffed Freddy). I wont all of the Fedee Faz birs.

Love, Ryker

Dear Santa,
I love you Santa. I wunt gum. I wunt a dollhos (dollhouse). I wunt a dog. I want a hug from you. I wunt a pichr (picture) from you.

Love, Tatum

Dear Santa,
I'd love a tropical vacation!

Love, Ms. Hester

Ms. Tammy Haynie's - Third Grade

Dear Santa,
I have been a good boy this year. I would like new nerf guns and new fidgets, new four wheeler, swish melloes, all dogman books, got to Gaylord Rockies resort. I would love the gifts and have a good Christmas.

Love, Blain Haynie

Dear Santa,
This is Jensen and I am writing what I what for Christmas. I want a lot of things I think that's to much to write but, here are the six implant things I want for Christmas. 1. My Family to be safe I. My mommy to give more snuggley thons 3. Have more time play with Celia. 4. To make sure that Celia gets what she what's for Christmas! 5. Hatchimal 6. Barbie house. That's what I want for Christas! That might be a lot but, of all of those. Here are the two thing's that I really most. A Hatchamall and to make sure Celis gets what she whats for Christmas!

Love, Jensen Albright

Dear Santa,
I hope you do not mind but, I want some things. I hope I'm on the good list. I want a cat realy bad. I want a stuffed animal cat as well. Do you mind one more thing, one little bucket of slime. I dream of you every Christmas night. Thanks you for all the presents you have gave me every Chritmas. You are very nice to pack mileaons of toys for boy's and girl's. I would love a stuffed animal unicorn toy. If you can please send me a pet cat.

Love, Anna Brouwer.

Dear Santa,
I think I have been good this year. For Christmas I want a Descendas dolls. And a hover board. Will you make me an elv.

Sincerely Ruby Michaels

Dare Santa
I want to know if I have been good this year? I know I got slime stuck in Jaxon's hair got it the carpet twise. The first time it realy my fault guess it kind was my fault I didn't have any thing to put it in so I tried to improvise. The second time I thought it was going to leak through the floorboard crak and get on the couch! Anyways let's get to what I want for Christmas, I know you have to give millions of kids in the world presents, but what I want the most is plane ticket to Missouri, so I can see my grandma I call her Gage but her real name is Susi and I want to see my cousin Jenna. I have't seen them is a vary long time and I want to see them more then anything. That is what I want for Christams.

Sincerely... Delilah Powell

Dear, Santa
I want for Christmas is rc car or the rc dragon, bey blades to of bakugon.

From Ayden Hargreaves

Dear, Santa
I would like a Nintenbo swich please and thank you for everything you are great. Can I have some roblox toys please all of the pictures of the stuff I wunt and a little bit uf the stuff from you and I love you santa you are the best and I will make the best milk and the best cookies and the reindeer git carrots I thank you so much for everything I got last year that lago set with 1,600 pieces it was the darth vaders castle. I hope you come through the fire.

From Porter Maki

Dear Santa,
I want to get for Christmas is a now hoverboard and now skateboard and popits and a lot of candy canes and what of powers do I have? I mean Elf Powers and I hope to see Juliet this Christmas

From Stella

Dear Santa,
Thank you for last years presents. Wut I want for Christmas is a Hoverboard and a American girl doll that has dyed hair please.

Love Presley Maki

Sincerely, Presley Maki

Del Norte

Mrs. Dahle - First Grade

Dear Santa,
I want a RC car. The car is a corvette. The color is red. The RC car is a convertible. I would also like Lego Minecraft characters.

Love, Damian

Dear Santa,
I was good this year. I put sodas in the fridge for grandma. This year I want a mermaid fin so when I go to Hooper I can swim with my tail.

Love, Aria

Dear Santa,
I've been helpful because of the elf on the shelf. I've been making pictures for my family for Christmas. This year for Christmas I want to be perfect. That's what I want for Christmas.

Love, Abigail

Dear Santa,
This Christmas I want a doll house that actually shrinks you down with Pandy Paws and shrink down ears. I also want a phone.

Love, Lilly

Dear Santa,
I've been good. I want a remote control car. I want an Xbox because I accidentally broke my brothers. I also want a phone and a black tablet.

Love, Mikael

Dear Santa,
I want a PS5 and GTA and also Minecraft. Then I want Fortnite and V bucks. I also want golden Nikes, a golden shirt, golden pants, and a golden chain.

Your friend, Reyes

Dear Santa,
This year I have been good. Santa, how are the reindeer and your elves? I want a Tomagotchi and a phone.

Love, Timberlynn

Dear Santa,
I will leave cookies for you and the reindeer. I want some gloves, nice lotion and a phone. I want a hoverboard for Christmas too. I also want ice skates.

Love, Alivia

Dear Santa,
I have been a good boy this year. For Christmas I want a drone and ski poles. My tree is nice. Merry Christmas Santa!

Love, Wiley

Dear Santa,
I have been good. I would really want a hoverboard for Christmas, but I also want to see you at the Polar Express. I also want a tablet and a new water bottle.

Love, Charlie

Dear Santa,
This year I want a Minecraft Lego set because I did some of my homework. I will leave three cookies and milk. I want a Lego Minecraft RC car and two million Lego Minecraft characters with a warm sweater. I also want Jordans and an iPhone 13.

Love, Tylor

The Full MERRY



Hope this Christmas delivers joy, harmony, friendship, love, prosperity and everything else on your wish list. Your deserve it all!

Thanks to all of the goodhearted folks who have made our year so jolly. We wouldn't be here without your support, and we appreciate your trust in us.

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Dear Santa Claus

Kids Connection

Dear Santa
How is the reindeer
I helped my uncle clean his bed
for christmas v buck mac book pro
ps5 pokememon cards

Love ozzy

Dear Santa
I want make up a iphone and
some airpods and and a puppy I
already have 7 puppies. My name
is Lilly Baum Gardenr.

Love Lilly Have a great Christmas
Santa.

Dear Santa
Lol air pods and lpads I want lol
make up and a dog toy.

Thank you Dorothy

Dear Santa
All I want for Christmas is 4
things which are a hover board.
Second thing is shoes that last but
least is clothes and ear pods.

Thanks Josie

Dear Santa
I wat a puppy. Also a tablet for
my baby brother. How are you?
How are your reindeer.

Anaya

Dear Santa
How are you ? I whaould like a
lol ih playgoud. The last thing I
want is Barbebe Droom hous.

Thank you Teagyn

Dear Santa
I don't want that much for
christmas all I want is 4
things earpad iphone 12
a new pokemon. Last but
not least blade blades
that's all.

Thank you Renito Jr. Casas

Dear Santa
Santa What
i want violin
pigs I want to
go the north
pole.

How are
the reindeer
Merry
Christmas

Quinn

Dear Santa
Airpods also can I have a baby
stuffed ring, necklace. Can I have a
lpad dirary and makeup.

Thanks Elisha

Dear Santa
How are you how are reindeer.
I want a hover board and sum v
bucks.

Foeidon

Dear Santa,
My name is Neriah, I want
Makeup, Lollipops, Unicorn
Coloring book, Unicorn water
bottle, Ice Cream from DQ, and
barbies.

Neriah B.

Manassa

Mr. Valentine - Second Grade

Dear Santa,
These are the things I want for
Christmas. I want a HoverBoard,
a new Xbox, a phone, AC cars,
a laptop and a new Tablet. Merry
Christmas, Santa.

Love, Noah Garcia

Dear Santa,
I have been good this year. I want
an Apple Watch, Iphone 13, and a
MacBook Pro.

Love, Jarrell Espinoza

Dear Santa,
I have been good, how have you
been? I would like a Magic Mixie,
a phone, and a reindeer if you can
please. The elves are funny!

Love, Aaliyah McGinnis

Dear Santa,
Santa, How have you and your
reindeer been this year? I want
a pedal cart, a Magic Mixie, a big
fish tank with a big fish, and a
Laptop.

Love, Jett Smith

Dear Santa,
Hi Santa, how are you and Mrs.
Claus? I want a Tablet, Laptop and
phone.

Love, Dre Janis

Dear Santa,
Hello, how have you been? Merry
Christmas! I only want Aqua
Dragons, HoverBoard, snowball
maker, and this is all. How are
your reindeer?

Love, Brock Smith

Dear Santa,
How are you and Mrs. Claus?
Anyway, I want a turtle, a phone,
new clothes and a puppy.

Love, Madilynn Creery

Dear Santa,
I was good this year. I want a
Dirt Bike, Pokemon cards, a cat
and puppy. How are you and Mrs.
Santa?

Love, Jesse Martinez

Dear Santa,
How are you and Mrs. claus?
This year for Christmas I want
a new bike, candy, and a new
comforter. Thank you for the gifts.
I will leave cookies and milk out.

