

STRAIGHT FROM SANTA'S MAILBAG
 In the spirit of the season, we're pleased to share these heartwarming letters from Santa's youngest fans.

Kinley Creed's Christmas list 2023, clothes: Flared leggings size 10-12, oversized hoodies, skirts with built in shorts size 10-12, heely's size 7 pink. Face: bubble skin care, chapsitck, and makeup. Random: phone case and PopSockets carry for iphone II Pro, earrings and keyboard piano. Candy: Candy canes, cookie dough bites and krabbey paties. JoJo's Xmas list 2023, dog bones/treats and toys.

Dear Santa,
 Thank you for the letter I am glad to be on the nice list. I would like a watch, butter slim, fuzzy socks and shoes, Christmas earrings, cook books for kids, and boots size 1. I can't wait to see you.
Love Maddie Bennett

Dear Santa,
 Thank you for the letter I am glad to be on the nice list. I will keep working hard and I will keep being nice to my sister and brother too. Some of the things that I want, butter slime, cake books, fuzzy socks, Christmas earrings, boots size 4. I can't wait to see you!
Love Allie Bennett

Dear Santa,
 Thank you for the letter I am glad to be on the nice list. I will keep working hard. Some of the things I want are: a door basketball hoop, clothes, shoes, pjs, spiderman coloring book, and transformers. I can't wait for you to visit.
Love Bryson Bennett

Dear Santa,
 I would like for Christmas a blanket, a bug science kit, bad guy Grinch books, fact trackers, amazing animals, Earth Science kit, dribble up soccer, soccer goal, Hover board, Magic tree house, an I spy book with me, Freya, and Addie or Beau, Bella, and Gabbana. And can you get the dogs balls and bones. And get the cat catnip, little toys and maybe get her a little blanket for her.
Love Avery Mongler
 P.S. Daddy wants pickle flavored socks. P.S.S. Haley would like scrunchies and legos

Dear Santa,
 Reagan Xmas 1-leggo set, 2-barbie house, 3-barbies, 4-barbie clothes, 5-mini brands, 6-butter slime and a dog.

Dear Santa,
 How are you? We have been very good this year. I would love if you could bring a hair straightener, a stanly cup, a mini mirror, and some freezed dried skittles. My mom and dad don't want a dog but me and my siblings want a dog. If it could be a smaller dog that would be the best. Mom is allergic to animals fur. Even if we don't get a dog, I thought I would ask. Thank you so much! Merry Christmas!
Penelope Age 11

Dear Santa,
 For Christmas this yar I would like a new scooter, mud trucks and a Tesla cyberquad. I am trying my best.
From Kasen Welch Age 7

Dear Santa,
 This year I would like... Switch, Real Makeup, Motorcycle, Easy Bake Oven, tent, slippers, Dino stuff, lego and candy.
Love, Ellie Schafer

Dear Santa,
 My name is Layton Winkelmann. I am 4 years old. This year I would like a camo bike, camo tank, bow & arrow, basketball goal. I have been a very good boy most of the time. I Love You Santa! Merry Christmas!

Dear Santa,
 I would like pizza, WWE toys, easy bake oven, slippers and legos.
Travis Moss

Dear Santa,
 I would like a Bugatti with a jeep with L.E.D. lights and pink accessories! Please
From: Penelope Juliette

Dear Santa,
 My name is Henry I am 6 months old. This year I have been very nice. A few things I did that were nice are snuggle with my mommy and play with my daddy and big sister Emmy. For Christmas this year, I would really like: a new play pen, teething toys and a crawling crab toy. I'll be sure to leave cookies and milk for you and carrots for your reindeer. Merry Christmas!
Love, Henry Resa

Dear Santa,
 My name is Emmy I am 3 years old this year I have been very nice. A few things I did that were nice are: played with my brother and cleaned up my toys. For Christmas this year, I would really like: Disney Princesses, keyboard with a chair, and new pajamas. I'll be sure to leave cookies and milk for you and carrots for your reindeer. Merry Christmas!
Love, Emmy Resa

