

Delivering Our Best

“Maybe Christmas,” he thought, “doesn’t come from a store. Maybe Christmas... perhaps...means a little bit more.”
~Dr. Seuss



Little Cleo getting ready for Christmas 2024



A treasured holiday tradition continues in Towns County as the Towns County Herald & West Printing Company present the 2024 Community Christmas Edition

Merry Christmas

We wish you a Blessed Christmas & a Happy New Year overflowing with God's love, guidance & protection!



JACKY JONES  of Hayesville

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Country Cut Away

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from Country Cut Away!



"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."
-Luke 2:14

Come in today! • 706-896-8144

Letters To Santa

Mrs. Victoria Barrett's Kindergarten Class

Dear Santa, my name is Jensen. I am 6 years old. This year, I have been nice. Thank you for the presents you brought me last year! This year, I would really like some Legos for Christmas because I like to build stuff. Something I really need is a new water bot-

tle. On Christmas Eve, I will be sure to leave milk, cookies, and carrots for you and the reindeer!

Love, Jensen

Dear Santa, my name is Lacei. I am 6 years old. This year, I have been nice. Thank you for the presents you brought me last year! This year, I would really like a new Ipad for Christmas because I broke my old one. Something I really need is a sleeping bag. On Christmas Eve, I will be sure to leave milk and cookies for you and the reindeer!

Love, Lacei

Dear Santa, my name is Kayslin. I am 5 years old. This year, I have been nice. Thank you for the presents you brought me last year! This year, I would really like a toy lawnmower for Christmas because I've never had one before. Something I really need is some new pajamas. On Christmas Eve I will be sure to leave a letter for you and the reindeer!

Love, Kayslin

Dear Santa, my name is Lakelan. I am 6 years old. This year, I have been nice. Thank you for the presents you brought me last year! This year, I would really like some Legos and an arcade for Christmas because I don't have that many of those. Something I really need is a new blanket. On Christmas Eve, I will be sure to leave milk, cookies, and carrots for you and the reindeer!

Love, Lakelan

Dear Santa, my name is Ayla. I am 6 years old. This year, I have been nice. Thank you for the presents you brought me last year! This year, I would really like a piano for Christmas because I want to make some music. Something I really need is an umbrella. On Christmas Eve, I will be sure to leave gingerbread cookies for you and the reindeer!

Love, Ayla

Dear Santa, my name is Kansas. I am 5 years old. This year, I have been nice. Thank you for the presents you brought me last year! This year, I would really like a new doll house for Christmas because I like playing dolls. Something I really need is some new clothes. On Christmas Eve, I will be sure to leave a present for you and the reindeer!

Love, Kansas

Dear Santa, my name is Chance. I am 5 years old. This year, I have been nice. Thank you for the presents you brought me last year! This year, I would really like a hoverboard for Christmas because I've never had one before. Something I really need is a new blanket. On Christmas Eve, I will be sure to leave milk and chocolate cookies for you and the reindeer.

Love, Chance

Dear Santa, my name is Elijah. I am 6 years old. This year, I have been nice. Thank you for the presents you brought me last year! This year, I would really like a yo-yo for Christmas because I want to learn how to do it. Something I really need is a hat and gloves. On Christmas Eve, I will be sure to leave milk, cookies, and carrots for you and the reindeer!

Love, Elijah

Dear Santa, my name is Lydia. I am 5 years old. This year, I have been nice. Thank you for the presents you brought me last year! This year, I would really like a Stanley cup for Christmas because they carry a lot of water. Something I really need is some gloves and a new umbrella. On Christmas Eve, I will be sure to leave chocolate milk and cookies for you and the reindeer.

Love, Lydia

Dear Santa, my name is Brooklyn. I am 5 years old. This year, I have been nice. Thank you for the presents you brought me last year! This year, I would really like a little reindeer for Christmas because it looks so cute. Something I really need is a blanket. On Christmas Eve, I will be sure to leave milk and cookies for you and the reindeer!

Love, Brooklyn

Dear Santa, my name is Elias. I am 5 years old. This year, I have been nice. Thank you for the presents you brought me last year! This year, I would really like a new bike for Christmas because I just want one. Something I really need are some new gloves. On Christmas Eve, I will be sure to leave cookies and milk for you and the reindeer!

Love, Elias

Dear Santa, my name is Ranvir. I am 5 years old. This year, I have been nice. Thank you for the presents you brought me last year! This year, I would really like a toy truck for Christmas because I like them. Something I really need is a new blanket. On Christmas Eve, I will be sure to leave chocolate cookies and milk for you and the reindeer!

Love, Ranvir

Dear Santa, my name is Jasper. I am 5 years old. This year, I have been nice. Thank you for the presents you brought me last year! This year, I would really like a hoverboard for Christmas because you can just ride it. Something I really need is a new jacket. On Christmas Eve, I will be sure to leave one of my stuffed animals for you and the reindeer!

Love, Jasper

Dear Santa, my name is Raleigh. I am 6 years old. This year, I have been nice. Thank you for the presents you brought me last year! This year, I would really like an RC for Christmas because my brother broke mine. Something I really need is a new blanket. On Christmas Eve, I will be sure to leave cookies and reindeer food for you and the reindeer!

Love, Raleigh

Dear Santa, my name is Emilia. I am 5 years old. This year, I have been nice. Thank you for the presents you brought me last year! This year, I would really like a Penguin Squishmallow for Christmas because it's so adorable. Something I really need is a new blanket. On Christmas Eve, I will be sure to leave a note for you and the reindeer!

Love, Emilia

Dear Santa, my name is Aiden. I am 5 years old. This year, I have been nice. Thank you for the presents you brought me last year! This year, I would really like an electric scooter for Christmas because I've never had one before. Something I really need is some gloves. On Christmas Eve, I will be sure to leave Oreos for you and the reindeer!

Love, Aiden

Dear Santa, my name is Carson. I am 5 years old. This year, I have been nice. Thank you for the presents you brought me last year! This year, I would really like a lawn mower toy for Christmas because I want to pretend I can cut grass. Something I really need is a new blanket. On Christmas Eve, I will be sure to leave cookies, milk, and carrots for you and the reindeer!

Love, Carson

Dear Santa, my name is Corbin. I am 5 years old. This year, I have been nice. Thank you for the presents you brought me last year! This year, I would really like a nerf gun for Christmas because I would like to use it with targets. Something I really need is football, so I can practice. On Christmas Eve, I will be sure to leave cookies and milk for you and the reindeer!

Love, Corbin



Santa Letters continued on Page 6B

Hootie's Window Tinting, Inc.
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553 Blue Ridge Street
Blairsville GA 30512
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MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR

May the Warmth of the Holidays Be Yours!
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Mike Cushing, Owner • Licensed & Insured
If home is where the heart is, ours is certainly with the people we've had the privilege to serve.
We're proud to be part of this community & wish you all a very Merry Christmas

WISHING You A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY New Year
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MOUNTAIN BUILDING SUPPLY
Have a Merry Christmas!
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Merry Christmas from Sheriff Ken Henderson & Staff

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.
- Isaiah 9:6

With exceeding great joy, we wish you and yours peace, joy and enlightenment throughout this holy season and beyond.
Merry Christmas from the City of Hiawassee

First Miracle

By Gene Vickers

It had been a long week – all weeks are long when a chemo treatment is involved. Marie, my wife of 24 years, had just received her fifth treatment. She had lost all of her beautiful hair and was very nauseous most of the time. She ate very little and drank even less. Pancreatic cancer isn't kind to anyone, and she had been diagnosed as Stage 4.

