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from the McKillop Team.



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VOLUME 16
EDITION 51

Stonewall Teulon Tribune

Merry Christmas

THURSDAY,
DECEMBER 25, 2025

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A sweet story for Santa

TRIBUNE PHOTO BY SAM VANHULLE

Chloe Brown enjoys a heartfelt conversation with Santa during the Lake Francis Community Centre's annual Christmas lunch, a nearly 70-year holiday tradition filled with music, crafts and festive family fun.

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Rosser students bring Animals' Christmas Tree to life



TRIBUNE PHOTOS BY BECKY BRECKMAN

Rosser School students danced and sang their hearts out as they presented *The Animals' Christmas Tree* at Grosse Isle Hall on Dec. 16, bringing the animal characters to life and spreading Christmas joy to everyone in attendance.



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Stony Mountain soprano headlines national ArcherFest concert

By Jennifer McFee

A Stony Mountain soprano experienced a full-circle moment while singing at a festival dedicated to a composer who inspired her interest — and career — in contemporary classical music.

In late November, Métis musician Camryn Dewar performed as the principal vocalist for a celebratory concert called In Violet Light: Celebration Concert of Violet Archer during ArcherFest 2025. This event was held in Calgary on Nov. 22 and 23 by the Canadian Music Centre in honour of trailblazing female classical composer Violet Archer. The event was also professionally recorded for access to audiences across the country and beyond.

Archer, who died in 2000 at the age of 86, was a respected professor and composer who shaped generations of Canadian musicians with her groundbreaking style and composition techniques.

niques.

“She is arguably one of the most influential female composers Canada has ever seen in vocal, instrumental, chamber, choral, electronic and educational music,” Dewar said. “ArcherFest honours her contribution to Canadian music, with a program featuring her top piano and vocal works.”

For Dewar, the experience surpassed her expectations.

“It was amazing. The coolest part was for me to be there singing some of her music — and music that I’ve been singing since I was a child. I found her song Green Rain when I was 11 and it just really struck me,” she said.

“That was the first time I remember being a young person and hearing a classical song and really being struck by it. I always remembered it and wanted to learn it. That was the first time I was affected by music in that way.”



TRIBUNE PHOTOS BY BANDI PHOTOGRAPHY

Stony Mountain soprano Camryn Dewar performed alongside pianist Sandra Joy Friesen during In Violet Light: Celebration Concert of Violet Archer. Dewar served as principal vocalist for the event hosted by the Canadian Music Centre to honour Canadian composer Violet Archer's legacy.

In the song, the speaker reflects on her grandmother's love of green and how she wishes she cherished the last moments she had with her. Dewar recalled how her own grandmother played piano up until a couple weeks before she died at age 98. Some of her fondest memories involved sitting

side by side with her grandma, making music together when she was a toddler.

“Green Rain is about a speaker reminiscing about time with her grandmother and how she wishes she had

Continued on page 6



Dewar is pictured with descendants and family members of Violet Archer during ArcherFest 2025 in Calgary in late November.

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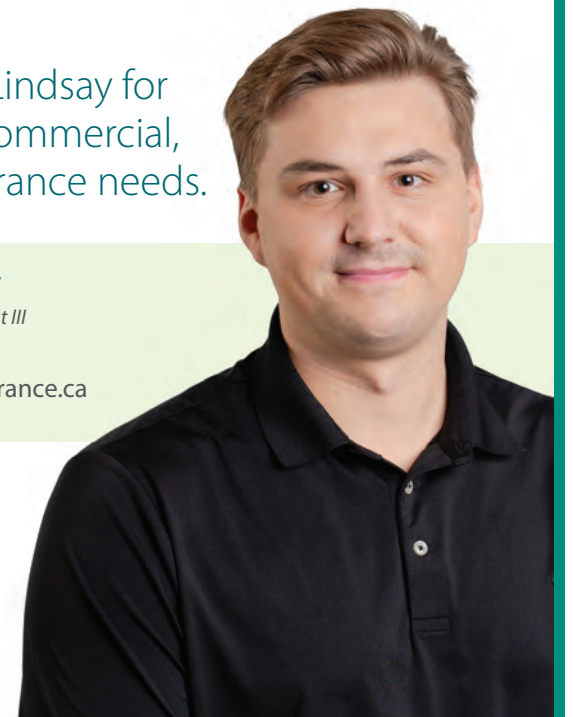
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Stony Mountain School students shine in holiday musical



TRIBUNE PHOTOS BY JENNIFER MCFEE

Stony Mountain School students in kindergarten to Grade 4 got into the holiday spirit with their production of *Star Bucks: The Musical* on Dec. 10. Audience members were treated to an afternoon of festive singing, dancing and acting by all the shining stars.



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Christmas spirit delivered in style



TRIBUNE PHOTO SUBMITTED

The holiday season took on a brighter glow in Stony Mountain thanks to a community-minded initiative by Steve and Dawn Green, owners of Rockwood Wrecking and Recovery. With help from D&M Welding, the couple designed and installed a giant Christmas ornament in their front yard on Main Street, inviting residents to donate new, unwrapped toys for the Stonewall and District Christmas Cheer Board. The display quickly became a local focal point for generosity, drawing donations from friends and neighbours throughout the season. The collected toys were delivered to the Cheer Board on Dec. 16. Pictured, from left, are Easton, Steve, Lillian and Dawn Green.

Santa's surprise visit



TRIBUNE PHOTO SUBMITTED

Santa made a special stop at the Stonewall Children's Centre this week, surprising staff and little ones with a cheerful visit that brought plenty of smiles and Christmas excitement.

> ARCHERFEST, FROM PG. 3

greater appreciated her grandmother when she was still alive, which is something I really relate to. I really wish that my grandmother was still around and I still had the opportunity to spend time with her and listen to her stories. And that's what Green Rain is about," she said.

"So, for me, it was amazing to be there singing it and thinking of my own grandmother and my experience of singing that song for half my life. To be singing this in honour of Violet Archer with her own descendants there, it was so powerful and a full circle moment for me."

Adding to the impact, Archer's relatives approached Dewar after the concert to tell her how much they enjoyed her performance.

"It meant so much to me to hear how they loved how I brought her music to life and brought her to life," she said. "It was so beautiful and special."

Looking ahead, Dewar is preparing to go on tour to share her hour-long lecture recital about Indigenous female representation in opera from 1879 to present. She did her Fulbright Scholarship research on the topic last year at Montclair State University in New Jersey while completing a master's degree in music. She'll be performing six shows in Winnipeg, Calgary and Montreal, with Winnipeg dates at the University of Manitoba on Jan. 16 and Canadian Mennonite University on March 12. More details and dates can be found on her website at camryndewar.com.

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Procter receives Meritorious Service Decoration in Ottawa

By Lana Meier

Grosse Isle's Paige Pearl-Anne Procter, M.S.M., travelled to Ottawa this week to receive one of the country's highest civilian honours, accepting the Meritorious Service Decoration (Civil Division) during a ceremony at Rideau Hall.

Procter was presented with her medal on Dec. 11 by Mary May Simon, Governor General of Canada, in recognition of her exceptional leadership in establishing and growing the Coffeehouse to End Cancer — a community-driven fundraising concert that has become a powerful force for cancer advocacy and support in Manitoba.

"It was incredibly humbling to be in the room surrounded by a very impressive group of Canadians who have dedicated their lives to incredible causes," Procter said. "It was an honour to stand with them and accept our medals."

She admitted to being nervous walking onto the Rideau Hall stage, worried she might misstep, but said a lighthearted moment helped ease the tension.

"The Governor General said she liked my dress, so that was pretty cool," Procter said with a laugh. "I was able to relax after that affirmation."

According to the Chancellery of Honours, Procter's nomination was submitted based on her leadership in creating an event that has raised more than \$265,000 for CancerCare Manitoba since 2016. The Meritorious Service Decoration recognizes a specific deed or activity performed in a highly professional manner that brings honour or benefit to Canada.

Procter said she is still unaware of who nominated her but remains deeply grateful.

"It is an incredible honour to be recognized, and I want to send a heartfelt thank you to whoever took the time to submit the nomination on my behalf," she said. "For me, this recognition is more than personal because the Coffeehouse is more than a personal effort. It is a community event and a community effort."

She said accepting the medal felt like accepting it on behalf of the entire Interlake region.

"Receiving this award on behalf of the generous spirit of the Interlake community filled me with immense pride," Procter said. "It felt like I was putting our little but mighty community on the map on a national scale."

Rideau Hall requested supporting letters outlining the scope and impact of Procter's work prior to the award decision. In one submission, it was noted that "life with cancer is complex — for those living

with a diagnosis, as well as those caring for them. Closing the cancer care gap requires collective action. And collective action is what Grosse Isle's Paige Procter has built with the Coffeehouse to End Cancer."

To date, Procter has raised more than \$350,000 for cancer research in Manitoba through the Coffeehouse to End Cancer concerts, rallying volunteers, musicians, families and community members around a shared purpose. Funds raised support CancerCare Manitoba's internationally recognized team of health professionals, enabling research, clinical trials, patient-experience programs and equipment initiatives.

Procter said the purpose of the Coffeehouse has remained steadfast, reinforced year after year by lived experience.

"The year I held the first concert, two of my loved ones were diagnosed with cancer," she said. "Rather than dwell in sadness, it motivated me to take action and find purpose from the devastation."

She said each passing year brings new reminders of why the event matters.

"Our community is still hit hard by those being forced into battle with this terrible disease," Procter said. "Much like my original motivation, that reality continues to drive people to support the Coffeehouse."

She also pointed to the progress made in cancer research and early detection over the past 16 years.

"It's remarkable to think that in part, the Coffeehouse to End Cancer and the Interlake community played a role in making that progress possible," she said.

Procter grew up in Grosse Isle and learned early the importance of community service. She has long credited those around her — particularly former teacher Monica Baldwin — for encouraging her to launch the Coffeehouse when she was just 16 years old, after two close friends, a father and son, were diagnosed with cancer months apart.

Each year, Procter continues to honour families who share their cancer journeys by speaking at the event, while working alongside a committed circle of family, friends and volunteers.

"To the Coffeehouse community — the volunteers, local businesses, performers and audience members — this recognition is an honour to receive on your behalf," Procter said. "The Coffeehouse would be nothing without the ongoing support,

"THE COFFEEHOUSE WOULD BE NOTHING WITHOUT THE ONGOING SUPPORT, PHILANTHROPY AND GENEROSITY OF OUR COMMUNITY."



TRIBUNE PHOTO BY LOUIS DUBE/RIDEAU HALL
Grosse Isle's Paige Pearl-Anne Procter received the Meritorious Service Decoration (Civil Division) from Gov. Gen. Mary May Simon during a ceremony at Rideau Hall on Dec. 11, recognizing her leadership in founding and growing the Coffeehouse to End Cancer, a community-driven fundraiser supporting cancer research in Manitoba.

philanthropy and generosity of our community." She said the collective effort has carried the event far beyond what she ever imagined.

