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YOUR FREE HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2017

Lena-Winslow/Orangeville Speech Team stays on top-10 track

Teamwork was the order of the day when the Lena-Winslow/Orangeville Speech Team recorded its second top-10 performance in as many weeks by finishing 10th at the very competitive Rochelle Speech Tournament on Saturday, January 9.

"I keep telling the kids that this is a team, not just a collection of individuals," said the team's head coach Tom Fore. "The term 'synergy' certainly applies in our case. Synergy is defined as something whose combination is greater than the sum of its separate parts. What that means in our case is that, even though we've got some strong performers, their combined effect on a team is greater than just a collection of individual awards. That's why we finished 10th out of 23 teams, most of which come from schools a lot bigger than ours."

Every tournament has its pleasant surprises, and Rochelle was no exception. Recording his "first 1st" of what promises to be a long and successful high school speech career was Le-Win freshman Lucas Schoaf, who claimed the top Novice award in Original Comedy, due in no small part to the training of new assistant coach Lucas Mays.

"Our team is smaller this year than last, but if you want to measure success by awards won, then we're actually doing better," Fore said, "and leading the way is a really dedicated group of first-year kids. Four of them have been working on this since last summer, and it's really starting to pay off. For instance, our Dramatic Duet Acting team of Abby Strominger and Maddie Meador have been in three tournaments so far and they have yet to come away empty-handed."

At Rochelle, the other Novice awards were Strominger and Meador (3rd, DDA), Strominger (4th, Poetry), and Alysse Potter (5th, Original Oratory). The top Varsity



COURTESY PHOTO Shopper's Guide

The term 'synergy' certainly applies to Lena-Winslow/Orangeville Speech Team members John Jurkovic, Justin Malone, Alysse Potter, Abby Strominger, Maddie Meador, Lucas Boomgarden, and Lucas Schoaf.

award went to Orangeville senior Lucas Boomgarden (6th place out of 41 in Impromptu), Le-Win senior John Jurkovic (7th place out of 34 in Original Comedy), and Orangeville junior Justin Malone (9th place out of 46 in Oratorical Declamation).

The Le-Win/Orangeville team will host its 11th Annual Tourna-

ment on Saturday, January 6, followed by tournaments at River Ridge, Downers Grove South, and State Series begins in early February. The IHSA Jeffers (Rockford) ary.

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Lena's own Torkelson Cheese celebrates the holidays with Jersey Jubilee

By John Day
CORRESPONDENT

Jamie and Lindsey White purchased the Torkelson Cheese Company from Lindsey's parents, Duane and Cheryl Torkelson, after having partnered with them in the enterprise for a number of years. Since then the Whites have expanded the business while maintaining the tradition of using the highest quality ingredients. Today, Torkelson is producing whey

and lactose products in addition to their all natural cheeses.

Lindsey White is proud of the fact that Torkelson produces World Champion brick and Meunster cheeses. Every day 35,000 pounds of Muenster is turned out by their plant. Additionally, Torkelson produces a wide range of cheeses such as cheddar, apple jack, Colby and Swiss to name a few. Torkelson sells its cheese at retail and wholesale lev-

els. The premier cheese produced by Torkelson is their Jersey Jubilee.

"Jersey cheese is not available year round," White said, "We begin making the Jersey cheese around Thanksgiving and have it on the shelf for the holidays. The Jersey Jubilee cheese is an item that grows in popularity with each passing year. The first year my family made the Jersey cheese they produced a batch of 600 pounds and it didn't sell very well. This year we've turned out 3000 pounds and it's going fast. We plan on increasing next year's batch."

Explaining why the Jersey Jubilee is so popular and delightfully deca-

dent, White said, "Jersey cheese is made from the finest high test milk. The milk is one and one half percent higher in fat and protein than other milk. This is what provides a smooth cheese with so much flavor. This kind of milk comes from the breed of cows known as Brown Swiss, Guernsey and of course, the Jersey. At present, our milk is supplied by 35 area farms."

The Jersey Jubilee cheese is great when used as an ingredient in any number of dishes. It makes mac and cheese something unique. Used in a cheese sauce over crepes the Jersey cheese is smooth and silky. Jersey

cheese can be used as a substitute in any appetizer recipe. Sliced and served alone as an appetizer Jersey is a perfect companion with wine or beer.

In a competitive business world, Torkelson has found ways to expand beyond just making more cheese. White said, "At the moment we have about 30 employees including our head cheesemaker, Scott Butler, who has been here almost 30 years. We hope to create more jobs as we expand our operation. We've added powders and protein to our product list and we are also marketing lactose. Lactose is the sugar found in milk which is used in the confectionary business as well as the fermentation process in the brewing of beer."

Torkelson Cheese Company is located at 9453 W. Louisa Rd. north of Lena. Their retail shop is open from 8 in the morning until 3 in the afternoon Monday through Friday and from 8 until 1 on Saturdays. They can be contacted by phone at 815-369-4265 or on line at www.torkelsoncheese.com.

Lena American Legion Home stages New Year's Eve event

Want something to do New Year's Eve? Come to the Lena American Legion Home at 314 West Main Street from 7 p.m. to whenever. We will be playing cards, bunko, etc. Public is welcome-any age.

No charge-bring finger food if you like and some will be provided.

For questions or more information, call 815-369-4684. Don't sit home, come and help celebrate the New Year.

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New Year's Eve - Prime Rib Buffet Sunday, December 31 - 5 - 9 p.m.

Prime rib, roasted pork loin with stuffing, broasted chicken, popcorn shrimp, au gratin potatoes, baby reds, sugar snap peas, salad bar.

Adults \$17.95 • Kids \$8.95

Reservations recommended



Sunday Specials

- Now Serving New Breakfast Menu 8-11 a.m.

- All-You-Can-Eat Chicken & Dumplings \$8.99 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.

303406



SAM MOLINA PHOTO Shopper's Guide

Lena Breakfast with Santa

Kenlee Price and Santa have a serious discussion about who was naughty and who was nice during the annual Breakfast with Santa at the Lena Fire Station.

Don't Be A Grinch!

Christmas Family Movie Night

Featuring: Dr Seuss'

How the Grinch Stole Christmas

Staring Jim Carey

Friday, December 22
Doors open at 6:00 pm
Free Movie Begins at 6:30 pm

- Grinch inspired snacks, popcorn, pop, punch, cocoa

- Mount Krumpet games

Wear Whoville's finest ugly sweater or pajamas

Don't forget your blankets and pillows!



McConnell

United Methodist Church

211 N. Hubert Rd., McConnell, IL 61109

303282



BISS FOR GOVERNOR Meet and Greet

Wed., December 20, 6:30 - 8 p.m.
St. John's UCC
1010 S. Park Blvd.
Freeport, IL

With the middle class disappearing and big money taking over our politics, we need to change in 2018!



www.danielbiss.com

Challenging the notion that no work is getting done in Springfield, Democratic Senator Daniel Biss and his Lt. Governor choice, Rep. Litesa Wallace are the only team that has legislative experience. Working on BOTH sides of the aisle, they've passed over 120 bills. Daniel combines the discipline and pragmatism of a math professor with the tenacity of an organizer in everything he does. With the primary only 13 weeks away, we encourage you to attend this unique opportunity to meet and ask questions.

Sponsored by Indivisible NW Illinois 17th District Rebels. Watch for future Meet and Greet with other candidates as well. Facility is handicap accessible. Email questions to indivisiblerebels@gmail.com

CHURCH NEWS

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

All are invited to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Sunday Dec. 24, as we gather for worship on this Fourth Sunday of Advent with Holy Communion at, 118 E. Mason St. Lena, IL, at 9:30 a.m. Following worship, there will be a time of fellowship. At 7:30 p.m. we will gather for Christmas Eve Candle Light Service of Lessons and Carols with Holy Communion.

On Monday Dec. 25, Christmas Day Good Shepherd will gather to worship at 9:30 a.m. all are invited to worship with us as we reflect a Christmas story through Martin Luther's hymn, "From Heaven Above"

On Sunday Dec. 31, all are invited to Worship service as we worship with Christmas Music & Stories and Holy Communion at 9:30 a.m.

If you have any questions, please call the church at 815-369-5552.

St. John's Lutheran Church

You're invited to join us at St. John's Lutheran Church, Pearl City, for the Fourth Sunday of Advent worship service on Dec. 24. The worship service will begin at 9 a.m. and will include the Poinsettia Garden.

Make plans now to celebrate the Christmas season at St. John's. Candlelight Christmas Eve services will be held at 5 and 9 p.m. on Christmas Eve. Finally, a Christmas Day worship will be held on Dec. 25, at 9 a.m. The Christmas season will conclude with a service of Carols and Readings on Dec. 31, at 9 a.m.

It's not too late!!! St. John's is selling 2018 calendars.

St. John's Lutheran Church is at 229 S. First Street, Pearl City, Illinois. The office phone number is 815-443-2215 (mornings). All are invited to our weekly worship services and youth to our Sunday School and youth ministries. You may also email at prshadmin@gmail.com.

Willow/Kent/Wesley United Methodist Church

Willow/Kent/Wesley United Methodist Churches will worship at "Wesley UMC Sunday, Dec 24, at 10 a.m." This is the Fourth Sunday of Advent; Pastor Chuck Wolbers will bring the message "LOVE"; all are invited and welcome.

Wesley UMC is located on the corner of Benton/Stockton in Stockton, IL

CHRISTMAS EVE "Candlelight" Service is at Kent UMC at 5 p.m. All are invited and welcome. All are welcome and invited to this Special Time.

Kent UMC is located right in the town of Kent, IL. For more info; call Pastor at 262-308-2379.

Don't be a Grinch! Christmas Family Movie Night

Friday, Dec. 22, at McConnell United Methodist Church, 211 N. Hulbert Rd., McConnell, IL. Doors Open at 6 p.m.

Kick off Christmas Break with some fun! "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" FREE Movie Begins at 6:30 p.m.

Grinch inspired snacks, popcorn, pop/punch/cocoa. Grinch games on Mount Krumpet. Wear Whoville's finest pajamas or ugly Christmas sweaters. Don't forget your blankets and pillows.

Thank You

I would like to thank A.J.'s Lena Maid Meats for drawing my name and winning the turkey they gave away at Thanksgiving.

I would also like to thank the Lena Area Church Cooperative and the Lena Lions Club for the wonderful cookies and delicious fruit tray. May God continue to bless these organizations and the good they do for our community.

Larry Maashe

303221

BEACH'S SUPPER CLUB

Dec. 31

Join us for a night of fun!
NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY
featuring
"CROSS CUT BAND"!

Enjoy fine food & spirits

Reservations Recommended!
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302216



A big thank
you to Lena
Area Church
Cooperative
and Lena Lions.

**Laverne
Kampmeier**

303232

Card of Thanks.
To the Lena Lions Club and the
Lena Area Church Co-operative
for the tray of fruit and plate of
cookies. All was appreciated.
Thanks again.
The residents of Doll Apartments

303665

Thank you to the Lena
Area Church Co-op and
the Lena Lions Club for
the fruit and delicious
cookies. Everything was
so good!
I feel fortunate to be
living in such a caring
community.
Betty Rupnow

303434



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289317

Thank you to the Lena
Area Church Cooperative
and Lena Lions Club for the
plat of cookies and platter
of fruit. They were all
delicious and very much
appreciated.
Lavonne Jones

303219

The family of James
Erwin Jr. would like
to thank everyone
who called, sent
flowers and the
many cards we
received at the time
of his passing.

Thank you all.
Ellen Erwin
Cyndy & Neal Shumaker
& family
Steve Miller & family

303223

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Squirmy Butt Christmas Eve Service

Balloons, cupcakes, gifts and childlike enthusiasm
as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

4:30 p.m.