There's not a good time to have any kind of cancer, but Christmas might be one of the worst seasons for chemo treatments. She had tried to help decorate the house and wanted to use snowmen as the theme for this year. Any effort at all left her exhausted. She had insisted I put up the Nativity scene in the front of our home. It was beautiful and everyone enjoyed riding by at night and seeing the Wise Men, shepherds, sheep and of course, Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus.

It was bedtime and I was exhausted. Marie was already in bed asleep. I cut all of the Christmas lights off, including the spotlight on the Nativity scene. I laid down next to her, gently took her hand and prayed for healing. Many friends at church and family members were also holding her up in prayer, pleading for a miracle.

I was awakened by an unfamiliar sound, rolled over and looked at the clock. It was 3 a.m. Listening, and not hearing the sound again, I turned over to go back to sleep. Then I heard it again. It sounded like a sheep bleating. That couldn't be, because there were no sheep, or any other animals besides dogs and cats in our neighborhood. I heard it a third time and got out of bed to investigate.

I went out on our back deck, listened and didn't hear anything. As I started through the house toward the front door, I saw a light in the vicinity of the Nativity scene. I thought for a second but knew I had turned the spotlight off. Opening the front door and stepping out onto the porch, I had the shock of my life. The figures in the manger scene were approximately 3 to 4 feet tall. The sheep, obviously, smaller still. What I saw was a 6-foot Joseph, smiling and extending his hand in my direction. The three kings and the angel were also turned facing me. I must be losing my mind, I thought. It only got worse from there. Mary stood and took a few steps in my direction. Joseph immediately went to her side to steady her. The baby Jesus was asleep in the manger.

"Go and get Marie," Marie said softly, "and bring her to the manger."

As crazy as this dream seemed to be, I still had some sense of reality and said, "Marie is very sick and can't come outside."

"Go and get Marie," she

said again, not with authority, but with love and concern.

They were all watching me to see what I would do. I knew I was in some kind of dream world or perhaps a nightmare, but turned and went back inside the house. I didn't close the door. I walked into our bedroom but had no intention of waking Marie and introducing her to my dream, nightmare or whatever it was. I heard steps and turned to see Mary walking up to the bed. Marie awakened instantly but didn't seem to see Mary.

"What is it, John?" she asked.

I wasn't sure what was happening, but I knew Mary was standing right next to me, and I also knew that was impossible. Mary, or the representation of Mary, was molded plastic and made to sit by the manger, 3 feet tall at best, not 5-plus feet tall when standing at my side. Marie managed to sit up on the side of the bed.

"What is it, John?" she asked a second time. "Here goes nothing," I said to myself.

"Honey, how would you like to go outside to see the Nativity scene? It's beautiful at night. It's not too chilly and we could take a blanket, cover up and sit in the swing for a few minutes. What do you think?"

"Get my housecoat and help me up. There's a blanket on the couch. It's large enough to cover both of us. Something different might be better than lying in bed all the time." When we turned to head to the front door, Mary was not there. Maybe she was never there – maybe it was a hallucination.

As we slowly started up the hallway toward the front door, I heard the sheep bleating again.

"What was that?" Marie asked.

I felt faint and wasn't sure who was helping who at this point. The light, or glow, was still visible as we approached the doorway. Stepping onto the porch, I heard Marie take a deep breath and falter a little as we took a couple of more steps.

Again, everyone had turned to look at us. Two of the kings bowed at the waist, and the third bowed his head toward Marie. Mary stood and took a few steps from the manger. She smiled at Marie and motioned for her to come to her. Marie smiled back and I felt her trying to take a step toward Mary.

"This isn't happening," I said aloud. Marie squeezed my arm, further blowing my mind. Apparently, I wasn't the only one lost in this delusion, dream, nightmare or whatever it was. Marie seemed at peace with what she was looking at.

Joseph met us at the step and extended his hand to my Marie. Taking his hand, she looked up at me and smiled, and then left me standing on

the step. I followed behind the two of them, like a lost puzzle piece. Joseph, or the replica of Joseph, I wasn't sure at this point, took Marie to Mary. Mary took Marie's hand and helped her to sit down on some hay someone had fashioned into a makeshift seat. Baby Jesus woke up and was looking at his mother and my wife.

"Marie," Mary asked, "would you like to hold my newborn son?" Marie smiled and held out her arms, answering Mary's question with the gesture. Mary picked the baby up and placed Him in Marie's arms. She was all smiles as the baby kicked and squirmed in her lap.

As she cuddled baby Jesus, I became acutely aware of where we both were. My spirit made me aware that we were smack dab in the middle of a miracle in progress. I looked again at my wife. Her hair was growing right before my eyes. My eyes watered and tears ran down my face. Joseph walked over and put his arm around my shoulders. Mary sat and smiled as baby Jesus performed His first miracle, one that wasn't recorded anywhere. I could see the old Marie as strength once again filled her body. I slipped to the ground, offering praise to God for what I knew was a special Christmas gift to us.

A few minutes passed and Mary held out her arms and Marie returned the child to her. "Tell no one what has happened here tonight," Mary told Marie. Hearing what she said, we both nodded and agreed to keeping the secret. Smiling, Marie stood, walked over to where I was kneeling, and helped me to my feet. We both turned and looked at all the characters gathered in our front yard. They all smiled a knowing smile. A sheep bleated again, and I told Marie it was time to go back inside. As we entered the house, we both turned again for a last look. Everything was back to normal. The characters were again small and lifeless. Baby Jesus was back in the manger and his mother was again at His side.

The doctors made a pronouncement no physician could write a prescription for. A miracle had taken place, and they had no explanation. We told them nothing. Later, as Jesus went around performing miracles, He would tell the recipients to tell no one. Marie had told us the same thing. However, when you come face to face with the Son of God, it's hard not to shout and praise His name and tell everyone what He had done for you.

Twenty years have passed and she is still cancer free. We have kept our promise – sort of. My name isn't John and my wife's name isn't Marie, but His name is Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.



Celebrating the Reason for the Season

At Christmas time and always may the Spirit of God's love fill you with joy and contentment. We hope your season is as special as you.

Best Wishes and Sincere Thanks from our Family to Yours



178 Brackett's Way, Suite 9
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Eye exams, contact lenses, eye glasses and treatment of eye diseases available.

We want to wish our community, friends and neighbors a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Catch The Spirit Of The Season!

The Twelve Days of Christmas ... Celebrating the Epiphany



The holiday season is full of faith and celebration. Even though people may believe this important time begins at the start of December, for millions of the Christians, the Twelve Days of Christmas begin with the birth of Baby Jesus on December 25 and continue through the Epiphany on January 6.

The Epiphany, also known as Three Kings Day, is a Christian feast day that "celebrates the revelation of God in His Son as human in Jesus Christ," says The National Shrine of Saint Jude. The Epiphany is celebrated on January 6 each year and gets its name from the Greek word meaning "to reveal, or manifestation," a nod to the idea that this was the day Jesus was revealed to the world.