Dear Santa,
 I want a stitch bike. I also want miny brands and squish mellow and some shoes size 3 & pretend kitchen for my room at my dads. What do you want for Christmas Santa..... Can you get my dogs a new bed can you get my dogs a bone for Christmas?
I Love you Santa Merry Christmas, Aubrie

Dear Santa,
 It's Clinton and I'm 1 year old this year. I have tried to be a good little boy. My mom and dad say I have done good! Thank you for my presents last year! I really enjoyed them. This year I would like a football, a tricycle, and a play bbq set. Please remember my cousins. We'll be sure to leave milk and cookies under the tree for you and carrots for your reindeer. Love, Clinton

Dear Santa,
 My name is Penelope I live in Mexico, MO. I live with my family. I want chapter books and squish mellow. I have been very good this year.
Love Penelope

Dear Santa,
 I want: Barbies, Ponies, and Babies.
From Reagan

Dear Santa,
 Thank you for all the gifts last year I really appreciate it, I was wondering if I could have: 1) I would like more LED, 2) Bubble mositrizer, 3) more Nike socks, 4) Clothes, 5) 68 perfume. Thank you so much I hope you have a good Christmas love you.
Love Amelia

Hello Santa,
 For Christmas I would like: 1) toy, 2) book, 3) dinosaur, 4) monkey, 5) robot. Thank you.
Love Teddy B.

Dear Santa,
 This year I would like switch pizza, motorcycle, easy bake oven, tent, slippers, toys, candy, lego and blankie.
Love Renly Schafer

Dear Santa,
 This year for Christmas I would like a princess scooter, kitchen stuff like a stove and toy food, American doll & stuff for it, Princess pets. Don't worry I'll have a lot of cookies for you!
Love, Edith

Dear Santa,
 This year for Christmas I would like super rubble car, super rocky car, super chase, zuma car, big batman. Don't worry we'll have a lot of cookies for you.
Love, Ronin

Dear Santa,
 Hi my name is Arabella Chaney I'm almost 2 years old and my mom and dad say I've already started my terrible two's but I think I've been pretty good. This year for Christmas I would like a baby doll, some toy trucks that light u[and some more books for me to learn from/ I would also like some 2t shirts, 18-24 month pants and 2t-3t socks. Please don't forget my dog Charlie he's been pretty good even when I mess with him and Santa don't forget my cousins either I think they are awesome thanks.
Love, Arabella

Santa,
 Thank you for presents! I love you! I love Christmas! It is fun to look at inflatables and lights! For Christmas I would like a game and I wood like a spiderman car launcher! Also a tower for spiderman and a switch game! Merry Christmas hohoho
Love, Gulliver Crawford Age 6
 P.S. A dog too.

Dear Santa,
 How are you? I am wild and three. I love school and playing dress up. For Christmas, could I please have a Raya costume with a sword and a hat? I would really like some Barbies, too. It would be fun to have a Raya figure set. I will bake you cookies and leave a carrot out for the reindeer. Thank you for making Christmas fun with our Elves. I love you so much! Merry Christmas.
Love, Winnie B. Crawford Age 3

Dear Santa,
 Karaoke, dogpupe, ulsidol, sth, taylor swift, taylor swift, taylor swift.
Sydney Chews



CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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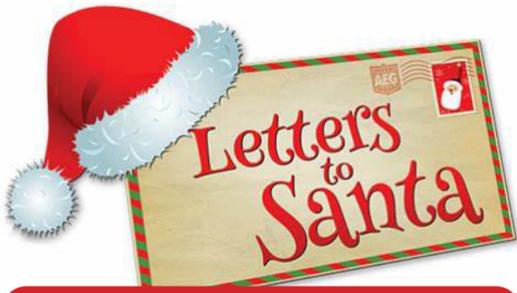
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Dear Santa,
I want a Hatchimal doll and suitcase.
Riley Gramke