Pearl City
United Methodist Church

411 S Main St, Pearl City
pearlcityumc.org

For more information, call the church office 815-443-2177
or email Pastor Matt at pastor@pearlcityumc.org

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Obituaries

DORIS ESHLEMAN

Doris Eshleman, 86, of Freeport and formerly of Stockton, IL, passed away on Dec. 9, 2017 at Liberty Village. She was born on Nov. 28, 1931 in Piper City, IL to



George and Helen (Bishop) Cook. She received her Associate Degree in Nursing from the Mennonite School of Nursing in Bloomington, IL. She married Duane Eshleman on Oct. 18, 1952 in Piper City, IL. She was an RN, EMT, and a homemaker. She was a member of Holy Cross Catholic Church in Stockton, IL, as well as a Charter Member of Stockton Community Ambulance.

Survivors include her Daughters: Valrahe (Steve) Nott, of Freeport, IL; Jan (John) Kitazaki of Stockton, IL; Marci (Barry) Brandt, of Milton, WI; and Teri (Kelly) White, of Des Moines, IA; Sons: Mark (Michelle Rupiper) of Memphis, TN; Brock (Marianne) of Rockton, IL; Cole (Trish) of Freeport, IL; Chad (Angie Pebworth) of Stockton, IL; and Matt (Patti) of Rockford, IL; 20 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren, and Sister-in-law: Betty Cook. She is preceded in death by her husband, parents, brother Ronald Cook, and sister Charlene Crist.

Visitation and funeral services were held Dec. 17, at the Holy Cross Catholic Church in Stockton, IL, with Father Michael Morrissey officiating. Inurnment was at Holy Cross Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Stockton Community Ambulance. Online condolences may be shared at www.schwarzfh.com. There was always room at the dinner table for Doris' nine kids and whomever they brought home.

Dean E. Wright, age 78 of Stockton, IL passed away at home on

DEAN E. WRIGHT

Dean E. Wright, age 78 of Stockton, IL passed away at home on

Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2017 after a courageous battle with cancer. He was born on Nov. 14, 1939 in Stockton to the late Wilbur and Genevieve (Morgan) Wright. Dean



was a 1957 graduate of Stockton High School where he set the state scoring record in football. He married Ruth Dittmar on Sept. 25, 1960.

Dean was a member of Wesley United Methodist Church in Stockton. He retired from Atwood Manufacturing after 31 years. He also farmed, drove truck for Wright-Away Trucking with his sons, was a Lions Club member for 40+ years and enjoyed cooking chicken in the Stockton Township Memorial Park each 4th of July. Dean was an avid Chicago Bears and Cubs fan. He enjoyed video poker, euchre, scratch off tickets, logging with his stepdad, Warren, ice fishing, fast pitch softball and a good cigar. He truly enjoyed his family, which included watching his five sons play football in his footsteps, and three of his sons racing motocross.

He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Ruth of Stockton; his sons, Tom (Lorie) of Stockton, Russell (Kristin) of Lexington, SC, Mark (Marcie) of Geneva, IL, Troy (Kris) of Dubuque, IA; his daughters, who were his amazing caregivers, Kim (Bill) Heid of Thomson and Paula (Jason) Haas of Stockton; his 27 grandchildren and 18 great grandchildren. He is preceded in death by his parents, son Jim, infant brother, two grandsons and a great grandson.

There was a celebration of life on Sunday, Dec. 17, at Calvary United Methodist Church in Stockton. A memorial fund has been established with the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Condolences may be shared with Dean's family at www.hermannfuneralhome.com.



COURTESY PHOTO Shopper's Guide

Pearl City Class of 1962

Pearl City Class of 1962 55th class reunion.

Back row lt. to rt. Laverne Bolen, Jim Brinkmeier, Bob Janssen, Bob Brown, Lynn Parkinson, Bob Troxell, Ryan Peterson, Gail (Wingert) Anderson, Dean Werkheiser. Middle row Penny (Reed) Bear, Bonnie (Katzenberger) Mitchell, Glenn Hockman, Bill Kloepping, Lorraine (Flack) Runkle. Front row Faline (Reiter) Baumgartne, Bonnie (Janicke) Gorham, Garrnet (Stephen) Obenchain, Glenda (Erdress) Keech, Mary (Erbsen) Mullin.

TCEDA's Build it • Grow it offers Entrepreneurial Scholarship

Tri-County Economic Development Alliance (TCEDA) is excited to announce its first-ever Build it • Grow it Entrepreneurial Scholarship. All high school seniors in Jo Daviess, Carroll and Whiteside Counties are eligible to apply for a \$1,000 scholarship and an opportunity to meet with business expert, Brian McIntyre, to learn about

self-employment.

The application will be available on Jan. 2, on the TCEDA web site or at guidance counselors' offices. The scholarship application does not include G.P.A. or financial need requirements. Students will explain why they believe they would like to own their own business and any product or service they would like to

create. Applications are due to TCEDA Feb. 2. The scholarship will be awarded at TCEDA's Annual Meeting March 15 at Eagle Ridge Resort & Spa in Galena, IL.

"The Entrepreneurial Scholarship is a natural extension of our Build it • Grow it business program, which has shown positive results for micro-businesses since its inception. Teaching young people how to be self-employed is increasingly important," explains Lisa McCarthy, TCEDA Executive Director. According to the National Small Business Association, 70%

of small businesses in the U.S. are owned and operated by a single person.

"As the gig economy grows, the traditional economic development metrics will change. Important metrics will become gig workers' productivity and impact on the local economy.

The communities that support their entrepreneurs will position themselves as attractive

locations to do business," according to Janet Ady, Ady Advantage, a site selection and economic development company located in Madison, WI.

For more information email info@tceda-nwil.org or call 815-858-4491.

TCEDA is an independent, private, nonprofit 501c (6) corporation formed to foster business growth in Jo Daviess, Carroll and Whiteside counties.

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Letters To Santa

Dear Santa, My name is Landon. I like Call of Duty. I need new KD's, one pair of KD's. I want a tablet. Santa can you give me a new Elf? How

old is Rudolph? How is Landon's elf doing? Your Friend, Landon

Dear Santa, My name is Easton. I love flag football. I need a new sick pair of tennis shoes. I want an Xbox and dirt bike. What do you feed the reindeer? Is the North Pole cold? How do you deliver the presents? Your Friend, Easton

Dear Santa, My name is Karlee. I am 6. I like to go horse riding. I need a coat because it is cold. I need new tennis shoes. I want a dream horse because I have been good. I want a new Barbie Dream House because I am good. Why do you have a sled? Why do you fly the reindeer? How do you find your reindeer? Your Friend, Karlee

Dear Santa, My name is Aubrey. I am 6. My favorite colors are pink and purple. I need a new shirt that is warm because I have no shirts that are warm. I want a Barbie Dream House and a new disco ball because I have been good. What do you feed the

reindeer? Why do you live far away? How do you deliver the presents to the houses? Your Friend, Aubrey

Dear Santa, My name is Jozi. I am 6. I am almost 7. I need a new toothbrush. I want a Fit Bit because I have been good this year. What do the reindeer eat? Why do you have to wear red? How do the reindeer fly? Your Friend, Jozi

Dear Santa, My name is Grant. I am 6 years old. My favorite color is red. I need a new stereo! I want an Xbox 360! What are your elves names? Why do the reindeer need food? How do the reindeer fly? Your Friend, Grant

Dear Santa, My name is Alison. I love to read books. I am six. I need a sweater because mine is small. I want a Barbie doll because I helped my sister. I want a baby doll because I helped my mom. What do you like to do on Christmas? Your Friend, Alison

Dear Santa, My name is Bianca. I am 6 and I like pink. I need tooth-

paste because I ran out. I want a Flip-a-Zoo and a set of stuffed animal Legos. What do you do at the North Pole? Why do you have reindeer? How many people do you pick in 1 day? Your Friend, Bianca

Dear Santa, My name is Alex. I am 7 and I like macaroni and cheese. I need new tape and I need a new toothbrush. I want a big present because I have been good to my friends. How do you get presents to mom and dad and Brady and me? Your Friend, Alex

Dear Santa, My name is Brenna. I am six. I need shoes. I want Legos. How do you fly the reindeer? Your Friend, Brennan

Mr. Blakely' Lena-Winslow Kindergarten

Dear Santa, I have been a good girl and I would like a big Barbie house with furniture and a pink Barbie car. Lilliana Childers

Northwestern Illinois Community Action Agency 2018 LIHEAP, PIPP, and Weatherization Assistance Programs

Northwestern Illinois Community Action Agency has funding from the Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (DCEO) to assist residents of Jo Daviess and Stephenson Counties with home heating utility costs through the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), Percentage of Income Payment Plan (PIPP), and Weatherization Programs.

PIPP applications will be taken until December 31, 2017. LIHEAP applications will be taken until May 31, 2018 or until funding is exhausted.

Effective December 1, 2017 all income eligible households may schedule an appointment to apply for assistance with their heating utilities.

Eligible households may call 800-883-1111 or 815-232-3141 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. to schedule an appointment to apply for assistance at one of the following locations.

- NICAA Main Office- Freeport • Stockton Banking Center
- Warren Township Library • Hanover Village Hall
- Citizens State Bank of Lena • East Dubuque Library
- Illinois Bank & Trust- Galena Downtown
- German-American State Bank – German Valley

Income Guidelines: To qualify, a household must have a 30 day gross income at or below 150% of the federal poverty level shown below for 30 days prior to and including the application date.

- 1 person household - \$1,508
 - 2 person household - \$2,030
 - 3 person household - \$2,553
 - 4 person household - \$3,075
- Add \$522.50 for each additional person in the household

**** The following documents will be required to apply for assistance ****

- Social Security Cards for all members of the household.
- Proof of all gross income for all household members for 30 days including the application date including pay check stubs, SSA/SSI/SSD current benefit letters, pension/retirement statements, child support, unemployment reports, TANF/AABD/Township GA assistance notices, self employment reports, and proof of zero income.
- Current heat and electric bills issued.
- Medical Card from Illinois Department of Human Services.
- Copy of current lease or rent receipt.
- Proof of homeownership, tax bill or title (for mobile home), is required for weatherization assistance.

PY 18 LIHEAP Emergency Furnace Program

An Emergency Furnace Assistance Program is available for LIHEAP households who are **homeowners** and whose **existing** heating systems are not functioning or have been red-tagged by their utility.

The purpose of the LIHEAP Furnace program is to restore heat to the household and is available from October 1, 2017 through March 31, 2018 or until funds have been exhausted.

Starting December 1, 2017 all low-income eligible households may apply.

To qualify for the LIHEAP Emergency Furnace Program, the household must first apply for and be approved for LIHEAP assistance.

The household must have active service with both primary and secondary heating utilities. Households with disconnected utilities are not eligible for this assistance.

In addition to LIHEAP documents, the following documentation to show proof of home ownership is required:

- Copy of real estate tax bill
- Or
- Copy of warranty deed, contract for deed, or quit claim deed (all of these must be stamped and registered with the county clerk.
- Or
- If a mobile home, must have a copy of the mobile home title.

Please call 815-232-3141 or 800-883-1111 to make an appointment for assistance.

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HOLIDAY CHEER



All of us at Citizens State Bank wish you and your loved ones a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

May your holiday season be happy and cheerful and may your year ahead be blessed with joy, love, and abundance.



