

McLain Family Newsletter

Jerry, Christopher, Jessica, Robert, Jeremy, Camille & Samantha

Christmas 2025

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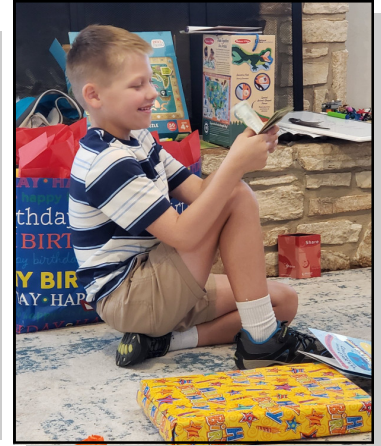
Birthday celebrations

He is seven and she is two. May and September were big months for Sammie and Robert this year.

Sammie is talking, making friends at day care and enjoying her new swing set (courtesy of Grandpa). She had a big, balloon filled celebration.



Sammie with her cake, balloons and decorations, including cookies



Robert counts his birthday money. There's a video game in his future.



Robert prefers cupcakes for his birthday

Robert had a full birthday for TWO weekends in September, and two parties, one weekend with family and the second weekend with friends.

Robert is writing full sentences and is learning to code computer programs (which pleases Grandpa).

Both Sammie and Robert are growing up quickly and providing no lack of entertainment for the family.



Sammie and friends play on the swing set

Special points of interest:

- * Brad Pennartz was nominated for a regional Emmy award. He is the noon news producer at KXAN-TV in Austin.
- * Anthony Pennartz is now Roaming Assistant Manager for OK Concrete. He travels over the area to mix concrete and manage offices.

Meet Paladin



Paladin is the newest edition to Jerry's family. He was born in September of last year and moved here in January.

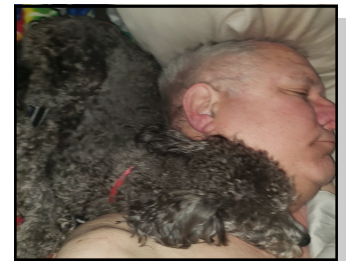
He is a black and gray poodle at about 15 pounds these days and is likes to cuddle with Jerry and harass Kitty.

He is still a puppy and likes to scratch the carpet when he is bored, which is almost all the time. We're working on that.

He's named for the *Have Gun Will Travel* character on the 1960's TV show, not a *Dungeons and Dragons* class, although his initiative roll is pretty high.



Paladin says "Merry Christmas"



Typical sleeping arrangements for Paladin and Jerry



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Sammie celebrates Easter

The usual Easter celebration took place this year. It has been a Pennartz-McLain family tradition for over 40 years with a rotating cast of kids coloring eggs, hunting for them and the adults enjoying a feast.

Last year, Sammie was a little too young to appreciate picking up eggs, but she got right into it this year, collecting a basket full. (She did have a little help, though.)

Robert couldn't be there because his dad had to preach in Bandera on Easter Sunday, but there were plenty of adults and children on hand to enjoy the festivities.

Thanks to Aunt Teresa, bigger Easter baskets were given to all (including Jerry). It's his favorite part of Easter.



Sammie gathers eggs. It was a cool day but it didn't seem to bother her as she searched.



Back in 1992, Sammie's dad displays an egg he found. He was the same age Sammie is now.



Camille, Jeremy and Sammie



Sammie examines her Easter basket.

Jeremy receives award

Jeremy was given the Outstanding Impact award by Enovis, his biomedical equipment company. The award for designing a reverse glenoid shoulder replacement and instruments for surgeons to use to install in operations.

The design is a new innovation and is a top seller for Enovis and has improved the lives of many people who required shoulder replacement surgery.

Jeremy is a senior design engineer in the shoulder implant group at Enovis in Austin.



Jeremy displays his award

Jessica returns to the 1960's

It's not time travel. The theme of the Rolling Plains annual meeting this year was remembering their origin in the '60's. With Aunt Teresa's help (and Karon's old t-shirt), Jessica dressed the part.

She prepares grants, coordinates board meetings and communication for Rolling Plains.



Did 1960's hippies use laptops!

Meow Wolf

Jerry and Brad went to Meow Wolf Art Houston in May. They had previously been to the immersive art exhibits in Santa Fe and Denver.

The theme of this one was Radio Tave, based around a radio station that started normal and quickly became surreal. Both really enjoyed it because of their broadcasting experience.

Brad has been to the Meow Wolf exhibits in Grapevine and Las Vegas. Teresa went with him to Grapevine but politely declined this one.



Jerry at the audio board at Meow Wolf. It's been 51 years but he's still got it!