Dear Santa Claus,
I would really like a pink car be my dad and brother are going to Hawaii, that's NO FAIR so may I Please get one.
Jessica

Dear Santa,
Thank you for my bed set I really love it. I would like: A mushroom squish mellow, a bracelet, hair extensions, circle water bottle, a blonde wig with bangs.
Love, Olivia

Dear Santa,
Thank you for all the gifts you blessed me with last year and I look forward to the gifts in many Christmases to come. Skin care: Sol De Janerio Deodorant, Mario Badescu Drying Lotion, Besmsco Clay Masks. Other: yellow standly and Sol De Janerio Perfume.
Love, Cecilia

Dear Santa,
Thank you for my doll. 1. A boy life doll, 2. A pig Squish mallow, 3. Jewelry box, 4. A babydoll that looks like Lillian, 5. Wig that is blond.
Love, Sharon

Dear Santa,
My name is Brayla and I'm 6yrs old. I've tried really hared to be good this year. This year for Christmas I'd like a puppy alive, easy bake oven, headbands the board game, twister, bath bombs, new baby dolls, clothes and magic 8 ball. I'd take anything else you think I might like. Thank you for everything you brought me last year. I'll leave milk and cookies for you and carrots for the reindeer. Please don't forget my big brother Jaren and the rest of my family.
Love you Santa, Brayla Early

Dear Santa,
It's Clinton and I'm 1 year old this year. I have tried to be a good little boy. My Mom and Dad say I have done good! Thank you for my presents last year! I really enjoyed them. This year I would like a football,

a tricycle, and a play BBQ set. Please remember my cousins. We'll be sure to leave milk and cookies under the tree for you and carrots for your reindeer.
Love, Clinton James

Dear Santa,
How are you doing? I have been a good boy this year. I turned 6 years old. This year for Christmas I would love to get Minecraft legos and lazer tag. I will leave milk and cookies under the tree for your as well as carrots for the reindeer. I hope you have safe travels, and a great year.
Love, Keaton Roberts

Dear Santa,
I hope you have had a good year. I have been a good girl this year. I turned 2 this year. For Christmas I would love to have a reborn baby doll. We will leave you milk and cookies under the Christmas tree as well as carrots for the reindeer.
Love, Kendall Roberts

Christmas list from Kennedy VB: fluffy blankets, sleeping masks, cobers sneakers, Nikes gold, fairy tale books, note book, and pods.
Love, KVB

Hi Ho Ho!
My name is Emma Walker and I really love you! I would like an outside playhouse and a Mickey Mouse clubhouse. I will leave you and your reindeer some treats when you come to my house.
Love, Emma

Dear Santa,
Thank you for all of the wonderful gifts from last year, I love them all. I am very excited for you to come soon. For Christmas this year I would like Air-pods, a real life baby doll, Roblox Card, and Adely Merch.

Please don't forget my big sisters Maddi and Scottie, and my big brother Kael. I will light up the yard with Reindeer food to guide your way. I love You!
Courtney Lyn Smith, 8 years old

Dear Santa,
What I want for Christmas is LOL Doorables, OMG dolls, squishes, squish mallows, and fidgets. I will have cookies.
Love, Braelynn

To Santa at the North Pole,
My list: Barbie, LOL OMG, Stress ball, and Stich stuff.
Love, Aurena

Dear Santa,
I would like a real bunny rabbit. I want a toy for a rabbit. Be safe when you deliver the gifts.
Love, Angel

Dear Santa,
I have been a good girl. May I ask for a toy pet, a brush, and a toy toothbrush to brush its teeth. Clothes!
Love, Harmonie Cooper

Dear Santa,
I've been good most of the year. I've had bad moments sometimes but the rest of the year I've been good. I would want a fnaf blanket, costum name, fnaf nightmare foxy soft stuffed plush toy, fnaf freddy game, flats, sneakers mens, fnaf crocs, fnaf foxy dog too, 7ft giant fur bean bag chair, and jumbo 47" scary huggy pl ush.
Love Brayden