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300416

Letters To Santa

Dear Santa, I have been a good boy and I would like Go Go Power Ranger Mega Set. I would also like to have lots Power Ranger action Figures. Jackson Bland

Dear Santa, I have been a good boy and I would like to have a Sponge Bob Camper Van and a Jurassic World Lego set with the Tyrannosaurus Rex. Carter Diestelmeier

Dear Santa, I have been a good boy and I would like a tractor and a Dairy Farm play set. I would also like a remote control toy Monster Truck. Jameson Gray

Dear Santa, I have been a good boy and I would like a Glow in the Dark Fidget Spinner and a Sponge Bob Lego Set. Payton Lawrence

Dear Santa, I have been a good boy and I would like a remote control monster truck and a remote control boat that goes fast in water. I would also like a sled that goes fast. Abel Leverton

Dear Santa, I have been a good boy and I would like a 100 round Nerf gun that shoots darts really fast and A Chicago Bear Bed spread and a Chicago Bear fidget spinner. Clayton Oliver

Dear Santa, I have been a good girl and I would like a remote control snake to scare my grandma and aunt. I would also like a fart machine to make them laugh. Whitney Doescher

Dear Santa, I have been a good girl and I would like an American Doll girl. I would also like to have a cupcake maker and a pizza maker. Hayden Fryer

Dear Santa, I have been a really good girl. For Christmas, I would like Pink Barbie car and lots of Barbie's with tons of pink clothes. Emmalyn LaDow
Dear Santa, I have been a good girl this year. I would like a Barbie Camper and a Barbie jeep to pull the camper. I would also like tons of Barbie

accessories. Carissa Lingle

Dear Santa, I have been a good boy and I would like my own dirt bike, a lizard and a Bat Cave that has Batman in it. Quinn Peight

Dear Santa, I have been a super good boy this year. I would like a snowboard that comes with special boots. I would also like new snow boots to play in the snow. Owen Repa

Dear Santa, I have been a good girl this year. I would like coloring accessories that include markers and crayons. I would also like a cotton candy machine. Gia Schlichting

Dear Santa, I have been a good boy and I would like a remote control bat that flies. I would also like to have a remote control race car Rylan Roland

Dear Santa, I have been a super good girl this year. I would like a Barbie pop up camper and a Barbie Dream house. I would also like a race track. Lydia Tiesman

Dear Santa, I have been a super good girl this year. I would like some make-up. I would also like to have a big tent to camp out in my backyard. Karli Hill

Dear Santa, My name is Jesse. I am six. My favorite sport is soccer. I need a new pair of flip flops because my others are too old. I want a cotton candy maker and a ping pong set because I am nice to people. What do you look like? Why do you live at the North Pole? How do you know if people are nice or good? Merry Christmas! Your Friend, Jesse

Mrs. Hasselman's Lena-Winslow first grade

Dear Santa, I am six. I need pencils and glue sticks. I want a robot. How do you slide down a chimney? Your Friend, Isaiah

Dear Santa, I am fun. I need a dog, fish, and a kitten. I want a cat. What is a reindeer? Your friend, Allie

Dear Santa, Have blonde hair. I need another Play station controller. I want putty. O your reindeer fly with the sleigh? Your friend, Braxton

Dear Santa, I am cool. I need a new a new truck for my dad. I want a toy truck. How do you get down the chimney? Your friend, Colby

Dear Santa, I am nice. I need putty. I want six phones. How do you

get down chimneys without getting dirty? Your friend, Evan

Dear Santa, I am cute. I need pencils, erasers, and glue. I want hair chalk. How are you so quiet when you come to our house? Your friend, Evelin

Dear Santa, I am cool. I need glue sticks. I want a nerf gun. Do you like nerf guns? Your friend, Gage

happy holidays

New Year's Eve
Sunday, December 31, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.
 Auction inside our building - 302 N. Center Street • Warren
 Terms: Cash/Check, 10% Buyer's Premium

Dieken Auction Service
 815-222-0542 • www.diekenauctionservice.com

302912

*Wishing You the Best
 this Holiday Season!*

...

**Merry Christmas
 & Happy New Year!**

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*Merry Christmas
 & Happy New Year!*

from

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229674

GET FITEAM CHALLENGE

Happy New Year! Is your New Year's resolution fitness-related?



The challenge kicks off on January 14,
 with baseline screens* being held at
 FHN Burchard Hills Facility Lower Level on:

| January 10, 2018 | January 11, 2018 | January 13, 2018 |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 10 am - 1 pm | 3 pm - 6 pm | 8 am - 11 am |

*You must attend one of the scheduled baseline screens in order to have your points count. Please schedule your screen early to be sure to get the date and time that works best for your schedule. There will not be "make up" screening dates.

If you have a resolution to be more fit in 2018, FHN's Get FiTeam Challenge is here for you!

For just \$25 each, you and three of your friends/family members will compete with other four-person teams in a 12-week program timed to help you be in better health for all of your summer activities. You'll earn points for exercise, drinking plenty of water, and eating five servings of fruits and vegetables every day. At a baseline screen, you will confirm your current height, weight, blood pressure and cholesterol level. Throughout the challenge, you will receive challenge updates, healthy recipes, and invitations to health-related events. You will also be able to take advantage of trial memberships only for Get FiTeam members at local health and fitness clubs. When all is said and done, the top teams of the competition will win great prizes!

Get your team together and Get Fit! Register online at getfit.fhn.org. For more information call us at 1-877-6000-FHN ext. 901 or email us at getfit@fhn.org.



Letters To Santa

Dear Santa I am kind. I need underwear. I want one phone. How do you fly? Your friend, Hailey

Dear Santa, I am a cowboy. I need the biggest nerf gun. I want a Nerf gun that shoots beads. Your friend, Layton

Dear Santa, I have blonde hair. I need glue sticks. I want an lol doll. How does Santa climb down the chimney? Your friend, Maci

Dear Santa, I was good. I need pencils, erasers, and glue sticks. I want a dog. Your Friend, Maddox

Dear Santa, I am six. I need pencils. I want a reindeer. Where do you get reindeer? How are you so quiet? Your Friend, Makenna

Dear Santa, I am nice. I need glue sticks. I want a second phone. Why do

you do your job and how are you so quiet? Your friend, Ray

Dear Santa, I want a new sister and pencils and erasers. I also want a phone. Do you come down the chimney? Your Friend, Serena

Dear Santa, I am 7. I need pencils, erasers, and glue sticks. I want my own putty. Why do you like cookies. Your friend, Noah

Dear Santa, I am 7. I need socks. I want candy. Why do you fly? Your friend, Blake

Dear Santa, I am kind. I need a Hot Wheels track. I want one phone. How do you fly? Your friend, Bradyn

Dear Santa, I'm good. I need glue sticks. I want a reindeer. Do you get reindeer? Your friend, Leyna

Mrs. Leamon's Lena-Winslow first grader's

Dear Santa, Hi! My name is Addy. I have three sisters. I need new ear muffs. I want a new big Barbie house. How does Rudolph have a red nose? Your friend, Addy

Dear Santa, Hi! My name is Ashton. I have three brothers. I want a new phone. I need a new pair of shoes. How do you eat bananas in one night? Your friend, Ashton

Dear Santa, Hi! My name is Brody. I am 6 years old. I live in Cedarville. I need some new shoes. I want a little robot. How do reindeer fly? Your friend, Brody

Dear Santa, Hi! My name is Carson. I have one brother and two sisters. I would like Ramen Noodles. I want a T.V. How do your reindeer fly? Your Friend, Carson

Dear Santa, Hi! My name is Dawsyn. I have one brother named Brenolyn and a sister named Brylee. I want an I PAD. What will you give me for Christmas? Your Friend, Dawsyn

Dear Santa, I have 4 sisters and a brother. I need a new pair of shoes. I want a dirt bike. How does the sleigh fly? Your Friend, Derrick

Dear Santa, I have four sisters and I have one pet. I live in Lena. I need a new shirt. I would like a new video game. How can your reindeer fly? Your friend, Easton

Dear Santa, Hi! My name is Ireland. I have one brother named Jackson. I need a couple of blankets. I would like the 8th book of the Owl Diaries please. Your Friend, Ireland

Dear Santa, I have a dog named Boston. I need a tablet. I would like a Nerf gun. How do you get your magic? Your Friend, Jackson

Dear Santa, Hi! My name is Jonah. I just can't stop playing with my toys

Santa. I need a new cup. I would like a flying fox the toy. How do you make toys with a hammer? Your Friend, Jonah

Dear Santa, Hi! I have a dog named Marbles and a cat named Olive. I need a new scarf. I want an orange tiger toy. How do you make toys? Your Friend, Jordan

Dear Santa, Hi! My name is Korbin. I have 2 brothers. Their names are Hudson and Maddux. I need a new shirt. I want an x box one. How do you get around the world? Your Friend, Korbin

Dear Santa, Hi! My name is Macie. I have one sister named Brianna. I need some shoes with laces. I would like a Flipazoo. How can you deliver all the presents in one night? Your Friend, Macie

Dear Santa, Hi! My name is Mason C. I have 4 sisters and 1 brother. I need new gym shoes. I want a drone. I want a rock collection. How do you eat all of the cookies in one night? Your Friend, Mason C.

Dear Santa, I have 1 sister and 1 brother. I need some new shoes. I want a toy cat. How do you fly your sleigh? Your friend, Mckaillee

Dear Santa, Hi! I have been good this year. I need a new pair of shoes. I want a new Pete the Cat book. How do you eat all those cookies in one night? Your friend, Mason R

Dear Santa, I have a sister named Maddie. I would like a new shirt. I want a Barbie. Why do people say that you are not real? Your Friend, Payton

Dear Santa, I have one sister Alexis and one brother Rodney. I need new pink boots. I want toy Santa clothes to wear. How do you get ready before the morning? Your Friend, Sami

Dear Santa, Hi, my name is Sydney. I live in McConnell. I need a new pair of shoes and clothes. I want a Barbie house. How do you ride in your sleigh? Your Friend, Sydney

Dear Santa, Hi! My name is Landon. I have one sister and one dog. I need a new shirts and pants. I want a Spiderman toy and some blocks. How old are you? Your Friend, Landon

Mrs. Meador's Lena-Winslow second grader's

Dear Santa, How are you doing? Also how do you eat all the snacks? I have been nice this year because I pick up toys. For Christmas can I please have a Barbie Dream House? My family and I would like a puppy and my sister would like a Barbie camper. You are AMAZING!! Love Evelyn Dittmar

Dear Santa, How many presents do you and the elves make? Am I on the nice list this year? I helped dad do the dishes. If I am on your nice list, I want a Hatchimal. I want a Hatchimal because I have seen them on YouTube. Can I get a dog for a family gift? I hope you have a fun Christmas Santa. Love, Riley Durling

Dear Santa, Have you got caught flying at night? I hope I am on the nice list because who wants coal on Jesus' birthday? Can I please have a Barbie Dream Camper? My sister wants a Barbie Pop Up Camper. I hope you enjoy Mrs. Claus' famous cookies when you get back. Your friend, Addison Tiesman

Dear Santa, How many elves do you have? I think I have been nice because in first grade I helped somebody up and I like to put the silverware away. For Christmas I would like a Nintendo Switch, a bow and arrow, some Lego sets, and an Easy Bake Oven. For a family gift, I would like a kitten or a horse. Thank you for all of the gifts Santa! Love, Gianna Salazar

Dear Santa, How many cookies do you eat? How many elves do you have? I think I am nice because I put my clothes away and make my bed. Can I please have jeans and a Barbie Dream House for Christmas? My sister would like a Lego set and a Barbie camper. I hope you have a good time. Your friend, Sienna Hasting

Dear Santa, Do you have a lot of elves? How is Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer? Will I see you on the 25th? I have been nice this year. I am always nice to my cousins. I want an X-Box One. I also want a couple of horses. I want a lot of Shopkins. My family wants a new toaster. You are the best Santa!