Love, Alexis Garcia

Dear Santa,
Merry Christmas! Thank you for
the elf pet. For Christmas I want
a Puppy, cookie maker, pop-it
and books. Markers, a cookbook,
a new ornament, candy cane, a
MacBook, a little tree, a plant, a
bow and a puzzle.

Love, Zaniyah Sandoval

Dear Santa,
Merry Christmas! How have
you been this year? I want
a Hot Wheels set, a bike, a
remote control diesel train
with cars and an oil car,
and a Nintendo switch.

Love, Drew Johnson

Dear Santa,
Merry christmas!
How are you
and Mrs.
Claus? I want
a HoverBoard,
Magic Mixie,
nd a
phone for
Christmas please!

Love, Nakona Gilleland

Dear Santa,
I want a phone, HoverBoard,
Laptop, a Santa hat, a toy dog, a
cat and a baby doll.

Love, Layla Lopez

Dear Santa,
The things I want are a pocket
knife, black and red shirt, Dirt
Bike, hand sanitizer, a Hover
Board and a phone.

Love, Hayden Bagwell

Dear Santa,
How are you and Rudolph? Tell
Rudolph I said Hi. I want a chair
that hangs from the ceiling and a
Nintendo Switch that is red and
blue.

Love, Kaydence Salazar

Dear Santa,
I have been very good this year.
What are you doing? I want a Dirt
Bike, clothes, and a pair of shoes.

Love, Josiah Ortiz

Dear Santa,
Merry Christmas. How are you
and Mrs. Claus? My list is a Pop
It, a Magic Mixie, and a phone.

Love, Shaelyn Martinez

Dear Santa,
Merry Christmas, how are you
your elves, and your reindeer?
What I want for Christmas is a
crystal growing kit and a Magic
Mixie.

Love, Hadlei Jarvies

Mrs. Cormier - Second Grade
Dear Santa,
Merry Christmas. I have been a
good girl this year. This year for
Christmas I would like a house so
my mom and I can live somewhere
better and a phone please.

Love, Keira Rodriguez Quintana

Dear Santa,
Merry Christmas, Ho, ho, ho. How
was your day? Our elf Krispy is
good. I have been good. We love our
elf. He's really nice. I would like a
PS4 and a Nintendo Switch light.

Love, Carter Garrison

Dear Santa,
Thank you so much for my gun
last year. Merry Christmas. This
year I would like an AirSoft
Gun that is a rifle, a smart
watch and an Airsoft Gun
that is a pistol.

Love, Tyson Cary

Dear Santa,
I have been a good
boy. I want an

Among Us set, a
soccer ball, a marble
set with marbles. Also
the Swedish flag.

Love, Dayton Shawcroft

Dear Santa,
Merry Christmas. Ho,
ho, ho. I want a PS5
and give Grandma a
new car please and
sister a new phone.

Love, Andrique Gurule

Dear Santa,
How are you and
Mrs. Claus doing
today? I want a new
phone and Picachu
toys.

Love, Michael Chavez

Dear Santa,
Merry Christmas. Are you
having a good time? I want
a Drone. I want a black and
orange motorcycle.

Love, Jack Sowards

Dear Santa,
Merry Christmas. This year I
would like an iPhone 13. I have
been a good boy.

Love, Brennen Gallegos

Dear Santa,
I hope you are going to have a
great Christmas this year. This
year I would like Harry Potter
foys, a real horse, and an Iphone
charger. Thank you, Ho, ho, ho

Love, Sydney Sowards

Dear Santa,
Merry Christmas, Ho, ho, ho.
How is Mrs. Claus? I would like a
dirt bike that is a 60, clothes, and
some candy.

Love, Brakell Dunn

Dear Santa,
Can I have a bike and a TV? I
have been a good boy this year.

Love, Kody Casias
Dear Santa,
I will get some cookies for you.
How is Rudolf doing? I want a
HoverBoard and a dog. I was a
good girl.

Love, Eliza Bagwell

Dear Santa,
Is there a lot of snow in the North
Pole? Can I have a new dirt bike,
Pokemon cards, hats, and a new
helmet?

Love, Adrian Vigil

Dear Santa,
I have been a good girl. This year
may I have a blanket, and a stuffed
animal. Can I have a new set of
headphones and toys?

Love, Rachel Montoya

Dear Santa,
How are you? Merry Christmas.
I have been good. I think for
Christman I would like a Bendy
Hoodie and Spiderman Miles
Morales and if you can find my
dog Bruno and a Bendy Ax.

Love, Luciano Sandoval

Dear Santa,
Hi, thank you for the presents
last year. Merry Christmas Santa.
I miss you. I would like some Lego
Sets.

Love, Nayalise Meek

Dear Santa,
Merry Christmas! This year I
would like an Ipad. All the flags of
the world with a stand for all of
the flags.

Love, Trevor Bagwell

Marsh

Ms. Kim and Ms. Tammy - AM Preschool Class

Dear Santa Claus,
Thank you for giving me a remote
car.

Love you, Amadeus

Dear Santa Claus,
Can you bring me presents. I
share with my Juliette. Thank
you for my present.

Love, AJ

Dear Santa Claus,
I would like toy
brands.

Thank you, Andrew
Dear Santa Claus,
I would like a camera and
some clothes.

Love you, Arianna

Dear Santa Claus,
I would like a motorcycle
toy, and an egg and a
bike.

Thank you, Cain

Dear Santa Claus, I
love you. I like when you
bring me presents.

Love you, Emmie

Dear Santa Claus,
How is the North Pole.
I would like a watch.

Love you, Ezekiel

Dear Santa Claus,
I want a remote control
tractor with a trailer.

Love you, Grant

Dear Santa Claus,
I want a JoJo doll.

Love you, Harmony

Dear Santa Claus,
I want a dart blaster, Army &
Captain America cars, and a
Spidey Spider Web blaster that
can spray.

Thank you, Kael

Dear Santa Claus,
Can I please get some toys.

Love you, Mark

Dear Santa Claus,
Thank you for everything I
ask for, for Christmas. Can
I have a Marshall's Red
Fire Truck.

Love, Ricky

Dear Santa Claus,
I would like a fast,
red car. Because red
ones are fast. I
want a squishy
thing.

Love, T J

Dear Santa
Claus,
Can I have
a Construction
Leggo set that has 3,000 pieces.
I would like a new Leggo backpack
please.

Love you, Tristan.

Ms. Kim and Ms. Tammy - PM Preschool Class

Dear Santa Claus,
Can you bring me a turkey for
Christmas, and some toys like we
have at school.

Love, Alex

Dear Santa Claus,
Can I please have a Paw Patrol
Toy.

Love, Camilo

Dear Santa Claus,
Can you please bring me a top
toy.

Love, Courtney

Dear Santa Claus,
Can you bring an Elmo stuffy that
you can sleep with for my sister
and can I have a doll.

Love, Haddie

Dear Santa Claus,
Can I have a real mermaid tail so
I can swim in water. I would like
some colors.

Love you, Janetzi



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Thanks for making 2021 so much fun for us. We look forward to taking care of you in the New Year. Happy Holidays & Best Wishes!



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We thank you for making us feel so welcome and supported at the holidays and all year, and we wish you a blessed and beautiful Christmas season.
At the holidays and all year, it's the enduring friendships we share here that make life especially enjoyable.

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Dear Santa Claus



Dear Santa,
I wot a beg popet. Haw or you?
Haw or your elfs. I wot a pupe.
Asow I wot a toy for my baby
brudr. He wots a tabet and
I wel gev you milk and
cookies.

From, Anaya
Dear Santa,
I wot a puppy wut is
good and playflol and
ceot.

From, Daniel
Dear Santa,
I wot a elf. I wil lev
cookies and milk and
I whot a bat and I whot
a bran tiklr.

From, Esaias
Dear Santa,
I am gunu get milk and
cookies for u elf. I wot a gine pig.
Mere krismis and fr yr elf.

From, Anna
Dear Santa,
Can I ples hav roluskas and a
popit and lol dols I wont a scrishe
and a ifone IO I am going to lev
you cookies and milk.

From, Elisha
Dear Santa,
Haw are you I will mak cookies
for you Can I have a shrt and a
popit and a puppy and a bran tiklr.

From, Leroy
Dear Santa,
How or you dooen. I mis you can
I hav a noo dol hows with dols. I
em go to giv you cookies en milk.

Love, Ava
Dear Santa,
I will leav some cookies and milk
for you may I have a naw pare of
rooler scates pleas

From, Emily
Dear Santa,
I love you how was your elf and I
wot a big popit and I wot a labgneee
for my mom and my sissy and ps5

From, Damian
Dear Santa,
How are yr elfs and reindeer I
would like a makup set and skish
melo and can i hav cloz.

