

Unusual crafts, unsanctioned broadcasts part of Avon Merrell's WWII life-style

Whether he was jumping into a foshole, climbing down an almost active volcano, or building his own coral walkway, World War II veteran and retired teacher, Avon Merrell, Weiser, led an eventful existence during his wartime service. He related those experiences to those present at the November gathering of the Lower Snake River Retired Educators.

This was the third meeting for the group this year. In September, there was a picnic in Central Park with Howard Waterman as host. In October, some of the State Officers, from Boise, came to share information on growth of programs, and things that were being discussed for the State Convention at Lewiston in April, with Mary Dixon, president, as hostess.

This November luncheon meeting took place at Grandma's Kitchen in Payette on Nov. 20. Due to remodeling, the program was moved to the home of Bob and Carolyn Knefel. There were 17 present to hear of Merrell's adventures

in his three years working for Uncle Sam and taking turns as Robinson Crusoe and Indiana Jones.

Merrell was a member of the 469th Battalion. They had the same basic training as other units plus specialized training as motor pool, gunner, cook, communications, etc. However, there was one major difference from other ground troops: They had the responsibility of protecting air strips, and bridges, not fighting in hand-to-hand combat. As such, according to Avon, "we usually came in on the second or third wave after the beach was fairly well cleared."

Because of this, it gave him some time to have some of the experiences he is now fond to recall. He took night "alerts", to have time for daytime activities.

This 21-year-old PFC traveled a lot after leaving his California base camp. His course covered 12 different locations. He first went to Brisbane, Australia, which took 33 days. On the first night out, there was the worst storm in

years. He was one of only three people who did not get seasick. "I was on CQ (charge of quarters) and you can imagine the clean-up job I had all night," he said.

One of the close calls he had was also related to this same storm. On the second night out, the sea was still raging, but he found it very fascinating and was out on deck holding on to the rail and all by himself. Soon an MP informed him that he must leave and go below. The next morning, as he checked on deck, the section of rail he had been anchored to was missing! He started believing in guardian angels, he said.

"As a radio operator in Communications, I shantled the deck in my own fashion, but it doesn't mean I almost wasn't killed! I was a fun-loving guy and didn't sit still very long. Whenever we went, I created places of comfort or built something with what was around, such as using tree parts, coral, shells, iron wood, etc." He showed a

lamp with an iron wood base, a beautiful shell, and added electrical parts. He went on shell seeking trips from island to island.

From Brisbane, they went to Townsville, Australia, for several weeks for specialized training, and then two days to Oro Bay, New Guinea, and continuing on to Cape Gloucester, New Britain. It was here that this creative young man built his own private quarters over a good sized creek framed with wood made from a 60-foot banyan tree root. High above them was an active volcano, which he and his buddies had to go see. On return, they ran out of water and were desperate for a drink. So they went into a grove of large trees, with vines the size of one's wrist. They took their machetes and cut a length of vine, filled their canteens and drank directly from the vine, watching carefully not to touch their lips to the bitter alum on the vine.

Next they went to Finschhafen, to prepare for Hollandia, New Guinea



Retired U.S. Army Corporal Avon Merrell (right) exchanges salutes with his oldest son, U.S. Air Force officer David Merrell, in this photo taken in the early 1980s. David went on to attain the rank of major before retiring from the service.

Here the young recruit set up a PA system for the restless troops, ran a "talk show" for about two hours, which, the high brass informed, "him" had been broadcast all over New Guinea, and some of the language was a bit inter-fined for public consumption. He talked "free" and convinced the officers it was not intentional and would not happen again. But, Avon said it was fun and exciting, which went

along with his general attitude of "be positive, and make things fun." Here again, he exuded confidence as he took his side trips. From there, it was on to Hollandia, Dutch New Guinea. They were guarding the air strip and the supply dump on a narrow beach. They were bombed by the Japanese that night and things exploded for more than two days. Here he made a four blade prop

from a 105 shell casing, mounted it on a small one cylinder engine attached to a small canvas boat. There were problems, as they were cruising around, as well as a patrol boat promptly left Merrell and his friends to return across the bay by themselves.

The next stop was Leyte, where the war action was very heavy, followed by Luzon. It was here that Merrell took a three-day pass, and upon his return, found his outfit had moved inland. He stayed the night with the owner of a coconut grove they had camped in and had dinner with them. The next morning he asked where the little white dog was, and he was told he was for dinner! Here, too, he crafted, this time producing a chess set from mahogany. One of his favorite mementos was a hand stitched pillowcase given by a local when he was their dinner guest.

