

Behold!



A child is born to save the world!

A Marshall Advocate publication courtesy of many area merchants.

Scamihorn

Continued from page 7

Christmas!

Love,

Kenzlee Hussion

Hello! How is Mrs. Claus? Do you have a favorite cookie? First, I would like a Lego t-rex and a Minecraft tiger for Christmas. I would like this because it is what I always wanted. Next, my dad would like a Fortnite game. Last, we will leave food out for the reindeer and cookies and milk for

you by the dining room table. Merry Christmas!

Love,

Brayden Kozloff

Hello! How is Mrs. Claus? Do you have a favorite cookie? First, I would like erasable pens and a book for Christmas. I would like this because I like to read! Next, my mom would like a phone case. Last, we will leave food out for the reindeer and cookies and milk for you by the Christmas tree. Merry Christmas!

Love,

Parker Morey

Hello! How is Mrs. Claus? Do you have a favorite cookie? First, I would like an American Girl doll and a set of colored pencils for Christmas. I would like this because they are fun! Next, my mom would like a new air fryer. Last, we will leave food out for the reindeer and cookies and milk for you by the fireplace. Merry Christmas!

Love,

Emmy Reed

Hello! How is Mrs. Claus? Do you have a favorite cookie? First, I would like a PS5 and another PS4 for Christmas. I would like this because it is fun! Next, my dad would like a tv. Last, we will leave food out for the reindeer and cookies and milk for you on the table! Merry Christmas!

Love,

Remington Smallwood

Hello! How is Mrs. Claus? Do you have a favorite cookie? First, I would like a skateboard and a dirtbike for Christmas. I would like this because I love riding them. Next, my dad and mom would like a new phone. Last, we will leave food out for the reindeer and cookies and milk for you by the window. Merry Christmas!

Love,

Brantley Wallace

A Visit from St. Nicholas

*'Twas the night before Christmas,
when all through the house*

*Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;
The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,
In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there;
The children were nestled all snug in their beds,
While visions of sugar-plums danced in their heads;
And mamma in her 'kerchief, and I in my cap,
Had just settled our brains for a long winter's nap,
When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,
I sprang from the bed to see what was the matter.*

Away to the window I flew like a flash,

*Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash.
The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow
Gave the lustre of mid-day to objects below,
When, what to my wondering eyes should appear,
But a miniature sleigh, and eight tiny reindeer,
With a little old driver, so lively and quick,
I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick.*

*More rapid than eagles his coursers they came,
And he whistled, and shouted, and called them by name;
"Now, Dasher! now, Dancer! now, Prancer and Vixen!*

On, Comet! on, Cupid! on, Donder and Blitzen!

To the top of the porch! to the top of the wall!

Now dash away! dash away! dash away all!"

*As dry leaves that before the wild hurricane fly,
When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky;*

*So up to the house-top the coursers they flew,
With the sleigh full of Toys, and St. Nicholas too.*

*And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the roof
The prancing and pawing of each little hoof.*

*As I drew in my head, and was turning around,
Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound.*

*He was dressed all in fur, from his head to his foot,
And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot;*

*A bundle of Toys he had flung on his back,
And he looked like a pedler just opening his pack.*

*His eyes—how they twinkled! his dimples how merry!
His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry!*

*His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow
And the beard of his chin was as white as the snow;*

*The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth,
And the smoke it encircled his head like a wreath;*

*He had a broad face and a little round belly,
That shook when he laughed, like a bowlful of jelly.*

*He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf,
And I laughed when I saw him, in spite of myself;*

*A wink of his eye and a twist of his head,
Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread;*

*He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work,
And filled all the stockings; then turned with a jerk,
And laying his finger aside of his nose,
And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose;*

*He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle,
And away they all flew like the down of a thistle,
But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight,
"Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good-night."*

- Clement Clarke Moore



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Mrs. Campbell's Class Hutsonville

Dear Santa,
Is the North Pole really at the bottom of the Earth, or at the top? How do the reindeer get all the way up there and come back to the North Pole? I am 8 years old. What do the reindeer eat? Are the deer helpful? Can I have a gaming set-up and a trillion coins on Farming Simulator 23 Nintendo Switch Version and Farming Simulator 2022 version for PS5?