From, Adonia
Dear Santa,
Can I have the game where you
get the stuff out of the human's
body. And the game where you have
a hook and the fish spin around
and they go up and down and they
open their mouth and then you need
to try to get the hook in their mouth
and pull them out. I wanted Hot
Wheels. And Mini Brands Toys.

From, Brantley
Mrs. Heidi Stevenson - First Grade
Dear Santa,
How are you! I ma very good!
How is are elve buby! Can I have
sum mor slime and a babey bol!
I will giv you and the rage coocoe
and sum mic!

Your friend, Addisyn Martinez
Dear Satna,
How is it going dwon chimdees. I
am big fan. I want toy Titanic and
a toy blac prl.

Your friend, Rowan Tirrell
Dear Santa Claus,
I hafe bin rilee good. Will you
please get me a cat and a lpad.
Thank you?

Your friend, Leslye Hernandez
Dear Santa,
How are the elves? I wud like a
scabbard. I wud like a LOL. I wud like
a yo-yo. I will leve cucez and mlick.

Your friend, Tahlya Soto
Dear Santa,
You aer so goud at a present
I wot a squishy anb a stretch
armstrong and chines snax.

Your friend, Faith Bousquet
Dear Santa,
I want a PS3 and call of duty
black ops. Thank you santa. And
GTA sanreas.

Dear Santa,
How is Mrsis cloc? I loved the
er dri cla last heer! I wuld love a rc
atv and a rc monster car.

Your friend, Theo Hurst
Dear Santa,
For Krismus I wot a tablit and a
babee yoda. I will leev you charee
cukees.

Your friend, Sonny Ochoa
Dear Sata,
I wpnt a robot 4welr. Arbot dog
and a gostbtbers toy.

Your friend, Preston Lee
Dear Santa,
I want a toy Lol. I wit a nu jacket.
I wot a no slippr. I was vare goood.

Your friend, Jazmine Marquez
Dear Santa,
How are you are you taking
kar uv the raedear? I wot a pet
rabbit. And I raile wot a rnth!

Can you help me with persnits
and love?
Your friend, Sarah Schoonover
Mrs. Kirsten Whitmer - First Grade

Dear Santa,
I like Crismis Santa. Would
you ples get me a present. I
wont a nurfgun ples and remote
cunchrole?

Love, Julian Felix
Dear Santa,
How have you bin? Santa I love
you best. For crismis can I ples
have roller skayts?

Love, Jace Marquez
Dear Santa,
Santa how are you? How cold is
it whare you are? Santa you are
so nise. I wont for Crismis a big
LOL howse. Mare Crismis!

Love, Gaia Miranda
Dear Santa,
How are you? Do you like
cookies? I do. Can I ples have a
hoverboard? I would like a yoyo
also? I hav been good this year.

Your frend, Abel Ayaka Elizondo
Dear Santa,
How is Misis Cloc? How is your
ranedeer? Could I ples have a
skatebord, snobord, and a reemote
cunchrole car?

Luv, Ollie Hurst
Dear Santa,
How is misis cloc and you? Can
I ples have a rubrband airplane?
And a little car to drive in? Can it
be white with a blue raseing stripes
down it? And red flames down
the sides. Could I get a reemote
control car that is a shark? Also
a drone and a dinasor that wolks
and roars when you press a butun.

Love, Landon Romero
Dear Santa,
What do you like to do? Do you like
to play with kids? Dear Santa I wont
a LOL ples and a LOL house. Can I
get a umarican girl doll?

Love, Diana Cereceres
Dear Santa,
How r you? How r the elfs?
Can you ples get me a noo toy?
Can I get a barbee huows?

Love, Avah Samora
Dear Santa,
How are the randere? How are
the elfs? Can I ples hav a dog?

Love, Natalia Wahler
Dear Santa,
Huow are the randrs? Huow is
Ms. Clas.

Love, Ella
Ms. Sara - First Grade
Dea Santa,
For Crismis I wont a toy car and
a curling set and a lamboe.

Love, Joshua
Dear Santa,
I wood like my baby bruthr back
home for Christmas.

Love, Kaysein
Dear Santa,
Wut I want for Crismis is a huvr
bord.
Love Madison
Dear Santa,
I would like a LOL dol. I would like
a BrBe. I would like a BaBe Yodu.
Love, Arianna
Dear Santa,
I would like a colreing set a
drawing set and a chiefs football.
Love, Jayce
Dear Santa,
For Xmis, I would like a toy I
phone 12. Olsoe a toy fish and a
toy baby yoda.
Love, Gilbert

Dear Santa Claus,
Can I please have a pencil for
Christmas. Can I have a Chase
Paw Patrol.

Love, Justin

Dear Santa Claus,
Can you please bring me a toy.

Love you, Luis

Dear Santa Claus,
Can I please have toys.

Love, Karsynn

Dear Santa Claus,
I love my grandma and brother. I
want a panda bear please. I like my
dogs.

Love, Nila

Dear Santa Claus,
Can you bring me a baby doll please.

Love, Nayeli

Ms. Fae - Kindergarten

I wul to tepee Ber.
(I want a teddy bear.)

Jude

I wot a machik kat.
lwata bowl.
(I want a magic cat. I want a ball.)

Emmett

I wot a toy bog!
(I want a toy dog!)

Emery

Can I get a footbal foor
christmas.
(Can I get a football for
Christmas?)

Lukas

bys
(I want a bike.)

Marcos

I wat..a toy dol.
(I want a toy doll.)

Teresa

W aet pk ban.
(I want a toy.)

Aven

Ms. Monica - Kindergarten

I wot noo damat.
(I want new pajamas.)

Levi

letetl lat tos tnxb.
(I want GDA5 on XBox.)

Hezekiah

I wot a ted brrr pre.
(I want a teddy bear please.)

Alek

\$ w vdat dczs. 4sbinxx.
(I want money and Nintendos and
SBox and Fornight.)

Ace

I ziazilin
(I want a hoverboard.)

Eliaz

I BAG a Btlhe th to ii!
(I want a Rapunzel.)

Jackalynn

I wot a cot.
(I want a robot named Appa.)

Julian

Ms. Casias - Kindergarten

I wan u t b.
I want a teddy bear.

Eathan

I wish of aur Vr anainte no sich.
(I wish for a VR and a Nintendo
Switch.)

Samson

I wo atrn s.
(I want a teddy bear.)

Andrew

Is not gob win brye B B mkrt.
(I want a dog with a bone remote,
a Mickey Guitar, and a Bluey
Balcony.)

Izaiah

I wot a sibr.
(I want a skateboard.)

Noah

I wota Lololol and umugis sufe
bog suf.
(I want an LOL doll and Among
Us stuffie, and a dog stuffie.)

Dorothy

I want for Chims a sogo. Anb I
want a pet.
(I want for Christmas a
snowglobe and I want a pet.)

Madeline

I wot a bog adn a macup rabo ee
rabn.
(I want a dog, and make up, and
a dress.)

Neriah

I wot teb bet.
(I want a teddy bear.)

Addyson

I wunt a snobe globe.
(I want a snowglobe.)

Adeline

I wot a reo cat.
(I want a real cat.)

Benny

Ms. Lopez - Kindergarten

I want brown clothes, shoes, a
cap and a unicorn hat.

Denisse

U got mbm s mex mp o cnan.
(I want a Santa Derby.)

Brantley

I wot a BRB wo fis i woshm.
(I want a Barbie Fizz because I
can wash the Barbie.)

Rilee

I wont sn ma knak.
(I want some make up.)

Jayleen

I wot a tent e thoinm.
(I want a teddy bear.)

Talon

I wo tea bdr di.
(I want a Barbie.)

Arabella

I wot a bed and flex vehle.
(I want a bend and flex vehicle
pack.)

Leon

I wot a vilin.
(I want a violin.)

Quinn

I wont a tede der.
(I want a teddy bear.)

Leo

I w s seb!
(I want a story bot.)

Camden

Mr. Jason Hinds - First Grade
Dear Santa,
Ples can you get and can you
poot the scwishy spider man.

From, Hezekiah

Dear Santa,
I lev sum cookies and milk for you
to et. And can I hav lol dols and
mrmade dolls.

From, Jacey



We're just peeking in to say,
Hope you have a great holiday.
May it be happy, healthy and bright,
Making each day a sheer delight.
We're sharing words of gratitude too,
For we wouldn't be here without all of you!

Thanks and best wishes to all of
our fine customers and friends!