On the Epiphany, three Magi visited the Christ child to pay homage. These wise men were the first to greet Jesus after his parents. The Magi followed a star to Bethlehem,

having faith that the Child's location would be accurate. The unlikely royal visitors bestowed gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. These herbs are typically used in burial ceremonies, and their offering may have potentially foreshadowed Jesus' destiny.

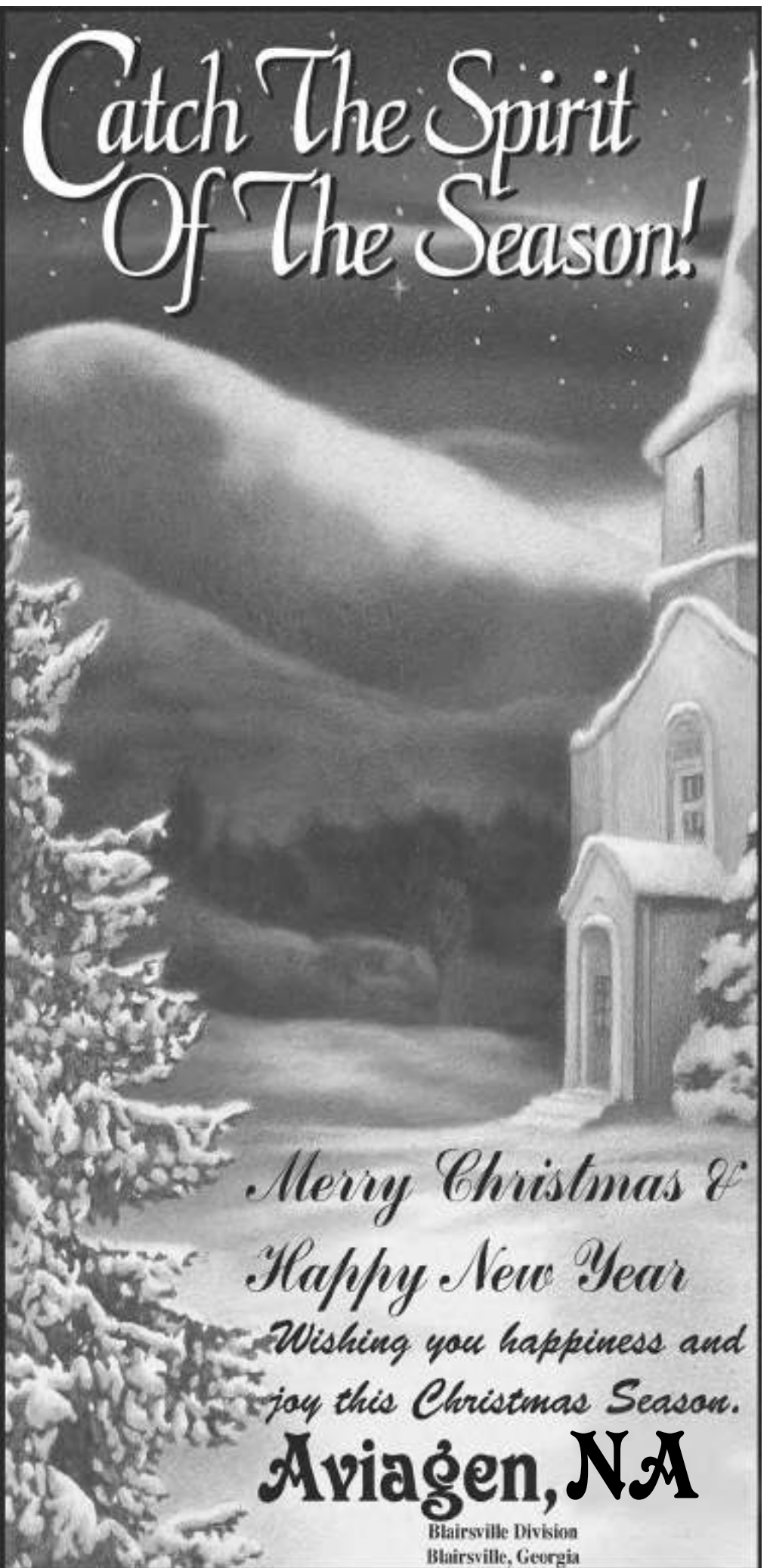
According to Father Hezekias Carnazzo, a Melkite Catholic priest and founding executive director of the Virginia-based Institute of Catholic Culture, the Feast of the Epiphany is one of the earliest feasts and actually predates the celebration of Christmas.

Although the Epiphany is an important date for Christians and many celebrate it, celebrants in Spain and Latin America consider it as important as Christmas Day. Within these nations Día de los Reyes (Three Kings Day) is a time for serving Rosca de Reyes, an oval-shaped treat that has a small doll inside to represent Baby

Jesus. The figurine symbolizes the hiding of the infant Jesus from King Herod's troops. Children also receive the majority of their gifts on Three Kings Day. It is customary for kids to place their old shoes with a wish list on them for the Three Kings. On the morning of January 6, the shoes are filled with toys and gifts.

The Epiphany is celebrated in various ways around the world. In the Czech Republic, people swim in the freezing cold Vltava River and men dress up as the Magi before riding camels through Prague's city center. Three Kings Bread, similar to the Rosca de Reyes and called Dreikönigskuchen, is prepared and consumed in Germany and Switzerland.

Christmas fanfare does not cease when the calendar turns from December 25 to 26. The Epiphany on January 6 also is an important day of celebration.



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year
Wishing you happiness and joy this Christmas Season.
Aviagen, NA
Blairsville Division
Blairsville, Georgia

KING 
WHERE WE TREAT YOU LIKE ROYALTY



We would like to acknowledge everyone who has been key to our success throughout the year. We want to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a truly blessed New Year. Thank you for your valued business. We look forward to seeing you again in the New Year.

2450 W US HWY 64, MURPHY NC 28906
828.837.2121 | 800.388.2897
WWW.KINGFORDSALES.COM

Light Up Hiawassee makes downtown merry & bright



Santa Claus took up his regular spot inside the gazebo on the Hiawassee Town Square for the family friendly – and pet friendly – Light Up Hiawassee event on Nov. 30.

Photo by Brittany Holbrooks

*Peace in your world.
Love in your home.
Joy in your heart.*

Thank You
and Many Blessings



Cathy Jarrett

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Offices in Blairsville, Clayton, and Hiawassee



Hiawassee Police Chief Jeremy Parker always looks forward to this time of year when he gets to participate in the Light Up Hiawassee event and Shop With A Hero for Christmas.

Photo by Brittany Holbrooks



There's always plenty for children to do during the annual Light Up Hiawassee, when the city and local volunteers decorate the Town Square for Christmas.

Photo by Brittany Holbrooks

TCSO embraces Christmas spirit with town parade



On Nov. 30, Sheriff Ken Henderson was proud to present the Sheriff's Office Christmas Parade for another year running, with many floats appropriately highlighting the reason for the season.

Photo by Brittany Holbrooks



Families have made the TCSO Christmas Parade down Main Street Hiawassee a family tradition that, for many, will carry on for generations to come.