Love, Taylor Youtzy

JOYOUS NOEL



For friends old and new, may the new year bring health, success and happiness.

LILES CHIROPRACTIC CLINIC, Ltd.
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97290

Wishing all of our customers

A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

*from Rod, Cindy, Steve,
Diane, Kurt and Tammy*

B&R Grain Handling, LLC
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 Warren, IL 61087
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Let There Be Light This Christmas

May this holy time shine with peace, and bring forth happiness to you and your family.

Schultz Cleroy Garage
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Looks like the jolly old elf had his hands full when Ryder and Keighlyn Schulz stopped by to discuss their wish list at the Breakfast with Santa held at the Lena Fire Station.



Hundreds of children brought their parents to speak with Santa at the Lena Firehouse on Saturday morning.

SAM MOLINA PHOTOS Shopper's Guide

Lena Breakfast with Santa

Addison and Lydia Tiesman and Mr. and Mrs. Santa have a serious discussion about Christmas wishes during the annual Breakfast with Santa at the Lena Fire Station.

*It's Christmas Time
in the City!*

*We hope everyone enjoys
the Holiday Season!*



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May all your Christmas
wishes come true!

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CLOSED Monday, December 25th to observe Christmas
CLOSED Monday, January 1st to observe New Year's

302911

Miracle on Main

COURTESY PHOTOS Shopper's Guide

Happy Holidays

My staff and I want to wish you a safe and happy holiday season.



Deb Brown
Lena
815-369-2881



1217-050

303286



(Left) The following homes have been chosen but the Lena Beautification Committee and the LBPA as the winners of the Christmas Home decorating contest: Best Overall Decoration-Kim and Shaun Nordlie at 110 Hickory Terrace, Judges Choice-Kurt Seuring at 10 Willow Creek Circle, and Brightest Lights-Randy Reed at 204 East Railroad Street.

*Best Wishes
for Peace
& Joy
this Holiday
Season!*

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(Right) The LBPA and Lena Beautification Committee chose the float entered by the Lena Lions as the Best Use of Lights in this year's Miracle on Main lighted parade.



(Left) The LBPA and Lena Beautification Committee named DeVoe Floral as winner in the Miracle on Main Best Display of Lights competition.



*Peace & Joy
at Christmas Time!*

We wish you a wonderful holiday and look forward to serving you again soon!

Pearl City Seamless Gutters, Inc.

188640



Lena Mercantile took top honors this year for Best Use of Theme; Miracle on Main in a competition sponsored by the LBPA and the Lena Beautification Committee.



A MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!

Joy to all our two and four legged friends!

Lena Milling Company
815-369-4413
Virgil & Joanne
Lena, IL

98012

May the joy of Christmas remain with you throughout the New Year!

Merry, Merry Christmas!

Lena • 815-369-5549



302909



COURTESY PHOTO *Shopper's Guide*

Lena-Winslow FFA Sock Drive A success

The Lena-Winslow FFA Chapter Sponsored a Sock Drive at the High School as a part of the "Socks for Stephenson County Campaign." The Freeport Salvation Army was in need of socks for the winter months, this is a clothing item that is often overlooked when clothing donations are made. The FFA Chapter members decided to host a sock drive at the school to encourage others to donate during the Christmas season. All types of new socks from infants to adults were collected. The FFA Chapter wanted to support the drive as a part of their community service activities. They set a goal of 100 pairs of socks to collect and were able to exceed the goal as more than 140 pairs were collected.

Season's Greetings To All

As we enjoy the symbols of the season, the tree, the decorations, the music and more, we would like to add our best wishes for a joyous holiday.

Werhane Enterprises, Ltd.
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COURTESY PHOTO *Shopper's Guide*

100 Women Who Care Pictured Chris Wallace and DeAnne Voss (100WWC Co-founders), James Rhyne (Executive Director of BGC), Heather Dickman (100WWC Co-founder), Tar Theisen (nominating member Amy Krolow.

100 Women Who Care make big donation to Boys and Girls Club

100 Women Who Care of Stephenson County presented the donations to the Boys & Girls Club of Freeport & Stephenson County earlier this week. The organization received a total donation of \$12,800! Boys & Girls Club of Freeport and Stephenson County is a community based organization that provide young people with a fun, safe and constructive after school environment. Neighborhood-centered, BGC provide programming in specialized areas including character development, educational enhancement, career exploration, life skills, the arts as well as sports, recreation, and leisure. The club is open to all youth ages 6-18 and has a special focus on serving children and teens from challenging or disadvantaged circumstances. During the school year the Club is open Monday through Friday from 4-8 p.m. Summer

hours are from 12-7 p.m. A yearly membership fee of \$6 is required of all program participants; additional siblings pay \$3. Membership fees are set low so that this does not become a barrier for participation. This fee allows youth access to the games room, computer lab, Teen Center and gymnasium during club hours to participate in a variety of classes, programs, and special events.

The donation from 100 Women Who Care-Stephenson County is expected to support academic enrichment programs with the purchase of books, curriculum, furniture and supplies for the reading and math intervention circles as well as the homework help center in the after school tutoring program.

Congratulations to the Boys and Girls Club of Freeport & Stephenson County.

Picture perfect holiday wishes!

Thank you for your business!

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Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

FROM LENA'S KITCHEN



The not so skinny cook

The big Christmas Day will be here by the end of the week. I always count Christmas Eve as the beginning of Christmas. It doesn't seem possible that 2017 is almost over. Just think of all the meals we all have cooked this year! It really is mind boggling when you think of it. Some of us are more adventuresome, and some of us are traditionalists. One thing is certain if you read this column, you get a little of both. To end this year there are some brunch recipes and a good cookie recipe you can make with your kids. Happy cooking for the rest of the year!

This baked fruit dish is great on a brunch table. It blends all of these good fruits together to make a delicious fruit compote. It is easy to make because you use canned fruit. The most difficult part is peeling the apple and slicing it. Enjoy this warm fruit treat with any of the brunch dishes below.

Home for Christmas Fruit Bake

- 1 medium apple, peeled and thinly sliced
- 1 t. lemon juice
- 1 can (20 oz.) pineapple chunks
- 1 can (29 oz.) peach halves, drained
- 1 jar (8 oz.) maraschino cherries
- ½ C. pecan halves
- 1/3 C. packed brown sugar
- 1 T. melted butter
- 1 t. cinnamon

Preheat the oven to 325. Toss apple slices with lemon juice. Arrange in a greased 2½ qt. baking dish. Drain the pineapple, reserving ¼ cup juice. Combine pineapple, peaches and pears; spoon over apples. Top with cherries and pecans; set aside.

In a small saucepan, combine the brown sugar, butter, cinnamon and reserved pineapple juice. Cook and stir over low heat until sugar is dissolved and butter is melted. Pour over the fruit. Bake, uncovered, until the apples are tender, about 45 minutes. Serve warm.

This traditional egg brunch recipe was given to me in a Minnesota cookbook. In Minnesota casseroles are never called casseroles; they are always called hot dishes. This Hot dish is an easy way to make a traditional brunch dish special. It does need to be refrigerated overnight. I think you could even make it the day before.

Ham and Eggs Brunch Dish

- 12 slices white bread, crusts removed
- 1 lb. cooked ham, diced
- 2 C. shredded cheddar cheese
- 6 eggs
- 3 C. whole milk
- 2 t. Worcestershire sauce
- ¼ t. dry mustard
- ½ t. salt
- ½ t. pepper
- Pinch of cayenne ground pepper
- 1 small onion, finely chopped
- 2 T. chopped green bell pepper
- 1 T. chopped red bell pepper
- ¼ C. butter melted
- 1 C. crushed cornflakes

Place 6 slices on bottom of a greased 9 x 13 pan. Top evenly with ham and cheese. Top with remaining bread. In a bowl, beat the eggs, add the remaining ingredients except butter and cornflakes. Pour mixture over all. Cover and refrigerate 9 hours. Remove cover; spoon butter evenly over the top. Sprinkle evenly with cornflakes.

Preheat the oven to 350. Bake uncovered about 1 hour or until a knife inserted near the center comes out clean. Remove from the oven; let stand 5 minutes before serving.

Need a sweet addition to your brunch table. This holiday French toast recipe is the perfect addition to any brunch table. It is moist and beautiful when it comes out of the oven. It calls for challah bread, which is an eggy bread. You can substitute a brioche or Hawaiian King Bread.

Eggnog Overnight French Toast

- 8 large eggs
- 2 C. half-and-half
- 1 C. eggnog
- 2 T. sugar
- 2 T. packed light brown sugar
- 2 T. vanilla
- 1½ t. freshly grated nutmeg
- ½ t. cinnamon

- ¼ t. salt
- 1 loaf challah bread sliced into ½ inch slices
- 3 T. sugar
- Powdered sugar for dusting
- Whipped cream and/or maple syrup for serving

Whisk the eggs in a large bowl. Whisk in the half-and-half, the egg-nog, sugar, brown sugar, and vanilla, 1 teaspoon of nutmeg, cinnamon and salt. Arrange the bread slices in 2 lengthwise rows in a 9 x 13 baking dish, shingling the slices to fit. Pour the egg mixture all over the bread and gently press down. Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate overnight.

Preheat the oven to 350. Combine the sugar and remaining nutmeg into a small bowl. Uncover the bread and sprinkle with the sugar mixture. Bake until browned and puffed, 35 to 40 minutes. Let sit 10 minutes. Dust with powdered sugar. Serve with whipped cream and/or syrup.

Need a great coffee cake for the holidays. This one is an easy and beautiful ring made with crescent rolls. The cherries make for festive decorations. You can also use green maraschino cherries to garnish with the red ones.

Cherry Crescent Ring

- 1 jar (10 oz.) maraschino cherries, drained well and chopped
- 1 pkg. (8 oz.) cream cheese, softened
- ½ C. sugar
- ½ t. almond extract
- ¾ C. chopped pecans
- 2 tubes (8 oz. each) refrigerated crescent rolls

Glaze

- 1 C. powdered sugar
- 1 to 2 T. milk
- ¼ t. almond extract
- Additional pecans

Preheat the oven to 375. Reserve 3 T. cherries for topping. For the filling, beat cream cheese, sugar, and extract until smooth. Stir in pecans and remaining cherries. On a light-

ly floured surface, unroll crescent dough into one long rectangle; press perforations to seal. Fold the dough lengthwise in half; roll into an 18 x 12 rectangle. Spread filling over top within 1 inch of edges. Roll up tightly jelly roll style, starting with a long side; pinch seam to seal.

Transfer to a greased baking sheet, seam side down; shape into a ring, pinching the ends to seal. Using a kitchen scissors, start at outside edge and cut two-thirds of the way through the ring at 1 inch intervals. Separate the sections slightly and twist to show filling.

Bake until golden, 20-30 minutes. Remove from the pan to wire rack. Mix powdered sugar, milk, and extract; spoon over the warm pastry. Top with reserved cherries and, if desired, additional pecans.

This is a beautiful Bundt Coffee Cake that uses the cranberry as its extra special ingredient. It is a beautiful coffee cake for Christmas morning. Enjoy this delicious and moist coffee cake.

Cranberry Swirl Coffee Cake

Cake

- ½ C. butter, softened
- 1 C. white sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 t. almond extract
- 1 C. flour
- 1 t. baking powder
- 1 t. baking soda
- ½ t. salt
- 1 C. sour cream
- 1 can (14 oz.) whole-berry cranberry sauce, stirred

Icing

- 1 C. powdered sugar
- ½ t. vanilla
- 4 t. milk

Preheat the oven to 350. Grease and flour a 10-inch Bundt pan. Cream together the butter and sugar with an electric mixer in a large bowl

See KITCHEN, Page 13

Holiday Fun

Jolly good wishes for a holiday where dreams come true.