"You have lifted me up and carried the Coffeehouse to new heights through the past 16 years," she said. "I am so unbelievably proud of what we have built together."

Looking ahead, Procter said the national recognition only reinforces the importance of continuing the work.

"It just goes to show that the show must go on," she said. "Even though we are small, our impact remains mighty."

She said future fundraising efforts will continue to support cancer research in Manitoba while celebrating local talent and strengthening community connections.

"We are stronger together," Procter said. "And together, we are truly making a difference in the lives of Manitobans living with cancer."

Her medal presentation this week marks national recognition of the impact one young Manitoban has made through determination, empathy and an unwavering belief in the power of community.

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Jennifer McFee
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Athena Jones visits with Santa.

Oh what fun – breakfast with Santa in Lake Francis

By Lana Meier

Santa made a special stop at the Lake Francis Community Centre for their annual Christmas lunch, where families gathered to celebrate the season.

Santa arrived to meet with everyone in attendance, posing for photos and sharing holiday greetings. The hall was entertained by music and singing from Arlene and Colleen along with

their talented family, adding to the festive atmosphere.

Children enjoyed a large variety of crafts and colouring activities, with items to take home and hang on their Christmas trees.

Organizers said the event was a great success, adding they believe the holiday gathering has been a community tradition for close to 70 years.



TRIBUNE PHOTOS BY NICOLE PEARSON

Emmy and Jolene of Lake Francis enjoyed a festive encounter with a friendly reindeer, while Rylan of St. Laurent shared a cheerful moment with Santa during the Breakfast with Santa event in Lake Francis on Sunday, Dec. 7. Families gathered for holiday fun, photos and Christmas spirit throughout the morning.

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Ella Van Hulle making an ornament.

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The Music of Christmas

While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them at the inn. (Luke 2:6-7)

Each year the Christmas Story is made new. For me, this year it was through the song of the angels. The first Christmas carol I remember singing is *Angels We Have Heard on High*. Even before I could read the music or the words, I could join in on the Gloria.

We wait all year for the carols we sing at Christmas because they speak to us of the arrival of the gift of love, born in the Christ Child. Not just any love, but a love that reaches our souls – a love we can draw on, over and over again.

My favorite newer carol, *Hope Is a Star*, says it simply – *when love is a child, there's joy in our song, the last shall be first and the weak shall be strong, and none shall be afraid*. The love of Christmas is that uncomplicated – and yet so countercultural as well.

The order of the world is turned upside down – the child is at the centre; the people who are normally last in line, move to first place; the weakest among us becomes strong and resilient. No wonder our songs are joyful! The music of Christmas is all about the transformation that is possible, if we remember the love found in the manger.

Christmas singing requires community. Yes, we can be a solo artist, but the carols we sing at Christmas are tangible reminders that we can change the world when we bring our songs to life with other people.

Although we may have sung *Silent Night* at church last night, the Christmas Story isn't silent at all. Whether it was the braying of the donkeys, the mooing of the cows in the manger, the lullaby Mary sang, or the choir of angels that appeared to the shepherds, music was everywhere.

And so, may this Christmas Day find you singing with hope, peace, joy and love, and may that song continue, and travel with you, to wherever your journey takes you in 2026.

Christmas blessings to you all from the Stonewall and Distract Ministerial.

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Friday January 2 6:30 Meat Draw
Saturday January 3 2-close 7pm Darts
All are welcome - please support your local legion!

Young performers sparkle at Winter Concert



TRIBUNE PHOTOS BY JO-ANNE PROCTER

École R.W. Bobby Bend English and French immersion Grade 2 students dazzled audiences with their winter concert performances on Dec. 8. Over four captivating shows, the young stars took to the stage radiating joy and enthusiasm. The spirit of the season shone brightly as they entertained with French and English Christmas-themed melodies.



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Donna (204) 461-0892
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merry christmas
AND HAPPY NEW YEAR



Students put local spin on Home Alone



TRIBUNE PHOTOS BY DIANA DANDENEAU

Grosse Isle School students hit the stage with their own version of *Home Alone* in Grosse Isle on Dec. 16. Connor deLaroque played the lead role of Kevin McCallister, joined by Cooper Darragh and London Sherry as villains Marv Merchants and Harry Lyme. Students had just as much fun delivering the production as the audience did enjoying the entertainment.



A Christmas Wish For You

*We're hoping that your season brings
Lots of glad tidings and beautiful things;*

*The warmth of family,
The blessing of friends.*

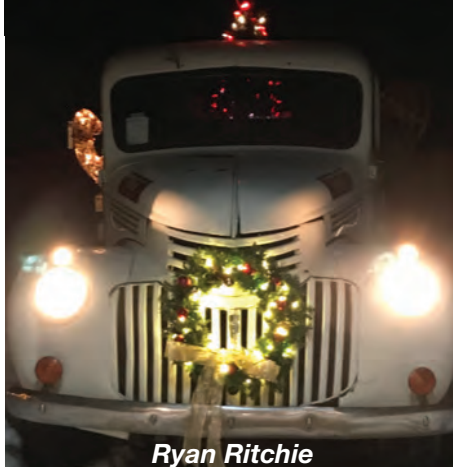
*Plus peace and joy
That never ends.*

*May all your hopes and dreams come true,
That's our Christmas wish for you!*
Reeve, Council and Staff



Merry Christmas

Our best wishes for a Merry Christmas.
Thank you for being such an
important part of our year.



May the glory of God's
love and light shine in your heart
and illuminate your Christmas season!
As this year comes to a close, we wish you an over flowing
amount of joy, happiness and health. From our family to yours,
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

*It has been our pleasure to serve you this year,
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Balmoral students launch holidays with festive production



TRIBUNE PHOTOS BY JENNIFER MCFEE

The students of Balmoral School launched the holiday season with their festive production of *The Claus Carol-Off* on Dec. 16. The audience enjoyed fantastic singing and acting, with appearances by snowmen, Christmas trees, reindeer, elves and toy soldiers — and, of course, Santa and Mrs. Claus.



**Merry Christmas
& Happy New Year**

Trevor King, MLA Lakeside
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TRIBUNE PHOTOS BY JENNIFER MCFEE

Kindergarten and Grade 1 students performed Frosty the Snowman. Grade 2 and 3 students performed O Christmas Tree and Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree. Grade 4 and 5 students sang Run Run Rudolph. Rounding out the show, grades 6, 7 and 8 students made up the cast for the performance. Mrs. Moldowan served as the play director, and Mrs. Margetts was the writer and costume director.



**WISHING YOU A
WHITE
CHRISTMAS**

With wishes warm and bright to all of our friends this holiday season. We appreciate your trust in us and look forward to seeing you again, soon.

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Students stage Christmas Whodunnit for holiday concert



TRIBUNE PHOTOS BY JO-ANNE PROCTER

Brant-Argyle students wrote their own Christmas concert with the help and guidance of Mr. McTavish, which they presented on the afternoon of Dec. 16. *Santa's Missing... Whodunnit* is a mysterious comedy in which Christmas is nearly cancelled when Santa Claus is nowhere to be found. Investigators are called in and everyone is interrogated, including Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, the Tooth Fairy, Frosty the Snowman, Krampus, the Grinch and the Easter Bunny. Each character appears to have a motive, but in the end it is revealed the Easter Bunny kidnapped Santa out of jealousy, wanting to know Santa's secret to making everyone in the world so happy.



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Christmas STORIES

FIRST

RUNAWAY REINDEER!

By Max Slobodgian, Age 11, ESCS

Our story starts on a cold winter day in a small town called Stonewall. It was Christmas eve but something was off, the snow wasn't there yet. Billy sat inside all day refusing to go outside until it snowed. "Billy come on you can't stay inside" said Billy's mother. "I won't go!!" said Billy. Suddenly it started snowing that great Canadian snow and the phone rang instantly. Billy picked up the phone "Yeah uhuh okay sounds good, mom can I go sledding with Joe?" "if it means you'll go outside then yes" "thank you" said Billy. Joe was Billy's best friend they had known each other since kindergarten. Billy rushed to put on his carhartt toque, FXR jacket and Ripzone mitts and ski pants. Billy and Joe lived right across from Jim's hill. The local sledding hill in

Stonewall, as Billy and Joe made their way across the road to Jim's hill, the freshly fallen snow made a beautiful crunching sound beneath their feet. When they got there they started sledding down hill up and down exploring different parts of the hill for hours. "I think that's everywhere" said Joe, "Nope, we haven't been over there yet" Billy pointed to a dangerous path through trees on the other side of the hill. "are you sure Billy?" said Joe, "positive" said Billy. They sat down on the sled and were off, dodging trees and branches here and there when bam they hit a tree and the two friends were out, COLD!!! They woke up in a clearing the hadn't remembered and quickly had the feeling something had hit the ground hard. "what could have made this big of a clearing in the trees?" said Joe. "I think I see what it was" Billy pointed again to a red sleigh. It was the shiniest thing they had ever seen. "woah" said the two. "Up here" a booming voice seemed like it was calling to them from up in the trees, the trees that were still there that is. Billy and Joe peered up at the trees which the voice had called to them. "No way!" "Santa?" "In the flesh, listen here kids, I need your help to find my nine missing reindeer so I can deliver presents to children all around the world" said Santa. "Joe?" said Billy.

"On it" said Joe. Joe grabbed his walkie talkie and called seven of there friends to come help. Just then seven snowmobiles came down the hill, "What seems to be the problem Joe?" said Jeb. Suddenly the branch holding Santa up broke, but he was fine. "Ooooh that's gona' hurt" said Billy. "Anyways, the problem is that Santa can still not be trusted flying his sleigh after hundreds of years so he crashed and his reindeer are gone, so we have to find them" said Joe. "Precisely" said Santa. "Ok I think I got it" said Jeb. "Alright so here's the plan" said Joe "Jarvis you take Dasher in Warren, Travis you take Dancer in stony, Trevor you take Prancer in Teulon, Jeb you take Comet in the quarry here, Jib you take Vixen in Gimli, Jab you take cupid in Balmoral, Job you take Donner in Grosse-isle, I'll take Blitzen in the country for some reason and Billy in the city and Santa... fix your sleigh" There were reports when they found they're assigned reindeer. "I got Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donnor, Blitzen". There was one reindeer left Rudolph. "I see him... GOTCHA" Billy jumped on Rudolph and he flew through the air leaving tiny sparkles behind. "Rudolph" said Billy, "and I fixed the sleigh!" said Santa. "Well, what now?" said Joe. "I was thinking since you all helped save Christmas

you should get something special?" said Santa. "like what?" said Billy "how about a train ticket to the north pole?"

SECOND

THE CHRISTMAS SAVE

By Rowyn Findlay, Grade 4, Rosser

Once upon a time it was Christmas Eve. Hailey and Ava were planning to catch Santa. They were ready, they went outside at 4:00pm to set up the traps. They went back inside after a few hours to eat dinner. After a while they went back outside to make sure the traps were ready. Little did they know Santa was coming earlier than expected.