Photo by Lowell Nicholson

It's All About Him

You ask if I'm happy
Well, it's easy to see
I'm high on a mountain
The world at my feet
All of the reasons
That I feel free
Will come and get closer
It's not about me

It's not about ego
Or the things you can hold
It's not about power
Or silver or gold
It's not who's at the table
Or where you lay down
And it's not about spreading
Your wings on the ground

So look in the mirror
Or look at your life
If there's still something missing
And nothing feels right
Just lay down your fence
And let his love in
Then you'll see the reason
It's all about him

It's all about him
And the love that he gives
Redemption and hope
Are for all who have sinned
You can walk all alone
But never find your way home
Do you see deep within?
It's all about him

Just let his love in
It's all about him
JESUS

We wish you a Merry Christmas
& a Happy New Year

From all of us at
Hemphill Vinyl Siding
& Metal Roofing

Mountain Country Christmas provides festive family joy



The Mountain Country Christmas in Lights has been going strong since 2016, when former Commissioner Bill Kendall and Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds Manager Hilda Thomason brainstormed how to promote more tourism in slower winter months. Photo by Lowell Nicholson



Santa Claus is a regular guest at the Mountain Country Christmas in Lights, which runs every year from Thanksgiving to Dec. 23 at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds. Photo by Lowell Nicholson



Thousands of people attend the Mountain Country Christmas each year to see the million-plus lights and countless displays up close. Photo by Shelly Knight



In addition to the stunning Christmas decorations, vendors fill the booths at the fairgrounds to provide local shopping opportunities at the Mountain Country Christmas. Photo by Shelly Knight

Christmas tradition continues in City of Young Harris



Families have been enjoying the Young Harris Christmas Tree Lighting for over 40 years, making it a beloved local tradition. People particularly enjoy the children's music program by Towns County Elementary School students. Photo by Brittany Holbrooks



Mountain Shelter Humane Society
SERVING TOWNS & UNION COUNTIES

MERRY Christmas

We wish you Happiness, Warmth and Love

www.mtnshelter.org




Together is Better

We're wishing you a season full of reuniting with the people and places you love.

Happy Holidays from your team at United!

UNITED COMMUNITY BANK

214 North Main Street
Hiawassee, Georgia 30546
706-896-4186

Our branches will be closed on
Wednesday, December 25 and
Wednesday, January 1.



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23-3208-F



May this Christmas season fill your home with joy, your heart with love, and your life with laughter.



Merry Christmas

from the Board of Directors, management and employees of Blue Ridge Mountain EMC!





Blue Ridge Mountain Electric Membership Corporation is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

Letters To Santa

Mrs. Jessica Berrong's Kindergarten Class

Dear Santa, my name is Raeven, and I am 6 years old! This year, I have been naughty and nice. A few nice things I did were telling my PE teachers I was thankful they were not sick anymore. This year for Christmas, I would like a ukulele, blocks, and puff and fluff. I can't wait for you to

visit me this year! I will leave out a snack for you and the reindeer.

Love, Raeven

Dear Santa, my name is Oliver, and I am 6 years old! This year, I have been nice. A few nice things I did were helping my mom clean the house and caring for my baby sister. This year for Christmas I would like a blue bicycle and

a green water bottle. I can't wait for you to visit me this year! I will leave out a snack for you and the reindeer.

Love, Oliver

Dear Santa, my name is Willa, and I am 6 years old. I am excited for Christmas this year! I have been naughty and nice. A few nice things I did were saying sorry to my friends when I ran into

them during PE. This year for Christmas I would like a play puppy and horse. I would also like an American girl doll. I can't wait for you to visit me this year! I will leave out a snack for you and the reindeer.

Love, Willa

Dear Santa, my name is Ben and I am 5 years old. I am excited for Christmas this year! I have been naughty and nice. A few nice things I did were helping my friends pick up their crayons off the floor in our classroom. This year for Christmas I would like a blue monster truck and a racetrack with cars. I can't wait for you to visit me this year! I will leave out a snack for you and the reindeer.

Love, Ben

Dear Santa, my name is Dakota and I am 6 years old. I am so excited for Christmas this year! I have been naughty and nice. A few nice things I did were sharing my toys with my brother and classmates. This year for Christmas I would like a Spiderman hand that shoots webs and DJRedstone headphones. I can't wait for you to visit me this year! I will leave out a snack for you and the reindeer.

Love, Dakota

Dear Santa, my name is Braxton and I am 5 years old. I am so excited for Christmas this year! I have been naughty and nice. A few nice things I did were playing with friends who were lonely on the playground. This year for Christmas I would like a green bicycle, a toy racetrack and a red water bottle. I can't wait for you to visit me this year! I will leave out a snack for you and the reindeer.

Love, Braxton

Dear Santa, my name is Malcom and I am 5 years old. I am so excited for Christmas this year! I have been naughty and nice. A few nice things I did were listening to my teacher and answering her questions. This year for Christmas I would like a toy motorcycle and a play sleigh with reindeer and a bag. I can't wait for you to visit me this year! I will leave out a snack for you and the reindeer.

Love, Malcom

Dear Santa, my name is Hadley and I am 5 years old. I am so excited for Christmas this year! I have been naughty and nice. A few nice things I did were being kind to my mommy and daddy. This year for Christmas I would like a toy kitchen and a toy train. I can't wait for you to visit me this year! I will leave out a snack for you and the reindeer.

Love, Hadley

Dear Santa, my name is Ares and I am 5 years old. I am so excited for Christmas this year! I have been naughty and nice. A few nice things I did were hugging my brother when he was crying. This year for Christmas I would like a toy boat with a controller, and a toy helicopter. I can't wait for you to visit me this year! I will leave out a snack for you and the reindeer.

Love, Ares

Dear Santa, my name is Calvin and I am 6 years old. I am so excited for Christmas this year! I have been very nice. A few nice things I did were I helped my mom around the house. This year for Christmas I would like a Hot Wheels car and a racetrack. I can't wait for you to visit me this year! I will leave out a snack for you and the reindeer.

Love, Calvin

Dear Santa, my name is Jaxson and I am 5 years old. I am so excited for Christmas this year! I have been very nice. A few nice things I did were I helped my mom feed the chickens. This year for Christmas I would like a Nerf gun and anything Minecraft. I can't wait for you to visit me this year! I will leave out a snack for you and the reindeer.

Love, Jaxson

Dear Santa, my name is Desirae and I am 6 years old. I am so excited for Christmas this year! I have been naughty and nice. A few nice things I did were sharing my toys with my cousins. This year for Christmas I would like an Easy Bake oven and some Barbie dolls. I can't wait for you to visit me this year! I will leave out a snack for you and the reindeer.

Love, Desirae

Dear Santa, my name is Addison and I am 6 years old. I am so excited for Christmas this year! I have been naughty and nice. A few nice things I did were I gave a baby some of my candy at the parade because she was too little to get

any. This year for Christmas I would like a blue water bottle, a new backpack and some new pens. I can't wait for you to visit me this year! I will leave out a snack for you and the reindeer.

Love, Logan

Dear Santa, my name is Aiden and I am 6 years old. I am so excited for Christmas this year! I have been very nice. A few nice things I did were playing with my baby sister when she was crying. This year for Christmas I would like an Iron Man mask and suit. I can't wait for you to visit me this year! I will leave out a snack for you and the reindeer.

Love, Aiden

Dear Santa, my name is Genevieve and I am 5 years old. I am so excited for Christmas this year! I have been naughty and nice. A few nice things I did were helping my friend pick up her crayons she dropped. This year for Christmas I would like unicorn Legos and a new necklace with a blue snowflake on it. I can't wait for you to visit me this year! I will leave out a snack for you and the reindeer.