His last station was a small resort just out of Manila. The Battalion, which received 14 service medals, had three members injured in accidents, five killed in accidents, three deaths

by disease, 46 wounded in action and six killed in action. His Battery D was given credit for 130 enemy killed out of 180.

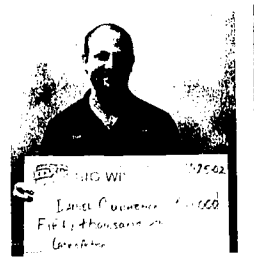
His goal was to be home by Christmas and he was very excited after being gone for three years. Moving directly from the Pacific to San Francisco in December, he was chilled to the bone. His separation was in Fort Lewis, Wash., Dec. 24, 1945. "We traveled in an old bus with-out heat, all day and night until noon December 25. The bus driver let me out before arriving at the station. I was a block from home and my mother saw me getting off the bus. We each ran a half block and met. What a Christmas present that was! My fiancée came up from southern California, and we were married February 8, 1946."

Merrell said of the total experience: "You couldn't give me enough money for what I experienced and you couldn't pay me to do it again." He received some back money, but being young, he failed to document them, so he receives no disability from the government. Yet he was proud to serve, as one could tell as he doffed his cap with the American Legion insignia on it.

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Daniel Cudaback
Casino Action
Jerry's Market, Payette



\$5,000 Winner

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Monday, December 16, 2002
Weiser Signal American

Holiday Greetings



Santa Joe shares a little Christmas magic with Colt Yeager, 5.

From Your Friends
& Neighbors



Dear Santa:

Composed by the students of Mrs. Lula Baker's 2nd grade class.

Dear Grandma: Can we go to Emma's next year? How is Cleo doing? Is she all right? I hope she is. I love you. Thank you for that horse coloring book. I liked it a lot. How are you and Grandpa doing? I hope you're doing well. Love, Christy

Dear Santa: How do you

get around the world so fast? How are you and Mrs. Claus? When do you start giving out presents? Thank you for my earrings. This year can I please have a doll house and a hot clip? Can I have a baby that acts real with a baby bottle and baby stuff? Can I have Bratz and a watch with a Bratz on it and a boy Bratz doll? Can I have a baby carriage? Love, Rita. Thank you Santa.

Dear Kris Kringle: How are you doing? How do you get around the world so fast? Are your elves doing a good job? How do you put a whole bunch of toys in one bag? How are the reindeer? Thanks for the toys last year. I would appreciate a Jango Fett costume, a green toy light saber, a red toy light sab-

ber, a blue toy light saber, a Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secret lego sets, the second and first movie of Star Wars, Star Wars lego sets, HP games, and HP V.I.D.S. movies. From, Brennan

Dear Santa: How do you make the snow come down? How do you make your elf work so good? You don't have to answer but I want a dirt bike. Please Love, Taylor

Dear Santa: How do you travel around the world in one night? How do you see in the night? Does Rudolph help you? How many elves do you have? Thank you for the Bopit and the camping chairs. May I have a play station two drive off road. From, Derek

Dear Santa: I have three



The Weiser High School Treble Choir presented *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring, Caroling, Caroling and Lo, How a Rose E're Blooming* during their Christmas Concert recently.

the presents last year. May I have a Gil Joe please Aaron
Dear Santa: How are you and Mrs. Claus doing at the North Pole? How do you get in the chimney so fast? How do you know when kids are asleep? Thank you for the presents last year. May I please have your tie Ho card game I hope you deliver all the toys and get back safely. Love, Chaz

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From All Of Us At Do It Best We Wish You A Very Merry Christmas & Happy New Year Mike, Roxie and The Crew!

Do It Best
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(Continued on Page 3)

Aglow with Love

As the warmth of holiday candles light the season, may every heart be warmed by the glow of good friends.

Seasons Greetings From The Folks At **Weiser Plumbing Service**

In this season of love, we at Weiser Plumbing would like to extend our heartfelt Thank You to all our friends and customers. It is a privilege to conduct our business in this community. Best wishes for a Happy Holiday from your friends at Weiser Plumbing Service.
Harold, Norma, Naomi, Ray & Jeff



Sidney Richardson, 3, had a wonderful time with Santa during Realty World's Christmas party recently. She brought him a Christmas card and he had a beautiful bear for her.

