



Newsletter

Publisher

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Dear Family and Friends,

It's that time of the year to wish one and all Christmas cheer and a happy new year.

It has been a busy year. Jarrette and Thomas got married January 12, 2004. They will be celebrating their first anniversary in a few short days. It seems hard to believe that Jarrette is old enough to be married and have a baby of her own.



Thomas & Jarrette

Tammy is still in Grand Island, Nebraska. She had a hysterectomy in November. She still is recovering, but feels much better. She continues working at Wendy's and enjoys her job. She spends a lot of time in church activities.



Thomas, Emaryl and Jarrette

Kevin is in Amarillo, between jobs, which seems to be quite normal for him. He hopes to be able to go back to work for the meat packing plant there. His girlfriend, Megan, and Kevin were here for Thanksgiving.



Kevin & Megan

Kya, Kevin's little girl, is two-years-old now. I haven't seen her since she was about a month old. Kevin and Amber broke up not to long after Kya was born, and Amber has married. I am going to Nebraska in January or February, and I hope to get to see her.

Phillip is 19, and is just about ready to graduate from high school. He works as a busboy in a restaurant in Grand Island, and has saved up over \$2,000. He hasn't decided what to do with the money, but my guess—he'll continue to save and buy a car.

Krystal is 10-years-old now. She does extremely well in school, and is one of the top students in her grade. It never ceases to amaze me how quickly children grow up. Seems like only yesterday, she was just a baby.

Jonathon is 7-years-old, and all boy. He likes to play with cars, and can readily wreck the best of them. Last

year I got him a PT Cruiser that made lots of sounds. Before the day was out, he had washed it in the bathtub and of course, it no longer has sound effects. Another time, he washed all his cars with jelly., which he had clean up. Never tried jelly again, he doesn't like having to clean up after himself.

Tomaline spent most of this year working for Domino's Pizza, but finally landed a job with Lisa Trucking. She has been driving mostly in the eastern US, and was headed to Massachusetts on the 19 December. She is not planning to be home for Christmas, but since Jarrette and I, both, have to work, we will probably celebrate sometime the week after Christmas.



Emaryl

Thomas is still working at the Kettle as a cook. He works the second shift, but is hoping to go to mornings. He has also thought about applying Chili's, which will be opening soon. And there is talk that we are getting an IHOP here, too.

So Plainview is on the grow, especially since the new Wal-Mart. It is currently the biggest Wal-Mart in Texas. Can you imagine that? In a little town like Plainview?



Tomaline

Jarrette is still working as Lockney as a Certified Nurses Aide. I am really proud of her. She has come along ways from that teenager who seemed headed for trouble all the time. She is a good mama and Emi adores her. She and Thomas recent bought another vehicle. She got that Camaro, she always wanted, out of her system and traded for a Jeep Cherokee. At least, she can get Emi in and out without breaking her back.



Jarrette

Emaryl (Emi), celebrated her first birthday O3 December. Bless her heart, she was sick that day. We just had a family celebration, but she still got lots of presents.

Christmas is going to be a lot more fun this year. Nothing like the wide-eyed wonder of a child to spark the holiday spirit. She just started walking, and is really going to be a handful.



Michael & Emaryl

Rickey is still in Shreveport. He will be going to Guam in January on a Reserve assignment. Guam is one of his favorite places. He and I have been investing in real estate. We have two houses in a LLC (Limited Liability Corporation.) He purchased the first one and has it rented. I purchased a house in August. It is also rented. It is our plans to sell both houses and buy more in the future.

Shane is 4-years-old, and such a sweet little boy. I enjoyed spending time with him when I was in Louisiana this past summer. He really wanted to help with all the work we were doing to the houses, but he was more in the way. He still likes trains, and Rickey has gotten him almost every Thomas, the Train pieces.

I still work at the nursing home and probably will until I retire. That is something I never thought I would be talking about,; retirement sounds more attractive every day. But money make is not so viable an option at this point.