Valley Publishing
719-852-3531
835 First Ave. - Monte Vista

Dear Santa Claus

Dear Santa,
For Xmas I would like a color set with paper and I love you and your the best.
Love, Audysse
Dear Santa,
For Cerismis I would like a Chytuset and a cat set and a Tiger set.
Love, Trinity
Dear Santa,
For cismas I would like a pop it.
Love, Nathaniel

Moffat

Ms. Linda Vigil - Third Grade
Dear Santa,
How have you been this year? I hope that you are doing good with Mrs. Claus. I have been good. And I've been trying to be good. And now time for what I want.
Can I have a phone case, and also a computer. Please, thanks and you will get cookies wow!

From, Elyjah

Dear Santa,
How are you? I want any kitten, you pick. I'm so excited to have one. I'm a good girl. I cant wait for the kitten I want. I'm excited for it. You're the best Santa. Merry Christmas Santa.

Your friend, Sofia

Dear Santa,
I can't wait for you. I welcome you. I will leave you a cookie and milk. I have been a good girl all year. I would like a magic cube and a squishy snowman and a Kangaroo Rat. Write back soon!

Your friend, Hayla

Dear Santa,
How are you and Ms. Claus? Do you have any pets besides the reindeer? I have been doing well. I've been a good child, though sometimes I'm bad.

I would like lots of art stuff. (paint, pencils, colored pens, and a white pen, also notebooks and sketchbooks) And I'd love cat toys for my cat.

A good child, Lillian
Dear Santa,
Do you put Christmas decorations up? And how do you get around the world in one night? I think I have been a good child.

I would like a "got to go flamingo" for

my little brother and a stuffed panda wrapped in a mini burrito blanket.

Love, Raina
Dear Santa,
I hope Rudolph has been well. I will leave extra carats for him. Also I moved to a new house. I tried to be my best, but it has been a hard year though. All I want is a pack of Pokémon cards and maybe a pet Quokka. I hope you enjoy my house. You are welcome to play on my xbox. You should play Ark Survival evolved.

Your friend, Connor

Dear Santa,
How is your year going? I want a new video game for Christmas on the PSS 4. I hope you have a good time delivering presents of children. Bye bye Santa.

Love, Marcus

Sanford

Preschool

Dear Santa,
My name is Luke and I'm 5 years old. I've been very good this year so for Christmas, I would love: a blue remote control car lots of race cars in a luggage. My favorite reindeer is Cupid. I've left out some carrot cookies as treats for you and the reindeers. Merry Christmas!

Love, Luke

Dear Santa,
My name is Josiah and I'm 4 years old. I've been very good this year so for Christmas, I would love: lots of toys cool clothes My favorite reindeer is Blitzen. I've left out some cookies and milk as treats for you and the reindeers. Merry Christmas!

Love, Josiah

Dear Santa,
My name is Karter and I'm 5 years old. I've been very good this year so for Christmas, I would love: a Yoshi bed a Yoshi blanket My favorite reindeer is Rudolph. I've left out some candy canes and cookies and milk as treats for you and the reindeers. Merry Christmas!

Love, Karter

Dear Santa,
My name is Mickiael and I'm 5 years old. I've been very good this year so for Christmas, I would love: a shark toy a toy reindeer My favorite reindeer is Rudolph. I've left out some cookies and milk as treats for you and the reindeers. Merry Christmas!

Love, Mickiael

Dear Santa,
My name is McKenna and I am 5 years old. I've been very good this year so for Christmas, I would love: a swing different toys My favorite reindeer is Vixen. I've left some carrots and spinach as treats for you and the reindeers. Merry Christmas!

Love, McKenna

Dear Santa,
My name is Jeremy and I'm 4 years old. I've been very good this year so for Christmas, I would love: a monster truck a baby shark My favorite reindeer is Dasher. I've left out some ice cream as treats for you and the reindeers. Merry Christmas!

Love, Jeremy

Dear Santa,
My name is Francisco and I'm 5 years old. I've been very good this year so for Christmas, I would love: a play gun and race cars My favorite reindeer is Rudolph. I've left out some cookies and milk as treats for you and the reindeers. Merry Christmas!

Love, Francisco

Dear Santa,
My name is Wyatt and I'm 5 years old. I've been very good this year so for Christmas, I would love: a new hat that makes me fly! My favorite reindeer is Cupid. I've left out some popcorn as a treat for you and the reindeers. Merry Christmas!

Love, Wyatt

Dear Santa,
My name is Chanel and I'm 4 years old. I've been very good this year so for Christmas, I would love: a Barbie camper a Barbie dream house My favorite reindeer is Dasher. I've left out some carrots and cookies as treats for you and the reindeers. Merry Christmas!

Love, Chanel

Dear Santa,
My name is Shealynn and I'm 5 years old. I've been very good this year so for Christmas, I would love: a remote control dolly a special notebook that I can draw in My favorite reindeer is Rudolph. I've left out some cookies and milk as treats for you and the reindeers. Merry Christmas!

Love, Shealynn

Dear Santa,
My name is Zane and I'm 5 years old. I've been very good this year so for Christmas, I would love: a right sized motorcycle a black car that looks like my mommy's My favorite reindeer is Prancer. I've left out some carrots and Goldfish crackers as treats for you and the reindeers. Merry Christmas!

Love, Zane

Dear Santa,
My name is Jayven and I'm 5 years old. I've been very good this year so for Christmas, I would love: Boosketball And a dinosaur puzzle My favorite reindeer is Rudolph. I've left out some cookies and milk as treats for you and the reindeers. Merry Christmas!

Love, Jayven

Dear Santa,
My name is Elisandro and I'm 5 years old. I've been very good this year so for Christmas, I would love: stickers that are shaped like a house a RC Excavator that moves like a real one My favorite reindeer is Rudolph. I've left out some cookies and milk as treats for you and the reindeers. Merry Christmas!

Love, Elisandro

Dear Santa,
My name is Khiaya and I'm 5 years old. I've been very good this year so for Christmas, I would love: balloons candy in socks My favorite reindeer is Dasher. I've left out some cookies as treats for you and the reindeers. Merry Christmas!

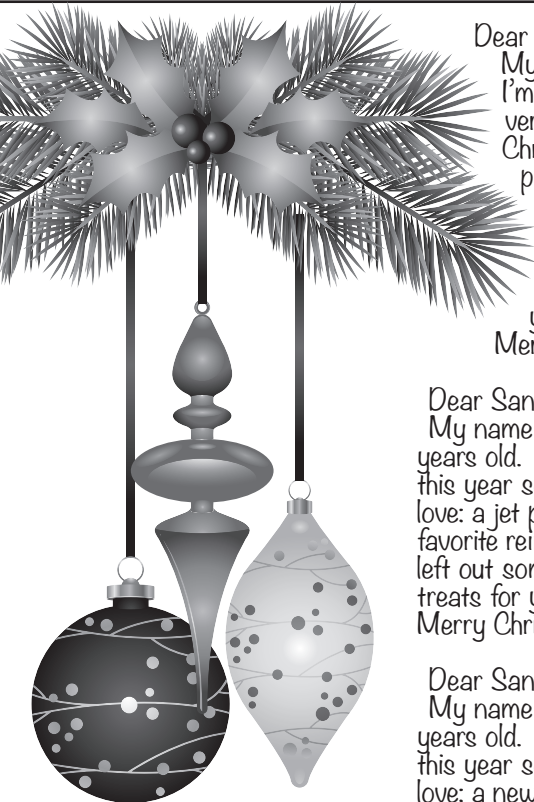
Love, Khiaya

Dear Santa,
My name is Arianna and I'm 5 years old. I've been very good this year so for Christmas, I would love: a Ninja backpack Elsa toys My favorite reindeer is Rudolph. I've left out some carrots, cookies and milk as treats for you and the reindeers. Merry Christmas!

Love, Arianna

Dear Santa,
My name is Oakley and I'm 5 years old. I've been very good this year so for Christmas, I would love: a gymnastic bar Barbie doll My favorite reindeer is Rudolph. I've left out some cookies and milk as treats for you and the reindeers. Merry Christmas!

Love, Oakley



Dear Santa,
My name is Samuel and I'm 3 years old. I've been very good this year so for Christmas, I would love: Blue underwear Blue bike My favorite reindeer is Rudolph. I've left out some cookies as treats for you and the reindeers. Merry Christmas!

Love, Samuel

Dear Santa,
My name is Bentley and I'm 4 years old. I've been very good this year so for Christmas, I would love a dollie. My favorite reindeer is Prancer. I've left out some cookies and milk as treats for you and the reindeers. Merry Christmas!

Love, Bentley

Dear Santa,
My name is Paxton and I'm 4 years old. I've been very good this year so for Christmas, I would love: a race track that goes around in circles My favorite reindeer is Rudolph. I've left out some carrots as treats for you and the reindeers. Merry Christmas!

