

Local

B-CS needy children to have merry Christmas

By ELI JONES
Battalion Reporter
WTAW radio is again sponsoring a Mystery Santa project to help needy children in the Bryan-College Station area have a merry Christmas.



WTAW radio has sponsored the Mystery Santa fund drive for five years, but 1981 marks the first year the Bryan-College Station Jay Cees join the project.

"A mystery Santa is a person who sponsors a needy child for Christmas," Mimi Fehrman, account executive for WTAW, said.

"In the past, the different organizations that do these kinds of things for needy kids competed against one another, but this year the Jay Cees donated \$600 to the Mystery Santa fund, and they are helping with wrapping and delivering the gifts to the kids."

There are over 300 names of local, needy children on a list submitted by the Department of Human Resources and the Children in Protective Services agency.

"We are asking people to donate money to the Mystery Santa fund, so that these kids can have a merry Christmas," Fehrman said. "Most of these children desperately need clothes and food."

People can become a Mystery Santa two ways: first by calling 846-7788 and getting a list of a child's wants, then by shopping for these items, with a \$50 minimum purchase; or secondly by making a cash donation of any amount to the fund.

"There are lots of things people can do to help us raise the money," Fehrman said. "Businesses, dorms and Corps units, sororities, fraternities and even local Cub Scouts have all made contributions."

"We have begun broadcast remotes from local shopping centers asking for donations at the broadcast site, and we've already held a 'Surf's Up' Mystery Santa kickoff dance, in

which we raised \$600 for the fund."

"This year, WTAW has set the goal for the fund at \$15,000. Last year, the station raised about \$11,000."

"We will take donations up to Christmas Day," Fehrman said. "Any money that comes in afterwards will be put into a savings account for next year's drive."

"Fifteen thousand dollars is a lot of money to ask for, so we need as much help as possible. The money is going to a good cause — these kids need to have a merry Christmas, too."

Checks may be made payable to Mystery Santa and mailed to P.O. Box 3008, Bryan, Texas 77805.

New law takes effect Jan. 1

DPS grants grace period

By RANDY CLEMENTS
Battalion Staff
The new state law requiring proof of insurance for all vehicles will go into effect Jan. 1, but the Department of Public Safety will have a 90-day grace period before citations will be issued.

"Warnings will be issued the first 90 days, which is the DPS policy for all new laws," DPS Sgt. Fred C. Forsthoff said. "Beginning April 1, tickets will be written for drivers not having proof of insurance."

The new law requires all drivers to carry a minimum liability coverage for medical expenses of \$10,000 per person (\$20,000 for two or more persons) and property damage of \$5,000.

The DPS will accept the insurance policy for the vehicle being driven or a document issued by the insurance company as proof, Forsthoff said.

Proof must tell who is covered, that the person meets minimum liability requirements and that the vehicle being stopped is included in the policy, he said.

The DPS isn't notifying the public of the new law because the insurance companies are taking that responsibility, he said.

"They (insurance companies) have been notified, and will take care of notifying and giving proof to their enrollees within their own organization," the sergeant said.

Judy Alexander, senior public affairs representative for the Allstate Insurance Texas regional office, said mass mailing notification for everyone insured with Allstate will be conducted during December.

Identification cards, which have been approved by the state for proof of insurance, will be sent to those insured with Allstate, she said. The ID cards have the insured's name, policy number, effective date, date of expiration and a description of the vehicle(s) covered.

One local insurance manager said the ID cards must be approved by the Texas Insurance Department and the DPS, since the DPS is the major enforcing agent.

Forsthoff said if a driver is stopped and can't show proof of insurance, the first offense fine is \$75 to \$200, and the second offense can cost \$200 to \$1,000 or 180 days in jail.

If the driver doesn't have insurance, the driver's license and the license plates for that vehicle will be suspended indefinitely, or until an insurance policy is in effect for the driver, Forsthoff said.

"The policy must be maintained for five years," he said. "If not, the insurance company will notify the Austin office (of the DPS) that the insurance has been dropped. The person will go immediately back

on suspension, a warrant will be issued for the person's arrest, and the license and plates will be sent back to Austin."

The insurance manager said a problem with the new law is that the DPS is already swamped with other work.

"The law has failed in other states, such as New York and Massachusetts, because the DPS couldn't take up tags and licenses as fast as people dropped their insurance," he said.

Forsthoff said the DPS has to wait until the law goes into effect before the success of the enforcement can be determined.