Love,
Easton

Dear Santa,
I am 9 years old. I would really like to see your sleigh. Can I please have Rudolph because he's so cute? May I have a PS5 and to see my Grandma? Do you like Airsoft? If you do, would you like to play sometime?

Love,
Lyam



Dear Santa,
I am 8 years old. Here are three things I want for Christmas. I really want a Samsung Chromebook, a singing karaoke machine and a LOL mansion. How has my elf been? Naughty or nice? By the way, can you say hi to Mrs. Claus for me please? Thank you! And Merry Christmas!

Love,
Carlee

Dear Santa,
I am 8 years old. I really want a PS5, an iPhone 15 Pro and a RC plane that goes 1000 MPH. Merry Christmas.

Love,
Owen

Dear Santa,
I am 8 years old. I would like an iPhone 15 Pro, a laptop and an iPad. Thank you for the presents, Santa.

Love,
Hayliana

Dear Santa,
My name is Blake. I live in Illinois. I am 8 years old. What I want for Christmas is a new iPad and a big toy car. The last thing I want is an iPhone 15 Pro.

P.S. My sister is very annoying!!!!

Love,
Blake

Dear Santa,



Mrs. Campbell's Class: Front row (l-r) Carlee Salee and Hayliana Taylor. Second row (l-r) Lyam Woodard, Killian Baker and Blake Fencil. Back row (l-r) Fletcher Strohm, Keelie Harden, Mrs. Joyce Campbell, Owen Edwards and Easton Neely. Photo by Gary Strohm.

My name is Keelie. I am 8 years old. I want an iPad and a new phone for Christmas. I'd also like a new shirt. How are the reindeer? Merry Christmas.

Love,
Keelie

Dear Santa,
I am 8 years old. I want a Walter Patton jersey, a trampoline and a Nintendo Switch. P. S. Tell Chebey and

George I said hi.

Love,
Fletcher

Dear Santa,
Merry Christmas. I've been having a good year. I want to have a dirt bike and I want to

have time with my family and I want to have a motorcycle. I hope you have a Merry Christmas.

Love,
Killian

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Mrs. Ockerman's Class Front row (l-r): Eli Beard, Hunter Jones, Abbie Boesiger, Jesus Bravo Moreno. Middle row (l-r): Hayden Smitley, Zelda Priser, Jaylee Church and Lance Nichols. Back row (l-r): Mrs. Jenna Ockerman, Charlotte Wells, Alec Morgan, Gabbi McCalister, Asher Beals, Grayson Leitch and Oliver Nichols.

Mrs. Ockerman's Class Marshall

Dear Santa,
How is Rudolph doing? Is he doing good? I would love to have a PC because I can play Fortnite against my brother Carter.

I would love to get Grand Theft Auto because I think it is fun. I wish for my grandpa to feel better.

Your Favorite, Asher Beals

What is your favorite cookie? I have been a little good.

When is your birthday? I would like to have a Lego car because it would look good in my Lego set. How are you? I like presents. I cannot wait to have a snow day. I wish for poor people to have food, warmth, and water. I love Christmas.

**Love,
Eli Beard**
What cookies do you like? How do you get your elves? How old are you? How old is Rudolph? For Christmas, I would like a Lego set because I like to build with Legos. I wish for my family to have a great Christmas. I love Christmas.

**Love,
Abbie Boesiger**
How are you Santa? How is the North Pole? Sorry for being rude to my family. I would like a Play Station 5 please. I have always wanted one. I would also like a new bike because my old one broke please and thank you. I wish to help my mom learn English. Thank you Santa.

**Love,
Jesus Bravo Moreno**
I've been checking on your elves and making sure they are okay.

How are you doing? I can't wait until Christmas. It's my favorite time of the year. I hope you have an awesome Christmas. Also, how are your elves doing?

I would like the rare Beanie Boos because Beanie Boos have been a part of my life ever since I was four or five. I would also like an iPhone because calling my parents is important. My wish is for my sister to be happy on Christmas. I love Christmas.