(Continued from Page 2)

Dear Santa: How are you? How do you get around the world so fast? How do you deliver all the toys so fast? Thank you for the toys you gave me and my family last year. May I have a pair of flair cut pants and may I have a diary with a lock. From Ruby, P.S. can I have a Bratz doll and a hot clip and a skateboard too.

Dear Santa: How do you go around the world in one night? How do you go in chimneys and go in to the houses that have no chimneys? How do you hook your reindeer on your sled? Thank you for my toy sent. I have fun with it. Can I have a toy vehicle. Love, Raymond

Dear Santa: How many elves do you have? How do you get around the world so fast? How do you get down the chimney? Thank you for all the toys I got last year. Dear Santa can I have the jungle felt that I wanted for a long time? Can I please have the minky coin that I wanted for a long time. Sincerely Mr. Claus, Love, Charles

Dear Santa: What has Mrs. Claus been doing? Is she alright? Can Mrs. Claus bake all the kids in the world cookies? Love, Kayla

Dear Santa: How are you and Mrs. Claus? How do you make it in time for Christmas? How do you have so much toys? Thank you for the presents for all the Christmases. Thank you for being everybody's Santa. Can I please have an Easy Bake oven? Love, Tatta

Dear Santa: How many presents do you give me? What do your elves do before you go? Thank you for the presents from last year. This year I want a scooter please. A snow hello! From, Kendra



Dear Santa:

Composed by the students of Mrs. Joya Hill's 2nd grade class.

Dear Santa: How is it at the North Pole? How is Rudolph and the other reindeer? Come to my living room I will have cookies

and milk. Will you leave a game boy and all the Dragon Ball Z guys and the Spiderman guys even the green goblin and the games for my game boy are Dragon Ball Z, Pokemon, Rocket Power Ninja Turtles Hamtaro and Spiderman too. Hastily written, Your Best Friend, Abraham

Dear Santa: How is living in the North Pole? How is Rudolph doing? How cold is it in the North Pole? How is Mrs. Claus doing? Come by my house I will have some cookies and

milk for you. By the way Santa, for Christmas I would like a motorbike. From, Cameron

Dear Santa: How are your reindeer? You are the best Santa around. How are the elves doing? I would like to have a Power Ranger Wild Force toy for Christmas. Thanks, Jerry

(Continued on Page 4)

Z&S Pawn & Sports
HAPPY HOLIDAYS
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Thank you to all my customers for the privilege of taking care of your pet's grooming needs.

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From Your Friends
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Juanita Reyes • Araceli Barrera
Maria Martinez
Bernarda Aispuro

La Tejanita Mexican Restaurant
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Dear Santa: My I please have Legos and Dragon Ball Z toy. How is it living at the North Pole? Come by my house and I will give you some cookies and milk. Santa, I think you are nice. From, John

Dear Santa: How is Rudolph doing? Is he good? Ha Ha

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REALTY WORLD
BROKER NETWORK

(Continued from Page 3) plane Santa. That's all, very funny. I want a new dirt bike. I want a game boy and CD. From, Hunter.

Dear Santa: I like you Santa. You are nice Santa. Can you please give me a remote control car and air-

because you give us presents. I like the presents very much. Christmas is the best. Sincerely, Mattica.

Dear Santa: How is it living at the North Pole? How is Rudolf? How is Mrs. Claus doing? I want a Color Game Boy and a red car for Christmas. Monica

Dear Santa: How is it living at the North Pole? How is Rudolf doing? How is Mrs. Claus doing? Come by my house I will have some cookies and milk for you. By the way Santa for Christmas I would like a Barbie. Thank you, Elizabeth.

Dear Santa: How is it living at the North Pole?



A snapshot of Connie Herrick's preschool students during their recent Christmas program. (Photo by Sarah Huston)

How is Rudolf doing? How is Mrs. Claus doing? Come by my house, I will have some cookies and milk for Christmas I would like a Game Boy, Love, Fabiola

By the way Santa, for Christmas, I would like a dog and cat. Love, Ashley

Dear Santa: How is it living at the North Pole? How is Rudolf doing? How is Mrs. Claus doing? Come by my house I will have some cookies and milk for you. By the way Santa, for Christmas I would like a dog and cat. Love, Ashley

Dear Santa: How is it living at the North Pole? How is Rudolf doing? How is Mrs. Claus doing? Come by my house I will have some cookies and milk for you. By the way Santa, for Christmas, I would like a dog and cat. Love, Ashley

Dear Santa: How is it living at the North Pole? How is Rudolf doing? How is Mrs. Claus doing? Come by my house I will have some cookies and milk for you. By the way Santa, for Christmas, I would like a dog and cat. Love, Ashley



Kylie Ruiz has a chat with Santa Claus during a recent party at Zions Bank in Weiser.