Dear Santa,
I want freddy shoes, a fish, freddy crocs, freddy glasses, and freddy back pack.
Love, Carter Cross

Santa Claus Cleared to Spread Christmas Cheer

Director of Agriculture Chris Chinn and Missouri State Veterinarian Dr. Steve Strubberg have approved livestock movement papers for nine special reindeer. Mr. Santa Claus from The North Pole applied for the permit this week, providing proof of the healthy herd through a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection signed by licensed veterinarian Dr. Hermey Elf.

Team leader, Rudolph, underwent additional testing to prove he's the most famous reindeer of all.

"We love to see Santa recognize so many on his nice list throughout Missouri this year," said Director of Agriculture Chris Chinn. "Santa's elves have been working hard to provide toys for all children. We're excited that our team gets to ensure all of Santa's reindeer are ready for flight and gifts get delivered across the Show-Me State this Christmas."

The permit approves Mr. Claus, his sleigh and nine reindeer for flight starting the night before Christmas,

with a few exceptions for early deliveries.

"Our veterinary staff works to allow timely movement of healthy animals across Missouri and the U.S.," said Dr. Steve Strubberg. "Our team also recommends the reindeer consume healthy rations of Missouri grass hay. We encourage Missourians to make hay available for Santa's reindeer, in addition to milk and cookies for Santa."

Reindeer approved for flight:

- Dasher
- Dancer
- Prancer
- Vixen
- Comet
- Cupid
- Donner
- Blitzen
- Rudolph



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Lori Ingram
Anna Worthington
Dwight Linnemeyer
Jamie Pehle
Ashley Schafer
Tom Paczkowski

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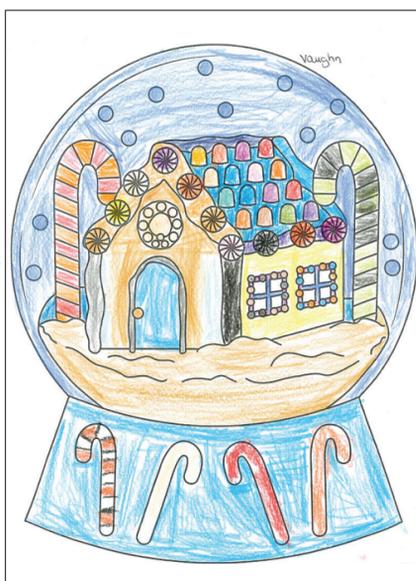
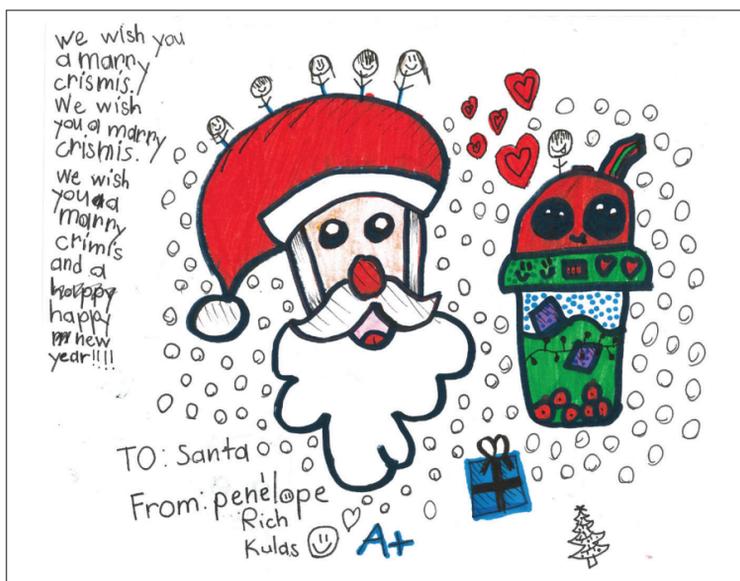
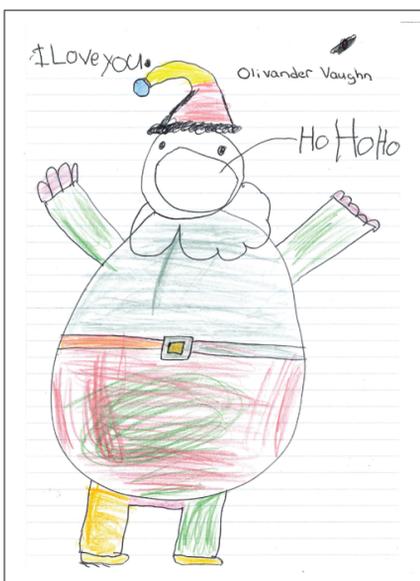