**Love,
Jaylee Church**
Who trains the elves? Who was the first elf? How do the elves celebrate Christmas? I would like to have a phone because if the school catches on fire, I can call for help. I wish for everyone who is poor to get at least \$30.

**Love,
Hunter Jones**
How do your elves work? I would like an Xbox Series X because I won't play it all day. I would also like a Tyreek Hill jersey because I love the Dolphins. I wish my sister was as old as me. I can't wait for Christmas.

**Love,
Grayson Leitch**
How are you? How is the North Pole for you? I would like

See **Ockerman** on page 8

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Miss McNeil's Class Martinsville

Dear Santa,
I hope your sleigh is ready for the big night. Thank you for the Lego set last year. Please bring me a Ninjago set of Legos/ Please bring Tyler a RC car and my teacher the best horse ever.

Love Malachi

Dear Santa,
I hope your reindeer are ready! Thank you for my hover board last year. I ride it all of the time. I really want a Nintendo Switch for Christmas. Please bring my teacher a gift card for Target. I would also like my sister to get a new baby set. I hope you have a safe ride home!

Love Briley

Dear Santa,
I hope you can make it to my house. Thank you for the money last year. I would like a bunny this year. Please bring Emry a reindeer plushy and Annsley a banana plushy. I hope the reindeer like the food I leave out for them. Merry Christmas!

Love Olyve

Dear Santa,
I hope you are ready for take off. I will leave carrots and cookies out for you and your reindeer. Thank you for my teddy bear last year. I t makes me happy. I would like a phone for Christmas. Please bring my teacher a portable TV and Mathew a football. I love you Santa!

Love, Arianna



Dear Santa,
How is Mrs. Clause doing? Thank you for my computer last year it made me cry. I would like a kitten for Christmas. Please bring my dad a new 4-wheeler. Bring my mom new baby clothes. I hope the reindeer like the food.

Love, Emry

Dear Santa,
I hope your reindeer like the food I leave out for them. Thank you for my stocking last year. I love how red your suit is. I want a karaoke machine for Christmas. Please bring my family and Ms. McNeil a gift they will enjoy. Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night.

Love, Haddie

Dear Santa,
I hope you have a good ride for the big night. Thank you for the PS5 you gave me last year. This year I would like a new video game. Please bring my dad a hot tub. Can you also bring Coen a pair of gaming headphones? I hope you like the milk and cookies.

Love, Sawyer

Dear Santa,



Miss McNeil's Class: Front row (l-r): Annsley Tedesco, Olyve Scroggins, Sawyer Schiver and Peyton Shotts. Second row (l-r): Briley Reynolds, Charlie Harris, Bryson Comstock, Malachi Piehl and Raiden Beaty. Back row (l-r): Mathew Kemper, Arianna Langworthy, Haddie Maxwell, Miss Grace McNeil, Jaxon Sewell, Tyler Blankenship and Emry Janssen. Photo by Gary Strohm

Please tell Mrs. Clause Hi for me. Thank you for the Barbie last year. Please bring me a Nintendo Switch this year. I can't wait to look under my Christmas tree.

Love, Peyton

Dear Santa,
I hope you are having a merry day. Thank you for the rock kit you gave me. I would like a new console to play with

my buddies. Please bring my dad a dirt bike so we can ride together. My mom would like some makeup. Eat a lot of

See **McNeil** on page 8

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How Washington Irving won the war on Christmas

By Rich Lowry

Back before there was cable TV, Washington Irving won the war on Christmas. The great early American writer had an outsized role in giving us Christmas as we know it.

A little background, accord-

ing to *Christmas in America: a History*, by Penne Restad.

Back in merry old England, Christmastime in the 17th century was merry indeed, a raucous affair that incurred the displeasure of the Puritans.

When Oliver Cromwell took over, his Puritan parliament suppressed Christmas with a zeal that would have made the American Civil Liberties Union blush (you were looking for trouble if you decorated your church, or closed your shop, or preached on the birth of Jesus).

Puritan distaste for the holiday traveled over the Atlantic. John Winthrop of Massachusetts Bay had no use for Christmas. Other settlers in other colonies, depending on their origin



“Merry Old Santa Claus” by Thomas Nast.

and their religion, had differing attitudes, and the celebration was a motley affair for much of early American history. In some places, it wasn't celebrated at all.