Thanks for your kindness and friendship.

LITTLE JOHN'S TAP

Little John,
Mary, Leslie,
Tammy, Sharon
and Trisha.

815-443-2818
Pearl City, IL 61062



Wishing You Every Happiness This Holiday Season!

*With gratitude to our many patrons
and friends for your goodwill and support.*



301 Dodds Drive
Lena
815-369-4148



With Warm Wishes for a BLESSED CHRISTMAS

Our family
Wishes you and yours
an abundance of love,
peace and harmony
this holiday season.

Your loyal patronage has
already given us reason to rejoice.

Steve and Donna
**Vanderheyden
Furniture & Flooring**

•Kitchen (Continued from page 12)

until light and fluffy. Beat in eggs one at a time, then beat in almond extract. Whisk together the flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt in a separate bowl. Beat into the butter mixture alternately with the sour cream.

Spoon one third of batter (1¼ C.) into prepared pan. Spoon one-third of the cranberry sauce, a little less than ½ cup on top, then swirl into batter with a butter knife or a thin spatula; repeat with rest of the batter. Top with ½ cup cranberry sauce and swirl again. Keep rest of cranberry sauce for serving.

Bake cake until a toothpick inserted near the center comes out clean, about 45 minutes. Let cool in pan on wire rack for 10 minutes. Remove from pan and let cool for 1 hour.

Frosting: Stir together the powdered sugar, vanilla, and enough milk to make drizzling consistency. Drizzle over cooled cake. Pour reserved cranberry sauce in a blender or small food processor and blend until smooth; serve with cake slices.

My Delta Kappa Gamma Sister, Nancy Price, sent this neat candy for Christmas. It doesn't require baking or using a candy thermometer. It is easy and tasty. I think that kids would love this recipe. You could even sprinkle the chocolate with decorating sprinkles for a festive look.

Peanut Butter Rice Krispie Balls

- 2 C. creamy peanut butter
- ¾ C. butter, softened
- ½ t. vanilla
- ¾ C. powdered sugar
- 3 C. rice Krispies
- 2 lbs. chocolate candy coating

Mix the peanut butter, butter, and vanilla in a large bowl. After they are mixed together, add in the powdered sugar and Rice Krispies, a little at a time. Cover and let sit in the refrigerator for 15 to 25 minutes until they firm up. Shape the dough into 1-inch balls. Cover and refrigerate again, for about 15-20 minutes.

Melt the chocolate according to the package directions. Dip the peanut butter balls one at a time into the melted chocolate. Let the excess chocolate drip off, as the chocolate will pool a little when you set it down. Place the dipped chocolate balls onto wax paper and let harden, about 1 hour. Chill until ready to serve.

I will be taking a few weeks off after the first week in January. If all goes well, I will finally be getting my back surgery. I have been fighting these problems for over six years now, and I am hoping this surgery will be the answer. I was to have this done in November, but they decided I needed neck surgery first. It has been a stressful holiday, and I am looking forward to a better 2018. I am looking for some winter recipes and appetizers for the New Year, some good winter soups, and recipes for a Super Bowl Party because I am hopeful that I will be back writing in time for you to use them. If you have any new, old or interesting recipes to share, you can contact us in person, by mail, or email us at From Lena's Kitchens, *Shopper's Guide* at 213 S. Center St. or email scoopshopper@rvpublishing.com.

I would share with you my traditional Christmas message that I received many years ago from a dear friend. It has certainly been true this year for our family. Remember that—"Every time a hand reaches out to help another...that is Christmas. Every time someone puts anger aside and strives for understanding...that is Christmas. Every time people forget their differences and realize their love for each other...that is Christmas. May this Christmas bring us closer to the spirit of human understanding, closer to the blessing of peace." May the blessings of Christmas be on all of you as we celebrate the birth of the Christ Child and the promise of eternal life. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from Lena's Kitchen and the not so skinny cook.

Monroe Clinic Christmas and New Years hours

To celebrate the season, Monroe Clinic locations—and the main clinic in Monroe—are closed Dec. 24, Dec. 25, Dec. 31, and Jan. 1. FastCare, Urgent Care, and e-visits are available every day except Christmas. Monroe Clinic hospital and emergency department is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at 515 22nd Avenue, Monroe, Wis.

Monroe Clinic e-visits are open 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Dec. 24; closed Dec. 25; open 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Dec. 31; and open 10 a.m.-1p.m., Jan. 1. E-visits are for MyChart users to exchange electronic messages with a Monroe Clinic provider. Registration is free and open to everyone. Sign up at mychart.monroeclinic.org.

Monroe Clinic-FastCare, located at 405 W. 8th St., Monroe, Wis., is open 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Dec. 24; closed Dec.

Illinois consumers must file claims by July 12, 2018 in \$36 million settlement over fixed prices for CRT screens

Attorney General Lisa Madigan announced that Illinois consumers have until July 12, 2018, to claim money they may have overpaid on purchases of TVs and monitors that contain cathode ray tubes (CRTs) as part of \$36 million in settlements with manufacturers.

The settlements stem from Madigan's lawsuit against major technology companies alleging the companies illegally conspired to fix the prices for CRTs used in TVs and monitors. Madigan's lawsuit alleged that the price-fixing conspiracy caused the prices for the products containing CRTs to rise significantly higher than the amounts Illinois consumers would have paid if prices had been set through normal competition. The set-

tlements were entered with Hitachi, LG, Philips and Samsung.

"These companies illegally conspired to fix prices for CRTs," Madigan said. "I encourage any Illinois consumers or business who bought a television or monitor containing these CRTs to file claims to recover the money they are owed."

Illinois consumers who purchased TVs or monitors with CRTs from March 1, 1995 to Nov. 25, 2007 may be eligible for payment under the settlement. The settlement provides payment for any person or business that purchased CRT televisions or monitors for personal use and not for resale while residing in Illinois. The maximum amount eligible consumers can potentially recover is \$20 for a CRT television and \$60 for a CRT monitor. Individual recovery amounts will depend on the number of claims submit-

ted per device and the total recovery.

Consumers and other claimants must submit a claim form to receive payment. Claim forms can be filed online at www.illinoisCRTsettlement.com. The deadline to file claims is July 12, 2018. More information about the settlement is available by visiting www.illinoisCRTsettlement.com or by calling 1-866-652-8226. Claims can also be submitted via mail to:

CRT Illinois Claims
c/o KCC Class Action Services
P.O. Box 404041
Louisville, KY 40233-4041

Eligible businesses and individual consumers can choose not to participate in the settlement and the ongoing lawsuit against two remaining CRT manufacturers, Toshiba and Panasonic, and some of their affiliates. The deadline to opt-out is March 12, 2018.

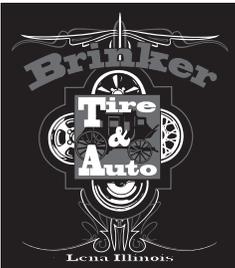
25; open 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Dec. 31; and open 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Jan. 1. FastCare does not treat emergency care. View a list of services at monroeclinic.org/fastcare.

Monroe Clinic Urgent Care-Freeport, located at 1301 S. Kiwanis Dr., Freeport, Ill., is open 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Dec. 24; closed Dec. 25; open 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Dec. 31; and open 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Jan. 1. Services range from treatment of broken bones to flu symptoms. Learn more at monroeclinic.org/urgentcare.

Monroe Clinic pharmacy, located inside the clinic at 515 22nd Ave., Monroe, Wis., is open 8 a.m.-12 p.m., Dec. 24; closed Dec. 25; open 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Dec. 31; and closed Jan. 1.

Monroe Clinic wishes you a very Merry Christmas and healthy New Year!

A Very Merry Christmas To You



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Illinois citizens to begin 2018 with more than 200 new laws

From legislation to help veterans and reduce government waste, to a controversial law expanding taxpayer funding for abortions, to a measure to combat fraudulent opioid prescriptions by targeting "doctor-shopping," 215 bills covering a wide variety of issues will become law on Jan. 1.

Also during the week, the state's Health Care Fraud Elimination Task Force reported approximately \$450 million in fraudulent or wasteful Medicaid spending has been saved, prevented or recovered in Illinois over the last two fiscal years.

Combating Opioid Abuse

Beginning Jan. 1, a new law will help deter the practice known as "doctor-shopping" for prescription drugs, by requiring prescribers to check a patient's prescription history before writing a prescription.

Often individuals abusing opioids and other drugs obtain prescriptions from multiple doctors to support their addiction. Senate Bill 772 requires prescribers to check with the Illinois Prescription Monitoring Program, a database that records patients' prescription histories, before prescribing opioids.

Signed on Dec. 13, the new law will allow doctors to make more informed decisions about care for high-risk patients to ensure physicians aren't overprescribing—and that the patient isn't doctor-shopping.

Helping Our Veterans

Several measures that take effect Jan. 1 seek to provide veterans with the tools they need to be successful when returning to civilian life.

Senate Bill 1238 allows for the expansion of the number of veterans' courts in the state, which are

able to focus directly on the special needs of former and current members of the Armed Services. In some instances, veterans who qualify and successfully comply with court orders are able to receive the treatment they need and have their charges dismissed.

Senate Bill 866 requires the state's Department of Veterans' Affairs to give informational resources on service animals to veterans returning from deployment. The legislation was introduced in response to information gathered by the 2015 Veterans' Suicide Task Force, which found that many veterans do not know about all the services and programs offered to them, especially those pertaining to service animals.

Senate Bill 838 seeks to educate veterans about the importance of early cancer screening, while House Bill 3701 seeks to help current and former members of the military advance their higher education, by requiring public universities and community colleges to form a policy to award appropriate academic credit for the education and training gained during military service.

State Abortion Funding

One of the most controversial laws taking effect Jan. 1, will be House Bill 40, which expands taxpayer funding for abortions. Senate Republican lawmakers voted against the measure, which would dedicate state funds to purely elective procedures, by mandating state insurance and Medicaid coverage of abortion, induced miscarriage or induced premature birth. The provisions of House Bill 40 move Illinois beyond the position of 47 other states by expanding taxpayer funding for purely elective procedures.

Organ Donor Registry

Also beginning in 2018, 16-year-olds will have the opportunity to have their names included in the First Person Consent organ and tissue donor registry. House Bill 1805 reduces the age of consent from 18 to 16, to give younger residents the option to become a donor, which will increase the numbers of organ and tissue donors in the database.

Medicaid Fraud Prevention Efforts Prove Fruitful

The state's Health Care Fraud Elimination Task Force reported during the week that approximately \$450 million in fraudulent or wasteful Medicaid spending has been saved, prevented or recovered in Illinois over the last two fiscal years, ensuring more of the state's much-needed health care dollars are spent on truly needy beneficiaries.

It has been estimated by the Office of Inspector General that \$195 million was saved or recouped in fiscal year 2017, and \$220.2 million in savings have been reported for fiscal year 2016. Also in fiscal year 2016, the Illinois State Police's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit has reported 46 fraud convictions and \$35.4 million has been recovered through criminal prosecutions, civil actions and administrative referrals.

The Health Care Fraud Elimination Task Force was created in 2016 in response to the country's multi-billion dollar Medicaid fraud industry. The Task Force was asked to develop and coordinate a comprehensive plan to prevent and eliminate health care fraud, waste and abuse by deploying a cross-agency, data-driven approach.

Ten new laws sponsored by Senator Bivins that reflect concerns of

local municipalities.

Senate Bill 588 extends a tax increment financing (TIF) district adopted on Jan. 31, 1995, by the Village of Milledgeville to 35 years.