When they were done something happened that had never happened before, they saw Santa and his sleigh. But something terrible happened... a few presents fell off of the sleigh and landed right into Ava's hands. They had to get it back, so they jumped on a pole and onto the sleigh. They were in the sleigh, Ava and Hailey couldn't believe it.

They were really tempted to tap Santa... so they did and everyone was screaming. Then they lost control of the sleigh and it went down. Then the presents that were in Ava's hands flew off again.

The good news was the sleigh just needed some batteries for the lights. There was

Continued on page 16

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FLOOR ONE



FLOOR TWO



Continued from page 15

a store across the street to get the batteries. Then they went to get the batteries and came right back. They still have to get the missing presents and deliver them. Santa had a tracker on the presents so it wasn't too hard to find them. Santa, Ava and Hailey all followed the tracker and it led to a little shed. They opened it and it had people in it. Then Hailey yelled out "We need those presents". It was a fight to get those presents back but they figured out a way to get the presents by saying there is more presents in the other shed. Of course they fell for it. They made a run for it and made it to the sleigh. They went all over the world delivering presents and saved Christmas.

THIRD

MYSTERY TRACKS

By Avery Will, 11 years, Warren

When I woke up that morning, everything outside was covered in fresh snow, the sparkly kind that makes the whole world look like a giant sugar cookie. I went outside just to make footprints and hear the crunchy sound that I love. But as soon as I got to the middle of the yard, I saw something strange.

There were tracks in the snow.

Not normal ones. They were small much smaller than my boot and perfectly round, like someone pressed little perfect round rocks into the ground. I stared at them for a minute, thinking maybe they belonged to a rabbit or something, but nope Rabbits don't leave perfect circles, and they definitely don't sparkle.

My curiosity exploded. I had to follow them.

The tracks zig zagged across the yard, looped around the swing set like someone had gotten dizzy, then headed toward the woods behind my house. The weird part was how bright they looked, like someone had sprinkled glitter inside each print. As I followed them, I started smelling something sweet, like gingerbread cookies. There was no reason for the woods to smell like that, but they did.

The deeper I went, the quieter everything got. Snowflakes drifted down slowly, making soft little plopping sounds when they hit the ground. The tracks didn't fade at all. If anything, they looked clearer.

Then I heard bells.

Tiny bells. Very faint but definitely real. They tinkled like the sound right before Santa appears in movies, which obviously made me walk faster.

A warm golden light appeared up ahead. It glowed between the

trees, not like sunlight but like someone had hung a bunch of little lanterns. I stepped into a clearing and froze.

Right in the middle was a tiny red sleigh, about the size of a backpack but shaped exactly like Santa's. Silver designs curled along the sides, and tiny lanterns hung from it, glowing softly in the wintry air.

Next to it stood a very small person.

He was maybe a foot tall, wearing a green coat with fluffy white trim and shiny crystal-looking boots. His cheeks were rosy, and he was brushing snow out of his hair. When he noticed me, his eyes widened.

"Oh! You followed the tracks!" he said, sounding super excited. "Good! I was hoping someone would come. My delivery route got... confusing."

"Delivery?" I asked, even though I sort of already knew.

He pointed toward the sleigh. Inside were tiny wrapped presents, all glowing like they were lit from inside.

"They're special Christmas wishes," he said proudly. "The ones kids think about quietly."

He looked up at me hopefully. "I need help. Will you?"

I didn't even I nodded. I mean, who wouldn't?

The sleigh shimmered and grew just enough for me to climb in. Snow swirled around us as the bells chimed louder, and then whoosh we lifted into the sky.

We flew over rooftops, leaving glowing presents on snowy windowsills. The world below looked peaceful and magical.

When we returned, the sleigh shrank again. The elf handed me a tiny silver snowflake. "To remember," he said.

By morning, the tracks were gone. But I still have the snowflake. And the memory.

THE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS

By Hillary Grzenda, Gr. 6, ESCS

Hello, everyone. Today I'm going to be talking about what Christmas means to me. Firstly, the food, then presents, and finally, family.

First off, there are lots of foods that I hate. I'm a pretty picky eater, some might say. But nothing can compare to this jolly season's food. Well, maybe Halloween, but still. Anyways, the sweets, the ham, the mashed potatoes, gravy, bread buns, it's all really good.

Next, presents. The joy of giving presents is lovely. It's usually about giving gifts to loved ones and making them and yourself feel good. It can range from something big and expensive to something small and meaningful.

Finally, family. Family means everything to me. Parents, siblings, grandparents, aunts, uncles, everyone. Every year, well almost, my aunt and uncle from California fly in to have Christmas with us. They stay for a week, then leave. But while they're here, my dad makes huge snow hills and we go sledding. Sometimes we hook a tube to the back of a snowmobile and rip around the yard.

Now, to conclude this. What does Christmas mean to you?

DANNY'S FAVOURITE CHRISTMAS

By Elliot Insisienmay, Gr. 6 ESCS

Once upon a time there was a boy named Danny. Danny lived

with his mom in a cabin in the woods. On December 24 Christmas Eve, Danny was looking out his window, and he sees some train tracks behind his house.

Danny crept downstairs and out the front door. He goes around the house to the back. The train tracks keep going as far as the eye could see. Danny is curious so he follows them. Danny wonders how the train tracks got there.

The longer Danny follows the tracks the darker outside it gets. Danny is starting to get a little scared. Danny used to go hunting with his dad in the forest but when his dad passed Danny stopped going hunting. So, he was worried some big animal would come and eat him.

Then, all of a sudden, there was a rustle in a bush behind him. Danny turned around to see something moving in the bush. Danny started to run. He ran as fast as he could. But then, bang!! Danny didn't see a log buried in the snow. He trips and falls on his face.

Danny tries to get up but can't. He had twisted his ankle. Danny crawls through the snow to a nearby tree. He uses it to stand up. Danny was so busy trying to stand that he didn't notice it starting to snow.

Danny looks around but all he sees is snow.

"Oh sugarplums." Danny says. "I can't see the tracks anymore."

Danny is starting to get really cold. Danny starts to cry. He sits back down in the snow. Danny wishes he had just stayed in bed.

Then out of the corner of his eye he sees some light. Danny blinks and bam!!! There in front of him is a glorious train! There is lots of steam coming from the train. He thinks he's seen this train before. Then Danny remembers this train as the Polar Express. He remembered because he watched the movie in school.

Then one of the doors opens up and an elf jumps out.

"Looks like you could need a ride," the elf said.

The elf helped Danny onto the train and asked him where he needed to go.

"I need to go home," Danny said.

"And where be your home, young sir?" the elf asked.

"48 Mistletoe Road," Danny replied.

"Next stop, 48 Mistletoe Road!" the elf yelled. "You can sit down until we get there."

Continued on page 17

It has been a privilege and a pleasure serving you this past year. We are really grateful for your kind support and look forward to your continued friendship.

Merry Christmas & A Very Happy 2026!



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Sharing wishes



TRIBUNE PHOTO BY JO-ANNE PROCTER
Six-year-old Ella Oatway shares her wish list with Santa Clause at the annual Grosse Isle Pancake Breakfast on Dec. 6.

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Danny sat down in a seat and looked around. A waitress walked by carrying hot chocolate.

"Would you like some hot chocolate?" she asked.

"Yes, please," Danny said.

He took the hot chocolate and looked out the window for a while. Then the door opened and the elf from earlier said, "Young man, this is your stop."

Danny stepped off the train.

"Thanks for your help," he said.

"It's Christmas. We all have to do our part and help each other out," the elf replied.

The train started to move, and Danny waved goodbye. He walked inside his house and crept up the stairs slowly. He crawled into bed and was asleep within seconds.

When Danny woke up the next morning, he ran downstairs to see a brand-new remote-control train under the tree. Danny grinned. He and his mom had the best Christmas ever.

SANTA'S VILLAGE

By Brooks Harris, Grade 4, Rosser

The truck stops, "That's enough!" My dad said. My brother and I stop. "Who started this?" said my dad.

Then my brother says "Brooks started it" "Get out of the truck" my dad said.

It's a cold wintery night and I'm walking on the side of the road. Then I see something reflecting in the snow. I stop and run to it and I see these sleigh tracks. I follow them. While I'm walking, I see this light and I start walking to it. It takes me hours and hours to reach the light. I see green and red lights. It's a village. I walk into the village and I see little people with pointy ears. I walk deeper into the village and I see this barn, full of reindeer. I also see this sleigh and it reminds me of the tracks I saw in the snow. I run up to it and it says property of Santa Clause. Then I can't believe it... "I'm in Santa's village!" So, I run as fast as I can to the tallest building in the village. I go up the elevator and look out of the building. As soon as I know it, I see Santa Clause. I run to the elevator again and go down to Santa. I run all the way there and I ask him, "Santa is there going to be a Christmas?" Then Santa says "sorry little boy we are not having a Christmas. The elves drank a little too much eggnog and they don't feel so good. So we are down a couple elves. So I might need your help." I walk with Santa to the workshop and I see loads of toys and elves working their tales off. So I run to the gift-wrapping station. Before you know it, the toy maker gets jammed. So I run there and grab a broom to try and stop the jamming. Then I stop the jamming.

Then we finally finish. Now its time to pack up, we finally finish packing. We get the reindeer ready to go.

Santa and I fly all over the world. Drop-

ping presents all over the world. Then we finally arrive at my house and I say goodbye to Santa and I go up to bed. In the morning I hear Rhett scream, "Santa was here!" I run down the stairs to the living room. Then we open our presents and have a wonderful breakfast.

A FALLING PRESENT

By Joseph Vanasse 11 years, Warren

It is early Christmas eve and Santa's getting presents ready for the little kids. He was almost done with the presents. 1 hour later, he was done, at 11pm. He started his journey, knowing everyone was asleep. He got on the sleigh, "ON Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner, Blitzen, and Rudolph!" The sleigh starts going. He brought a couple elves with him so he could have some help to put the presents under the tree. Couple hours later 1 elf was getting tired, he was about to fall asleep. He accidentally fell asleep; all of the sudden... *PLUCK* A present falls out of the sack and off the sleigh. Nobody notices, until an hour later, Santa gets an alert, "A PRESENT HAS FALLEN OFF THE SLEIGH!" Santa was so shocked, he looked at the back and saw the elf sleeping, he yelled at the elf and told him to wake up. The elf got startled and woke up. It said the present was somewhere in Chicago, and they were far away from Chicago, they were at Florida. So now they have to go all the way back to Chicago to get the present for Jeremy, then they will have to go all the way back to Florida to finish then do the rest, he told the elf next time he's not coming with him because of him sleeping and knocking off that present. So they went back to Chicago, they had a locator of where the present was so they don't have to look all of Chicago. They couldn't see the present at all on the radar, they thought they lost the present for Jeremy, till a red dot appear on the radar, they thought they were tweaking, they had check 4 times if they were seeing it right, so they went to that location, took them a while to track it, till, they found it. Santa was so happy that he can give Jeremy his present. Santa was so happy that he changed his mind and let his elf come with him next time, so now they went back to Florida and finish what he had to do, he just had to do 15 million more houses (Population of Florida is 23.3 million.) But he's super fast to get to houses one by one. 2 hours later at 4am and he's at Sweden at 10.57 million people so he that much to go with Sweden, couple minutes later he's halfway done, going house after house after house and even more, he forgot about south America, so he's going there, 1 minute later he's halfway done, That's how fast Santa is, so now he's about to be done, he's just at Japan, in a couple minutes he was done, then he went to Switzerland and it took him less than a minute because it's a small country, so now he's halfway done Asia so now he's almost done, he finished Asia, but he saved best for last, CANADA. He went every where in Canada

The Stonewall Teulon Tribune and then he's done. Then he went back to north pole and waited for next year.