(Continued from Page 4) Dear Santa: How is it living at the North Pole? How is Rudolf? How is Mrs. Claus? Come to my house on Christmas Eve. By the way Santa, for Christmas I would like a really good calf rope so I can ride calves and I would like a skateboard ramp, a skateboard, grinding bar and a blue roan colt. I am sorry I asked so much. Sincerely, Casey

Dear Santa: How is it living at the North Pole? How is Rudolf doing? How is Mrs. Claus doing? Come by my house and I will have some cookies and milk for you. Santa, I want a drum and a computer and a remote control car and plane for Christmas please. From, Colton



Brody von Brethorst, almost 2-years, didn't quite like the idea of sitting on Santa's lap. Despite the coaxing from his grandma, Georgia Plischke, right, Brody made a fast get-away from Santa Joe. Watching in the back is Sharon Love.

Dear Santa: I would like a new pair of dress shoes, please. I would like a sport radio. Chelsey

Dear Santa: Do you want cookies and milk? I will give a present for you. I will give a present for Mrs. Claus. Love, Justin

Dear Santa: I want a new bike that has 2 rocket blasters on the back of the bike. I would appreciate it if you can make a wish for me. My wish is may I have a real motorcycle please. David

Dear Santa: When you come, do you want me to leave some milk and cookies? Well, have you seen my sister Layna? Have you seen my sister Lauren? Well, have you seen me? Hope you like my stocking. Love, Angela

Dear Santa: I will like a skooter for Christmas please. I will like more clothes for my Barbie Sierra

Dear Santa: For Christmas I want a Box Car Children book number 9. How

do you come in my house? Bevin

Dear Santa: When you come, remember to bring me presents. Please tell your reindeer not to make holes in my roof. Nathan

Dear Santa: Will you bring me a bike that has gears, some books, thread to make friendship bracelets, a new Christmas dress, and some cooking stuff. What kind of cookies do you like? Amee

Dear Santa: I hope my Dad and Mom back together and I want my present to be that. Keisa

(Continued on Page 7)

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Season's GREETINGS

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360 E. Liberty Weiser

Season's Greetings!

May the many blessings that this holiday brings embrace you and yours, now and always.

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36 W. Court Weiser 549-1600

Brightest Day!

Sincere best wishes of the season, along with our thoughts of thanks for your delightful friendship and goodwill.

Merry Christmas From Greg & Renate

SYME ELECTRIC

30 W. Main 549-2550

Dear Santa:

Composed by the students of Mrs. Joan Schollian's 2nd grade class.

Christmas joy to you and yours!

From All Of Us At Keystone: Joyce, Rich, Zac, Dustin, Tinitia, Damia, Olive, Crystal G., Candi, Crystal C., Matt & Cheri

HEYSTONE PIZZA

1255 State Street 549-0203

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Weiser Valley Title

124 E. Main • Weiser • 549-1792

Greetings From All Of Us At

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Karaoke With Duane & Candy Fairchild

New Year's Eve Party

Tuesday, Dec. 31 Starting At 8 PM

Merry Christmas

May the New Year be bubbling over with joy and success.

COPPER LOUNGE

45 E. Idaho Weiser

Happy, Healthy Holiday!

We share with all our sincere wishes for a heartfelt holiday season.

Darrell Henrichs, R.Ph.

Park-Vu Pharmacy

549-2750

Weiser Chamber of Commerce & National Oldtime Fiddlers' Contest

would like to take this opportunity to thank those who have volunteered time and donated items for the success of community events. Your support is sincerely appreciated.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO YOU ALL!
 From The Chamber Board: Mark Webb, Kim Peterson, John Stewart, Ray Case, Jeff Hafner, Don McCall, Kari Seltzer, Anna Oplaris, Susan Wagner and Fawn Olsen



Weiser Middle School Choir presented *I Bring You Good News* and *Gloria Deo* for their Christmas concert songs recently. The choir was under the direction of Mike Turner and accompanist Beverly Richins.