Love, Paxton

Dear Santa,
My name is Knoxley and I'm 4 years old. I've been very good this year so for Christmas, I would love: a pink bike helmet a toy unicorn My favorite reindeer is Rudolph. I've left out some cookies as treats for you and the reindeers. Merry Christmas!

Love, Knoxley

Dear Santa,
My name is Logan and I'm 3 years old. I've been very good this year so for Christmas, I would love: a jet pack toy trucks My favorite reindeer is Rudolph. I've left out some chocolate cake as treats for you and the reindeers. Merry Christmas!

Love, Logan

Dear Santa,
My name is Jayvin and I'm 5 years old. I've been very good this year so for Christmas, I would love: a new basketball new socks My favorite reindeer is Rudolph. I've left out some French fries as treats for you and the reindeers. Merry Christmas!

Love, Jayvin

Dear Santa,
My name is Jude and I'm 4 years old. I've been very good this year so for Christmas, I would love: a submarine a big jet with a airplane My favorite reindeer is Rudolph. I've left out some Christmas treats as treats for you and the reindeers. Merry Christmas!

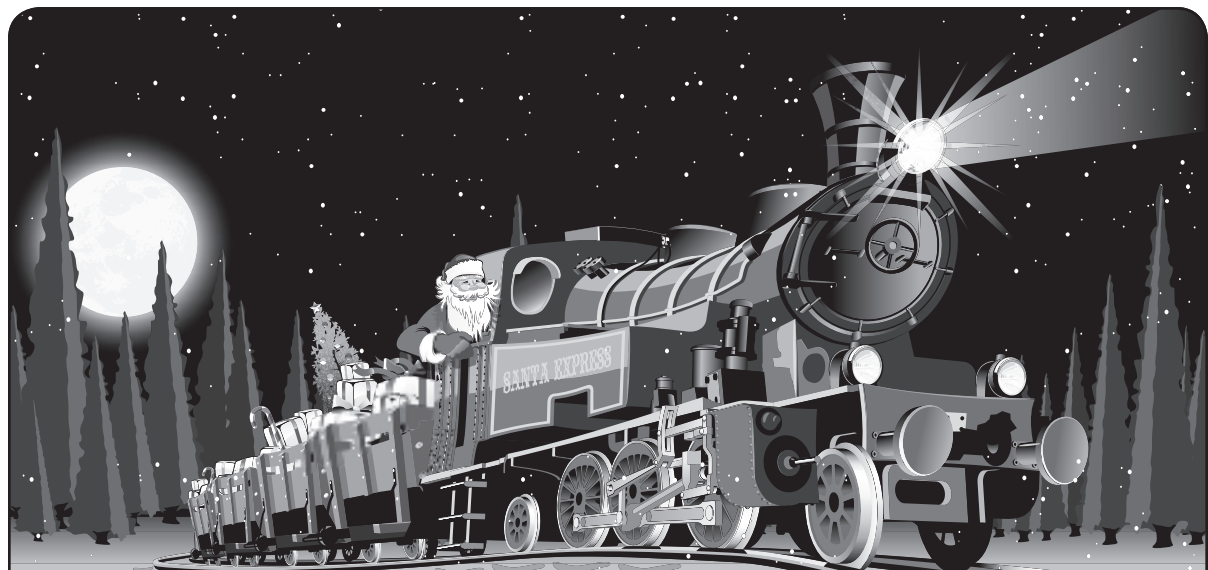
Love, Jude

Dear Santa,
My name is Brix and I'm 5 years old. I've been very good this year so for Christmas, I would love: big race car big race track My favorite reindeer is Rudolph. I've left out some Christmas cookies as treats for you and the reindeers. Merry Christmas!

Love, Brix

Dear Santa,
My name is Lilee and I'm 4 years old. I've been very good this year so for Christmas, I would love: a pink bike purple and pink horse My favorite reindeer is Rudolph. I've left out some cookies and milk as treats for you and the reindeers. Merry Christmas!

Love, Lilee



Our Express Wishes for a Wonderful Holiday Season

Another Christmas is coming around the bend, so we'd like to slow down and share our thanks and best wishes with our valued customers and friends. This past year has brought many bumps in the road for all of us, but it has also made us especially grateful for the friends, family and loved ones who make every day precious. We're grateful to customers like you for staying on board with us through the steep challenges of 2020. We couldn't keep on track without the loyal support of this community and all of the fine folks who make it so special.

As we approach a new year, we hope it brings health, happiness, peace, love and good fortune to you and everyone you hold dear. Please accept our sincere best wishes for a very merry Christmas and a healthy, happy holiday season!

Valley Publishing

719-852-3531
235 First Ave. • Monte Vista

Dear Santa Claus



Dear Santa,
My name is Lydia and I'm 5 years old. I've been very good this year so for Christmas, I would love: a flying fairy a flash light My favorite reindeer is Rudolph. I've left out some cookies, milk, cheese, and breadsticks as treats for you and the reindeers. Merry Christmas!

Love, Lydia

Dear Santa,
My name is McKynlee and I'm 4 years old. I've been very good this year so for Christmas, I would love a big doll house and a pink bike. My favorite reindeer is Rudolph. I've left out some cookies as treats for you and the reindeers. Merry Christmas!

Love, McKynnlee

Dear Santa,
My name is Max and I'm 5 years old. I've been very good this year so for Christmas, I would love a Monster Jam hauler that say Bones Shaker. My favorite reindeer is Rudolph. I've left out some cookies as treats for you and the reindeers. Merry Christmas!

Love, Max

Mrs. Kami Crowther's - Kindergarten

Dear Santa,
I have been very good this year! For Christmas I would like a sand box with a cover. Tell Rudolph "Hi" for me.

Love, Bristol Baker

Dear Santa,
I have been very good this year! For Christmas I would like a pink car. I will leave cookies and milk for you!

Love, Alayah Bond

Dear Santa,
I have been very good this year! For Christmas I would like a dirt bike. Is there snow at the North Pole?

Love, Harlee Breeding

Dear Santa,
I have been very good this year! For Christmas I would like a camping set. Is Mrs. Clause baking cookies for Christmas?

Love, Cooper Crowther

Dear Santa,
I have been very good this year! For Christmas I would like a puppy. Tell Rudolph "Hi" for me!

Love, Braylee Crowther

Dear Santa,
I have been very good this year! For Christmas I would like a drone. I will leave cookies and milk for you!

Love, Braxton King

Dear Santa,
I have been very good this year! For Christmas I would like hay and a big barn. Are the elves busy making toys?

Love, Clayden Larsen

Dear Santa,
I have been very good this year! For Christmas I would like a dirt bike. Tell Rudolph "Hi" for me!

Love, Austin Metzger-Agin

Dear Santa,
I have been very good this year! For Christmas I would like a rainbow colored squishy ball. Is it cold at the North Pole?

Love, Brianna Morales

Dear Santa,
I have been very good this year! For Christmas I would like a puppy. I will leave cookies for you!

Love, Bryndal Reynolds

Dear Santa,
I have been very good this year! For Christmas I would like a pop-it, fidget spinner and a Switch game. Tell Rudolph "Hi" for me!

Love, Adam Shepherd

Dear Santa,
I have been very good this year! For Christmas I would like a squishy ball. Is Mrs. Claus baking cookies for Christmas?

Love, Ty Willet

Mrs. Jackson - Kindergarten

Dear Santa,
This year I would like a hoverboard. Thank you for all the gifts you gave me last year.

Love, Ally Romero

Dear Santa,
I would love rollerblades and a bike this year. How is Rudolph doing? Thank you for my gifts from last year.

Love, Brynley Caldon

Dear Santa,
I want a Bowzer toy from Mario Brothers that I can move his arms and legs. Thank you.

Love, Jared Corcoran

Dear Santa,
I would like lego skeletons, a skeleton building and a haunted house. And one robux please. And a remote controlled car. Thank you.

Love, Harken Linares

Dear Santa,
May I please get a toy light saber? And I want an Avenger set. That's all. Thank you.

Love, Drexton Walters

Dear Santa,
I want a skateboard. I also want a Mini Mouse kitchen. I hope you have a great Christmas!

Love, Casidee Crowther

Dear Santa,
I really want a talking Bluey plushy and I also want a Lankybox plushy, Boxy, Foxy, Rocky and I want glow in the dark plushies of Lankybox. I would also like a Lankybox onsie and costume. I want a Lankybox tablet case, too. Thank you for all the gifts from last year.

Love, Ramon Marquez

Dear Santa,
I want a phone to play video games on. I would also like some money. I hope you are doing good this year.

Love, Luke Vannoy

Dear Santa,
I want a toy gun please. Thank you for the gifts you gave me last year. I hope you had a good vacation.

Love, Stockton Caldon

Mrs. Miller - First Grade

Dear Santa,
How are you? How is Mrs. Claus? Thank you for all my presents last year. Will you please bring me a V bucks card and a drone. I work super hard at school. I take out the trash and keep my room clean. I have been really good.