They are trying to talk Jerry P. into going but he's waiting for a Meow Wolf farming exhibit.



Brad does a little surreal DJing



ETNL is the fictional radio station at Meow Wolf Houston.

Missiles and computers

Jerry continues to build models. He likes to build old models that have been re-introduced by Atlantis models.

He has also been building bench power supplies. He has been interested in electronics since before he built models.

He updated his computers to Windows 11. It was to be a simple replacement and turned into a three month job that included adding monitors and control selectors for HDMI and USB.

Jerry completed his 26th year as minister of the First Christian Church of Crowell.



Jerry works on a model



Camille, Sammie and Jeremy attend Pioneer Farms Pumpkin Night in Austin. The event celebrates art using pumpkins. Sammie wasn't afraid of the pumpkin creatures and liked the pumpkin tree.

Pumpkins and canoes

Sammie and Robert celebrated fall in different ways. Sammie went to the Pioneer Farms Pumpkin Night in Austin. She is all about Halloween and everything that surrounds it.

Meanwhile, Robert went on a family vacation to Big Bend. He took a canoe trip down the Rio Grande river, visited the Fossil Discovery Exhibit and saw the Terlingua ghost town. His favorite part of the trip was when his mother slipped and almost fell in the water at a state park. She's a little annoyed that he said it was his best memory of the trip.



Robert and Jessica paddle down the Rio Grande river

Grandparent's Day



Lolly, Robert and Aunt Teresa at Grandparent's Day

Robert celebrated Grandparent's Day at school with a whole posse. Grandpa, Lolly (Grandma Gayla) and Aunt Teresa

brought him corn dogs (so he wouldn't have to eat cafeteria food) and enjoyed visiting with him.

It was part of a two weekend celebration of his birthday. Later, he got to go to a mini-golf course that featured dragons and wizards.

He is in the first grade at Alkek elementary in Bandera and is learning to read, write and do math, quite advanced for the first grade.



Robert and friend Mercer compare missing teeth



Robert takes time out from a corn dog lunch to pose with Aunt Teresa and Grandpa

Christopher teaches in Africa

Christopher made another couple of trips to Africa this year. He has been going to Namibia for the past several years to train pastors.

This spring, several pastors completed their studies and were awarded certificates by Christopher and Dr. David Warren, pastor of Seymour First Baptist Church. Several other church members also went to Africa as a missionary effort.

Christopher is pastor of First Baptist Church of Bandera. Christopher is also working on his doctor's degree in ministry.



Christopher and Dr. David Warren congratulate African pastors on completing their studies.

Camille at work



Camille is cyber security analyst at the Pickle Research Campus of the University of Texas. She attended a week of training at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. She completed another certification at Johns Hopkins in cyber security.

Camille enjoys her work and is responsible for network security for the Pickle research projects for the Department of Defense.

She also spends plenty of time running after Sammie at home.

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MERRY CHRISTMAS



Jessica, Robert, Christopher, Jerry, Jeremy, Camille and Samantha

Trick or Treat

Sammie and Robert dressed up for Halloween, based on their favorite things.

Sammie wanted to be a strawberry (since it's her favorite food), while Robert chose a Creeper costume from *Minecraft*, his favorite game.



They both had great fun and got a lot of candy. Halloween skeletons and witches do not scare Sammie at all. Robert helped with the Fall

Festival, sponsored by the churches in Bandera. His mask had to be removed, so he could see to help with the events.

Next comes Christmas and they are both ready to spend time with family and collect a lot of presents.



Kitty is now 16 years old, but she doesn't act like it. She is in good health and her biggest problem is Paladin wanting to play, which she doesn't like. She does like getting treats,

Jerry scalps a ticket

The Pennartz family always buys box seats for the Santa Rosa Roundup rodeo. This year, they got a ticket for Jerry but, as you might imagine, he wasn't interested because 1) it's too hot... and 2) it's a rodeo. Besides, he's still trying to live down being shown live on the Cowboy Channel when he was forced to go to the rodeo a couple of years ago.

And, since he still has the ticket, he offers it to you at a very reasonable price.

So, if you are interested in last May's Roundup, just let him know and he'll hook you up. It'll be a little hard to use, since the rodeo was 7 months ago, but, hey, he'll give you a great deal!

79th ANNUAL SANTA ROSA ROUNDUP VERNON, TEXAS		25 BOX ROW SEAT
NO REFUND OR EXCHANGE Wed, May 14, 2025	WEDNESDAY 7:30 PM - NIGHT -	25 E 2
Management reserves right to revoke license of ticket by refunding purchase price.		14 MAY 2025
BOX SEAT		BOX SEAT