Happy Holidays

Dallas Head

I hope everyone enjoys the holiday season with their family and friends. I look forward to offering my holiday greetings to you. Stop by and see me at either location:

HOMETOWN AUTO VILLAGE Gayway Junction
 In Fruitland 452-7055

HOMETOWN MOTORS
 In Weiser 549-3310



Weiser High School Chamber Singers presented a beautiful performance during their recent Christmas Concert with four tunes, *Coventry Carol*, *I Remember December*, *Let It Snow* and *Silent Night*.

Dear Santa:
 Composed by the students of Mrs. Marilyn Lay's 2nd grade class.

Dear Santa: Thanks for my hummer last year. I really liked it very much. Please help my Uncle Richard to be safe. I would like a xbox, a play station

like a Zip and Zoom Snow and snow. Please, some snow. Thank you Santa. Your friend, Kate December 12, 2002

Dear Santa: Thank you for my bike. I really like my scooter. Please bring my brother a football. I would like an Xbox. Thank you, Santa. Your friend, Wyatt

Dear Santa: Thank you for my Play Station. I really liked it because it was small and cool. Please bring my Mom little sun flowers. I would like a Play Station 2. And shut your mouth thank you. Your friend, Ramon

Dear Santa: Thank you for army toy. I really liked the present. Please bring a special toy for me. I would like the present. Marni

Dear Santa: Thank you for the Barbie head. Please bring my mom a one car diamond for Christmas. I would like a cd player. Thank you Santa. Your friend Rachael

Dear Santa: Thank you for my giant dime! I really liked the Christmas decorations! Please bring me cousin home from the war. I would like a police set and a marine set! Thank you Santa. Love, Bryon

Dear Santa: Thank you for my harmonica. I really liked the harmonica. Please bring a stuffed horse that has batteries for my sister. I would like some crayons and the Brat Collection and can I have a CD player. Thank you Santa. Your friend, Allison

Dear Santa: Thank you for my Christmas doll. My brother liked his Army set your friend, Stephanie

Dear Santa: Thank you for my stuffed dog. I really liked it was soft. Please bring peace to my family and me. Thank you Santa. Love, Trisha

Dear Santa: Thank you for my harmonica. I really liked the harmonica. Please bring a stuffed horse that has batteries for my sister. I would like some crayons and the Brat Collection and can I have a CD player. Thank you Santa. Your friend, Allison



A snapshot of Connie Herrick's preschool students during their recent Christmas program. (Photo by Sarah Huston)

(Continued from Page 6)

Dear Santa: I wish you could bring me a remote control car. Can I please have a gameboy and game cubes and some honticals. Love, Justin

Dear Santa: I wish you would bring me a cell phone. I also want a Ken doll. And I also want thirty four dolls and a baby stroller for my baby doll. I am waiting to have a wreath for Christmas and I wish I had thirty more dollars to my name. Are you Reindeer eating chocolates with cherries in it. Can you bring a cow-boys helmet, intel helmet. I would like a Playstation two and a TV. Your friend, Tana. Thanks.

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I liked the Barbie remote control from last year. I wish you could bring me a remote control car. Can I please have a gameboy and game cubes and some honticals. Love, Justin

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Dear Santa: I wish I had a Barbie doll for Christmas. Thank you Santa. I love you. I wish I can see your reindeer and your grandma. Love, Alyssa

Dear Santa: Hi. This is Sawyer Starnes. How is Rudolph? Is he ready to fly? I have your movie. It's really good! I like when Rudolph gets born. Thanks for all the things you did for me last year. It's the way, can I please have a game boy game Kirby and spy to the Playstation 2 game and a Playtion 2. My brother has it on the list at my house. Love, Sawyer

A Joyful Peaceful Season

Dion Field & Perry Plischke

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 63 E. Court St.-Weiser (208) 549-1902

GREETINGS

Here's a wish for every friend: holiday joy, without end! In celebration of our Lord's birthday

Weiser Air Service
 549-0712

We Wish You A Happy Holiday And A Healthy New Year

Weiser Memorial Hospital
 549-0370

Memorial Hospital Home Health 549-0892

Medical Specialty Clinic 549-3152

645 E. Fifth • Weiser

SANTA'S BACK...

To wish you all good health, good posture and a wonderful holiday season.

Thanks for your friendship and trust in us.