Love, Carter

Dear Santa,
How are the elves at the North Pole? Thank you for all my presents last year. This year can you bring me a camera, a bracelet and necklace and accessories. I have tried to be good. I listen to my mom and dad. I clean my room and make my bed. I love you!

Love, Rylie

Dear Santa,
How are the reindeer? How are the elves? Thank you for all my presents last year. Will you please bring me a shark tank, a monster truck set, and an orca set this year? I have been very good. I help my mom and dad at home. Thank you!

Your friend, Thomas

Dear Santa,
How are the elves? I bet they are working hard on the presents and toys. How is Ms. Claus? Thank you for all my presents last year. This year can you please bring me a drone and an electric scooter. I help my mom and dad with my younger siblings and I always use good manners. I'm excited for Christmas! Thank you.

Your friend, Love Jared

Dear Santa,
How are the reindeer? Thank you for all my presents last year. Now I would like a bike and mini remote control cars. I have been extra good. I helped my mom, was kind, cleaned my room, got up when she asked, and helped take care of my sister's rabbit. I'm excited for Christmas this year.

Your friend, Seth

Dear Santa,
How are the reindeer? Thanks for all my presents last year. This year will you please bring me a hoverboard and a roping dummy? Thank you Santa! I have been super good this year. I help my baby brother. I wake up easily for my mom. I am a good student. I can't wait to see you.

Love, Houston

Dear Santa,
How are you? Are you ready for Christmas? Thank you for all my presents last year. For Christmas will you please bring me a barbie house, remote control boat, and a Gatorade bottle. I've been really good this year. I let my brother sleep in my room cause he's scared. I help my mom and dad when they need help. I've been a really good student. I can't wait for Christmas.

Love, Harper

Dear Santa,
Have you been super busy? Thank you for all my gifts last year. Will you please bring me an iPhone 11 this year? I have helped clean the kitchen and my room. I have been a good listener. I am so excited for Christmas.

Love, Donavon

Dear Santa,
How is Rudolph? I want to see you. I tried to be good. I've done my chores, cleaned up after our dog, helped my mom, helped my dad haul cows, and I played with my cousins. Thank you for every thing last year. Can you please give me a hoverboard, gift card and PlayDo set. I love you. Thank you.

Your Pal, Jaxen

Dear Santa,
How are the elves? How is Mrs. Claus? Thank you for all my presents last year. Will you please bring me a microphone and chapter books? I have been so good this year. When mom tells me to brush my teeth, I do. I help my dad and mom go shopping. I love you, Santa.

Love, Cassidy

Dear Santa,
How are the elves? How is Mrs. Claus? Can you bring me a Miko Robot this year? Thank you for my gifts last year. This year I helped wash the dishes and clean the room. I am excited!

Your friends, Helam

Dear Santa,
How are the reindeer? How is Mrs. Claus? Thank you for all my presents last year. This year I would like a big remote-control car, and a pot of flowers. I have been really good this year. I helped my mom do dishes picked up my toys, fed my pets, and did the laundry. I'm excited for Christmas!

Love, Taela

Dear Santa,
How is Mrs. Claus? How are the elves? Thank you for all my presents last year. This year I want an iPod, slime, and a sweater. I have been good this year. I am a good student. I can't wait for Christmas.

Love, Layla

Dear Santa,
How are the elves? How are the reindeer? Thank you for all my presents last year. I have been really good this year. I ate all my food. I helped my mom and dad. I was patient with my sister and I helped my grandma. Will you please bring me pens, a night light, and a sketch book this year. You're the best!

Love, Ava

Dear Santa,
How are the reindeer? Thank you for all my presents last year. Will you please bring me a princess book, a music player, and slime. I have been so good this year. I play with my sisters and help them. I hope to see you soon.

Love, Makenzie

Dear Santa,
How are the reindeer? Thank you for all my presents last year. I have been really good this year. I took care of the dogs. I listened to my mom. Will you please bring me a toy monkey, chapter books and Lol Doll this year? I love you!

Love, Arianna

Dear Santa,
How are you? How is Mrs. Claus? Thank you for all my things last year. This year I've been nice to my baby sister. I've taken care of my pets and put my laundry away. I shared things at school and made sure my brother was okay if he got hurt. Will you please bring me a RC snowmobile? I can't wait to see you!

Your friend, Daxton

Dear Santa,
How is the North Pole? How are you? Thank you for all my presents last year. Will you please bring me a pocketknife and a new remote control car. I have been very good. I do my chores. I feed my pets. Thank you Santa!

Your Pal, Hudson

Dear Santa,
How are you? What is your favorite kind of cookie? Thank you for all my presents last year. I have been good this year. I've broken up fights and helped my mom make food. Can you bring me a dirt bike, a fast car, and a BB Gun. Thank you.

Love, Riggin

Miss Culler - First Grade

Dear Santa,
How are the elves? Thank you for the basketball hoop. I have been good this year. I helped do the chickens and I do the dishes. I want a hoverboard, a soccer goal, and a pet dog. See you soon.

Love, Sean

Dear Santa,
How are you and Mrs. Claus? I have been good this year. I have been keeping my room clean, help wash the dishes, and coming inside when asked. I would like a dirt bike, a hoverboard, and a nerf gun.

Love, Keon

Dear Santa,
I hope you and Mrs. Claus are happy. Thank you for the tent. I have been doing schoolwork and I help my baby brother. What I want for Christmas is an airsoft gun, go cart, and a six-inch dagger.

Love, Briggs

Dear Santa,
How are you? How is Mrs. Claus? I have been good this year. Thank you for the camera. I have been good because I listen to my mom and dad. I help do chores and I don't fight with my siblings. I would like some fidget toys.

Love, Aylah

Dear Santa,
How are Rudolf and the other reindeer? I have been good this year. Thank you for the camera! I have been good because I clean up dinner, help my brothers with their room. I clean my room and help my mom. I want a makeup kit.

Love, Hadley

Dear Santa,
How are Rudolf and the other reindeer? Thank you for the truck. I have been good this year. I help get fire word. I help my room by myself. What I want for Christmas is a Dodge Ram 3500 with a living quarter trailer. Thank you!

Love, Conner

Dear Santa,
How are the elves? I have been good this year. Thank you for the spiderman toy last year. I have let the dogs out. Will you please bring me the Pokémon game pearl and the Pokémon game diamond and the Pokémon game shield. Pls.

Love, Van

Dear Santa,
I have been trying to be good. Thank you for the airplane. I have been caring about my family. I share my toys and I pay attention in school. Will you please bring me a phone, a motorized car, and teacups. Have a safe trip.

Love, Noelle

Warmest Wishes

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Dear Santa Claus

Dear Santa,
How are you and Mrs. Claus? I have been good this year. I watch my brother, clean my room, feed my dog and cat, and be nice. I want a battle bot arena and box of battle bats.
Love, Bowen

Dear Santa,
How are you and Mrs. Claus? Thank you for the hoverboard! I have been good this year because I help my mom with my baby brother. Can I have a My Little Pony?
Love, Miley

Dear Santa,
How are the elves? I have been trying to be good because I have been nice to my brothers, and I helped my mom paint. For Christmas, I want a science and detective kit. Hope to see you soon.
Love, Easton.

Dear mom,
I love you! Thank you for the robot t-rec. I would like you to get me Jurassic World for Christmas. I have been good this year. I help you and dad. I put away my toys. I love you mom!
Love, Azariah.