THE SNOW GLOBE ADVENTURE

By Helena Gaboury, ESCS

One day during Christmas break, Iris was lying down on the couch, bored. Her mom was at work and would not be home for hours. Iris stared at the ceiling for a long time until she got up and walked toward her mom's new snow globe. She stared at the small town inside, surrounded by trees. Iris picked up the snow globe, shook it, and watched as the snow fell. Then, there was a blast of whiteness all around Iris. The air kept getting colder, and soon Iris felt herself sitting in a pile of snow.

When she could see clearly, Iris looked around. She saw snow and some spruce trees in the distance. She looked a second time and then saw a glimpse of her reflection. Iris stood up, cold, and walked over to it. When she looked at her reflection, confused, she could see her living room in the background. That is when she realized she was in a snow globe.

Iris started to panic. Her mom would not be home for a long time, and she did not

Thursday, December 25, 2025 **17**
know how to get out. She flopped down in the snow. "What am I going to do!?" Iris shouted. She closed her eyes, not knowing what else to do. The snow was melting on her back, but she did not care. After what felt like hours, she decided to stand up and explore. She could hear birds chirping and smell pine from the trees.

Just then, Iris saw a town in the distance. She remembered the small town she had been looking at before she got whisked away. Maybe people live there, Iris thought. She started walking toward the town. When she reached the entrance, a person walking by noticed her and shouted, "Who are you? Why are you here?!" Startled, Iris answered, "Me? Um, I don't really know how I got here. All I did was shake my mom's snow globe."

The person calmed down and walked toward Iris. He stood in front of her and said, "You must be cold. Come to my house to warm up." Iris did not deny it. It was true. She followed him to his house and sat down on one of the chairs. Then he asked, "What is your name?"

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THE SACK THAT FELL FROM THE SLEIGH

By Olivia McRae, 11 years, Warren

High above the people that are sleeping, Santa's sleigh cut through a sky sprinkled with stars. The reindeer's hooves shinned with frost as they ran from rooftop to rooftop. Everything was going exactly as planned until it wasn't.

At the back of the sleigh was a large red sack, fat with presents and tied shut with a gold rope and bow. It had been packed by the elves with extra care, but as Santa took a sharp turn to avoid a weird looking cloud giant the sleigh jolted. The gold cord slipped. The sack wobbled. And then

Fwoomp!
It tumbled right off the sleigh.
Santa didn't hear a thing over the jingle of bells and the winter wind.

The sack fell toward a quiet little town between two hills. Down it fell, spinning end over end, until it landed whump! in a snowy field behind a small blue house. Snow puffed up around it like powdered sugar.

A few moments later, a window creaked open. popped the head of a girl named Juniper, who had just been awakened by the mysterious thud. She pushed her glasses up her nose and squinted into the night.

"What was that?" she whispered.
Curiosity brought her outside. Wrapped in her warmest coat, she walks into the field. When she found the giant sack of presents, its red fabric glowing in the moonlight, her eyes grew wider than ornaments.

"No way," she said "Santa dropped this?"
She tried to lift it, but it was far too heavy jam-packed with gifts for half the world. As she puzzled over what to do, the sack twitched. Then it jiggled. tipping over and spilling a few small boxes into the snow.

Juniper gasped. "Oh! You're... alive?"
The sack wasn't alive exactly, but it was enchanted. It rolled toward her like an excited puppy seeking help.

"Okay, okay, I get it," Juniper said, brushing snow from its side. "You need to get back to Santa."

But how?
Just then, a soft jingling drifted down from above. Juniper looked up to see the sleigh circling the town, Santa frantically checking behind him.

"HEEEY!" she shouted, waving her

arms. "YOU DROPPED SOMETHING!"

Santa's head snapped toward her. With a booming "Ho ho ho oh dear!" he swooped down, landing the sleigh right beside her.

"My sack!" Santa said. "I've been looking all over!"

Juniper grinned. "It fell. Right there." She pointed to the large dent in the snow.

Santa examined the sack, relieved it hadn't been ripped or lost any important magic. Then he turned to Juniper.

"Thank you. You saved Christmas for quite a few children tonight."

The sack jingled in agreement.

Santa reached into his pocket and handed her a tiny, shimmering snow globe. Inside it was a miniature version of the town, complete with her blue house.

"A gift," Santa said, "for a very quick thinker."

Juniper held it carefully, glowing with pride.

Santa loaded the sack onto the sleigh, tightened the gold cord, and gave Juniper one last wink before launching into the sky.

She watched until the sleigh became a spark among the stars.

Then she whispered, "Merry Christmas, Santa," and headed home, the snow globe shining in her hands.

DEBRA AND BILLS CHRISTMAS

By Olivia Tucker, Gr. 6 ESCS

One day Debra was playing in the snow. Debra is an 11-year-old girl who loves Christmas. Debra's older brother Bill came outside and yelled, "Lunchtime!"

Bill is Debra's 15-year-old brother who likes never coming out of his room and playing video games. They ate their chicken stars. Debra went back outside and saw these tracks in the snow that looked like pictures of reindeer. Bill and Debra started following them.

"What do you think this led to?" said Debra.

"I don't know," said Bill.

"Look, there are cookie crumbs."

"Okay," said Bill.

They walked some more and found an abandoned shack. "Let's go back now," said Bill.

"No," said Debra. "I'm going down there."

"Fine, I'll come with you," said Bill.

They went down the stairs and found a portal. Before they could do anything, they got pulled into it. They found themselves in a freezing cold place covered in snow.

"What is this place?" said Debra.



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"I don't know," said Bill.

Debra started walking.

"Where are you going?" said Bill.

"To find something."

After a while they got too cold to walk, so they lay down in the snow. They fell asleep. They woke up in a completely different place. Debra looked around and saw Bill on another bed beside her. It smelled like gingerbread cookies and hot chocolate. And then she saw... Santa and Mrs. Claus walk into the room.

Debra said, "Are you Santa?"

"Yes," he said.

"What am I doing here?" she asked.

"I don't know. I just saw you in the middle of nowhere."

Bill finally said, "How are we going to get home?"

"I'll take you in my sleigh," said Santa.

They ate some food and then got on the sleigh. "Where do you live?" said Santa.

"Stonewall," said Bill.

"Uh oh," said Santa.

"What?" said Bill.

"Nothing. I just ate too much Taco Bell."

Santa fainted and fell off the sleigh. Bill ran to the front of the sleigh and said, "He'll find his way home. He's magical."

"Yeah," said Debra.

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As the year draws to a close and the festive season is upon us, we would like to take a moment to thank our cherished clients and friends who make up our community. From family pets to farm animals, it has been a privilege to care for your animals through every season and every need.
This Christmas and Holiday Season, may your homes be filled with warmth, joy, and, of course, the happy paws and hoofbeats that make life so special.
With warm wishes and gratitude,
The Equi-Tech Veterinary family

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Bill pulled up Google Maps on his phone and they were only an hour from home. They got back to their house and Bill said, "Well, that was weird." Bill and Debra never got any presents again in their lives.

BAD CHRISTMAS DREAM

By Chase Chartier, Gr. 6 ESCS

"Hmm, these cookies are good. I wish that I can have more, but I've got to get the gift out." Santa takes colossal-sized steps to the sleigh. He walks to the sleigh, boom, another boom. He finds tracks near the sleigh. "What's that?" He goes to the pen and the reindeer are gone. So he calls them, "Come here, you good boy," but they do not come. They're gone, and Santa is feeling anxious. But he looks at the tracks near the sleigh and in the pen. "They're the same."

So Santa runs along the tracks, but he's not fast. He's getting close and closer and closer, but there's a wall. And there is a not-so-good smell. Santa still needs to find his reindeer. And he finds more tracks, so he is going and going along them. And the tracks go into a cave. "Are they cave divers?" Santa calls the cave boys. "Oaaa oaaa oaaa! Help me dig a hole to get in!"

"Oaaa oaaa!" "I will give you food from my sack," so the cave men say yes. The cave boys are digging, but the smell is so bad that Santa waits outside the cave.

"Oaaa!" "You boys are done!" Santa goes in, but Santa plugs his nose. "Eww, the smell is so bad." And Santa sees his reindeer dead, and there is a big, bulky wolf.

Santa jolts up. "Ahhhh!" It was all a bad dream.

MYSTERY STORY HEHE (CHRISTMAS)

By Greysen Breton, Gr. 6 ESCS

It was a black night, and I found a track and I'm going to follow it. It looks 250 yards long and it will take 1 hour to get there, so I'm go in to get walking. I forgot I have a gun in my pocket. In the first 220 yards a bear attacked me, but I used the gun and killed him. He died and I lost my gun. I got to a house, and I saw a big elf with a big ear. The house felt like a log because it was a log. I saw a dead police officer I think he was trying to arrest him, but he did not. It smelled like an old man. I got knocked out. When I woke up, I was in a room and there were more kids there too and he tortured people, so I had a phone, so I called the police. The police came and rescued me and all the kids we were all home for Christmas.

MY CHRISTMAS MISSION

By Havana Medeiros, ESCS

It all started when two girls, Mila and Riley, woke up in the snow, not knowing how they got there. As soon as they woke up, they were super confused about what had just happened. It was so weird. It smelled like something had just died, it felt really cold, and all they heard was birds chirping. So, they started walking with no water, no food, no cellular device, no clothes on, no company other than themselves, and no place to go. They started getting really cold, especially with no clothes on.

Riley and Mila kept walking, and then suddenly, they both heard a very loud noise, it almost sounded like a gunshot. They noticed that there were tracts in the snow so they followed. They kept walking until they came across a mysterious field and, in the distance, they could see a whole bunch of

red. "Wow, what is that?" Riley mumbled. They walked closer until they realized it was a whole bunch of dead Santas. So, they put Santa's clothes on and thought to themselves, "Uhh, Christmas is tomorrow. How is Santa going to deliver the presents?" said Mila in a voice of frustration.

"I don't know," Riley said. Then Riley came up with a brilliant but bad but wonderful idea. "What if we save Christmas?" Riley said.

"That is a terrible idea. How are we even going to pay for all the gifts?" Mila said.

"We can figure it out," Riley said.

"Ok fine, we can try," said Mila.