Happy Holidays

Weiser Chiropractic Center
 Alan L. Waitz, D.C.
 54 W. Court • 414-3881

Sincere Wishes for a Healthy Happy Holiday

Weiser Massage Therapy

Let us all remember what this season is about. Take the time to treasure your loved ones and reach out to others who are less fortunate. The best gift of all is your time and love.

A Truly Heartfelt Thank You from Sandra Cooper-CMT, and Family
 445 State St. (In the Mini Mall) 414-0533

Dear Santa:
 Composed by the students of Miss Nancy Blue's 2nd grade class.

Dear Santa: I want to know how you are doing in the North Pole. I want four Playstation games and four Brontical and Harry Potter legos. Your friend, Nohe

Dear Santa: How are your reindeer? My Christmas tree is downstairs. How is your two front teeth? Love, wife? Thank you for the Hayley remote control car. Can I please have a gameboy and game cubes and some honticals. Love, Justin

Dear Santa: I wish you would bring me a cell phone. I also want a Ken doll. And I also want thirty four dolls and a baby stroller for my baby doll. I am waiting to have a wreath for Christmas and I wish I had thirty more dollars to my name. Are you Reindeer eating chocolates with cherries in it. Can you bring a cow-boys helmet, intel helmet. I would like a Playstation two and a TV. Your friend, Tana. Thanks.

Have A Great Holiday
 Best Regards From Rick, Dianne, Julie, Amy, Steve, Dick & Carol

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Weiser has many homes displaying beautiful holiday lights. One of our favorites is on West First where three adjoining homes, the Ray Laans, John Stuart and Randy Hibbard. Thanks to all who put up lights and brighten the holiday season.

(Continued from Page 7)
Dear Santa: How is Rudolph and the other reindeer? What kind of cookies do you want this year? Thank you for the tele-

and remot control car. I like a dog please. Love, Jose
Dear Santa: How are you doing at the North Pole? I'm doing really good! Thank you for the beney-baby and the rest of the stuff. I've been being really

good because I now you are coming. Can you please give me a gameboy color and a new computer game. Love, Jonathan
Dear Santa: Hi, Santa. It is April. How are the reindeer in the North Pole?

Okay Santa, I want a new cotton candy maker please, because mine broke. I also want a computer please and I also want a new afghan. Love, April
Dear Santa: How did you like the cookies I made? How is your reindeer doing? I like the present you got me. Santa will you get me a potion maker from Harry Potter? Your friend, Veronica

Dear Santa: You are a great guy because you travel all over the world to deliver presents to the children. Are your reindeer eating good. Thank you for the things in my stocking last year. I want a stereo for Christmas. Love, Ameila

Dear Santa: Are you feeling good? Merry Christmas. I hope you are feeling good! Thank you for my Frecker set last year, but I've been good, my family will leave cookies. Can I have a robo wheels? Love, Garrick

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We Hope Your Holidays Are Full Of Fun And Good Cheer!
From Your Friends Dave, Trina, Gary, Kat, Jamie & Jennifer

GREETINGS Pioneer Express
698 Pioneer Rd. • 549-3118

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Hope your holidays bring you carloads of happiness.

From: John, Mike, Luther & Travis
Panike Auto Body Repair

Happy Holidays

Your Hometown Friend—Mark Donicht

Thank you to all who have allowed me to assist you with your vehicle purchases in the past. I am pleased many of you have come back to me for additional purchases, and referred me to others. Your confidence in me is appreciated.

I hope your holidays are full of cheer and the new millennium full of joy.

STEVE'S HOMETOWN MOTORS, Inc.
602 HWY. 95 WEISER, IDAHO
1-800-658-5080 549-3310

Wishing You Peace & Happiness This Holiday Season & In The Coming New Year

ACC Physician's Primary Care Center, Inc.
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(Across from Les Schwab)



Weiser High School Concert Choir presented Gloria, One Bright Star, Carol of the Bells and African Noel for their Christmas concert.



Dear Santa:
Composed by the students of Mrs. Holly Davies 2nd grade class.