House Bill 465 extends a tax increment financing (TIF) district adopted on Feb. 5, 1996, by the Village of Pearl City to 35 years.

Senate Bill 587 provides that religious organizations are exempt from the Hotel Operators' Occupation Tax when renting, leasing, or letting rooms for religious or charitable purposes. Christ in the Wilderness is a retreat center located near Stockton, where individuals are welcomed to spend time alone in a secluded natural environment. The center recently became subject to the Hotel Operators' Occupation Tax after not being subject to the tax for many years. Senate Bill 587 restores its exempt status.

Senate Bill 1668 authorizes the Department of Transportation to make certain real estate conveyances in Ogle County, subject to specified conditions.

To accommodate the size of modern semi-trucks, House Bill 683 increases to 65 feet (now 55 feet) the maximum length of a truck tractor in combination with a semitrailer allowed on all roadways in Illinois.

House Bill 2725 states that money received by the state from the federal government under the Recreational Trails Program shall not be considered for use as aid in the construction of highways and shall not be placed in the Road Fund in the State Treasury.

House Bill 3120 provides that if Illinois Department of Labor (IDOL) ascertains the prevailing wage for a public body, then the

public body can satisfy the newspaper publishing requirement by posting the IDOL hyperlink detailing the prevailing wages on their website.

Senate Bill 607 remedies an archaic law that had made automatic knives, like those sold at big box and sporting goods stores, illegal because they could be regarded as "switchblades." Automatic knives had been considered 'illegal' under the way the law had been written, because the knives contain a spring in the handle. But they are not 'switchblades.' Automatic knives have been used by people in all walks of life for more than 20 years. Senate Bill 607 allows for the sale, manufacture, purchase, possession or carry of a spring-action knife by a person with a valid FOID card, or by a person or entity engaged in the business of selling or manufacturing spring-action knives.

Senate Bill 1319 provides that the Supreme Court and circuit courts may adopt rules permitting the use of video conferencing equipment in any adult guardianship hearing. It states that in order to use such equipment, all parties (respondent, attorneys, guardians, etc.) must agree to the terms of the video conferencing.

House Bill 1895 adds to the police training curriculum requirements, training in effective recognition and responses to stress, trauma, and post-traumatic stress experienced by police officers.

All of the 10 "Bivins sponsored" new laws had immediate effective dates, except Senate Bill 1319, House Bill 683, House Bill 1895 and House Bill 2725. Those four bills take effect on Jan. 1, 2018.

Welcome Christmas Home

Hope your holidays brings loads of good things and an abundance of happiness and holiday spirit. Thanks for delivering happiness at our doorstep this year. We look forward to welcoming you in the year to come.

Dr. Stephen & Jamie Petras and Staff
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Welcome Home Illinois *Faye & Ashley Heilman*



303601

Letters To Santa

Dear Santa, How many cookies do you eat? Do you eat any candy canes on Christmas? I was really nice this year because I helped clean the bathroom. I want a white play kitchen so I can play with food. My sister wants makeup for Christmas. I hope you enjoy Mrs. Claus' homemade cookies! Love, Colbie Roberts

Dear Santa, How do reindeer fly to the North Pole? I think I am on the nice list because I help my mom with the dishes and wash my baby sister. Can I have a four-wheeler to go on trails and putty to play with? My mom wants a dish washer. My brother wants a dirt bike. How is Mrs. Claus doing at the North Pole? I hope she makes a lot of cookies! Your friend, Laelah Diestelmeier

Dear Santa, How many cookies do you think you're going to eat? I have been nice this year because I helped my mom a lot. I would like a finger monkey and a Hatchimal. My mom would like a new dishwasher and my dad would like a flat screen TV. I hope you enjoy Mrs. Claus' homemade cookies.

Love, Avri Edler
Dear Santa, How do you get around the world in one night? I have been very good. I have been helping mom with getting Christmas all ready. This year I want Lego sets, a hover board, a Nintendo Switch, a PS4, and an X-Box One game called Super Heroes 2. Santa, this one is for my family. I would like to give them a Packers picture frame. I hope you enjoy Mrs. Claus' famous cookies when you get back.

Your friend, Merrik Mahon
Dear Santa, Can you get me toys this year? I have been nice to my sister this year. I want a Nerf Rival and a bow and arrow. My dad wants a new boat and my mom wants a new car. I hope you come to my house next year. From, Colton Paulson

Dear Santa, How do you deliver all of your toys in one night? How are you doing Santa? Can you tell Mrs. Claus that I said "Hi!" to her please? I am nice because I help mom work! Can I please have a Hatchimal and a Hot Wheels and books and Silly Strings? Can you please bring my baby brother toys? I love you Santa! I love Christmas Santa! Love, Angela Curtis

Dear Santa, Do your elves get scared by polar bears? How does Rudolph's nose glow so bright? I was nice all year long. Can you please bring me a helicopter drone and a PS4 race car? I would also like two Nerf guns. My mom would like a gigantic pack of Hershey Kisses. Please tell Rudolph and Mrs. Claus that I said, "Hi!". Your friend, Trevor Dawson

Dear Santa, How are your elves? I have been nice to my brother and my sister. Also I help them and feed them. Could I please have a PS4 and a Hatcimal? There is one more thing I want. I want a hover board. Joe wants some tools. My mom needs a new phone case. Tyler wants a new controller for the X-Box One. My little sister would like some baby toys. You are the best ever! Love, Jaxon Musialek
Dear Santa, How many elves do

you have? I have been nice and I bet I am on your nice list. I want a bow and arrow, a R2-D2 robot, a Lamborghini, a fidget spinner that is blue. For my family, I would like a picture of an elf please and thank you. You are awesome Santa! Thank you. Hope you write back soon.

Love, Conner Toves
Dear Santa, How are you doing? I am doing good. I am on the nice list this year because I show respect. Can I please have a four-wheeler and a dirt bike? I also want a phone. My sister wants a Hatchimal and my brother wants some cars. My older brother wants a phone. I hope you have a safe trip delivering gifts! Your friend, Braxton Reed

Dear Santa, How many elves do you have? I am on the nice list because I did everyone's chores. I would want these gifts: a RC race car, a four-wheeler, a Nintendo Switch, and a helicopter drone. I would want these for my family: four robotic puppies. Thank you for all the amazing gifts!

Your friend, Caleb Amborn
Dear Santa, How are the reindeer doing? Are they healthy enough to fly? I hope I am on the nice list. I help Braxton with work. I would like Hot Wheel cars, Pokemon and baseball cards, a remote controlled car, and a soft football. I hope you get baby clothes and baby toys for my sister! She is two years old. Merry Christmas! Love, Tayler Kaiser

Mr. Werhane's Lena-Winslow Second Grade

Dear Santa, How are you and Mrs. Claus doing? I have been good this year. May I please have only 20 super hero games? My mom and dad will want chocolate. I promise I will give you some cookies. Sincerely, Alex Reed

Dear Santa, How are you doing Santa? I've been nice this year. This year I please want an X-box 360. My dad would want to get an X-box 360. I hope you enjoy the milk and cookies. Love, James Hinshaw

Dear Santa, How do your deer fly? I have been trying to be good. This year can I please have a Rip stick, my brother won't share? Can you please get a Pug for us? I will get milk and food. Love, Cooper Knoup

Dear Santa, Is Rudolph the red nosed reindeer a real reindeer? I have been a good girl. This year can I please have an American Girl diner set? My little brother really wants Legos for 3 year olds. I will leave out cookies. Love, Olivia Wanek

Dear Santa, What's it like at the North Pole? I've been nice this year. This year can I please have an android tablet? This year my dad really wants comics. I will try to leave out milk and cookies. Your friend, Carson Hill

Dear Santa, How are you doing? I have been nice Santa. This year can you please get me an American Girl Doll hair set? My sister would like a big Hatchimal. I will leave you cookies and milk. Love, Harper Hastings

Dear Santa, How are you doing? Is Elfey good? I have been a good girl. This year can I please have an American Girl Diner set? My mom would like jewelry. I will leave you cookies and milk. Avery Peight

Dear Santa, How are you and Mrs. Claus? I have been a good girl this year. Could I please have an American Girl dollhouse? Could you bring Boone a lightsaber? I will leave you cookies and milk. Love, Hannah Jones

Dear Santa, How old is Rudolph this year? I tried so hard to be nice this year. Please bring me a kitten. My sister really wants an I-pad this year. I will try to leave cookies and milk for you. Sincerely, Brennan England

Dear Santa, How do you make the toys? I have been very nice this year. Can I please have a Rival Nerf Nemesis gun? Can you please give my mom a pretty ring? I will leave out cookies and milk for you and carrots for Rudolph. Sincerely, Brody Cox

Dear Santa, How do your reindeer fly? I am a very nice boy. This year

can I please have a Nintendo switch? My mom would like a bag of chocolate. I hope you like the cookies and milk I leave. Sincerely, Nathan Crain

Dear Santa, How are you doing Santa? I am a really nice boy. This year can I please have an X-box 360 with Lego City games? McKenzie wants a Hatchimal. I will leave you cookies and milk. Love, Myles Johnson

Dear Santa, How are the elves doing? I am trying to be nice this year. Will you please bring me an Easy Bake Oven? My mom would like a smoothie maker. I will leave you cookies and milk. Love, Ashlyn Schubert

Dear Santa, How do you make the toys? I tried to be good. This year can I get a baseball game for X-box? I think my sister wants an American Girl Diner set. I will leave you cookies and milk. Your friend, Daniel Beltran

Dear Santa, How are the elves doing? I have been nice this year. This year I'd like candy. Can you please get my dad clothes for work? I hope you like my cookies and milk I'll leave for you. Love, Lessman

Dear Santa, Can you come to my house at Christmas? I think I have been good. Can you please give me a Zoomer Show Pony? Can you give mom a deer decoration? I will leave cookies for you and carrots for the reindeer. Sincerely, Emma

Dear Santa, How are your reindeer doing? Is Rudolph doing well? This year I have been nice. May I have

an art set? Can you get my brother a stuffed panther? I will leave cookies and milk for you. Sincerely, Evelyn Gabel

Dear Santa, How is Alvin my Christmas elf doing? I've tried very hard to be nice this year. Can you please get me all of the Lego City mini figures? My sister would like a bag of Jell-O. I'll leave your reindeer some carrots. Love, Noah Kepner

Mrs. Tiesman Lena-Winslow kindergarten

Dear Santa, Thank you for all of the presents! I like Christmas and I would like a toy car! Love, Brenden Amborn

Dear Santa, For Christmas can you please bring some dinosaurs? I really like Tyrannosaurs and Spinosaurus! Love, Gracin Bicker

Dear Santa, For Christmas can you please bring a Spiderman action figure and a Spiderman hat? And I even want a Superman shirt and a flash hat and a Superman action figure. Your sleigh has awesome colors! And Christmas is the best time of the year! Love, Liam Campbell

Dear Santa, I love you! I like the snow! Please bring me a football!! Love, Isaac Dominques-Sorcia

Dear Santa, Santa, can you please get me a toy? And get my Mom, my Dad, and my puppy and my other puppy and my sister, and my other sister a present?? Please bring me a transformer robot! Love, Myles Esser

Best Wishes for the Season

Merry Christmas and a Special Thank You to our dedicated employees, our patron dairy farmers, contract milk haulers and all the other businesses that have helped make 2017 a successful year for Brewster Cheese Company.

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Ag
in the
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Pearl City sixth grade students enjoyed a presentation from Mrs. Brittani DeVries, Education Coordinator of Conservation and Ag Partners, from Stephenson County Ag in the Classroom.