Love, Genevieve

Dear Santa, my name is Logan and I am 5 years old. I am so excited for Christmas this year! I have been naughty and nice. A few nice things I did were helping my grandma decorate her house for Christ-

mas. This year for Christmas I would like a giant Sonic. I can't wait for you to visit me this year! I will leave out a snack for you and the reindeer.

Love, Logan

Dear Santa, my name is Riggs and I am 6 years old. I am so excited for Christmas this year! I have been naughty and nice. A few nice things I did were playing with my brother and sister. This year for Christmas I would like a dump truck and a cement maker. I can't wait for you to visit me this year! I will leave out a snack for you and the reindeer.

Love, Riggs

Dear Santa, my name is Susanna and I am 6 years old. I am so excited for Christmas this year! A few nice things I did were helping my friend pick up her crayons she dropped. This year for Christmas I would like unicorn Legos and a new necklace with a blue snowflake on it. I can't wait for you to visit me this year! I will leave out a snack for you and the reindeer.

Love, Susanna

Wishing our employees, their families and our communities a very Merry Christmas and a healthy, safe, Happy New Year!



Moog.careers.com



Mike's Seafood Market & Grill

We Wish You A Merry

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

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Lunch: 11am-2pm
Dinner: 5pm-9pm

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WITH OUR GRATITUDE AT CHRISTMASTIME



As we celebrate the message of that very first Noel, we wish you and your family exceeding great joy this holiday season.

We feel both honored and blessed to serve people like you!

Merry Christmas from the **Cobb Hatchery**

Christmas is Jesus' Birthday

By Robert Sosebee

The **C** is for the **Christ Child** that lay in the manger that day.

The one sent from Heaven to take our sins away.

The **H** is for the **Healing** of our Savior's mighty hand. The only one that has the power to save the soul of man.

The **R** is for the **Resurrection** of that glorious third day God the Father rolled the stone away.

The **I** is for the **Intent** that God knows of our heart and the place that we'll go when this earth we do depart.

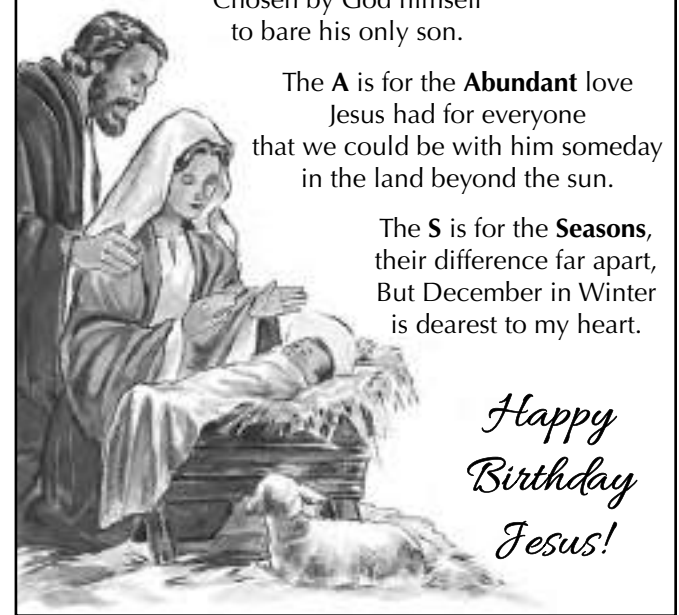
The **S** is for the **Sacrifice** Jesus made for you and me. He gave His life there on the cross that day at Calvary.

The **T** is for the **Truth** in his Father's Holy Word. The greatest words ever spoken, the greatest ever heard.

The **M** is for his **Mother Mary** the most precious one Chosen by God himself to bare his only son.

The **A** is for the **Abundant** love Jesus had for everyone that we could be with him someday in the land beyond the sun.

The **S** is for the **Seasons**, their difference far apart, But December in Winter is dearest to my heart.



Happy Birthday Jesus!

Savior is Born

Amidst all the fun and excitement of the holiday season, let's not forget the true meaning of Christmas: the wondrous birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

At this special time of year, we're especially thankful for the many blessings we enjoy. Having the support of loyal customers like you is something for which we're truly grateful. Please accept our best wishes for a wonderful holiday season.



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Merry Christmas and Happy New Year



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Letters To Santa

Mrs. Lexy and Mrs. Liz's Kindergarten Class

Dear Santa, my name is Olin and I am 6 years old. I am so excited for Christmas this year! I have been naughty and nice. A few nice things I did were help clean up and help with the dishes. Thank you so much for my presents last year! This year for Christmas I would like a dinosaur that can eat stuff and a minion box. I can't wait for you to visit me this year! I will leave out cookies for you and carrots for the reindeer.

Love, Olin

Dear Santa, my name is Blair and I am 5 years old. I am so excited for Christmas this year! I have been nice. A few nice things I did were help people and take care of my mom when she's sick. Thank you so much for my presents last year! This year for Christmas I would like a comfy chair like Piper has and a God necklace because I love God. I can't wait for you to visit me this year! I will leave out cookies and milk for you and a toy for the reindeer.

Love, Blair

Dear Santa, my name is Micah and I am 5 years old. I am so excited for Christmas this year! I have been naughty and nice. A few nice things I did were not touch the elf and gave our elf a little ride. Thank you so much for my presents last year! This year for Christmas I would like a set of big toy animals and small animals. I can't wait for you to visit me this year! I will leave out cookies and milk for you and carrots for the reindeer.

Love, Micah

Dear Santa, my name is Lillie and I am 6 years old. I am so excited for Christmas this year! I have been nice. A few nice things I did were help my mommy with sissy and I cleaned the living room. Thank you so much for my presents last year! This year for Christmas I would like a doll and a tent. I can't wait for you to visit me this year! I will leave out cookies and milk for you and carrots for the reindeer.

Love, Lillie

Dear Santa, my name is Raeya and I am 5 years old. I am so excited for Christmas this year! I have been nice. A few nice things I did were help my friends and help my brother. Thank you so much for my presents last year! This year for Christmas I would like a Barbie. I can't wait for you to visit me this year! I will leave out cookies and milk for you and carrots for the reindeer.

Love, Raeya

Dear Santa, my name is Bowen and I am 5 years old. I am so excited for Christmas this year! I have been naughty and nice. A few nice things I did were bring Parker "pajammies" when he was in the shower and helped him blow dry his hair. Thank you so much for my presents last year! This year for Christmas I would like a God bracelet and a Jesus bracelet. I can't wait for you to visit me this year! I will leave out a note for you and carrots for the reindeer.

Love, Bowen

Dear Santa, my name is Reegan and I am 5 years old. I am so excited for Christmas this year! I have been nice. A few nice things I did were do my homework and took a shower when my mom asked me to. Thank you so much for my presents last year! This year for Christmas I would like a Barbie camper that I can drive in and a blow up bed. I can't wait for you to visit me this year! I will leave out 2 cookies and hot milk for you and carrots and milk for the reindeer.

Love, Reegan

Dear Santa, my name is Rowan and I am 5 years old. I am so excited for Christmas this year! I have been nice. A few nice things I did were go to Nana's and play with her and make my friends bracelets. Thank you so much for my presents last year! This year for Christmas I would like a Barbie camper and Hello Kitty books. I can't wait for you to visit me this year! I will leave out cookies and milk for you and carrots for the reindeer.