So they started walking with Santa's suits on, and then all of a sudden Mila saw something in the distance. It looked like a man in an elf costume. After looking at it for a bit, the mysterious man looked like he was holding a shotgun. They started to walk, trying not to get caught with Santa's holly jolly suits with the jingle bells on them. The guy turned around and by accident he shot the shotgun, nearly hitting Mila. Mila took a big sigh of relief.

"You nearly killed me!" Mila said.

"I am so sorry," the guy said in a deep voice.

"I forgive you, but maybe next time be more careful," said Mila.

"I will, I will," the guy said.

"What's your name anyway?" Riley mumbled.

"I am Tim."

"Hi Tim, I am Mila."

"I am Riley," the girls said.

Then Riley asked a very stupid question.

"So, Tim, are you rich?"

"RILEY! Why would you ask that?"

"No, no, it is ok," Tim replied. "Yes, I am. Why do you ask?"

"Will you help us save Christmas?" Riley asked.

"That is actually why I am here. You see, I am Santa's helper."

"So, do you know your way around here?" Mila asked.

"I sure do," Tim replied.

As soon as they got to Tim's house, Mila and Riley said, "Wow, quite a house you have here."

"Thanks, I made it with Santa."

"So how are we going to save Christmas?" the two girls asked.

"Do not worry. I got this. Follow me," said Tim.

"What are we doing at Home Depot?" asked the two girls.

"Do not worry," said Tim, and in just a snap they arrived home with all that they needed.

"Wow, so cool," Mila said.

"Yep. Now all we have to do is pack it all up and deliver the presents to the kids."

"Ok, sounds like a plan," said the two girls, and in just a snap they were in the sleigh delivering presents. And with the Christmas spirit, Santa came alive.

THE PRESENT STEALER

By Katie Marohn, ESCS

One night on Christmas Eve, a girl named Jordan and her little sister Madison were having dinner. Madison said to Jordan that she was a better singer than her. Their family goes Christmas caroling every year, and it is always a competition for the two sisters. Madison is only four, but Jordan is thirteen and has a really bad temper. When Madison said that she was a better singer than Jordan, Jordan lost her temper and ran outside. Her parents told Madison to go check on Jordan, so that is what she did.

When Madison got outside to tell Jordan that she was sorry, Jordan just rolled her eyes, but Madison still said, "I'm sorry." Jordan said, "Whatever," but Madison got really sad and almost started to cry. Then she saw a glowing light behind a tree! Madison went to see what the mysterious light was, and it was a portal! Jordan went to see what Madison was doing, but the two sisters both got sucked into the portal! Madison was so happy and full of wonder, but Jordan, on the other hand, was not so happy about it. Jordan yelled while Madison laughed as the two sisters twisted and turned through the "endless" portal.

Before they knew it, the two girls were both in Santa's sleigh. It turned out the portal they had been in was Santa's portal that he uses to deliver presents. Jordan and Madison were both in shock and having trouble speaking to Santa Claus. Santa knew that they were there but continued to Mrs. Claus to get the presents.

When they arrived at the workshop, Santa helped the girls out of the sleigh and said, "Ho Ho Ho! How are you doing, Jordan and Madison?"

Madison said, "I'M AMAZING!"

Jordan said, "I'm good."

"That's good!" said Santa. "Would you like to see Mrs. Claus?"

The three went to the kitchen to see Mrs. Claus, and when they walked through the door, they saw Mrs. Claus eating all the gingerbread cookies! Mrs. Claus always eats cookies when she is stressed.

"What's wrong, Mrs. Claus?" asked San-

Continued on page 21

Merry Christmas

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Christmas STORIES

ta.

"Steve stole all the presents!" said Mrs. Claus.

"Don't worry, we will stop that naughty fire cat!" said Santa. "Hop on the sleigh, girls! We have a fire cat to catch!"

Jordan and Madison did as Santa said and got in the sleigh. It took a long time to find Steve because of a big snowstorm! Jordan saw something in the snow. They followed the paw prints in the snow until they could land to get the presents back.

"There you are, Steve!" said Santa. "Give us back those presents, you naughty fire cat!"

Before Steve could respond, little Madison said, "Hey! Why are you taking all the presents?"

"Because I am!" said Steve.

Madison's parents had always told her that "because" is not an answer, so Madison said to Steve, "Because is not an answer!"

"Well, the real reason that I stole the presents is because... I'm lonely and I have no one to share the holidays with," said Steve.

"Well, why don't you just have Christmas with me and my family?" said Madison.

Before anyone could answer, Madison grabbed Steve's paw and said, "Well, what are you guys waiting for? Let's go home!"

Before they knew it, Jordan, Madison, and Steve were all safe and sound at home and shared a wonderful Christmas!

The end!

THE RED BAG

By Adalee Murphy, ESCS

Chelsie is in her beautiful, awesome, cozy house watching television. Chelsie hears a big thump.

"Oh, yay! My Temu package has arrived!" Chelsie ordered fuzzy Christmas socks.

"Oh, I am so excited! They are so soft and warm."

"Hey Mom, did you order a package?"

"No."

"Oh, that's weird."

She goes to see what happened. She goes outside and...

"What's that?" She sees a big, red bag.

Of course, her curiosity takes the best of her, and she opens the bag and sees...

"AHH! AHH! What are you?"

"We are the elves."

"Really? Are you like elves, like from the North Pole? Like Santa's helpers?"

"Yes, we are."

"What are you?"

"You don't know what I am. You come and watch me and report the good and bad things to Santa."

"I am a human."

"Oh, okay. We just called you big elves with small ears."

"That's nice."

"How did you get here? It's not Christmas yet."

"Yeah, we know. We do a practice run every year, so we don't miss any house."

"Okay, that's smart."

"We must have fallen out of the sleigh."

"Okay, I have another question."

"Ugh, what?"

"Do you guys know your way home?"

"Yes, we do, but it's too bad we can't carry it. We are too tiny."

"Wait, what if you come with us and help us carry it?"

"Maybe, but my parents won't know where I am."

"Then just tell them you are going to your friend's house."

"Oh, wow, you're so smart for an elf."

"I know. I am a genius."

She goes to tell her mom that she is going to her friend Quinn's house for a sleepover. Her mom said yes.

"Okay, let's go before it gets dark."

The elves and Chelsie are on their way to the North Pole. She finally arrived there.

"Hi Santa," said Chelsie.

"Please call me Mr. Claus."

"Okay. Wait, how am I going to get home?"

"You can have a sleepover with Karley."

"Okay."

She gets to Karley's house.

"Good morning. Do you want to go have fun around the North Pole?" said Karley.

"Sure."

She helped make presents for Christmas, met the elves and the reindeer.

"Today was fun! I never want to leave. And tell your mom you are moving out; you are 16, so you can."

"Okay."

So, in the end, Chelsie ended up living in the North Pole with Karley.

THE CHRISTMAS DISASTER

By Amelie Plett, ESCS

It all started one day on Christmas Eve. Hazel is one of those kids that tries to see Santa, but she fell asleep. Santa was delivering presents like he always does, going from house to house. Hazel was still asleep until Santa's sleigh started going out of control and began crashing. All the presents fell out of Santa's sleigh and into one house.

The presents fell into Hazel's house. Hazel woke up. Hazel was confused because she is an only child, so she didn't know why there were so many presents. Hazel looked in the chimney and saw Santa crashing, so she put on her boots and her jacket and ran outside to go help Santa. The reindeer were okay; none of them were hurt, but Santa rolled his ankle. That was it, but Santa's sleigh was super broken. There was no chance the sleigh was going back up.

Hazel said to Santa that she could get all the presents out of her house and that she and Santa would bring them to the other houses by foot. So, Santa and Hazel walked around town delivering presents to all the other houses. But then Santa's ankle started getting worse, so he was limping. As they were delivering presents, Santa fell to the ground. The pain was getting worse. Hazel is seven years old, so she didn't know what to do. Then she remembered that she had a neighbor who is a nurse. She asked Santa if she should go get her, but Santa said no because he couldn't let anyone see him. Then he looked at his foot and said, "Okay."

Hazel went to get the nurse. The nurse came outside right away and helped Santa, then went back to bed. Santa and Hazel went around the town and finished delivering the presents. Santa and Hazel went back to the sleigh and remembered it was broken.

"I need to be home by six or more people are going to see me. What are we going to do?" Santa said.

Hazel remembered that her dad works with broken things, so she went to get him. Her dad asked Hazel how she knew that Santa was here.

"Santa's sleigh broke and I heard it," said

The Stonewall Teulon Tribune
Hazel.

"So, what's the problem?" said Hazel's dad. Hazel pointed to the broken sleigh.

Hazel's dad started fixing it.

"This is going to take at least an hour," said Hazel's dad.

Hazel asked Santa if he wanted to come inside, and Santa said okay. Santa looked at a little table in the middle of the living room and saw some cookies. He asked if they were for him, and Hazel said they were. Hazel picked up the plate and gave a cookie to Santa. Santa ate the cookie in one bite.

"That was the best cookie ever," said Santa.

"Thanks," said Hazel.

Hazel's dad walked in and said, "The sleigh is fixed."

"Okay," said Santa. "I have to go then."

"Okay, bye. See you next year," said Hazel.

And Santa left.

"Okay Hazel, you have to get a little bit of sleep," said Hazel's dad.

"Good night, Dad."

"See you tomorrow."

The next day it was Christmas, present time.

"I got a guitar and new markers! Yes! Best Christmas ever!"

THE SNOW GLOBE

By Eva Anderson-Coutu, ESCS

Once upon a time, there was a girl named Nova. She lived with her grandparents because her parents died in a car crash before Christmas last year. Two weeks before Christmas, her grandparents asked Nova, "What do you want for Christmas?"

Nova said, "I don't want anything."

"Not one thing?" her grandma said.

"I'm sure," she said.

"Ok."

Christmas comes.

"Good morning," Nova said.

"Good morning," her grandparents said.

Nova asked, "What are we having for breakfast?"

Her grandma said, "Eggs, pancakes, and bacon."

"Sounds good."

She leaves. Before she goes into her room, her grandfather asks, "Do you know what day it is?"

"Uh... no. Why?"

"IT'S CHRISTMAS!!!!!!"

"Oh, right. I definitely knew that."

"How can you forget the most important day of the year?"

"I don't know. Anyway, let's go eat breakfast."

After breakfast she goes to her room. Before she enters, her grandparents say, "Wait, Nova, we have something to show you." Nova's grandparents pass her a present.

She says, "I said I didn't want anything."

Her grandfather says, "Well, we did. Now open it. I am excited to see your reaction."

She opens the box and says, "A snow globe? Really?"

"Oh, I thought you would like it," her grandma said.

She storms to her room with the snow globe. At night, before bed, she looks at the snow globe for 10 seconds. She picks it up and shakes it. A mysterious wind comes from the snow globe.

"Uh, what's happening?" Nova says.

She puts the snow globe on the ground. A portal opens and she gets sucked in.

"Ahhhh!" she yells.

She wakes up in a snowy place.

"Um... what just happened?"

Thursday, December 25, 2025 **21**

Nova stands up. She starts walking and sees a snowman on top of a hill. She walks to the snowman.