Dear Santa: Thank you for the diving suit and the presents that you gave me last year. How many elves do you have? I would like a 4 wheeler. Thank you! Sincerely, Tyler

Dear Santa: I love Christmas! I love the gifts you got me last year! I am not sure what I want this year. Thank you Love, Chloe

Dear Santa: The toys that I got last year were awesome, so tell your elves that they make awesome toys! Thank you Santa! How many elves do you have? I love you Santa! I like the reindeer's names. Santa, I don't know of any toys that I want, so bring me any toy that you have not taken to somebody else. Have a good winter Santa Claus. Love, Flint

Dear Santa: Thank you for the toys that you brought last year. Does Rudolph really have a red nose? How does he breathe? Can you bring me a radio and a tractor with wheels that I can take off and on? Love, Joe

Dear Santa: Thank you for the toys last year, like the game and the other toys. This year I would like a PS2, that is a Play Station 2. Oh, and how are your reindeer? Love, Lionel

ADVANCED PHYSICAL THERAPY
Wishing You A Happy & Joyful Holiday
From All Of Us At
270 E 7th St. • Weiser • 549-1008

Have a holly jolly Christmas!

From Your Friends:
Joyce, Kristie, Shelly, Mary Ann & Tom
Dr. Tom Gudmestad
549-2213 • 522 E. 4TH • WEISER

you get me at least one of the presents. If you don't that's fine. I will always love you Santa. I hope your elves don't get a cold. Hope your reindeer don't get tired. I hope you give all of the little boys and girls some of the best toys ever. P.S. I hope you have a good Christmas. I will always love you. Love, Ty

Dear Santa: Thank you for the presents you brought last year. I like the music box, it sounds nice. Thank you for this year. I want a Bratz doll. Love, Rebecca

Dear Santa: Thank you for the money last year. This year if you can please get me a bike. Love, Caitlyn

Dear Santa: Please bring me a water proof flash light and a water proof watch. Thank you for the things you gave me last year. Bennett

Dear Santa: I liked the toys that you brought last Christmas. I want a compass for Christmas because

when I get lost and I don't know the way back. I like you Santa because you send all the presents in your sled. Love, Miranda

Dear Santa: Thank you for the presents you gave

me last year. May I have a sweater? Love, Maycee

Dear Santa: Thank you for the presents you brought me last Christmas. Can please give me some!!

(Continued from Page 11)

SHAR THE SPIRIT

The Best To You & Your Families This Holiday Season
From Jerry, Dusti & Cory

FARM BUREAU INSURANCE
194 E. Commercial Weiser 549-1414

Let us thank you for the holiday season and thank you for the things you have contributed so generously to the success of our schools.

It is with great sincerity we say: Thank you for your support and may your holidays be happy ones!

From Your Friends At
Weiser School District

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http://www.idahoweb.com

Peace On Earth & A Wonderful Holiday Season

Weiser Rehabilitation and Care Center
331 E. Park 549-2416

(Continued on Page 11)
 this year? Thank you! Love,
 Costi
 Dear Santa: Thank you for the race car track I gave me last year. I had fun with it. May I have an alarm that I can put around my house so when my family walks around it will

go off? Love, Jacob
 Dear Santa: Thank you for the presents you brought me last Christmas. Can you please give me some Bratz this year? Thank you! Love, Codi

Dear Santa: Thank you for my bunk bed and the bike that you gave me. I had fun with those toys.

Hey Santa, how many elves are there? Is it really cold? That's what they say! May I have 1, present? I will tell you what it is. It is a game to Play Station. I love Gabriel
 Dear Santa: Thank you for the toys you gave me last year. Oh! and how are your reindeer? I'm wondering if I could have a



A snapshot of Connie Herrick's preschool students during their recent Christmas program. (Photo by Sarah Huston)

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from All of us at Select Properties. We Thank You For Your Continued Support

SELECT PROPERTIES
 524 E. 7th, Weiser, ID 83272
 OFFICE (208) 549-3103 FAX (208) 549-2619

May Your Holidays Be Merry & Bright!

Happy Holidays From

SHOWTIME VIDEO 433 State 549-0504

Mon-Thurs 11 AM - 9 PM
 Fri & Sat 11 AM - 11 PM
 Sun Noon - 6 PM

From Our Family To Yours We Wish You A Happy And Safe Holiday Season!