Dear Santa,

My name is Layton Winkelmann. I am 4 years old. This year I would like a camo bike, camo tank, bow + arrow, basketball goal. I have been a very good boy most of the time.

L P H O T

I ♥ you
Santa!
merry
Christmas



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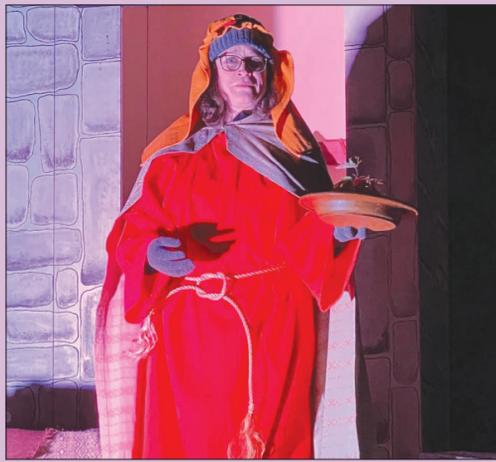
Merry Christmas! How are you? How is Mrs. Claus? Are the reindeer ready to fly on Christmas Eve? We hope so! We have been working very hard. And we have been making lots of good choices!

We would love to have a few things under our tree:

- I want magnet balls. (Waylon)
- I want a huge glow in the dark ball. (Huck)
- I want an Easy Bake Oven. (Vivian)
- I want an Easy Bake Oven. (Trace)
- I want Hatchimals. (Harper)
- I want some Barbies. (Maizey)
- I want Squishmallows. (Annabelle)
- I want My Puppy's Home. (Ella)
- I want a Switch. (Albany)
- I want a Switch. (Renly)
- I want playdough. (Easton)
- I want a toy grill. (Brady)
- I want money. (Gregory)
- I want a baby doll set. (Annie)
- I want a Gabby Doll House. (Kaia)

Thank you for thinking about us! We will leave you cookies and milk (and carrots for the reindeer)! Say hi to Rudolf for us. We love you. God Bless You.

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Leslie Meyer
Audrain County
Associate Commissioner