Then, it steadily began to take hold, and Washington Irving, the literary genius who gave us “Rip van Winkle” and “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow,” helped define it. Not only did Irving write about a pipe-smoking, wagon-riding, gift-dispensing St. Nicholas, he delineated a Christmas cel-

ebration of irresistible charm and enduring appeal.

In the early 1820s, Irving published five enormously popular Christmas stories about his visit to Bracebridge Hall in England. They lament how “old games and customs” around the holiday have been lost, but they are preserved at Bracebridge. Through the haze of nostalgia, a recognizable Christmas shimmers through.

There's the rush of gift-laden travelers. Irving describes a stagecoach crowded with passengers who “seemed principally bound to the mansions of relations or friends to eat the Christmas dinner.” The coach “was loaded also with hampers of game, and baskets and boxes of delicacies; and hares hung dangling their long ears about the coachman's box -- presents from distant friends for the impending feast.”

There's the anticipation of the kids. Irving delights in the “little rogues” who are “returning home for the holidays

in high glee, and promising themselves a world of enjoyment.”

There's the holiday revelry. Irving recounts “the old games of hoodman blind, shoe the wild mare, hot cockles, steal the white loaf, bob apple and snapdragon: the Yule log and Christmas candle were regularly burnt, and the mistletoe, with its white berries, hung up to the imminent peril of all the pretty housemaids.”

There's the magic of Christmas Eve. That night Irving hears villagers playing music outside his room: “The sounds, as they receded, became more soft and aerial, and seemed to accord with quiet and moonlight. I listened and listened -- they became more and more tender and remote, and, as they gradually died away, my head sank upon the pillow and I fell asleep.”

There's the Christmas Day feast. Irving reports that “the table was literally loaded with good cheer, and presented an epitome of country abundance, in this season of overflowing larders.”

Irving's is a Christmas of “tender and inspiring” church services and of the gathering of family members at home, “that rallying-place of the affections,” where returning children “grow young and loving again among the endearing mementoes of childhood.”

Of course, this is all achingly aspirational. Irving's Christmas never quite was and never quite will be, but it is a vision of what the holiday should be. “Of all the old festivals,” he writes, “that of Christmas awakens the strongest and most heartfelt associations. There is a tone of solemn and sacred feeling that blends with our conviviality, and lifts the spirit to a state of hallowed and elevated enjoyment.”

Merry Christmas!

Rich Lowry is editor of the *National Review*. © 2023 by King Features Syndicate.

Mrs. McFarland's Class Marshall

Dear Santa,
How are you? I would like a hoverboard, a bike, a pair or new shoes, as well as a pair of snow boots. How are the elves doing? I hope you drink some hot chocolate and have a Merry Christmas.

Bentley Collins

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The Marshall Women's Club has received this year's crop of pecans. Pound bags of pieces and halves are

twelve dollars.

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Mrs. Scamihorn's Class Marshall

Hello! How is Mrs. Claus? Do you have a favorite cookie? First, my teacher would like to go to a Taylor Swift concert. She is her favorite concert to go to, and she talks about it. Next, my grandpa bought me a motorcycle so I don't need anything else. I love it! Also, I would like peace for all. Last, I hope you have a merry Christmas!

Love,
Jacob Allison

Hello! How are the reindeers? Do you have a favorite cookie? First, I would like a new Baby Sitter's Little Sister book. Also, a stuffed dog for Christmas. I would like this because I would like reading to it. Next, my mom would like a new car. Last, we will leave you food for the reindeer and cookies and milk for you by the door. Merry Christmas.



Love,
Avery Asbury

Hello! How is Mrs. Claus? Do you have a favorite cookie? First, I would like a stuftee animal cat and a book for Christmas. I would like this because it is fluffy. Next, my mom would like a shirt. Last, we will leave food out for the reindeer and cookies for you by the door!