INDIANHEAD ESTATES

It's Christmas

JOY HOPE LOVE PEACE

Our Best Wishes To You All
 Chuck, Mary Anne & Judy

Chuck McGee Agency
 Farmers Insurance Group
 29 W. Court • Weiser • 549-2400

guitar and I would just like what ever else you have! Have a great Christmas! P.S. Drive carefully! Love, Hailee
 Dear Santa: Thank you for the toys for Christmas last year, like the set of Pokemon and the Lizard sing shot. P.S. Santa do you have any Morph men? If you don't have that, it's ok Love, Cobi
 Dear Santa: Thank you for the pop-it stick and the giant robot last year. This year I would like a new bey blade launcher and the arena too. Thank you! Love, Bryson
 Dear Santa: Thank you for the loader you gave me last year. It was cool! This year I want a skateboard, X box, TV, and a big family. How are your reindeer? Are they good? Love, Garrett
 Dear Santa: I like Magnolias. They are cool! Thank you for the toys last year. All I want is a cat. Love, Bethany
 Dear Santa: Thank you for the glass doll you gave me last year. This year I would like a big skinny yuana. P.S. I like you! Love, Britney



Christmas Trees Through the Ages

- In 1510, the first Christmas tree is decorated in Riga, Latvia. Early Christmas trees are decorated with paper, fruits and sweets.
- In 1531, the first retail Christmas tree lots appear in German cities.
- By the 1600s, Christmas trees are decorated with ribbons, tin shapes, small books and lace, as well as food.
- In the 18th century, Christmas trees are decorated with lit candles.
- In 1777, the tradition of the Christmas tree is brought to Colonial America by Hessian troops fighting for Britain in the Revolution War.
- In 1804, U.S. soldiers stationed at Fort Dearborn (now Chicago) bring evergreen trees into their barracks at Christmas.
- In 1842, Charles Minnegrode introduces the custom of a decorated Christmas tree in Williamsburg, Va.
- In 1851, Mark Carr opens a retail Christmas tree lot in New York City, the first in the United States.
- In 1856, Franklin Pierce, the 14th U.S. President, brings the first Christmas tree into the White House.
- In 1923, President Calvin Coolidge starts the National Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony now held every year on the White House lawn.

Source: National Christmas Tree Assn.
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Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

With Deep Appreciation To All Our Valued Citizens and Customers This Holiday Season.
 -From-
 Mayor Steve Patterson
 Councilors Amy McKnight, Perry Plischke, Jim Frederick, Doug Dick, Layna Hafer and Dan Randleman
 City Employees

Rural Network Services

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123 West Main • Weiser (Across the street from the Post Office)

Thanks To Our Washington County Friends! Have a Merry Christmas

From All Your Friends At

HANIGAN
 CHEVROLET OLDSMOBILE
 FAMILY OWNED SINCE 1923

Sweet Potatoes and Apples for Christmas

1/2 cup apples, sliced
 1/2 cup sweet potatoes, peeled, cut in half, then sliced
 1 cup apples, sliced and peeled
 1/4 cup brown sugar
 Cinnamon
 Butter

1. Cook apples in water.
 2. Cook sweet potatoes, covered, until tender. Drain in very little butter, with a little baking soda. Grease baking dish and place alternate layers of sweet potatoes and apples.
 3. Add cinnamon to the brown sugar. Sprinkle layers with sugar mixture. Dot with butter and pour over the water. Bake for about an hour at 350 degrees F.
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Merry Christmas GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE

TANNING

Electric Sun Tanning
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Merry Christmas And Happy New Year From Jim, Brenda and Brad

QUALITY AUTO REPAIRS
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745 E. Commercial • Weiser

Best Wishes From Gary Sorenson Luanne Boaz Binah Gato

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 31 E. Main • 414-1160

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Wishing You A Warm & Safe Holiday

COMFORT ZONE
 HEATING & COOLING, LLC
 DOUG APPLEGATE (208) 549-1302 230 E. 7th St. WEISER

A Joyous & Peaceful Season For You & Your Family
 John & Linda Youngblood

B & D Management
 549-0154 • Weiser

Youngblood Ins. Agency, Inc.
 739 State St. • Weiser • 549-1976
 1-800-894-1976

STARKS Washington County Title Co.
 Clarence & Anna Stark
 35 W. Idaho 414-1455

Deck The Halls!

Our best wishes to all for a beautiful holiday season and a fun filled New Year.

Your friends at Zions Bank, from left, Dan Noble, Jonna Duvall, Heidi Ruiz & daughter Kylie, Michelle Reyes & daughter Kaiya, Santa Chuck Taylor, Sabrina Young & daughter Katelyn, Debbie Mosley and Rachelle Blackwell are pictured here with their friends and decorators of their Christmas tree from Miss Blue's second grade.

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