Paid for by Leslie Meyer

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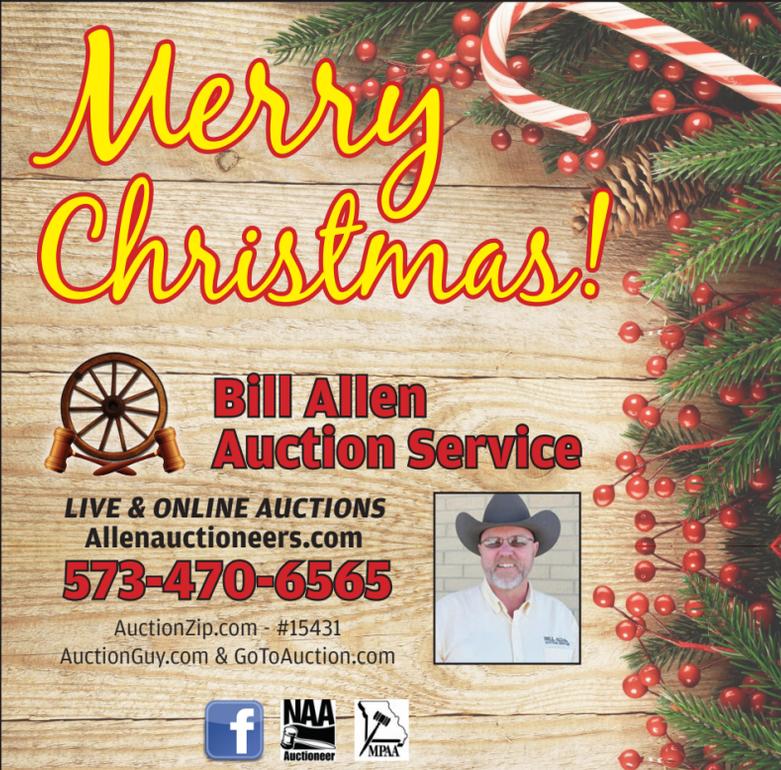
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What do you want for christmas
Santa

Can you get my dog a ~~new bed~~
can you get my dog a
bone for Christ Mas

i'm the elf on the ~~shelf~~
shelf

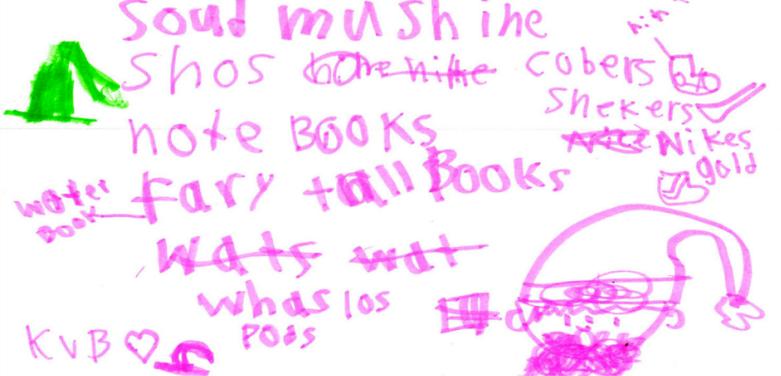


my name is snowflak

Christmas

fluffy blankets
misc headphones
soul machine
shoes ~~white~~ covers
note books
fairy tall books
water book
wats wit
whas los
KVB

Sleeping masks
nick nicks
shakers
Ni Kes
Gold




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What do you want for christmas
Santa

Can you get my dog's ~~new bed~~
can you get my dog's a
bone for Christ Mas

im the elf on the shelf
shelf

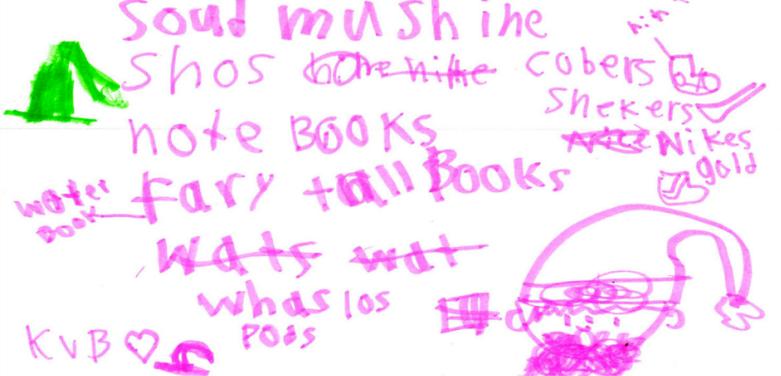


my name is snowflak

Christmas

fluffy blankets
misc headphones
soul machine
shoes
note books
fairy tall books
wats wat
whas los
KVB

Sleeping masks
cobsers
shakers
Ni Kes
Gold




Merry Christmas!