Nova says, "Hello, please help me. I got sucked into a snow globe."

She waits 10 seconds, then sits down beside the snowman.

When she starts to stand up, the snowman says, "Hello, fellow human."

"Hi," says Nova. "Can you help me get out of here, please?"

The snowman says, "Sure. Where do you want to go?"

"Home," said Nova.

"Sorry, I can't help you."

"Why?" says Nova.

"Because we are in a snow globe."

"No, really," says Nova. "Well, can you help me get out of the snow globe then?"

"I mean, I can try."

They walk for an hour.

"Hey kid, we have walked for an hour," says the snowman.

"Please, I need to get home. My grandparents will wonder where I am," says Nova.

"Fine, we can look again."

They look again.

"You know what? I am going to sit down," says the snowman.

"Me too."

When they sit down, a portal opens.

"Yes! I can go home! Wait... it is too high. It is in the sky. Wait, I think you can go on my shoulders."

"Um, we can try."

She gets on his shoulders. Nova reaches for the portal and jumps and makes it.

"Thanks, Mr. Snowman," Nova says.

"No problem, bye," he says.

She is back in her bedroom. She runs out and hugs her grandparents.

Nova says, "I'm sorry for not being grateful."

"It is ok," her grandfather says.

Her grandma says, "Let's go to bed and we can restart."

"Ok," says Nova.

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LETTERS TO Santa



Dear Santa,

My name is Evan. This year I am 1 years old. I hope you and Mrs. Claus are getting some rest before the big day!

I started going to daycare and I have been very kind and learning so much. I help my parents clean the house, make dinner, and with yard work. For Christmas this year I would love a mini trampoline.

Love, Evan Williams

Dear Santa,

My name is Arla Anne Williams and I am 10 years old.

This year I would like a kindle that reads to you with a light pink or teal green case please.

Love Arla

Dear Santa,

My name is Nora Wynn Williams and I am 8 years old. For Christmas this year I would like a wedge mat but I want it to be blue, red, and yellow if possible.

Questions:

#1: What's your favourite color?

#2: How old are you?

#3: When is your birthday?

#4: What is your favourite food?

#5: What is your favourite season?

Jokes:

#1: Why doesn't the grinch like knock knock jokes?

Answer: Because there is always who's there

#2: Why are Christmas trees so bad

at sewing?

Answer: Because they always drop their needles

#3: The gingerbread man went to the doctor complaining of a sore knee.

Answer: A sore knee said the doctor, have you tried icing it?

Love Nora

Dear Santa,

My name is Sawyer Paul Williams and I am 6 years old. For Christmas this year, I would like How to Train Your Dragon toys 3D printed.

Love Sawyer

Christmas 2025

Dear Santa,

My name is Brett and I am 6 years old. This year I have been nice. For Christmas this year I would like a gold bar, a Lamborghini, and a green statue of Liberty. I will leave you milk and a cookie and carrots for the reindeer.

Love, Brett

Dear Santa,

My name is Nash and I am 7 years old. This year I have been nice. For Christmas this year I would like: Robux, a drone, a phone, Tictaks, and candy canes. I will leave you milk and cookies. I will leave the reindeer carrots.

Love, Nash

Dear Santa,

My name is Weston and I am 7 years old. This year I have been nice. For Christmas this year I would like: a fishing rod and tackle. I will leave you milk and cookies. I will leave the reindeer carrots.

Love, Weston

Dear Santa,

My name is Konrad and I am 7 years old. This year I have been nice. For Christmas this year I would like a new iPad, and the 2025-2026 Hockey Super Stars Book and I would like a new hockey stick. I will leave you cookies, milk and carrots for the reindeer.

Love, Konrad

Dear Santa,

My name is Noah and I am 7 years old. This year I have been a little but naughty and a little but nice. For Christmas this year I would like army toys. I would like a hockey stick. I will trade you an old hockey stick for a new one.

Love, Noah

Dear Santa,

My name is Afonso and I am 7 years old. This year I have been a little bit naughty and a little but nice. For

Continued on page 23

ROSSER SCHOOL GRADE 2

Dear Santa,

My name is Sebastian and I am 7 years old. This year I have been both naughty and nice. For Christmas this year, I would like: an Ironman Helmet, a go-cart and a dirt bike, a red camera and a watch. I need to tell the time. I will leave milk and cookies. How do you fly on your sleigh? I will leave the reindeer carrots and candy canes.

Love, Sebastian

Dear Santa,

My name is Lily and I am 7 years old. This year I have been nice. For Christmas this year, I would like a surprise! I help my baby brother Wyatt and my sister Ava. I will leave you cookies and milk, and carrots for the reindeer. How do your reindeer fly?

Love, Lily

Dear Santa,

My name is Rhett and I am 7 years old. This year I have been nice. For Christmas this year, I would like a grey camera. I will leave you milk and cookies and carrots for the reindeer, so they can see better. How do you make it around the world in one night?

Love, Rhett

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LETTERS TO Santa



Continued from page 22

Christmas this year I would like: Peterbuilt Semi toys and lowbed trailers. I am going to leave you cookies and milk. I am the first one to wake up for Christmas and I wake everyone else up.

Love, Afonso

ECOLE R.W. BOBBY BEND SCHOOL GRADE 2 FRENCH IMMERSION, MME MILLAR

Dear Santa,

My name is Brooke Maxwell. I would like to ask you a question? Who is the leader of the reindeer? Can I please have a karaoke machine, and a camera? I hope you like the cookies and milk.

Love Brooke

Dear Santa,

Hi my name is Keira. I am 7 years old. Is my elf "Snowflake" at the North Pole? I would like another Barbie car, please?

Love Keira

Dear Baby Jesus,

My name is Maggie Mae. I am 7 years old. I love that you were born. I have a question for you. Were the angels created by Adam and Eve?

Love Maggie

Dear Santa,

I like when you bring me presents. I would give some to my sister. I would love a 3D printer and I would also love lots of Jory John and Pete Oswald books and the stuffies.

Love Tessa-Rae

Dear Santa,

My name is Annika. I want to know what is favourite candy cane? I would like slime, and some new earrings, and also a bunch of chapter books.

Love Annika

Dear Santa,

My name is Brooks. What is your favourite reindeer? Also, who is your favourite elf? I would like a Mystery Mini stick, please. I would also love a switch.

Love Brooks

Dear Santa,

Dear Joly Santa,

My name is Lara. I am 7 years old. I would like to know, is it easy to deliver presents? I would love a robot puppy, and to spend time with my family.

Love Lara

Dear Santa,

My name is Lincoln. I live in Balmoral. This Christmas I would like the Lego Eiffel tower set. I would also like an underground tunnel to Elijah's house, and maybe 11,000 Lego sets too. Who is your favourite reindeer?

Love Lincoln

Dear Santa,

My name is Kylan. Who is your favourite reindeer? Who is your favourite elf? I would like a phone, clothes, stuffies, and a camera. The camera can print. I only want 3 of these things.

Love Kylan

Dear Santa,

My name is Harmony. I was wondering what your favourite cookie is? I would like to have a Stitch Lego set and a 3D printed sloth. Also, a watch. I hope you have a holly jolly Christmas.

Love Harmony

Dear Santa,

My name is Caitriona. Is it too hard to deliver presents to people? I would like 100 Lego sets for Christmas.

Love Caitriona

Dear Santa,

My name is Raelyn Sampson. Is it hard to deliver presents to people's houses? I would like to know your favourite colour.

Love Raelyn

Dear Santa,

My name is Ásta. I want to know who the reindeer leader is? I want a mini-fridge and 100 Lego sets. I hope you like the cookies and milk.

Love Ásta

Dear Santa,

My name is Maisie Matheson. I like the presents you bring me. I would like to know how hard it is to get into peoples houses without waking them up? I would like to have a Barbie Doll house and some earrings for Christmas. I will ask you for some more things on my other Christmas list.

Love Maisie

(You are the Best Santa)

Dear Santa,

My name is Rhys. I love playing hockey. My favourite hockey team is the Jets. Who is your favourite reindeer? This Christmas I would like 4 robot lizards with a cage for all 4. I would also just love to spend time with my family. I hope you enjoy the cookies and milk.

Love Rhys

Dear Santa,

My name is Elijah. I like to craft. Do you want something? I would like to know. If you do, can you let me know. I would like a creeper, a robot and some slime. Also, a 3D printer, and about 100,000 Lego and some Plus Plus. A play structure would be great too so I can play outside. Maybe a mini racer, and a racetrack with Hot Wheels too, and also the book "The Big Cheese". Thanks

Love Elijah

Dear Joly Santa,

My name is Benjamin. I love black bears. What is your favourite cookie of all the cookies? My mom is a school counsellor and my dad is a pilot. Please, bring me a walkie talkie, and a pet too. But NEVER give me a piece of cheese. I would also love a robot, a 3D printer, and a real gold necklace. But remember never give me a piece of cheese. The pet I would like more than a guinea pig is a baby hamster. I would also love a baseball bat, but please remember to NEVER give me a piece of cheese. My grandpa drives a gigantic boat. It would be nice to also get a Ford truck or a Ram. But remember never to give me cheese. Dog man books would be great too.

Love Benjamin

Dear Santa,

My name is Harrison. I would like to know what is your favourite colour? My favourite things are crafting, and drawing. This Christmas I would like a Tabbasquishy and to spend time with my family. I hope you enjoy your milk and cookies.

Love Harrison

Dear Joly Santa,

My name is Braelyn. I am 6 years old. Who is your favourite elf on the shelf? I have two elves on the shelf, they are Holly and Chip. I am friends with Asta. We like to play and talk. This year for Christmas I would like a lizard that crawls on the wall. Don't work too hard on Christmas Eve delivering all the presents.

Love Braelyn

Dear Joly Santa,

My name is Grayson. This Christmas I would like an elf on the shelf and lots of candy. What type of cookies do you like?

Love Grayson

Dear Santa,

My name is AY. I am 9 years old. What is your favourite thing to eat? I would like a drum set for Christmas.

Love AY

Dear Santa,

Hi my name is Teddy. I am 7 years old. I like to play with army men. I also like to read Dog Man and Captain Underpants books. I would love a remote-control gecko that climbs on walls. I would love for you to bring a butcher knife for my dad, please. Since my sister Rosie has a phone, I would love to get a computer Ipad. Can you please get my mom a "shift" off since she has to work on Christmas? I would also like a video game called "Stick fight", and a remote-control army tank. Thank you so much, please do you best.

Love Teddie

TEULON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, KINDERGARTEN, MRS. SKINNER

Dear Santa,

How ae you today? My name is Bentley and I am 5 years old.

My favourite game is Fortnite.

My favourite kind of cookie is chocolate.

My best friend's name is Blakelynn. I love winter because I love presents. See you soon Santa!

Dear Santa,

How ae you today? My name is Carsen and I am 5 years old.

My favourite game is Hungry Hippos.

My favourite kind of cookie is a gingerbread man.

My best friend's name is Aubree.