Love, Rowan

Dear Santa, my name is Abigail and I am 5 years old.

I am so excited for Christmas this year! I have been nice. A few nice things I did were read my books without mom's help and help my mom. Thank you so much for my presents last year! This year for Christmas I would like a real phone. I can't wait for you to visit me this year! I will leave out cookies and milk for you and a reindeer treat and milk for the reindeer.

Love, Abigail

Dear Santa, my name is Macy and I am 5 years old. I am so excited for Christmas this year! I have been naughty and nice. A few nice things I did were pray for my brother and help him clean up. Thank you so much for my presents last year! This year for Christmas I would like an art box and a microphone. I can't wait for you to visit me this year! I will leave out cookies and milk for you and a toy for the reindeer.

Love, Macy

Dear Santa, my name is Coen and I am 6 years old. I am so excited for Christmas this year! I have been naughty and nice. A few nice things I did were be kind to my sisters and take showers when my mom asked me to. Thank you so much for my presents last year! This year for Christmas I would like some toys. I can't wait for you to visit me this year! I will leave out notes for you and carrots for the reindeer.

Love, Coen

Dear Santa, my name is Colby and I am 5 years old. I am so excited for Christmas this year! I have been nice and a little bit naughty. A few nice things I did were help my parents and play with my mama and her pillows. Thank you so much for my presents last year! This year for Christmas I would like a new toy and a new game to play at my house. I can't wait for you to visit me this year! I will leave out cookies and milk for you and the reindeer.

Love, Colby

Dear Santa, my name is Claire and I am 5 years old. I am so excited for Christmas this year! I have been nice. A

few nice things I did were play with Reegan and Macy and take care of my baby brother Eli. Thank you so much for my presents last year! This year for Christmas I would like a trampoline. I can't wait for you to visit me this year! I will leave out cookies and milk for you and carrots for the reindeer.

Love, Claire

Dear Santa, my name is Elijah and I am 5 years old. I am so excited for Christmas this year! I have been nice. A few nice things I did were help my brother up and gave him one of my toys when he didn't have one. Thank you so much for my presents last year! This year for Christmas I would like a toy Woody and T-Rex. I can't wait for you to visit me this year! I will leave out candy canes for you and peppermints for the reindeer.

Love, Elijah

Dear Santa, my name is Aurora and I am 5 years old. I am so excited for Christmas this year! I have been nice. A few nice things I did were play with my friends and help people when they fall down. Thank you so much for my presents last year! This year for Christmas I would like a yoyo and a trampoline. I can't wait for you to visit me this year! I will leave out cookies and milk for you and carrots for the reindeer.

Love, Aurora

Santa Letters
continued on Page 8B

December

All the months go past
Each is like a guest;
December is the last,
December is the best.
Each has lovely things,
Each one is a friend,
But December brings
Christmas at the end!

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Merry Christmas

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MERRY CHRISTMAS

From the Towns County Fire Department

Wishing You a Beautiful Season

May you and yours be graced with all the special blessings this season of joy holds. We wish you every happiness as you celebrate Christmas and ring in the New Year among cherished family and friends.

We feel blessed to have the support and friendship of good folks like you. Your visits mean so much to us! Happy Holidays, friends!

County Commissioner Cliff Bradshaw,
Staff & Family

Official Bear Check-In Station!

Merry Christmas

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and best wishes for a

HAPPY & PROSPEROUS

NEW YEAR!

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Ho... Ho... Hope It's Merry!

May your holiday deliver all the gifts that really count - peace, love, friendship and joy.

For the gift of your loyalty, never-ending friendship and business, we are truly grateful.

Wishing you a Gifted Season!

CITY OF YOUNG HARRIS



Yuletide Greetings

In the little town of Bethlehem it all began -
 The greatest miracle known by man;
 He sent our Savior to show the way,
 So spread His love on Christmas Day.

May the holiday auger a bright new day for all of us and the world at large.

Your friendship is so special to us.
We are ever grateful.

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Letters To Santa

Mrs. Susan and Mrs. Whitney's Kindergarten Class

Dear Santa, my name is Danny and I am 5 years old. I am so excited for Christmas this year! This year I have been very nice. A few things that I did are I helped mom clean her car and I picked up my toys. This year for Christmas I would like Spiderman toys, hunting stuff and a new bike. I can't wait for you to visit me this year! I will leave out a snack for you and the reindeer!

Love, Danny

Dear Santa, my name is Gwenever and I am 5 years old. I am so excited for Christmas this year! This year I have been very nice. A few things that I have done are I help Noah sometimes, I pay attention to my mommy and daddy. This year for Christmas I would like an umbrella, stuffed kitty cat and flowers. I can't wait for you to visit me this year! I will leave out a snack of you and the reindeer.

Love, Gwenever

Dear Santa, my name is Devyn and I am 5 years old. I am so excited for Christmas this year! This year I have been naughty and nice. A few things that I have done to be nice are shared with my brothers and help my mom with the dishes. This year for Christmas I would like a dog, a scooter and some make-up. I can't wait for you to visit me this year! I will leave out a snack for you and the reindeer!

Love, Devyn

Dear Santa, my name is Liam and I am 5 years old. I am so excited for Christmas this year! This year I have been very nice. A few things that I have done to be nice are help my friends, help my mom and dad build a Christmas tree. This year for Christmas I would like a remote control monster truck, Batman house and a new ipad. I can't wait for you to visit me this year! I will leave out a snack for you and the reindeer!

Love, Liam

Dear Santa, my name is Zeke and I am 5 years old. I am so excited for Christmas this year! This year I have been very nice. A few things that I have done to be nice is say "I'm sorry" to my brother and help a friend at church. This year for Christmas I would like a racetrack, King Kong plushy and a scar king toy. I can't wait for you to visit me this year! I will leave out a snack for you and the reindeer!

Love, Zeke

Dear Santa, my name is Ruby and I am 5 years old. I am so excited for Christmas this year! This year I have been very nice. A few things that I have done to be nice are: I shared my chocolate donut with my brother and I helped my mom by walking the dog one morning. This year for Christmas I would like some Calico critters, new stuffies and unicorn figures. I can't wait for you to visit me this year! I will leave out a snack for you and the reindeer!

Love, Ruby

Dear Santa, my name is Claire and I am 6 years old. I am so excited for Christmas this year! This year I have been very nice. A few things that I have done to be nice are: I helped someone at church when they fell and played with a friend on the swings. This year for Christmas I would like a Nintendo switch, new tablet and a real watch. I can't wait for you to visit me this year! I will leave out a snack for you and the reindeer!

Love, Claire

Dear Santa, my name is Braxton and I am 5 years old. I am so excited for Christmas this year! This year I have been naughty and nice. A few things that I have done to be nice are, help my mommy cook, went hunting with my dad and spent time with Pappaw and Lolly. This year for Christmas I would like a PS 5, dinosaurs and stuffed animals. I can't wait for you to visit me this year! I will leave out a snack for you and the reindeer.

Love, Braxton

Dear Santa, my name is Landon and I am 5 years old. I am so excited for Christmas this year! This year I have been very good. A few things I did that were nice are: I helped a friend clean up toys, helped my daddy wash his shirt and I helped my mom take out the trash. This year for Christmas I would like a robot, a go-cart and a racecar track. I can't wait

for you to visit me this year! I will leave out a snack for you and the reindeer!