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Renewable energy, property owners battle over turf

County hosts a discussion about property rights

By DENNIS SHARKEY
Editor

County officials from Audrain and Callaway Counties held a public meeting at the courthouse in Mexico earlier this month to let some local farmers and property owners vent their frustrations over the Tiger Connector and other solar and wind projects trying to come into the county.

The meeting took place on Monday, Dec. 10, with all three commissioners from Audrain County in attendance. Callaway County Presiding Commissioner Gary Jungermann and Associate Commissioner Roger Fischer were also in attendance.

Some property owners affected by the Tiger Connector spoke and asked why the project was even needed and why Missourians have to give up land for a project to benefit others. The Tiger Connector Project has taken some property in Audrain County and surrounding counties to construct a 300-watt power transmission line. Wendy Beard is one of the property owners affected by the transmission line.

"What are we going to do when they cut back our electricity to heat the big cities?" Beard asked commissioners. "Are we going to be in the dark and cold while people in

the city are warm? Why are we willing to give up our reliable cheap energy to sustain other states?"

"We're on record as being opposed to Tiger Connector and GBE (a wind project in northeast Missouri)," Winders responded. "We did what we could to oppose it and that's where we're at."

Local officials have realized they can't stop some of these projects from happening but can limit and push back to some degree through the legislative process. Both Meyer and Jungermann are on legislative committees that are currently talking through these issues.

"State law change is what we're lobbying for," Meyer said. "We are advocating through the legislative process to make those changes. As a commission, a lot of these projects are beyond our control."

Some of the things they're pushing for include limiting the percentage of farmland that can be used for green projects, setting up taxing structures, and ensuring most if not all materials used are American-made. Jungermann said the American-made issue is big beyond obvious reasons. It's also a matter of principle.

"The American made things we're pushing for that," Jungermann said. "We're pushing all of



Audrain County Presiding Commissioner Alan Winders, standing, led a discussion about the Tiger Connector Project at the Audrain County Courthouse on Monday, Dec. 10.

it. The American-made thing just makes sense because as commissioners we have to follow some of those rules just to build a bridge."

One property owner asked the commissioners if a moratorium of some sort could be put in place. Winders said that's a legal question.

"I don't believe we can just say, 'Ah we're just going to stop them.' We have to stop them for some reason for some specific time."

Meyer said the best way

to battle a wind or solar farm from coming to a community is to band together and talk with neighbors. Meyer said she knows from recent experience.

"I think right now your best weapon as a citizen is to talk to your neighbors," Meyer said. "We've got one trying to go on the east side and our whole neighborhood had a network of talking. I really think it's just talking with each other."

Winders said the other important factor is

letting your elected leaders know when someone comes to your neighborhood. At that point, the county can get involved to make sure property owners and taxpayers are

both protected. However, he also questioned how much power those agreements have.

"We need to be at that

See **TURF**, Page B10

MERRY CHRISTMAS!!

MillerTire
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The Angels' Song

⁸ And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. ¹⁰ And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, ¹⁴ Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, good will toward men.

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table,” Winders said. “Once the leases are done, we’re not involved. We don’t have any footing. At this point we haven’t talked to anybody unwilling to provide those, but how good are they?”

Audrain County Western District Commissioner Tracy Graham said the problem starts with lawmakers.

“Some place to start would be making sure your elected representative understands that we don’t need all this subsidy stuff to be going into the private sector,” Graham said. “I’m going to guess just about all of these projects are private companies doing it.”

Winders said there is no Tiger Connector, wind farms, or solar projects without federal tax dollars.

“It really irks me that this winds up at our feet,” Winders said. “What can you guys do to stop it?” Not only did we not start it but the federal government is slightly bigger than Audrain County.”

Consolidated Electric Cooperative CEO Lynn Thompson was at the meeting and confirmed his organization is required to let the Tiger Connector hook to their system to transmit power. Thompson said the cooperative wasn’t in favor of the project and is simply complying with the law.