I love winter because we make snow angels.

See you soon Santa!

Dear Santa,

How ae you today? My name is Hunter and I am 5 years old.

My favourite game is Unicorns.

My favourite kind of cookies are Santa cookies.

My best friend's name is Maddy.

I love winter because I make snow angels.

See you soon Santa!

Dear Santa,

How ae you today? My name is Audrey and I am 5 years old.

My favourite game is house.

My favourite kind of cookie is gingerbread.

My best friend's name is Willow.

I love winter because I love skating. See you soon Santa!

Continued on page 24



LETTERS TO Santa



Continued from page 23

Dear Santa,
How ae you today? My name is Wil-low and I am 5 years old.
My favourite game is Elsa.
My favourite kind of cookies are snowman cookies.
My best friend's name is Brooklyn.
I love winter because I make snow-men.
See you soon Santa!

Dear Santa,
How ae you today? My name is Car-son and I am 5 years old.
My favourite game is cops and rob-bers.
My favourite kind of cookie is choc-olate chip.
My best friend's name is Riot.
I love winter because we can make snowmen.
See you soon Santa!

Dear Santa,
How ae you today? My name is Sar-ah and I am 5 years old.
My favourite game is Sonic.
My favourite kind of cookie is choc-olate chip.
My best friend's name is Carson.
I love winter because we go sled-ding.
See you soon Santa!

Dear Santa,
How ae you today? My name is Rhylee and I am 5 years old.
My favourite game is Candy Land.
My favourite kind of cookie is a sprinkle cookie.
My best friend's name is Kourtney.
I love winter because we have snow-ball fights.
See you soon Santa!

Dear Santa,
How ae you today? My name is Oaklynn and I am 5 years old.
My favourite game is the cousin game.
My favourite kind of cookie is Dad's Double Chocolate Chip.
My best friend's name is Carsen.
I love winter because I like skating.
See you soon Santa!
Dear Santa,
How ae you today? My name is Andy and I am 4 years old.
My favourite game is Freeze Tag.
My favourite kind of cookie is choc-olate.
My best friend's name is Kourtney.
I love winter because I love presents.
See you soon Santa!

Dear Santa,
How ae you today? My name is Red-vet and I am 5 years old.
My favourite game is climbing.
My favourite kind of cookie is choc-olate chip.
My best friend's name is Rhylee.
I love winter because I love snow.
See you soon Santa!

Dear Santa,
How ae you today? My name is Re-ese and I am 5 years old.
My favourite game is Minecraft.
My favourite kind of cookies are sugar cookies.
My best friend's name is Levi.
I love winter because I love snow.
See you soon Santa!

Dear Santa,
How ae you today? My name is Hayes and I am 5 years old.
My favourite game is high school.
My favourite kind of cookie is choc-olate.
My best friend's name is Daylen.
I love winter because I love eating snow.
See you soon Santa!

Dear Santa,
How ae you today? My name is Kourtney and I am 5 years old.
My favourite game is Mario Cart.
My favourite kind of cookies are sprinkle cookies.
My best friend's name is Rylee.
I love winter because I have fun.
See you soon Santa!

Dear Santa,
How ae you today? My name is Mila and I am 4 years old.
My favourite game is unicorns.
My favourite kind of cookie is choc-olate.
My best friend's name is Rhylee.
I love winter because I like ice skat-ing.
See you soon Santa!

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Dear Santa,
How are you today? My name is Mi-cah and I am 5 years old. My favour-ite game is Back Rooms. My favourite cookie is chocolate chip cookies. My best friend's name is Carson. I love winter because I love to build snow-men. See you soon, Santa! Love: Mi-cah

Dear Santa,
How are you today? My name is

Amy-Rose and I am 5 years old. My favourite game is Air Hockey. My favourite cookie is sugar cookies. My best friend's name is Aila. I love winter because I love to build snowmen. See you soon, Santa!
Love: Amy-Rose

Dear Santa,
How are you today? My name is Grizz and I am 5 years old. My favour-ite game is Tag. My favourite cook-ie is chocolate chip cookies. My best friend's name is Christopher. I love winter because I love to build snow-men. See you soon, Santa! Love: Grizz

Dear Santa,
How are you today? My name is Scarlett and I am 5 years old. My favourite game is Candyland. My favourite cookie is chocolate chip cookies. My best friend's name is Jack. I love winter because I love to build snowmen. See you soon, Santa!
Love: Scarlett

Dear Santa,
How are you today? My name is Ellie and I am 5 years old. My favour-ite game is Tag. My favourite cook-ie is chocolate milk cookies. My best friend's name is Erica. I love winter because I love snow. See you soon, Santa!
Love: Ellie

Dear Santa,
How are you today? My name is Louise and I am 5 years old. My favour-ite game is Family. My favourite cookie is sprinkle Oreo cookies. My best friend's name is Aila. I love winter because I love snow. See you soon, Santa! Love: Louise

Dear Santa,
How are you today? My name is Jack and I am 5 years old. My favour-ite game is Dr. Dodgeball. My favour-ite cookie is Christmas cookies. My best friend's name is Sophie. I love winter because it is my favourite sea-son. See you soon, Santa!
Love: Jack

Dear Santa,
How are you today? My name is Aila and I am 5 years old. My favour-ite game is Tag. My favourite cookie is chocolate cookies. My best friend's name is Ava. I love winter because I love snow. See you soon, Santa!
Love: Aila

Dear Santa,
How are you today? My name is Lo-gan and I am 5 years old. My favour-ite game is Cars. My favourite cookie is spider cookies. My best friend's name is Micah. I love winter because I love snow. See you soon, Santa!
Love: Logan

Dear Santa,
How are you today? My name is Carson and I am 5 years old. My favour-ite game is Dinosaurs. My favour-ite cookie is Oreo cookies. My best friend's name is Micah. I love winter because I love to build snow-men. See you soon, Santa!
Love: Carson

Dear Santa,
How are you today? My name is James and I am 5 years old. My favour-ite game is Lunch Man. My favour-ite cookie is strawberry cookies. My best friend's name is Micah. I love winter because I love snow. See you soon, Santa!
Love: James

Dear Santa,
How are you today? My name is Re-ese and I am 5 years old. My favourite game is Hide and Seek. My favourite cookie is chocolate chip cookies. My best friend's name is Rhylee. I love winter because I love to build snow-men. See you soon, Santa!
Love: Reese

Dear Santa,
How are you today? My name is Christopher and I am 5 years old. My favourite game is Pretend. My favour-ite cookie is gingerbread man cook-ies. My best friend's name is Amy-Rose. I love winter because I love making snow bricks and snowballs. See you soon, Santa!
Love: Christopher

Dear Santa,
How are you today? My name is S and I am 5 years old. My favourite game is Ball. My favourite cookie is chocolate cookies. My best friend's name is Logan. I love winter because I love snow. See you soon, Santa!
Love: S

Dear Santa



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Swinging
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Bouncing into business: The Blanco Bounce brings local inflatable fun

By E. Antonio

Popularity in the inflatables industry has blown up in recent years — especially for The Blanco Bounce owner, Gracie Omerbasi.

She and her family live in Warren, where they rent out bouncy castles and ball pits for events in Warren, Winnipeg and surrounding areas. Omerbasi, who came to Canada from the Philippines in her teens, launched the business this past September after she struggled to find an affordable inflatable rental company for her son's first birthday party.

"Everything I was finding was so pricey, so I figured I would just buy my own, and from there I kept ordering more and more inflatables," she said.

The Blanco Bounce currently offers eight different white inflatables, including several sizes of bouncy castles, an eight-foot-wide ball pit and a bubble balloon house. Omerbasi prefers the all-white colour scheme to

keep the business modern and fresh — and because white fits seamlessly into any event theme.

"Whether it is a birthday party or wedding, these inflatables will fit in with the rest of your decorations," she said. "We also have different coloured balls for the ball pit to further match your party's theme."

The Blanco Bounce provides full setup and takedown and rents inflatables for five-hour periods, with the option to extend rental times when booking. They are licensed and insured for both indoor and outdoor events and offer a range of packages tailored to different party sizes.

Although the business has only been open for a few months, Omerbasi said she already feels like a successful entrepreneur, especially with most weekends booking up completely. For her, success looks like one booking per week — so fully booked weekends feel like a bonus.

"I truly never thought I would be



Gracie Omerbasi and her husband, Enes, founded The Blanco Bounce — a modern inflatables company based in Warren — after struggling to find an affordable rental option for their son's first birthday.

in this kind of business," she added. "Now I want to provide an entertainment option for families in the community so they can have fun just like the kids had at our own party."

Omerbasi and her husband, who is Bosnian, have lived in Warren for only three years but say they have felt warmly welcomed. As immigrants, moving to Canada alone was a major change, but both have found a sense of home in the community.

"Moving to Warren has been the absolute greatest. It is so quiet, we have a beautiful piece of land and it's been such a good community — we love it here."

Looking ahead, she hopes The Blanco Bounce continues to grow at a steady pace and would eventually like to add soft-play items to the rental lineup if there is enough interest. She recommends booking at least two weeks in advance.

Inquiries can be made through Instagram and Facebook at @TheBlancoBounce, through their website www.theblancobounce.ca, or by email at theblancobounce@hotmail.com.

"Thank you for supporting our family business and letting us be a part of your special moments," Omerbasi added.



TRIBUNE PHOTOS SUBMITTED

The Blanco Bounce offers eight modern white inflatables available to rent for events in Warren, Winnipeg and surrounding communities.



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INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

Loewen's retirement from pro hockey a family-based decision

By Kieran Reimer

One of Interlake's finest has officially hung up the skates.

Jermaine Loewen played six seasons of professional hockey between the American Hockey League and the East Coast Hockey League from 2019 to 2025.

This past summer, the 27-year-old made the decision to retire from the pro game to focus on family life — namely his fiancée and his one-year-old son, Deshaun — after spending the 2024-25 season with the ECHL's Kalamazoo Wings and Fort Wayne Komets.

"I had talks with my fiancée, Jenni, so it was kind of more of like, 'Is this going to make sense for everything that you're having to do and going on the road trips?'" said Loewen. "I think there's a lot more to it than people really realize — how logistically difficult it can be to have a family and play the game."

Throughout his six pro seasons, Loewen registered nine goals and 15 assists in 174 AHL games, and another five goals and four assists in 41 ECHL games.

Originally born in Jamaica, Loewen became the first Jamaican-born player to be drafted into the National Hockey League when he was selected in the seventh round by the Dallas Stars in 2018.

Before then, he grew up in Arborg, where he became a standout with the U15 and U18 AAA Interlake Lightning.

His success led to his WHL draft selection by the Kamloops Blazers, where he played five seasons and captained the team in 2018-19.

He recalls his years of minor and junior hockey as some of the best of his career.