Love, Landon

Dear Santa, my name is Tesla and I am 6 years old. I am so excited for Christmas this year! This year I have been very nice. A few things I did that were nice are, I love on my mommy, play with my daddy and play with my brother sometimes. This year for Christmas I would like toy cars, a teddy bear and a remote control car. I can't wait for you to visit me this year! I will leave out a snack for you and the reindeer!

Love, Tesla

Dear Santa, my name is Remington and I am 6 years old. I am so excited for Christmas this year! This year I have been very nice. A few things that I did that were nice are: I helped mommy decorate the tree, play with Chaselyn and helped a friend on the playground. This year for Christmas I would like an Elsa doll, a painting set and an Anya doll. I can't wait for you to visit me this year! I will leave out a snack for you and the reindeer!

Love, Remington

Dear Santa, my name is Rylie and I am 6 years old. I am so excited for Christmas this year! This year I have been naughty and nice. A few things I did that were nice are: helped my brother with his boo-boo, helped my mom clean and do the dishes. This year for Christmas I would like bunk beds, a vanity and a doll case. I can't wait for you to visit me this year! I will leave out a snack for you and the reindeer!

Love, Rylie

Dear Santa, my name is Noah and I am 6 years old. I am so excited for Christmas this year! This year I have been very nice. A few things I did that were nice are: playing with my baby sister, helped mom hang Christmas ornaments, helped dad clean the dishes. This year for Christmas I would like a dirtbike, monster trucks and a train. I

can't wait for you to visit me this year! I will leave out a snack for you and the reindeer!

Love, Noah

Dear Santa, my name is Sawyer and I am 6 years old. I am so excited for Christmas this year! This year I have been very nice. A few things I did that were nice are: said I love you Jesus, I like my brother, and I helped my mom do laundry. This year for Christmas I would like a scooter, drift car and a bow and arrow. I can't wait for you to visit me this year! I will leave out a snack for you and the reindeer!

Love, Sawyer

Dear Santa, my name is Katerina and I am 5 years old. I am so excited for Christmas this year! This year I have been naughty and nice. A few things I did that were nice are: played with someone on the playground, helped daddy with the tree and help with the cat. This year for Christmas I would like a mermaid, horse and unicorns. I can't wait for you to visit me this year! I will leave out a snack for you and the reindeer!

the reindeer!

Love, Katerina

Dear Santa, my name is William and I am 5 years old. I am so excited for Christmas this year! This year I have been very nice. A few things I did that were nice are: I helped a friend at school, I played with someone on the playground. This year I would like a Lego set, stone creeper from Minecraft, and play cars and racetrack. I can't wait for you to visit me this year! I will leave out a snack for you and the reindeer!

Love, William

Dear Santa, my name is Daron and I am 5 years old. I am so excited for Christmas this year! This year I have been very nice. A few things I did that were nice are: I helped someone pick up toys and I played with someone new on the playground. This year for Christmas I would like toy cars, a toy mouse and puppets. I can't wait for you to visit me this year! I will leave out a snack for you and the reindeer!

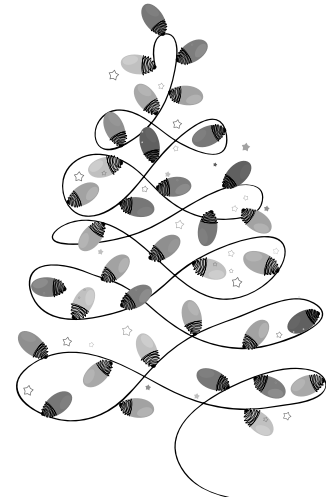
Love, Daron

Did you know?

Lights on a Christmas tree may seem like a relatively recent phenomenon, but people who can't wait to deck the halls each December may be surprised to learn that this beloved tradition dates all the way back to the late nineteenth century.

Edward Johnson, a friend and colleague of Thomas Edison, introduced holiday light bulbs in 1882. Prior to that, candles were lit on trees and families would briefly gaze at this awe-inspiring bit of holiday decor before the candles were quickly extinguished.

Johnson is credited with being the first to suggest light bulbs, which were invented by his friend Edison, be used to light trees in place of candles. While many were impressed by Johnson's eight-bulb holiday display, it remained a nov-



elty until the 1920s, when pre-assembled lights became more accessible.

Since then, Christmas tree lights have taken hold as a must-have piece of holiday decor in households across the globe.

A Christmas Legend Christmas Story

A Short Christmas Story by Florence Scannell

It was Christmas Eve. The night was very dark and the snow falling fast, as Hermann, the charcoal-burner, drew his cloak tighter around him, and the wind whistled fiercely through the trees of the Black Forest. He had been to carry a load to a castle near, and was now hastening home to his little hut. Although he worked very hard, he was poor, gaining barely enough for the wants of his wife and his four little children. He was thinking of them, when he heard a faint wailing. Guided by the sound, he groped about and found a little child, scantily clothed, shivering and sobbing by itself in the snow.

"Why, little one, have they left thee here all alone to face this cruel blast?"

The child answered nothing, but looked piteously up in the charcoal-burner's face.

"Well, I cannot leave thee here. Thou would'st be dead before the morning."

So saying, Hermann raised it in his arms, wrapping it in his cloak and warming its little cold hands in his bosom. When he arrived at his hut, he put down the child and tapped at the door, which was immediately thrown open, and the children rushed to meet him.

"Here, wife, is a guest to our Christmas Eve supper," said he, leading in the little one, who held timidly to his finger with its tiny hand.

"And welcome he is," said the wife. "Now let him come and warm himself by the fire."

The children all pressed round to welcome and gaze at the little new-comer. They showed him their pretty fir-tree, decorated with bright, colored lamps in honor of Christmas Eve, which the good mother had endeavored to make a fête for the children.

Then they sat down to supper, each child contributing of its portion for the guest, looking with admiration at its clear, blue eyes and golden hair, which shone so as to shed a brighter light in the little room; and as they gazed, it grew into a sort of halo round his head, and his eyes beamed with a heavenly luster. Soon two white wings appeared at his shoulders, and he seemed to grow larger

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WISH YOU A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR

Merry Christmas

HAPPY NEW YEAR

It's not the gifts under our tree we cherish the most, but the people all around us who bring such joy and meaning to our holiday season. Thanks for shining your light into our year. We value your trust in us, and we appreciate your support more than you know!

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The Christmas Mystery!

By Peter Kujala

Billions of people celebrate Christmas, or actually a certain person's birthday. The arrival of this person started the time, you know BC and AD.

The shepherds in Bethlehem heard an angel proclaim that a savior, the Messiah, had been born. These shepherds found and saw the baby Jesus in the manger. He is also called Immanuel, which means "God with us," God who became man. But what does it mean that the savior, the Messiah, had come? Is it only about Christmas presents, glittering trees and good food, sweets in abundance?

When we read in the Bible about the continued history of the baby Jesus, it turns out that Jesus' heavenly mission was to save humanity from its sins. It also shows through Jesus' teaching that all people are in debt before God; all people seem to have an inner poison that has caused suffering throughout world history. The outdated word "sin" can be described by many words, such as greed, hatred, selfish exploitation of others, envy, pride, lying and slander. The list can be made much longer, and it is obvious, who is not guilty on this earth? Jesus' mission was to save or "rescue" us from our own inner poison so that we can have eternal life.