“We’re not really happy about that but we have to let them do it,” Thompson told property owners. “The only way we can tell them no is if they jeopardize our reliability.”

A representative from Cordelio Renewable Energy, Mark Williams, was also at the meeting and invited anyone to tour the project with him and said his company has no plans to sell their wind farm to Ameren or any other publically regulated utility. Thompson also said his company has no plans to purchase energy.

Schuyler County ladies warn of dangers of windmills

Two property owners from Schuyler County in Northeast Missouri are warning property owners in Audrain County about the pitfalls of having a wind farm next to one’s property.

Nakila Blessing and Carrie March both made the drive down from Lancaster in Schuyler County to Mexico on Dec. 13, to join a joint meeting between Audrain and Callaway County Commissioners to discuss property rights. Both ladies live next to wind farms and said the turbines have drastically reduced the quality of life for their families.

Both live in the footprint of the High Prairie Wind Project which is 400 megawatts and consist of 175 wind turbines.

“This is not doable,”



Nakila Blessing, standing left, and Carrie March, standing right, visited Audrain County earlier this month to talk about windmills. [Dennis Sharkey]

Blessing told the small crowd while playing an audio clip that demonstrated the noise level from the turbines. Blessing said the recordings were taken from her front porch. “There is no quality of life left. There is no point in sitting outside. There is nothing left for us.”

Blessing said at first she was skeptical about

the rumors surrounding windmills, particularly the rumors about health issues. After several months of dealing with a turbine about 2,000 feet from her house, she’s now a believer. She said her children and husband are often sick.

“We are all now sleeping in the basement,” Blessing said.

Blessing said they are

now trying to sell their home but she doesn’t expect they’ll have a line of people waiting to buy.

“I don’t know if we can sell our home, it’s not something you can hide,” Blessing said. “You can physically feel the pulses.”

“It’s like there’s a pulse in the air, it’s like the air is heavy,” March added.

Some officials think planning and zoning are the future

By DENNIS SHARKEY
Editor

County officials from Audrain and Callaway County Many property owners in Northeast Missouri are concerned about private power companies encroaching in their space and the answer may not be something they want to hear.

Audrain County commissioners held a somewhat impromptu meeting with Callaway County commissioners at the Audrain County Courthouse on Dec. 10, mainly to hear grievances from property owners concerning the Tiger Connector project along with some other concerns about wind and solar projects.

Some officials believe planning and zoning may be the answer for rural counties, which is a non-starter for most. Callaway County Presiding Commissioner Gary Jungermann said it’s a ques-

tion people are going to have to revisit.

“The question we’re all going to have to ask ourselves at some point is ‘Are we ready for planning and zoning?’ Because that’s where all of this potentially comes into play,” Jungermann said. “You can have certain restrictions then. Right now if you don’t have it the landowners can do as they wish with their property whether it’s windmills or junkyards.”

Audrain County Eastern District Commissioner Leslie Meyer told the Ledger after the meeting the county put the question up to a countywide vote 20 years ago and it failed in a landslide. Audrain County Presiding Commissioner Alan Winders said during the meeting while addressing a question that he’s skeptical planning and zoning will be something people have an appetite for.

“We are a property rights county in a property rights state,” Winders added. “Because we do not

have planning and zoning if it’s legal for you to do on your property then that’s the answer. It’s legal or it’s not legal. We are an agra-ready county, so we’re not going to make rules that make it more difficult for agriculture than the state. That’s where we are with all of this. If you own your property and want to cover it with solar panels, so be it. There are a lot of implications that we see that are not positive, but that does not give me the right. If we collectively say we want planning and zoning then the animal is altogether different.”

Jungermann said he understands not wanting planning and zoning but also thinks it’s inevitable.

“I firmly feel that some of what’s going on right now it’s going to push the envelope and we’re all going to have planning and zoning at some point,” Jungermann said. “It doesn’t do away with it all but it will help county commissions into the future control to some degree how much there is.”

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