Love,
Sofia Blair

Hello! How is Mrs. Claus? Do you have a favorite cookie? First, I would like a 900 piece lego set and a new football jersey for Christmas. I would like

this because I haven't been able to build any. Next, my mom would like a Taylor Swift sweat-shirt. Last, we will leave food out for the reindeer and cookies and milk

for you by the couch! Merry Christmas!

Love,
Tucker Dahnke

Hello! How is Mrs. Claus? How are the elves? First, I would like glitter and erasable pens for Christmas. I would like this because glitter is awesome! Next, my mom would like Mary Kay products. Last, we will leave food out for the reindeer and cookies and milk for you by the tree. Merry Christmas!

Love,
Blakely Dashiell

Hello! How is Mrs. Claus? Do you have a favorite cookie? First, I would like a phone and a dog (inside) for Christmas. I would like this because it is fun and I can take pictures. Next, my mom would like a clean house. Last, we will leave food out for the reindeer and cookies and milk for you. Merry Christmas!

Love,
Tess Gard

Hello! How is Mrs. Claus? Do you have a favorite cookie? First, I would like a Sonic log set and Bumble Bee toy for Christmas. I would like this because it is fun. Next, my mom would like a Nightmare Before Christmas figure. Last, we will leave food out for the reindeer and cookies and milk for you by the door. Merry Christmas.

Love,
Walker Graeff

Hello! How is Mrs. Claus? Do you have a favorite cook-



Mrs. Scamihorn's Class: Front row (l-r) KayLynn Hain-Shutts, Brayden Kozloff and Walker Graeff. 2nd row (l-r) Kenzlee Hussion, Brantley Wallace, Tess Gard, Emmy Reed and Jacob Allison. Back row (l-r) Tucker Dahnke, Avery Asbury, Mrs. Jeanice Scamihorn, Blakely Dashiell, Parker Morey and Remington Smallwood. Not pictured: Sophia Blair. Photo by Gary Strohm.

ie? First, I would like a vanilla cookie and a chocolate cookie for Christmas. I would like this because they are so good with milk! Next, my sister would like a box of cookies too. Last, we will leave food out for the reindeer and cookies and milk for you by the tv. Merry Christmas!

Love,
Kaylynn Hain-Shutts

Hello! How is Mrs. Claus? Do you have a favorite cookie? First, I would like roller skates and a kids smart watch

for Christmas. I would

like this because I always wanted them. Next, my mom would like a tv. Last, we will leave food out for the reindeer

and cookies and milk for you by the Christmas tree. Merry Christmas!

See **Scamihorn** on page 2

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McNeil

Continued from page 5

cookies for the long ride home.

Love, Bryson

Dear Santa,

I hope Mrs. Clause is doing good. Thank you for the toy dog last year. It made me happy. I would like a horse for Christmas this year. Please bring my mom two cat leashes and my dad tool bags. I hope you have a good night.

Love, Annsley

Dear Santa,

I hope your elves are work-

ing hard at the factory. Thank you for the RC car last year. I would like a soccer table. Please give all my friends an awesome toy that they will love. Bring my dog a sweater that says "Feliz Navidad". Have a great flight.

Love, Charlie

Dear Santa,

I hope your sleigh is ready. Thank you for the desk last year. I love playing games on it. May I have two RC cars this year? Please bring my friend a new bed for his house. Please

bring Mathew a football for Christmas. I hope you don't forget any gifts.

Love, Tyler

Dear Santa,

I hope your sleigh is ready. Thank you for my cars last year. I would like a football for Christ-

mas. Please bring my mom a TV. Can you being my friend Jaxon and computer? I hope