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Letters To Santa

Dear Santa, I want a Mario game. I want a Nintendo Switch. I want a Super Mario hat and then I want a pretend school. I also want a baby!! I can't wait for Christmas! Have a nice day Santa! Love, Kolten Harner

Dear Santa, I want for Christmas a Barbie dream camper and a brand new doll house! And I would like a baby doll and a brand new pool. Santa, it's not all about presents, it's all about spending time with our family and having great holidays!! Love, Kaylie Henderson

Dear Santa, I like your Elves! I want for Christmas a cooking stuff. I also want for Christmas Shopkins cars. I also want a couple more stuffed animals!! Love, Abigail Jones

Dear Santa, Thank you for Christmas! A would like a toy purple car! I would love a toy kitchen! I love you, Christmas is so much fun! Love, Jacqueline Lagunas

Dear Santa, Can Finn have some new John Deere toy tractors?? Can Mommy have a new bike? Can I have a bike without training wheels? Me and Finn would like a new Elf!! Can Mommy also have a back massage?? I can't wait until Christmas Day!! Love, Veyah Scheider

Dear Santa, Christmas is not about presents, it is about Jesus, but I still like you! And I like your presents! I would like a transformer and flip a zoo under the tree! Love, Jonah Schubert

Dear Santa, I would like a flip a zoo, hatchimals, farm animals, and Ninja Turtles for Christmas! Love, Kade Schubert

Dear Santa, I would like a toy John Deere combine. And, a toy truck! Santa you are the best! Love, Logan Stocks

Dear Santa, Thank you for Christmas time! I love you! I would love to have a Barbie dream camper!! Love, Jaily Vasquez

Dear Santa, I would a toy helicopter with a remote control! I want a Barbie dream camper! I want a Genevieve costume with the sparkly glitter shoes like the 12 dancing prin-

cesses! Love, Sophie Wirtz
Dear Santa, It is so nice to see you! I want a Barbie dream camper! I want a big Barbie dream house! And, I want a Chelsea Barbie!! Love, Brianna Yount

Dear Santa, I really like your sleigh! I really need some Monster High pajamas! I want a vampire costume! Love, Khloe Miller

Mrs. Cahoon's Orangeville First Grade Class

Dear Santa, I love this year. I love your brite red suit. Tell Rudolph he has a brite red nose. I want a Transformer and Xbox. Also tell Rudolph he is on a movie. Tell Rudolph he is special. Have a merry Christmas. Xander (age 6)

Dear Santa, I really like your suit and your hat. I was good this year. I need new shoes. I would like a Transformer. Have a great holiday. Hayden (age 7)

Dear Santa, Thank you for working hard. I think I have been good this year. I need school supplies. I would like a puppy so it can play with my dog. Tell Eddy to put on his hat and Merry Christmas. Maggie (age 7)

Dear Santa, It is nice of you to give presents to kids in need. I think I have been pretty good this year. I want some cars and a phone and a computer too. I need new clothes. Have a merry Christmas! Ian (age 7)

Dear Santa, Thank you for working so hard and I love your snowy beard. I think I have been good this year and I have a couple things I need and want. I need some more pans and I would like a dream catcher and some games. Have a merry Christmas. Grady (age 6)

Dear Santa, Thank you for working so hard. I will tell you some things I need and want. I need some new shoes. That's all I need. I want an Xbox 1. That's all I want for Christmas. Good by and have a merry Christmas. Grey (age 7)

Dear Santa,

You are nice. I think I have been pretty good this year. I need some new school supplies and new shoes. I'm seven years old and I want a new baby doll and a new game. I need more new clothes. Tell Rudolph hello and have a Merry Christmas. Becca (age 7)

Dear Santa, You work hard. You make me feel happy. I have a couple things I need and want. I think my dad needs a new Startastic. I think my mom needs a new shirt. I think I need new pants. I want some Cub tickets to the Cubs game. Tell Rudolph hello and Merry Christmas Santa. Allie (age 6)

Dear Santa, Can you make everyone happy please? Can I have a lot of walkie talkies and a football uniform please? I need some shoes and books please. You are special and tell Rudolph hello. Have a merry Christmas! Brody (age 6)

Dear Santa, I like your suit and you are nice. Merry Christmas and tell Rudolph I said hello. I want a pet parrot for Christmas and then I want a kitty. Mason (age 6)

Dear Santa, Thanks Santa for everything you do for me. I have been pretty good. I need a pair of coveralls. I would really want a pair of Steph Curry shoes and an iPhone 7. Jaymeson (age 7)

Dear Santa, Thank you Santa. I love your suit. I have been good. Have a nice Merry Christmas. Tell Rudolph that I said hello. I really want a puppy so I can play with him. I would like a football uniform, a hippopotamus, a gecko, and a computer. Braxton (age 6)

Dear Santa, You are nice and you work hard. You have a nice looking suit. I would like clothes, a baby doll, and a toy for Christmas. I would also like socks, games, Barbie, Xbox 1, and a computer. Tell Rudolph hello and have a happy holiday. Jailynn (age 7)

Dear Santa, Thank you for working hard. I want a giant giraffe please. Could I have school supplies and an Xbox 1 please? Tell Rudolph

hello. Makena (age 6)

Dear Santa, I want a Wii and a lot of toys. I need a lot of clothes. I want toy volleyballs, a real guitar, and a computer. I need a lot of socks and a pair of shoes. Have a merry Christmas. Tony (age 7)

Mrs. Hanson, Orangeville kindergarten

Dear Santa, I like your beard so snowy white. I am going to see you when it is Christmas. I like you. I want to get a present that is a toy robot. I want to get a race car. I want the Knuffle Bunny story. I would like a toy that would turn into a Pikachu and Squirrel. I will care for my family. I will see you on Christmas when we are almost done with December. I want a poppy and a flag to color on. I want a real bunny for Christmas and Five Nights At Freddie's Four plushy dolls. I love you. Every day I will see you. I will give you my flag and poppy. I wish that Freddie was here. I wish for a hippopotamus for Christmas. Love, Nico

Dear Santa, I think you are handsome. Thank you for all of the presents. Are you still happy for everyone to be nice? I like you, too! Can I have a baby cheetah that can talk? Can I have a baby doll? I love you. We will make cookies for you and any kind of cookies you want us to make. Love, Piper

Dear Santa, I want a drawer of Christmas stuffed animals. I also

want a real life chainsaw to cut down trees. I want a game. Love, Blake

Dear Santa, I love you. I hope you are alive and well. I hope your reindeer are alive and well so that you can fly here and make the elves see us when we are good and we can see that you are ok. You can bring us presents. I bet everyone wants presents. I love you Santa. This was a fun week for Christmas. I love the presents you give me. You are a very special person. Thank you for the toys and other things. Love, Zack

Dear Santa, Thank you for the presents. Thank you for the toys that are in there. Thank you for when you make them. Thank you for you. Thank you for the toys. Love, John

Dear Santa, Can I please have a Five Night's At Freddie's game and a Five Night's At Candie's game? Can I also have a Five Night's At Freddie's Fun Time game? Can I have a Five Night's At Freddie's Golden game? I would like a Lego Ninja game. Can I have Five Night's At Freddie's 4 game? Can I have a big triceratops toy? Love, Parker

Dear Santa, I didn't know a little elf could make toys. I would like a Barbie house. I would like a Paw Patrol Christmas movie. I hope you have a good ride and have a happy Christmas. Do you have a Christmas tree? Love, Charli

Dear Santa, I love you. Thank you for make up. Thank you for my puppy dogs. Thank you for my Legos. Love, Bailey



May the Wonder of the Season be Forever in Your Heart.

We wish you and yours all the best during the holidays and all year long.



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Registration open for University of Illinois Extension's Small Farm Winter Webinar Series

Fields and gardens may soon be snowed over, but winter is the perfect time to develop new skills in small farming and local food production, whether it's expanding to include new specialty crops or learning the art of high tunnel production.

University of Illinois Extension will once again be hosting the Small Farms Winter Webinar Series, featuring practical lunch-hour presentations on small farm enterprises and strategies. Participants can tune in right from their desk or laptop every Thursday at noon from Jan. 18 through March 29, 2018.

The 12-part series will include presentations on soil contamination, organic certification, community food systems, and native pollinators. A complete list of topics and free registration are available online at <http://go.aces.illinois.edu/WinterWebinars>.

"Many of these webinars provide an introduction to a new growing practice, crop, or method," states Grant McCarty, Local Foods and Small Farms Extension Educator. "Each presentation is designed to give you an overview on everything you need to consider when it comes to making decisions to improve your farm."

Presentations will be led by an Extension educator or University of Illinois faculty member, and made available online for later viewing. The award-winning series has been around since 2011, and its online archives

(available since 2015) have received over 60,000 views and over 12,000 hours of view time.

Registration is free and participants will receive a webinar reminder, log in instructions, and instructions to access the archived recording. Those who do not have broadband internet capable of streaming video are encouraged to contact their local Extension office to see if they offer live viewing. Individuals who need to request a reasonable accommodation to participate can also contact their local Extension office.

Jan. 18 - **Less Common Fruit Bearing Plants**, Elizabeth Wahle, University of Illinois Extension Commercial Ag Educator (Fruits and Vegetables)

Jan. 25 - **Updated High Tunnel Concepts**, Zachary Grant, University of Illinois Extension Local Food Systems and Small Farms Educator

Feb. 1 - **Introduction to Certified Organic Production**, Grant McCarty, University of Illinois Extension Local Food Systems and Small Farms Educator

Feb. 8 - **Christmas Tree Production and Business Considerations**, Dave Shiley, University of Illinois Extension Local Food Systems and Small Farms Educator

Feb. 15 - **An Update on the Grand Prairie Grain Guild: Developing Staple Crop Varieties and Associated Regional Food Grade Markets**, Bill Da-

vison, University of Illinois Extension Local Food Systems and Small Farms Educator

Feb. 22 - **Creating Community Food Production Systems**, Laurie George, University of Illinois Extension Local Food Systems and Small Farms Educator

Mar. 1 - **Heavy Metals in Soils: Identifying and Acting on Contamina-**

tion

Mar. 8 - **Native Pollinators on Your Farm**, Doug Gucker, University of Illinois Extension Local Food Systems and Small Farms Educator

Mar. 15 - **Small Acres Pastured Poultry**, James Theuri, University of Illinois Extension Local Food Systems

and Small Farms Educator

Mar. 22 - **Growing Ginger, Turmeric, and Other Unique Crops**, Chris Enroth, University of Illinois Extension Horticulture Educator

Mar. 29 - **Tips for Modifying and Building Sprayers for Specialty Crops**, Nathan Johanning, University of Illinois Extension Local Food Systems and Small Farms Educator

Highland Gallery announces call for entries for first exhibit of Spring 2018 academic semester

Highland Community College has a call for entries for the 49th District Juried Art Exhibit to be held Feb. 15 - March 8, 2018.

This exhibition is designed to recognize local artists in the Freeport district and to celebrate their visual contribution to the community. Submission of works of art is open to all artists, 18 years of age and older residing in the Highland Community College district, as well as all currently enrolled HCC students.

This exhibit is open to original two-dimensional and three-dimensional works of art in any medium completed in the last two years and not previously exhibited in Highland Gallery. Two-dimensional work may not exceed five (5) feet in any dimension. Work does not have to be framed, but must be suitably wired and ready for hanging. All mounting and/or matting must be done in white or off-white materials only. Due to space limitations, three-dimensional works must not exceed 100 pounds and must be able to fit through a standard doorway entrance.

Artists may submit up to three (3) separate works of art with a nonrefundable fee of \$3 per work. Entry form and entrance fee are due upon delivery of work. Delivery of work, entry form and fee are due on Thursday, Feb. 1, 2018, Highland Gallery, located in the west wing of the Ferguson Fine Arts Center.