Dear Santa,
How do you make toys? Thank you for the toy truck. I have been good this year. I have been good at school. What I want for my present is a hoverboard.
Love, Whit

Dear Santa,
How are you and Mrs. Claus? I have been good this year. Thank you for my presents last year. I have been good because I help my mom do laundry and listen to my parents. I am kind too. This year I would like a Lego friends, and some Polly Pocket sets.
Love, Faith

Dear Santa,
How are you and the elves? I have been good this year. Thank you for the bike. I have been good because I did the dishes. I let the dogs out and I help the kids get up. Will you bring me a bracelet, microphone, and a guitar.
Love, Damion

Dear Santa,
I am excited for Christmas! Can you please make me a virtual reality headset, a .22, and a mini excavator. I have been good this year. I help my mom and dad. I play with my puppy, my sister and my brother. I can't wait!
Love, Kolstin

Dear Santa,
How are the elves? I have been good this year. Thank you for the Beyblades. I have been good by doing my chores, helping grandma and grandpa get wood and helping papa work in his shop. I want a dirt bike for Christmas.
Love, Bentlee

Dear Santa,
How are you and Mrs. Claus doing? I have been trying to be good and I play with my kittens every morning. I play with my big brother. I like to go with my dad to haul cows to La Junta. I would like a pixie flyer that flies up with the wave of your hand and I would also like a thermometer, and a Barbie food truck, and a gymnastic bar, and a little Leatherman. Please don't put me on the naughty list.
Love, Shaedyn

Sargent Mrs. Nicole Rockey - First Grade

Dear Santa,
I want a knife and some candy.
Love, Cason

P.S. I want an Alexa also

Dear Santa and Mrs. Clause,
I love you and my presents I would like a flufuf bean bag. Please say hi to your elves I would like if you came over for a visit.
Love, Quinn

Dear Santa
I would like a game for my PS4 I would like a big jet toy.
Love Waylon

Dear Santa,
I love the gifts you gave me last year! I would love a hap face pop it and a football and a PS5 and a basketball.
Love, Greylen

Dear Santa,
I love the gifts you gave me Last year! This year I would like a dog.
Love, Jose

Dear Santa,
I love the gifts you gave me last year. I want an art kit. I hope your reindeer are ok.
Love, Emerie

Dear Santa,
I love the gifts you gave me last year. I will lick a horse please.
Love, Ayden

Dear Santa,
I love the gifts you gave me last year. I want a light up keyboard.
Love, Cheyenne

Dear Santa,
I want a PS5, an iPhone 12, glow in The dark shoes, heeies, an apple watch, pot its, goat gart, call of Duty, ipos, figits, Nerf guns, case for an iphone 12, gum, computer, bean bag and v-bucks.
Love, Malaki

Dear Santa,
How are the reindeer. Are they being have? I would like a PS5, an Ifoen 13 and a robot. I would also like a cunpetr.
Love, Brycen

Dear Santa,
I would like a squishmellow for Christmas. I would like a desk for my big Chrstnas present.
Love, Kaylynn

Jamie Behil, Third Grade

Dear Santa,
May I please have a Golden Retriever, a lot of books, and a stuffed soft animal. Next, I want a tent to read in, a cozy sleeping bag, and a hat with Santa on it. Third, I want gloves with Santa on them, an elf on the shelf, and a cozy soft light up toy.
Love, Taylor Ackerman

Dear Santa,
I hope you are doing well this year. I want to be with my family for Christmas and other holidays. for Christmas I want an ipod so when I go on trips I want boots and clothes for winter. I want some Christmas stuffed animal's. I want a snowmobile and a slay I want fuzzy pj's so I am warm in bed. I want a blue surfing board so I can serve with my dad. I want to move to Utah with my family so I can see my horse and the other side of my family. I love santa and his reander. Merry christmas.
Love, Mavrik

Dear Santa,
What I really want for Christmas is some American girl dolls, a llama t-shirt, a llama jacket. I also like a llama water bottle, a very cute cookie plushie, some pink cowgirl stuff, a cool slime kit, and lastly, decoration for my room! Also please tell the elves I really love them and thank you for getting Kori and I two kittens!
Merry Christmas, Madelynn

Dear Santa,
I hope you are doing well. What I want for Christmas is a pomeranian puppy and LoL dolls. One more thing I do not want my mom to have any work at all on Christmas. We are going to Las Vegas to see my step Aunt and Uncle and we are going to fly there so I hope I do not throw up. Thank you for the Elf on the shelf and reindeer.
Love, Kaighton Decker

Dear Santa,
Are you doing amazing how are elfs are doing im family is happen to see you i hop you go to my home to see my letter that wood be niss for presente im is paper for me i wood be hape i wood love to see my presente i'm so inside for christmas i want a star ware vtech watch for and star ware fors rudrdand i have been good at school im mom is so proud.
Love, Cody

Dear Santa,
I have been good this Year what I want this Year, is a bean bag, apple watch, razor scooter, baby reindeer, baby reindeer food, baby reindeer bed, baby reindeer diaper and a baby boy chihuahua and that's what I want for Christmas.
Love, Evelyn

Dear Santa,
I hope you are doing good And I thinc the raindreere are fun To ride .how are you dooing and mrs. cluse dooing how was your yer how are the elfs dooing today I want a nerf gun and a nerf punching bag and a aplee watch.
Love, Zane

Dear Santa,
I hope you are doing well. All I really need is you to help every person that is sick or suffering, but I would also want magic to help those people. I kind of want some other things too, for myself! I want watermelon earrings, watermelon watch, chocolate, basketball, and a stuffed animal. I hope you have a Merry Merry Christmas!
Love, Callie

Dear Santa,
This is Brooke Hemmerling and I sent a letter with Snow and Chipy but can I have some more stuff like some Dolphin and horse books. Second, I may have a blue ruler, light blue and glittery. Next sometimes I play teacher with my mom and dad so I can have a clip down chart. Third may I have a horse jeans because I have a horse now and can a I have streamers to put in the horse tail and mane please. Fourth, may I have a stuffed animal, a cute little puppy and may I have a fit bit. Fifth, can I have Claire's stuff like Christmas earrings that have snowmen on them? Sixth, I may have an owl backpack and some more swooshes please and Thank you.
From, Brooke Hemmerling

Dear Santa,
I love Christmas so much because you give us presents. I hope you like the cookies and carrots I put out this year. How is Mrs. Claus doing? Are you going to bring Mrs. Clause this time? I wanted to say thank you for all the stuff. This year I only want 7 things. So see you on Christmas eve. The elf on the shelf is not moving. I hope he is ok. But are you bringing all nine reindeer this year? My mom is sending my letter in the mailbox. Please help my mom get better. I really do not like it when she is sick. Please let my friend have a sleepover. How are the elfs doing? There will be a note on the plate of cookies and carrots.

I think it is time to say what I want. Number one a new toy phone. Number two makeup. Number three a really big popit. I do not want a lot though because my mom, dad, and grandma do not have a lot of money this year.

But anyhow I just want to have a good Christmas. But can the elf move.

I can not wait to see what's in my stocking on Christmas morning. I hope that you are not sick. Tell Mrs. Claus, thank you for making Santa big and healthy.

On Christmas morning I want to see a lot of presents. I am not trying to be bossy. But I just want to be surprised. Love you Santa Claus and thank you for all the new stuff.
Love, Kayla Loman

Dear Santa,
The First thing I want for Christmas is a pet lizard and my brother to be healthy and strong and smart. The second thing I want is a ripstick. The third thing I want is an elf on the shelf. The fourth thing I want is Lucky Luke's books. The last thing I want is a new football.
Love, Bowen

Dear Santa,
I hope you are doing well. What I want for Christmas is some sour spray because I love sour candy. Coloring stuff like coloring utensils, a coloring ninja packet, and a 3d pen. Ninja water bottle, ninja action figure I do not care what type of ninja it is, ninja shirt, and a ninja course to put in my backyard.
More basketballs, footballs and volleyballs. I want headphones and a watch that can show me how many steps I got because I like seeing if I get more steps than my mom. Can I have some tight, athletic, and silky shirts then athletic pants. Can I have more stuff to make bracelets because I need more rubber bands to make bracelets and I need way more stuff to put the bracelets together.
Love, Julissa

Dear Santa,
I want a VR set of those cool ones that make you feel like you're in the game. I wish for a gray dog that looks like a wolf that looks cool me and I want please. Next I want a robot made for fun so I don't have to play with my sister all the time. I really want this sled that you get to choose the speed and it moves on its own. It's so fun to have that. Last I want my whole family to be there so I can see my little cousin.
Love, Thor

Dear Santa,
I really want the families and kids in need to get some stuff they can use. I also want a bean bag chair. Also a Patrick Mahomes and Lamar Jackson jersey. I would also like to get a gaming set as well. I would also like football gloves. I would also like some pretty cool shoes. I hope the North Pole is in the Christmas spirit. I hope the elves and reindeer are ok. Tell the elves and reindeer and Mrs. Claus said hi. Merry Christmas Santa.
Love, Lane

Dear Santa,
This Christmas I want an apple phone ooh and. I hope you like the letter. I am writing because I want makeup. And a teddy bear that is Purple and more necklaces I also want A nugget and to be with My family and fuzzy pjs. I also lols Merry Christmas Santa.
Love, Kinsley

Dear Santa,
I hope you are doing great. This year for Christmas or next year I want an elf on the shelf. I want a dog, a nerf gun, a rifle that shoots far and 400 darts. And a bow and arrow. And I want a train with a track and it goes fast and its remote control and it has a tunnel, a long tunnel and it blows smoke.
Love, Coy

Dear Santa,
I want a bay max toy whose armor comes off. And a batmobile with the batman whose armor is yellow. A Bat plane, the one that is shaped like a bat. A Bat lego set and a nerf rpg. A nerf minigun. A superman base. A Hagrid's hut. A hp chan and pistachios.
Love, Titus

Mrs. Terri Phillips - Fourth Grade

Dear Santa,
I hope you're doing well today I am I just wanted to let you know what I want for Christmas I only want 2 things because I have a lot of things, and I don't need anymore stuff, but there is 2 things I want it's a made to move doll that's a boy like the ken doll, and the 3d art pen . thank you
Love, Yaris

Dear Santa,
I think I ve been a good girl this year I would like a nintendo 2ds
Love, Olivia



Wishing You Joy & Wonder

Here's hoping the magic of this holiday season brings out the kid in you!