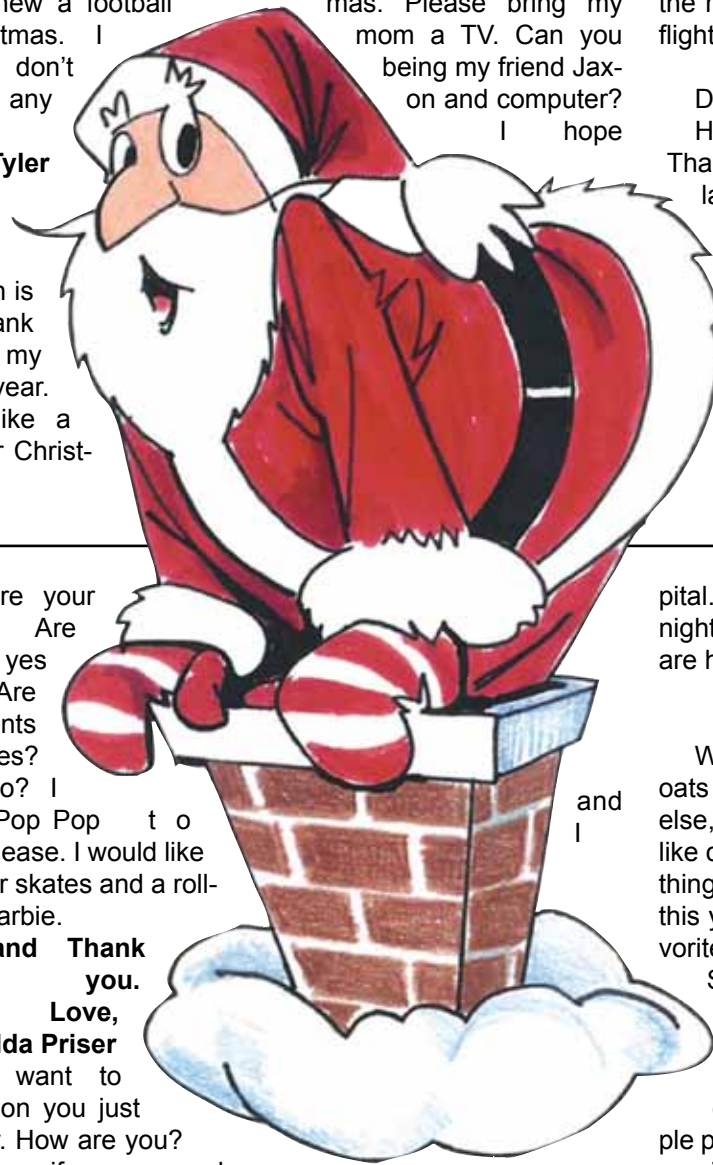
the reindeer are ready for the flight.

Love, Mathew

Dear Santa,

How is Mrs. Clause doing? Thank you for the telescope last year. I love looking at the stars. I want a phone for Christmas. Please bring Marcus a 22. My dad needs some seeds for farming. I hope you get a lot of sleep for the big night.

Love, Raiden



Ockerman

Continued from page 4

a Santa dress and a phone. I love to look like you, that's why I want a Santa dress.

I would like a phone so I can call my family. I wish for my family to have the perfect Christmas.

Love,

Gabbi McCalister

How are your elves? How are you doing Santa? I would like an Xbox because it is fun. I would also like a farming simulator 22.

I wish for my mom and dad to have a great Christmas. I love Christmas time.

Love,

Alec Morgan

How is my elf and how are you Santa? How is Rudolph? I would like a PS5 because it is fun. I would also like a puppy and a cat. I wish for my dad to have a good Christmas.

Love,

Lance Nichols

How are you doing in the North Pole? Are you and Mrs. Claus okay? I would like to have a guitar because I would like to do guitar lessons. I wish everyone in the world to have the life that they want to live and to have a good year.

Love,

Oliver Nichols

How are your reindeer? Are they good, yes or no? Are my parents your elves? Yes or no? I want my Pop Pop to be there please. I would like some roller skates and a roller skate Barbie.

Please and Thank you.

Love,

Zelda Priser

I just want to check up on you just to say hey. How are you? I want to know if you are good. How are your elves? How are my elves? I would like to have a Pomni Plush please. I want it because I am a HUGE fan

and I

pital. I hope you have a great night and day and that people are happy.

Love,

Hayden Smitley

Would the reindeer like oats this year or something else, if so, tell me. Would you like cookies this year or something else? If you want cookies this year, what kind is your favorite? I would like the coolest Stitch thing you can find because I love Stitch.

The second thing I would like is a VR because I like to watch people play. My wish is that everyone is safe. Thank you Santa!

Love,

Charlotte Wells

have watched the show. My favorite gift is family. I wish for 11,009 people come out of the hos-

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