



The Dallas Post

50 cents

SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF THE DALLAS & LAKE-LEHMAN SCHOOL DISTRICT

Vol. 111, No. 51

Dallas, Pennsylvania

December 20 to December 26, 2000

Kids' letters to Santa reveal caring, concerns

Editor's Note: The Dallas Post asked local elementary schools to contribute children's letters to Santa. We received letters from kindergarten and first grade students at Lake-Noxen School, third grade students at Wycallis Elementary School and fourth grade students at Dallas Elementary. They are reproduced as received.

Lake Noxen Kindergarten

Dear Santa

I would like for Christmas...clothes; a wooden truck, a rocking chair so I can put my little brother to sleep; a turtle sand-box, a little tabl with a chair, and a bickle. For my brother, I want a red wagon. Thank you for reading this letter.

Your friend,
Vincent B.

Dear Vincent,

I have heard that you've been pretty good and helped your parent's with your little brother. I also know that you've been asking for an awful lot this Christmas. I will try the best I can to give you all these things but if I can't please don't be disappointed.

Your friend,
Santa

P.S. Make sure to leave cookies out for me and my reindeer.

Dear Santa,

Will you please bring bring me a doll house and a baby doll. Also a tablets, pen, coloring book and crayons. Some more stuff is markers, paints, a story book, jewelry, and lots of candy. Next, a barbie car, barbie clothes, and a big barbie house. I think I deserve this because I have been a very good girl this year. Also I clean the dishes and put them away. When my parents ask me to do something I do it. That is why I think I deserve to get this stuff for Christmas.

Signed,
Brettmye Ritsick

Dear Brettmye,

It's me Santa! I got your letter. I have been watching you. You have been a good girl. You must be a big girl to wash the dishes. (All by yourself.)

I
Your Friend,
Santa

have been reviewing your list. A lot of kids want Barbie clothes. I will try my best. Will you maybe do something for me? If you leave me some cookies dont'forget to leave my reindeer some carrots or something else! Dont forget to

Brian Ziller has the right spirit

By M.B. GILLIGAN
Post Correspondent

DALLAS - A dedicated Shavertown teenager has been recognized for his volunteer work with the Muscular Dystrophy Association. Brian Ziller was named volunteer of the year for the Dallas Middle School in the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program. Tiffany Gergel, daughter of George and Donna Gergel of Shavertown, received a Certificate of Merit for her volunteer efforts at the Veteran's Administration.

This national program is sponsored by Prudential and the National Association of Secondary School Principals, and recognizes students in fifth grade through high school for their outstanding community service.

"We are delighted to recognize young people who make contributions of their time and talents to their communities," said Prudential vice president Bob Fallon. "They are role models for their peers and deserve to have the spot light focused on them."

Brian, an eighth grader, has volunteered for MDA for the past five years. "I was 8 years old when my brother Sean was born with muscular dystrophy. My family and I have been involved with MDA since then," said Ziller.

In fact, Brian's father, Alfred Ziller, was co-chairman of the local MDA telethon this year and his mother, Susan, was in charge of volunteer training at the annual event. In addition, Sean Ziller is

See SPIRIT, pg 2

be good!

P.S. If I bring you any candy or anything like that, don't forget to brush your teeth!

MERRY CHRISTMAS
HO HO HO HO!

Dear Santa,

I want for Christmas a teddy bear, a T-shirt at says Angle with wings, a pear of pants that has pooh on em. I want for Christmas earrings, Chines bracelet the color peridot, a new pair of plooh bear

pojamas, a diva doll. That is all I want for Christmas.

Sincerely,
Rachel Sorber

Dear Rachel,

I have seen that you had been a very good girl this year. You asked for some pretty things. I'll try to get all of the gifts that you asked for. Im not making any promises. Continue being a good little girl & brush your teeth in the morning and before you go to bed. Don't forget to

floss. Wash your hands before and after you eat. Listen to your Mother, sisters, and your father. Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Sincerely,
Santa Clause

First grade

Dear Santa,

Please bring a dirt bike for me. My mother would like some pretty earrings.

See LETTERS TO SANTA, pg 5



Ember, Clarence Newcomb's dalmation, was on hand to greet children when Santa came to visit the Shavertown Vol. Fire Co. Photos, pg 3.



POST PHOTO/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Cookies with Care

Kindergarten students in Miss Carrie Snell's classes at Lake-Noxen School made 200 apple cinnamon ornaments for children and for patients at Tender Loving Care/Staff Builders Home Health Agency, Wilkes-Barre. Above, Austin Shultz held up his messy hands as Rachel Barbacci and Jonathan Wallace displayed some of their creations. More photos on page 8.



POST PHOTO/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Santa sighted in Shavertown

Santa Claus made the rounds of the Back Mountain last weekend, delighting children of all ages wherever he went. The Jolly Old Elf seems to particularly enjoy arriving on fire trucks, as he did in Jackson Twp., Trucksville and Shavertown. The Shavertown Santa, above (Jerry Paxton, of the Shavertown Volunteer Fire Co.), listened as Carolyn Price of Trucksville thought about her Christmas gift list.

More photos on page 3.

'Banded Beast' unleashed in Trucksville

By ELIZABETH SKRAPITS
Post staff

KINGSTON TWP. - Look out! The Banded Beast has arrived, and it's big, mean, and ready to devour — yard waste.

The Banded Beast, newly purchased by the Dallas Area Municipal Authority (DAMA), is a horizontal grinding machine with interchangeable screens of different sizes to grind all sorts of leaf and yard waste. It will thrive on a steady diet of leaves, grass clippings, weeds and other unwanted organic matter. Residents of Kingston Twp., Dallas Borough, and Dallas Twp. will be contributing their yard waste to feed the Beast, and in return may help themselves to compost.

DAMA's residential yard waste composting program was officially opened on Dec. 12 with a ribbon-cutting in front of the machine. Representatives were present from the three municipalities involved in the program: Kingston Twp., Dallas Borough, and Dallas Twp., and from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and Sen. Lemmond's and Gov. Ridge's offices.

Ed Latinski, Luzerne County Recycling Coordinator, first addressed the group. He said he had every expectation the program would "take off." Pointing to the Beast, he said; "There's an appropriate sign on that machine right here — 'Danger: Flying Objects.'" Latinski said the program would benefit everyone by

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Gate of Heaven needs glasses, to take to Haiti

□ Mission trip includes medical and educational goals

By ELIZABETH SKRAPITS
Post staff

DALLAS - Six parishioners and one of the priests from Gate of Heaven Church will be traveling to Haiti Jan. 13 through 20 — but not for a vacation, and not as tourists. Then why are they going?

"Because it's the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, second only to India," said Father Jack Lambert, who is organizing the trip as part of Gate of Heaven's mission outreach. "Our primary directive is to experience living in poverty — this type of poverty," Fr. Lambert said, explaining that living conditions there are unbelievably, indescribably appalling.

While in Haiti, the parishioners will work with a volunteer organization called Hands Together, founded by Father Tom Hagan. Fr. Lambert said he had initially gone to Haiti himself a few years previously, met Fr. Hagan, and was "very much attracted to the work." For the past three years Fr. Lambert has gone with volunteers from the parish to help at Fr. Hagan's free clinic and free schools in

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