Very Best Wishes to All!

Sargent School

Merry Christmas

Happy New Year

We hope your holiday is jolly in every way. Best wishes, and thanks for your patronage!

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Dear Santa Claus



Dear Santa,
This year I would like to get a gocart and a smartwatch. THANKYOU, you are the best!!!!!! MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!!!!!!!!!!

Averie

Dear Santa,
I hope you and Mrs. Clause are doing good this year. I'm so excited for Christmas this year. This is what I want for Christmas this year. I want a pop-it that is a banana and as strawberry pop-it, bracelet, necklace that has a key on it and a bendable doll. I hope you have a great Christmas.

Love, Z'Anna

Dear Santa,
This year I want a doctor Barbie and Barbie and Chelsea with horses. I also want some rain clothes for my journey girl and acciseres for her too and some boots, slippers, summer clothes and winter clothes. I also want a lego friend's family and a hoverboard.

Sincerely, Brooklynne

Dear Santa,
This year for christmas I want my own baseball bat. And this gift isn't for me but can you give Todd a chew toy so he doesn't chew every thing up. And if you can I want my own tie dye stuff. And I also want a new bike. And some new cloth's and some new pating stuff. And a gocart as well.

Love, Aubree.

Dear Santa
This year I want a new 2 stroke and then a xbox and a ps4 with farm games and two gocart s and a 75 mile rc car and a model plan and a drone

Sincerely, Mason

Dear Santa,
I can't wait for Christmas, and I hope you are too! I know I am, but I know what would make it even better here is a few things I would like for Christmas. First, I would like a robot horse. Second, if you could ask Snowflake to get the right sized breast collar that would be nice. Third, I would like a horse themed surprise. Last, I would like a tamagotchi. Thank you!

Love, Kynzleigh

Dear Santa,
I'm glad you bring joy to the world. your the best person. all I want for Christmas is a hoverboard.

Sincerely, Kaiah

Dear Santa,
I'm not the best kid but I have some things I want, I want a Nintendo Switch that comes with Animal Crossing on it, And I also want to have a VR headset, I also want some LED lights, and a chickin nugget, A frog and an axolotl Squishmellow, An egg pillow, Especially a mushroom poster,

Sincerely, Waylon Cross

Dear Santa,
I want my family to have a good christmas a kiwico set Rc car 8 feet tall

From, Liam

Dear Santa,
This year I have been a good boy. I have been working my hardest in school. so, this year for Christmas this year I want a drum set, a guitar, lego markers and a bow and arrow from Scheels ps....howes mrs. claus and the reindeer say hi to the

Sincerely, Cason Mattive

Dear Santa,
I think I have been a good girl this year. How have you been this year Santa? How have your reindeer been, especially Rotof the ranos reindeer? I was wondering how your elfs are doing? I have been riding horses that is what I have been doing. You are probably making tons of presents right now. This year i would like to get a elf in a shelf and a snow globe with a horse inside. It and I want a lego horse set. To and a brier horse that looks like lardo and wrangler they are my horses. I would like a brier stuffed horse.

Sincerely, Khaleesi

Dear Santa,
What I want for christmas I want a RC car that is three feet tall. And a model toy titanic and a pet squirrel and a three axle remot can troll semy with a trailer And a drone. Marry Christmas Sata

Love, Brand

Dear Santa,
I think I have been good this year. I want a cat and games with cats and candy, books, with chapters.

Yours Truly, Brennan

Sierra Grande

Mrs. Tiffany Paine - Kindergarten

Dear Santa,
I have been very good this year. I helped my mom. I helped my dad. I helped Uriah with his work. I would like Nerf Guns and candy canes for Christmas. I hope you enjoy the cookies and milk!

Love, Roman

Dear Santa,
I have been very good this year. I helped my mom and my grandma. My Christmas wishes are a Mermaid Barbie, a unicorn, and a kitty cat. I hope you enjoy the cookies and milk!

Love, Emma Jo

Dear Santa,
I have been very good this year. I did all my chores and I helped my mother. I would like a unicorn, a playset, and a stuffed animal. I hope you enjoy the cookies and milk!

Love, Annabella

Dear Santa,
I have been very good this year. I was nice to my mom and my dad and my sister. I love my family. I would like a Barbie, a purse set, and a baby lion or cat toy. I hope you enjoy the cookies and milk!

Love, Emma M.

Dear Santa,
I have been very good this year. I shared my toys and I helped my mom. My Christmas wishes are a little truck, a toy Lamborghini, and to spend time with my family. I hope you enjoy the cookies and milk!

Love, Zayne

Dear Santa,
I have been very good this year. I helped my mom put up the tree and I put the dog out. I would like a Bumblebee transformer, a soldier, and a robot for Christmas. I hope you enjoy the cookies and milk!

Love, Andre

Dear Santa,
I have been very good this year. I did my chores and I helped my grandma. My Christmas wishes are a Police Car and some handcuffs. I hope you enjoy the cookies and milk.

Love, Jaaziel

Dear Santa,
I have been very good this year. I did the dishes and I helped my mom. I would like a LOL doll, a Barbie, and a Baby Yoda. I hope you enjoy the milk and cookies!

Love, Delilah

Dear Santa,
I have been very good this year. I helped my grandma and my grandpa. My Christmas wishes are a toy Lamborghini, a Nemo, and a puppy. I hope you enjoy the milk and cookies!

I have been very good this year. I did my homework. I did my chores. I put my clothes away.

I would like a trampoline, a robot dog, and my own tree house. I hope you enjoy the milk and cookies!

Love, Hayden

Dear Santa,
I have been very good this year. I helped my mom and didn't fight with my brothers. I would like a football jersey, a phone, and Ear pods for Christmas. I hope you enjoy the milk and cookies.

Love, Uriah

Dear Santa,
I have been very good this year. I helped my grandma make pumpkin pie. I helped my mom. My Christmas wishes are a Barbie, an LOL doll, and a Pop-it. I hope you enjoy the milk and cookies!

Love, Meiya

Dear Santa,
I have been very good this year. I helped my mom and dad and didn't fight with my sister. I would like a Baby Yoda, a JoJo, and some sea animals. I hope you enjoy the cookies and milk!

Love, Adelina

Dear Santa,
I have been very good this year. I helped with the dishes, I cleaned my room, and I folded my laundry. I would like some hot chips, a present pet, and LOL dolls for Christmas. I hope you enjoy the milk and cookies!

Love, Evelyn

Dear Santa,
I have been very good this year. I helped my dad. I helped my grandma. I helped wash the cat. I would like a Baby Cinderella, a Baby Anna, and one of those things for your feet. I hope you enjoy the cookies and milk!

Love, Odalys

Dear Santa,
I have been very good this year. I helped my mom. I fed my dog. I took care of my little brother. My Christmas wishes are robots, a Transformer, and a Baby Yoda. I hope you enjoy the milk and cookies!

Love, Gerardo

Dear Santa,
I have been very good this year. I helped with the animals and I helped wash dishes. I would like LOL dolls, a Pop the Pig game, and a Fidget toy. I hope you enjoy the milk and cookies!

Love, Claire

Dear Santa,
I have been very good this year. I helped my mom. I helped my nina. I helped my mom clean. I would like a Barbie dream house and a Barbie. I hope you enjoy the cookies and milk.

Love, Evoleht

Dear Santa,
I have been very good this year. I helped my dad with the dishes and I cleaned my room. I would like a Barbie and a new house for Christmas. I hope you enjoy the milk and cookies!

Love, Layla

Dear Santa,
I have been very good this year. I helped my grandma and grandpa. I shared my toys. I would like a Raptor, a T-Rex, and a Scorpius Rex for Christmas. I hope you enjoy the milk and cookies.

Love, Tennyson

Dear Santa,
I have been very good this year. I did the dishes and helped my dad. I want LOL dolls for Christmas. I hope you enjoy the milk and cookies.

Love, Aaliyah

Dear Santa,
I have been very good this year. I cleaned my room, and I helped my sisters do laundry. I want a bracelet with a sword that comes out of it that glows in the dark and some Hot Wheels cars. I hope you enjoy the milk and cookies.

Love, Keilen

Miscellaneous

Open letter to Santa
Dear Santa,
I'm not really shir what I want but please help my mom.

Love, Kayla



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