Four Generations

My life has taken an interesting turn. To make a long story short, I met a man, Larry "Wamp" Power, and he and I have hit it off really well. I just spent 11 days visiting him in Canada. He's the official statistician for the Canadian National Lacrosse Hall of Fame and lives in Oshawa, Ontario about 50 miles from Toronto.



Twyla & Wamp

We met accidentally through the Internet about 2 years ago. He was emailing another person and typed the wrong address. It went to my Yahoo e-mail, which I rarely use because all e-mails me at sbcglobal. I usually just delete all the Yahoo mail, without even looking at it, because it is mostly spam, and I NEVER open e-mails from people I don't know because of viruses and

such. Why I opened this particular e-mail, I'll never know. But I did and e-mailed him back telling him he had the wrong address. From there, we started e-mailing each other jokes, etc, and then started talking about our families. One thing lead to another. We began instant messaging over MSN and graduated to the telephone. We originally planned to meet in Toronto in April, but decide we wanted to meet sooner.

While in Canada, I met Wamp's brother, sister, mother, son and several other family members. I feel as though I have known them always. We did lots of fun things, laughed a lot, and discovered we had a lot in common.

We rode the GO Train and the subway, and went to the ROM (Royal Ontario Museum). There are many really nice exhibits, but we had the most fun in the kids' interactive area. We put on knight's armor, put puzzles together, made a rubbing and wrote our names on a cartouche. We walked around Eaton Center, a mall in Toronto, watched the ice skaters at Nathan Phillips Square, and the Christmas Light Show. We went to see *Alexander*, and were both disappointed. Lake Ontario is huge, and reminds me of the Gulf of Mexico. There is water, as far as you can see, , and some days, there are waves, kicked up by the wind. At one point on the QEW (Queen's Express Way), and on a clear day, you can see across Lake Ontario to Toronto.

The National Lacrosse Hall of Fame president, Tom Succamore, picked us up and took us to St. Catherine's where the Hall of Fame is located. It is also the museum for the Welland Canal that connects Lake Huron and Lake Ontario. This canal is a part of the St. Lawrence Seaway. I watched the ship below being locked through to Lake Ontario.



Welland Canal

While Wamp interviewed a couple of old lacrosse players, Tom Succamore took me to Niagara Falls. The Falls would have been more impressive if you were not at eye level with them. It took away part of the grandeur, but they were incredible. The roar was deafening. A mist rose up until the Falls were almost obscured. The mist was enhanced by the lake-effect snow. There were ice floes on the river. It was an awesome experience, and I want to go back in the summer and ride the Maiden of the Mist.



Niagara Falls

That night, also courtesy of the Hall of Fame, we went to a very nice buffet at Woodbine. We had window seats overlooking the race track, and there was closed-circuit TVs at every table. They were having sulky races. I won a tremendous sum of \$6.80 on one race, but I sure wish I'd followed my hunch and bet on #4, an 18 to 1 long shot, that won the race. I also lost \$25 in the slot machines. I really don't know what people see in slots. I was just plain bored. The Hall also had hotel reservations for us. Wamp's son, Zack came up

and visited us while we were there.

Wamp has two children, Zack, age 29, who is a computer genius and makes PILES of money and Sarah, age 25. She has a teaching certificate and has gone back to college to get a degree to teach drama. If she wins in the figure skating competition in Nova Scotia in March, she will be on the Olympic Canadian Figure Skating Team.

I really had a nice time in Canada, and didn't want to come back. Wamp and I plan to meet again in March at a lacrosse game in Denver, Colorado. Gary Gait is retiring this year and Wamp would like to see him play one more time. He and Tom Succamore have this ongoing argument about whether Gait is the greatest lacrosse player of all time.

I hope to get my Christmas cards addressed and ready to mail today. This is the first time that I have been this late. So I may be late wishing everyone a Merry Christmas, but certainly will be in time to extend a Happy New Year greeting.

Wishing each of you the happiest and most joyous holiday season ever.

God bless each of you richly,

Twyla, Tomaline, Thomas, Jarrette, Michael and Emaryl