How did Jesus proceed in his rescue mission? The Bi-

ble describes how Jesus, about 33 years after his birth, on the cross took on the sins of all humans like a giant magnet.

When Jesus suffered and died on the cross, he reconciled us all with God, so that we are forgiven for all our sins. The Bible tells us that Jesus took the very punishment for our sins. If we commit crimes in society, steal a car, abuse and smuggle drugs, etc., there will be a trial and then a verdict and a punishment. This is how justice works and how society is preserved.

But Jesus thus took our

punishment so that we will be acquitted and pardoned, yes, "saved," on the day of reckoning and judgment and instead have access to eternal life in Heaven. On the third day, Jesus rose from the dead, which means that Jesus lives and we with him. He fills us with his peace and love.

So Jesus did not remain either in the manger or on the cross, because he lives and has promised to be with us all the days, a light of life that leads right through the darkness. This is the mystery of Christmas, a salvation that only the

humbly receptive can have revealed.

The Bible explains that this salvation – the "heavenly ticket" – is given freely by the grace of God. We cannot earn it by good deeds or good living. We cannot please God and pay off our sins. What God requires is that we humbly turn to Him and believe in Jesus and what He did on the Cross. For all of us – to all of us – Jesus is God's gift of salvation, God's "Christmas present" to you who choose to believe and receive.

Merry Christmas.

How to keep guests entertained this holiday season...

Hosts can keep the following ideas in mind as they look for ways to entertain guests this holiday season.

Gatherings with loved ones are a big part of what makes the holiday season such a special time of year. As families grow and spread out across the map, they may not get too many chances to spend quality time with one another. But the holiday season is a time each year when families make a concerted effort to get together.

As families get together under the same roof during the holiday season, individuals tasked with hosting gatherings tend to have a lot on their plates. Memories tend to be made around the holiday dinner table, but the season also presents ample opportunities to create nights to remem-

ber outside the house as well. Hosts can keep the following ideas in mind as they look for ways to entertain guests this holiday season.

Take a tour as a tour guide. Locals may not make the rounds of nearby tourist destinations too frequently, but the holiday season is a great opportunity for hosts to show guests what makes their towns so unique. Serve as a tour guide for guests on a sightseeing day with visits to local monuments or museums. Wrap the day up at a holiday bazaar where local small business owners have set up shop. This affords guests a chance to tour a new community or a hometown they haven't visited in a while, and also makes for a great chance for all to squeeze in a little last-minute holiday shopping.

Plan an ugly sweater bar crawl. If hosts and their guests are all of age, an ugly sweater bar crawl can make for a fun night out on the town. Encourage guests to wear an ugly holiday sweater and map out a route and schedule of visits to local bars and restaurants.

Hosts must prioritize safety on these types of excursions, so arrange for a bus to take guests from one spot to the next if establishments are far away from one another. If Main Street has a local bar district, arrange for transportation downtown at the start of the crawl and home when the night ends.



Take in some local entertainment. Whether it's a holiday lighting display show or a local theater performance of a classic holiday tale like Charles Dickens's "A Christmas Carol," a night of local live entertainment is a great way for hosts and their guests to get out of the house. Hosts can even book a reservation for a pre-show meal at a local restaurant so they can be free of cooking and give guests their undivided attention.

Host a holiday movie night. Weary travelers who want to stay in may appreciate a holiday movie double feature. Hosts can let guests pick a pair of holiday films and then host a double feature, complete with traditional movie fare like popcorn and candy.

Hosts can even offer adult guests a glass of homemade eggnog during the films to up the holiday ante even further.

Holiday hosts can embrace various ways to entertain guests during a time of year when there's no shortage of fun ways to spend a night.

Did you know?...

Christmas Day is the most popular day to get engaged. According to the 2020 WeddingWire Newlywed Report, more couples who were married in 2019 got engaged on Christmas Day than any other day during the year. Christmas Eve was the second most popular day to pop the question, while the Sunday before Christmas Eve came in fourth (New Year's Day rounded out the top three).

The appeal of Christmastime proposals helped make December the most popular month to get engaged, as more than 19 percent of couples who married in 2019 got engaged in the final month of the year. July



proved the second most popular month to pop the question, as 9 percent of couples who wed in 2019 reported getting engaged in July.

Tradition still has a place in wedding proposals, as 84 percent of proposers reported asking on bended knee, while 65 percent acknowledged asking parents' permission prior to popping the question.



"On the first day of Christmas, my true love gave to me, a partridge in a pear tree."

The familiar lyrics of this tune are sung as part of Christmas caroling and holiday celebrations, reaching a crescendo each time singers belt out "five golden rings." The song is an English Christmas carol that was written in 1720. While it references plenty of gift-giving, it's easy to assume the song is about giving Christmas gifts. However, the 12 days in the song actually refer to the birth of Jesus Christ.

The 12 days of Christmas, also known as the Twelvetide, refers to the festive Christian season that celebrates the Nativity of Jesus. In fact, the start of these days occurs on December 25 and extends until the evening

of January 5th, the day before the Epiphany, known as Twelfth Night. Each day corresponds to a remembrance of different religious events or people.

Christmas celebrants can celebrate well into the new year. Commemorating the 12 days of Christmas can include small festivities from December 25 to January 5. On Twelfth Night, historically known for parties, modern-day fanfare can mark the culmination of the Christmas season — with the last of gift-giving occurring on the Epiphany.

Gift-giving, hosting friends and family, attending religious services, participating in charitable events, or opening one's home to neighbors and those who can use some companionship are all ways to make the 12 days of Christmas more special.

Christmas tree recycling

When choosing a real Christmas tree for holiday celebrations, consumers should think about the many ways that trees can be repurposed after the holiday season. Some towns collect discarded trees to use them for various purposes. However, homeowners can get in on the action as well. The Old Farmer's Almanac offers these great ideas for post-holiday tree use.

- Prop up the tree near a bird feeder to provide another perch and shelter to birds that stick close to home in winter, such as chickadees and finches.
- String the tree with various treats for birds and put it in a sheltered location. Ideas include homemade suet, cranberries and millet.
- Mulch the tree and use it in the garden in the spring.
- Use boughs to insulate perennials in the garden.
- Keep some branches to use as kindling in a wood stove or fireplace, or as aromatic logs for next year's yule fire.
- Sink an old tree in a personal pond. Fish and tadpoles will live and lay eggs around this sheltered area.
- Collect some pine needles and sew them into fabric packets to make scented sachets for closets or drawers.

Mistletoe Mystery



Kissing under the mistletoe is a holiday season tradition that can lead to some red faces when couples are caught beneath the plant.

Norse mythology paved the way for kissing under the mistletoe. Legend has it the gods used mistletoe to resurrect Odin's son, Baldur, from the dead. Baldur's mother, Frigg, the goddess of love, made the plant a symbol of love and vowed to kiss anyone who passed under it.

Mistletoe becomes under cold conditions, which is how it became associated with the holiday season.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

"And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn."

Luke 2:7

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Merry Christmas

We'd like to pause and wish good cheer to everyone who stopped in here. Your friendship and your kindness too make us grateful for each one of you!

With goodwill and gratitude in our hearts, we wish everyone in this community a blessed and happy holiday season.

The Staff of the
Towns County Herald
and West Printing Company



Merry Christmas and a Blessed 2025



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Have a Merry Christmas from our family to yours!



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