"I would say the highlight of my career of playing hockey would be winning the AAA banner for Interlake Lightning," said Loewen. "All the support I have from people in Arborg and all of Interlake really, for my career — there's so many good memories. Being the captain of the Blazers in my last year and getting drafted by the Dallas Stars ... there's probably 10 different things that I just look at and I can be so grateful that I got to experience that. I will never take that for granted. There's millions of people who strap on the skates who never ever get out of house hockey, so for me to go and play pro-



Jermaine Loewen's hockey career was celebrated at his recent retirement party. He was a seventh-round pick by the Dallas Stars in 2018 before going on to a six-year career in pro hockey at the AHL and ECHL levels. Pictured left to right: Jermaine Loewen, son Deshaun, and fiancée Jenni.

professionally and juniors — that's pretty special."

Loewen now lives in Kamloops with his fiancée and son, though he still returns to the Interlake every year, where his parents continue to live.

Moving back to Kamloops has brought him full circle to a place where he made so many memories



EXPRESS PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Loewen, who launched his hockey career in the Interlake, went on to star with the U15 and U18 AAA Interlake Lightning before captaining the WHL's Kamloops Blazers and beginning his pro career.

in junior. He said he's adjusting to a far different lifestyle than he had during his playing days.

"I've been enjoying it," said Loewen. "It's been a challenge being a stay-at-home dad, and I posted about that on my socials. It's definitely not always easy being out of the game. I had such a routine and it's kind of hard, but I've been healing and adjusting."

Loewen has joined a rec hockey team to stay on the ice once a week.

Time away from pro hockey has offered him perspective on the years spent under the microscope of the sport. He said he misses the time with teammates the most — and the politics of hockey the least.

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VMSC, Stonewall
FRIDAY, JAN. 9 • 7:30 PM — vs Raiders Jr. Hockey Club
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sports&recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

Pauls helping 'steer the ship' for new-look Brandon Bobcats

By Kieran Reimer

The new era of the Brandon University Bobcats has been on the volleyball court for half a season now.

The Bobcats men's team has welcomed four freshmen into the fold this season, joining a club that won the 2025 U Sports national championship in March.

Coach Grant Wilson's squad also features eight seniors, with the remainder of the roster filled out by sophomores and juniors.

One of those seniors is Balmoral's Liam Pauls, a 6-foot-7 outside hitter who is among the best at his position in all of Canada West.

Pauls was part of last year's championship-winning squad and also represented Team Canada NextGen at last summer's Pan American Cup.

Now, he has taken on a new role, co-captaining a Bobcats team that currently sits at 3-7 and is looking to build momentum in the second half of the season, beginning in January.

"Last year we had a lot of success and we were beating a lot of the top teams throughout the year," said Pauls. "This year it's maybe been a bit of a slower start, just because there are new guys to the school who are still figuring out their team and what they need to do to be at their best every game. We've had a lot of close games, so we're in a decent spot heading into the second semester, looking to beat some of the top teams."

The Bobcats will play 10 more league games before the Canada West regular season wraps up in mid-February.

They currently sit 11th in the 13-team league but hold games in hand on most clubs and are not far behind provincial rivals the University of Winnipeg Wesmen (4-6) and University of Manitoba Bisons (4-6).

Pauls, meanwhile, has held up his end of the bargain with another strong start on the court.

Through 10 games, he ranks 15th in points per set and 17th in kills per set across Canada West.

His play has also set an example for the up-and-coming hitters on the roster.

"I've definitely seen things from a different perspective this year," said Pauls. "It's not about me just performing — it's about making sure the young guys are on track. You just have to make sure the team is going in the right direction, off the court and on the court."

Pauls and the Bobcats will open the 2026 portion of their schedule with a two-game series against the University of the Fraser Valley Cascades in Abbotsford, B.C., from Jan. 9 to 10.

They will then return home for their second-last home series of the regular season when they welcome the Trinity Western University Spartans to BU.

Those games will be played Jan. 16-17 at the Healthy Living Centre.



TRIBUNE PHOTO SUBMITTED

Balmoral's Liam Pauls is a co-captain in his senior year with the Brandon University Bobcats. He currently ranks 15th in points per set and 17th in kills per set across Canada West at the Christmas Break.

TCI JV opens season with tournament win



TRIBUNE PHOTO SUBMITTED

The TCI Junior Varsity team opened its season on a high note, finishing first overall at a tournament hosted by Immanuel Christian School. The squad went undefeated through the event, showcasing strong skill and teamwork throughout the weekend. Pictures left to right, back row: Adam Roberts (coach), Nick S., Leeland S., Ethan B., Ethan P., Rylan U.; Middle row, Ethan M., Luc T., Paolo A.; front row, Vander L., and Max K.

Wildcats collect for those in need



TRIBUNE PHOTO SUBMITTED

The Warren Wildcats boys hockey team organized a sock drive to collect warm clothing and toiletries for those in need. Donations were collected at the team's home game on Dec. 8, as well as throughout the week at the school.

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

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

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

Sudoku Answer

X	C	N	E	D	E	L	S	E	I
S	I	B	I	V	V	H	O	N	E
I	U	V	S	T	C	O	G	H	O
U	S	B	V	L	O	C	V	N	E
N	V	S	A	T	S	I	T	O	S
V	N	V	S	P	C	C	U	D	T
V	N	V	B	V	O	E	O	B	N
B	V	T	O	S	C	V	S	V	H
A	D	O	B	B	I	S	O	E	L
d	v	c	O	V	J	d	v	c	S
T	V	B	V	O	S	O	V	N	E
V	N	V	N	L	E	N	V	W	W
d	O	O	T	S	d	V	B	W	V
O	B	W	N	S	O	O	O	O	N

Crossword Answer

CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS

- Light cavalry
- Coconut palms
- Rounded knob
- Central Japan city
- Sandwiches
- Shape produced by a curve
- Ancient region in modern-day Syria
- French modernist painter
- Grandmother
- Mammary gland of cattle
- Rocky peak
- Secret plan
- Songs to one's lover
- More (Spanish)
- Father
- Chinese principle underlying the universe
- Ballplayer's accessory
- Together
- A person's brother or sister
- Evil spirit
- Monetary units
- Partner to cheese
- About Sun
- Group of like-minded people
- After B
- Seaside room
- Recipe measurement
- Partly digested food
- Flat-faced dog
- People of southern Africa
- Salts
- Beard lichens
- Sanders is one
- Fencing sword
- Ethnic group of Albania
- Metric weight unit
- Italian seaport
- Longtime late night host
- Extremely angry
- Miami mascot
- Mid-month day
- Marked for omission
- Body part

CLUES DOWN

- Two-toed sloth

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
20				21		22				23				
			24		25				26					
27	28	29		30				31				32	33	34
35			36					37			38			
39							40			41				
42					43				44					
45				46				47				48		
			49				50			51				
52	53	54					55			56		57	58	59
60					61				62		63			
64					65						66			
67					68						69			

- Fat from a pig's abdomen
- Romanian city
- Specifies
- Rounded, glaciated valley
- Spoke
- Collection of sacred books
- Extravagantly theatrical
- Very fast airplane
- Forearm bones
- Ancient kingdom
- Legitimate: ___ fide
- Semitransparent gemstone
- Counsels
- Head honcho
- Cool!
- Touch lightly
- Extract money via taxation
- Dyes
- Cloying sweetness
- Sodas
- Coastal village in Guam
- Chemical ring

- The bill in a restaurant
- Car mechanics group
- One-time presidential candidate Dole
- Health care for the aged
- Wise persons
- Passage with access at one end
- Make a wound
- America's spies
- Roof of the mouth
- Plants of the lily family
- Pinkish-red color
- Vaccine developer
- Mottled citrus fruit
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OBITUARY



Betty May Coverdale

August 29, 1936 - December 13, 2025

Mom passed peacefully on December 13, 2025 at the Arborg Hospital with her beloved grandson, Sean, by her side.

She leaves to mourn her children, Kathy Coverdale and Donna Valen (Charlie Pruitt); her grandchildren, Meredith, Sean (Tasha), Audrey, Tiana, Tyler (Danna); great-grandchildren Tayler (daughter Leyah), Ross, Keaton, Dylan, Tyson, Logan, and Lily. She also leaves behind her sister Phyllis Austman and brothers Walter Wall (Millie) and Ron Wall.

She was predeceased by her daughters Peggy Coverdale and Barbara McIntyre, and husband Allan Coverdale.

Mom was born in Hodgson, Manitoba to Wilhelm and Augusta Wall. She spent a lot of her childhood in the Netley Creek and Selkirk area where she loved fishing with her family and being near

the water. She worked at Great West Life in Winnipeg as a young woman, around the time of the picture above. She later resided west of Teulon where she met Allan Coverdale, her neighbour across the road, and married. They spent many years at Blue Meadows Ranch where Mom was a hard working ranch wife, cooking for hired hands and family, growing a big garden, baking, and passing along those skills to their four daughters. Company was always dropping by and Mom could whip up a great luncheon or a meal in no time. Some of her best dishes were her homemade buns, pickles and lemon and butter tart pies.

After they left Blue Meadows, they farmed near Inwood for many years and enjoyed the company of many good friends and neighbours there, and enjoyed being part of that wonderful community.

Mom was a generous and kind soul. She gave to many charities; attended many teas, rummage sales, and fundraisers; and always supported the local community. She was a 4-H leader and supporter. And she gathered clothing for many years for donations to charities. She was a founding member of the Canadian Liver Foundation, Manitoba Chapter, which is a wonderful legacy to leave behind.

Mom was very intelligent, well read and could carry on a conversation on any subject imaginable. She loved to talk to people and share pictures of her family with anyone she met. She was a wonderful mom, gramma and great-gramma and so proud of her family. She was a great babysitter to her grandchildren. She built blanket forts and pirate ships out of cardboard boxes, whipped up a handmade bingo game, or would take the kids on drives to Norris Lake, Winnipeg Beach, Gimli, or just to "ride around the block". Later in life, she loved it when someone took her out on a drive, and maybe stopped for a cheeseburger or ice cream, or to play a VLT or two.

Though Mom suffered with a variety of health issues for several years, she was always very positive and appreciated everything people did for her. She often said "I have a roof over my head, good food to eat and I want for nothing." And near the end she said, "I don't want you to be upset. I had a good life."

The family would like to thank the Stonewall Home Care staff and people of Crocus Manor for helping Mom over the past several years, and most recently the staff at Arborg Hospital for their compassionate care.

The family will hold a Memorial in 2026.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Canadian Liver Foundation, Manitoba Chapter or your local food bank.

Thank you to our Mom/Gramma for teaching us many life lessons. We will miss your wisdom and kindness.

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In Loving Memory of
Our dear wee Abby
Gone yet not forgotten,
Although we are apart,
Your spirit lives within us,
Forever in our hearts.

-Love,
Gramma and Poppa,
Auntie Sandy,
Uncle Derek and Aunt Jaime
cousins Kaycie and Maiti
Margetts

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Engraved within our hearts.

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We also extend our sincere thanks to our hardworking team in Administration, Editorial, Sales & Marketing, Graphic Design and Distribution, whose dedication brings each edition to life week after week.

Wishing you peace, joy and a prosperous New Year.

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