"I don't see any great problems in enforcement," he said. "If people don't comply with the law, the courthouse will be full, though."

As for enforcement, he said, the DPS officers will check for insurance proof whenever a vehicle is stopped.

Lt. Gene Knowles of the Bryan Police Department said that Bryan officers will check for the insurance proof at accidents, but

when stopping vehicles for traffic violations, it is the prerogative of the officer to check for proof of insurance.

Knowles said a lot of people won't have proof of insurance with them when the law first goes into effect, but once people get used to the law, they will carry the proof.

Lt. Bernie Kapella, of the College Station Police Department, said the department's major responsibility is to issue citations for non-compliance of the new law.

"We will, however, run a computer check to see if the driver is insured and how many citations he has received for not having proof of insurance," he said.

If driver is arrested and booked for not having insurance, Kapella said, he will be taken to the Brazos County Jail.

Texas A&M Police Chief John R. McDonald said officers will check for proof of insurance only for vehicles involved in accidents, not for vehicles stopped for running stop signs or speeding on campus.

Campus vocal groups to hold concert tonight

By JOHN BRAMBLETT
Battalion Reporter
The Vocal Music Department is sponsoring a Christmas concert tonight at 8 p.m. in the Rudder Auditorium.

The concert will feature the men's Chorus, the Century Singers, the Reveliers and the Singing Cadets.

"We're going to sing a variety of songs from classical Christmas to popular music," Patty Fleitas, director of the Reveliers and the men's Chorus, said.

The 50-member Women's Chorus is planning to sing numerous songs ranging from "Sing We

Noel, Noel" to Brahms' Regina Coeli."

Classical works by Michael Praetorius and Daniel Pinkman will highlight the Century Singers performance. They will be joined by 11 members of the Texas A&M Symphonic band in performing Pinkman's Christmas Cantata.

The Reveliers will perform pop Christmas music and traditional favorites.

For the finale all four groups will get together to sing the Halle-lujah Chorus of Handel's "Messiah."

Admission to the concert is a \$1 per person.

The Women's Chorus is also planning several other Christmas programs, Fleitas said. Thursday the chorus will tell the Christmas story in song at St. Mary's Catholic Church.

On Wednesday, the chorus will perform for the Brazos Women's Club.

The Century Singers, who performed at the Galleria Shopping Center in Houston Friday night, will perform Wednesday at noon in the MSC's Christmas program. Friday the Reveliers will perform at noon at the MSC's Christmas program.

MSC 'decks the halls' with Christmas spirit

By NANCY WEATHERLEY
Battalion Staff

The MSC main lounge will turn into a Christmas wonderland this week with decorations, music, and a Christmas tree.

Members of the MSC Christmas Programs Committee have been decorating the MSC to make the Christmas spirit over-whelm the MSC.

"This is a chance for everyone to come out and enjoy Christmas during the lunch hour," Marilyn Beck, committee chairman,

The official Aggie Christmas season will begin Tuesday at noon with the lighting of the Christmas tree, Vincik said. Dr. Frank E. Vandiver, Texas A&M president, and Cindy Green, Miss Texas A&M, will light the tree.

After the presentation, there will be a reception in 201 MSC.

Music and singing will fill the MSC this week with Scott Zesch performing Christmas tunes on the piano Tuesday and the Century Singers performing Christmas carols on Wednesday.

Thursday, ensemble groups

from the Symphonic Band will play some more tunes and Squadron-15 will provide their own rendition of the "Twelve Days of Christmas."

Friday, The Reveliers will close the celebration with Christmas music and other songs.

While listening to the Christmas music, lunch-goers will also have the chance to have their picture taken with Santa and Mrs. Claus for \$1.25. The two jolly folks will be in the MSC from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m., Tuesday through Thursday, Vincik said.

Don't Forget
the
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TONIGHT
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Admission \$1.00
Tickets at the Door

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AGGIES!!
CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS in the MSC

Tree Lighting Ceremony: with President Vandiver and Miss TAMU, Cindy Green and Scott Zesch, pianist	December 8 12:00-1:00 p.m. Main Lounge
Century Singers perform a medley of Christmas carols.	December 9 12:00-1 p.m. Main Lounge
Ensembles from the Symphonic Band and Squadron — 15's version of "Twelve Days of Christmas".	December 10 12:30-1:45 Main Lounge
Reveliers close the festivities with a variety of songs.	December 11 12:00-1:00 p.m. Main Lounge

Sponsored by the MSC Christmas Program Committee

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