This is a juried exhibition, and as such, all submissions will be viewed and accepted or rejected into the exhibit based on meeting the following criteria outlined in the exhibition prospectus: Eligibility, Rules of Entry, and Limitations. Additionally, submitted work will be accepted or rejected based on overall visual excellence determined by components such as compositional resolve, concept, content, and manipulation of media.

Submissions are composed of the actual work of art and supporting the identification of work properly documented in the prospectus entry form. Officially accepted submissions will then be viewed to determine award placement. This will be done in two

phases:

Phase I: Acceptance and Non-acceptance

Each submission, including documentation provided on the entry form, will be reviewed to ensure compliance with exhibition rules and overall excellence. Officially accepted work, as identified by the Juror(s) and Gallery Director, becomes an official part of the exhibition. Non-accepted work, as identified by the Juror(s) and Gallery Director, is omitted from the exhibition.

Phase II: Award Placement

Officially accepted work is viewed a second time to determine award standings. A selection of awards, including but not limited to Best of Show, First, Second and Third place, as well as Honorable Mention, are determined at the discretion of the juror based on overall excellence. Best of Show, First, Second and Third place all carry a cash award, in part based on fees generated from the exhibition submissions.

Artists will be notified of non-accepted work by email and also if they received an award placing. An Opening Reception and Award Ceremony will take place on Thursday, Feb. 15, 2018, from 4:30-6 p.m. with awards announced at 5:30 p.m.

For additional information contact Highland Gallery at highlandgallery@highland.edu or Bill Buehler, fine arts department assistant: 815-599-3490.

*Wishing You a
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Merry Christmas and Many Thanks.



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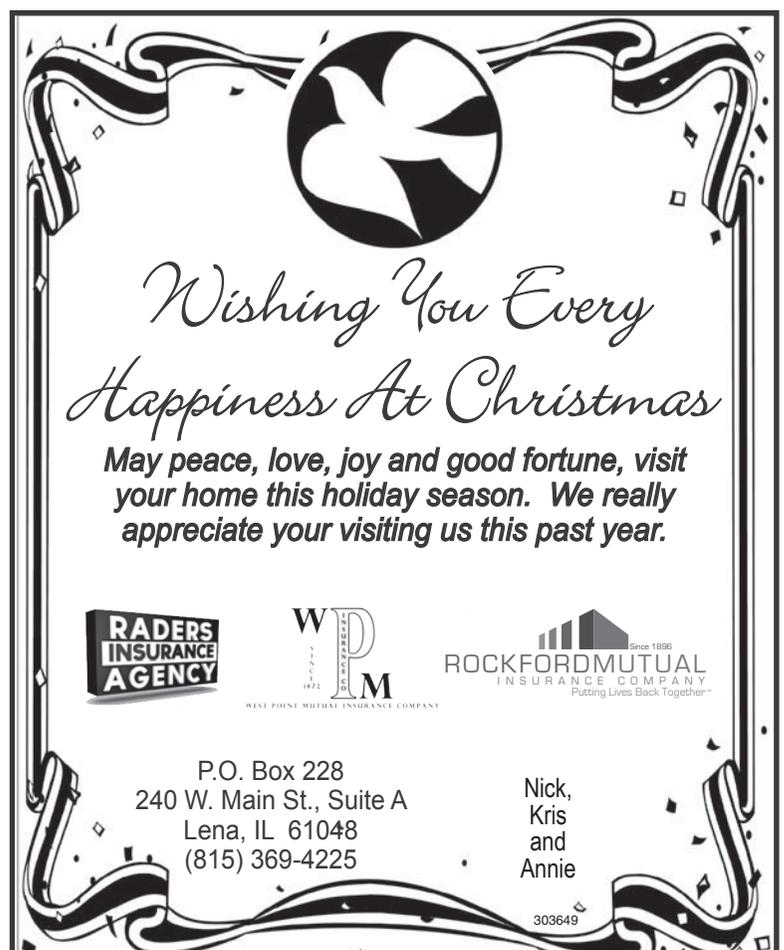
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Letters To Santa

Dear Santa, I want a Cinderella dress and all of the Cinderella parts. Thank you for the presents. I like your boots. I'm gonna get flowers for you. Love, Montanna

Dear Santa, Thank you for bringing the presents. Thank you for delivering them. I like your reindeer. I like your beard. Love, Deagan

Dear Santa, Thank you for presents. Thank you for the toys I want. I would like a crane. I would also like a race car. Thank you for getting me a classroom playset. Love, Kaiden

Dear Santa, Please bring lots of presents to my house. You are a great guy. I love you so much. You are the best. Please bring me Poppy and a movie. The movie is going to be Trolls. Love, Maci

Dear Santa, I want a Baby Alive and a doll. Love, Aly

Mrs. Shellhause's Orangeville third grade

Dear Santa, I want a potion that makes me fly. That would be awesome. I want another potion that makes me a little bit stronger. I would like those two things very much. I want them to last forever. I know it sounds silly, but hey, it's what I want for Christmas. Thank you, and Merry Christmas. Love, Ashlynn

Dear Santa, I hope you come to my house. I will have milk and cookies for you. Can you please bring me an I-pad. I have been very good this year. Love, Jilly

Dear Santa, At Christmas dinner, first I would make potatoes. Then, I would buy candy and candy canes. Next, I would buy chicken. Finally, I would buy crackers and cheese. It is good for you. From, Cade

Dear Santa, I would like a nen-to swich and legos, HotWheels for Chrstmas this year. How have you been this year? How are the raindeer? Rudof is my favorite. How are the elfs doing? Love, Jacob

Dear Santa, I have a elf named Anabeth. I have a lot of stuff on my Christ-mas list. I want a real kitten and a book. Give a present too Anabeth for being a fantastic elf! What do you do up in the North Pole? I hope you enjoyed my elf appicateshen. Mrs. Shellhause is a awesome teacher! Have a Merry Christ-

mas! Love, Abigail Hazzard

Dear Santa, I have a elf on the shelf his name is olver have you meet him. I want a gameing chair and I want a new elf and I want a huge kitcat the candy and a huge 3 Muskuteers and I want to meet you and I want a big bed because my bed is all brokin. Love, Matthew

Dear Santa, What I would like for Christmas is pottery, cool, farm toys, arrows for my bow. I am happy you gave me and my sister jingls. I bleave in Santa Clos. I am happy I got Mrs. Shellhause. I love Chrismas time because of my birthday and presents and life. The End. Love, Emily

Dear Santa, I'd really like to be Santa for 10 years so can I? And can you give me a pet snake and a bunch of lego sets? Sincerely, Garrett

Dear Santa, I know what I want for Christmas. I don't want much. I may want some slime and other stuff. And my new game. My favoret holiday is Christmas. I really love Christmas. Do you like Christmas? I like to get presents. And snow. Love, Ayden

Dear Santa, I am going to tell you what I want for Christmas. 1. A blue electric scooter. 2. A 6 foot penguin stuffed animal. 3. I want a purple. 4. An electric scooter charger. 5. A remote controle car. 6. 15 guitar picks. Thank you! Love, Kerralyn

Dear Santa, I heard that you did not pick an elf to hire when we applied, wich I understand. But come on man, you could have picked anyone. Anyway, are you going to like the new suit I will make for you? We designed them in class. I really hope so. I am going to hockey tonight. Tell me if you want too watch me sometime. Love, Beau J.

Dear Santa, I want Santa arc car. I want to come to the North pole before Christmas starts here please. Am I on the good list this year? I want ice cream for Christmas. I wish I was Santa. Thank, you Santa for all of the presents. Love, Amery Dinderman

Here is how I make Christmas dinner. First, you could ask someone to make bbq for the supper. Then ask someone to make desrt like ice cream, cookies and other things for desrt. You would invite people and the people you invited to come to chismas dinner. Then you would eat and talk about stuff. Then it would be time to have disrt. Then you would laugh and talk again. We would have

so much fun. Love, Lexi

Dear Santa, I heard you want a new suit. I will make you one, but I have to know how big or how small, and how wide and how tall. I will proably make a very very good suit for you. And when I give you your suit I hope you love it. I have an idea on how I'll design you suit. Hope you like your suit when I give it to you. Love, Aubrey

Dear Santa, I know what I want for Chrismis. It is a sling shot. I really want to meet you Santa. Santa can you tell my elf to hide. Go where we will have a hard time finding him. What cookies do you want? How old are you Santa? Love, Ethan

Mrs. Trampel's Orangeville Second Grade

Dear Santa, I want a Fitbit. I also want a rug that is mint. I want a hover board. I also would like slime. I really want a beach pop socket. My sister and I love our elf Snowflake. She is sneaky. I wrote a letter to you. I hope you saw it. I also drew a couple pictures.

Love, Zoey
Dear Santa, My favorite color is green, red, and blue. I want a class combine with tracks. I want a poop pump. I want a dirt bike. I have been really good this year. I want a class corn head and bean head for my class combine.

Love, Alex
Dear Santa, For Christmas I want an I-pad. I want a pink doll house. I have been a good kid this year. I want a new pair of shoes. I want a new fuzzy blanket.

Love, Azzy
Dear Santa, For Christmas I want a puppy and a T.V. I also want a phone. Can I please have a computer? I would also like a horse and a fish. Can I please have a play house? Thank you.

Love, Rylie
Dear Santa, I really want these things for Christmas. I want a hover board, an I-pod, X-box 1, and I have been good because I do well

in school. I want new boots for the winter, more Barbies, pet python, sticking things for the back of my I-pod, and heels with a beautiful dress and jewelry.

Love, Briahna
Dear Santa, I would like 5 Lego sets. I would like nerf guns and targets. I would like some new shirts. I would like 2 fnaf plushies. I would like 3 fnaf figures.

Your friend, Kaden
Dear Santa, Thank you for Christ-mas spirit. Thank you for presents. Can I have a big toy truck and trailer that halls a combine head? Thank you for Christmas. Thank you for fun toys.

Love, Owen
Dear Santa, I want a zoomer pony and a doll. I want a stuffed Santa toy and a block set. I have been a good kid this year Santa. I want an Ef's clothes and hat. I want to have a good breakfast at the breakfast place.

Love, Kiernyn
Dear Santa, I want a doll and a new bike. I was good, but my sister makes me mad. I want clay and play-doh. I love Christmas so so much. I believe in you Santa. I do. I do. Love, Kylee

Mrs. Trampel's Orangeville Second Grade

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Love, Azzy
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Love, Rylie

May all your Christmas wishes come true!

We wish you & yours the best holiday ever!

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Letters To Santa

Dear Santa, I really want these things for Christmas. I want a hover board, an I-pod, X-box 1, and I have been good because I do well in school. I want new boots for the winter, more Barbies, pet python, sticking things for the back of my I-pod, and heels with a beautiful dress and jewelry.

Love, Briahna
Dear Santa, I would like 5 Lego sets. I would like nerf guns and targets. I would like some new shirts. I would like 2 fnaf plushies. I would like 3 fnaf figures.

Your friend, Kaden
Dear Santa, Thank you for Christmas spirit. Thank you for presents. Can I have a big toy truck and trailer that has a combine head? Thank you for Christmas. Thank you for fun toys.

Love, Owen
Dear Santa, I want a zoomer pony and a doll. I want a stuffed Santa toy and a block set. I have been a good

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Love, Kieryn
Dear Santa, I want a doll and a new bike. I was good, but my sister makes me mad. I want clay and play-doh. I love Christmas so so much. I believe in you Santa. I do. I do. Love, Kylee

Mrs. Wells' Orangeville third grade

Dear Santa, I want my Grandpa to feel better. He is in the hospital. He is very ill. He is very special to me so if he gets out of the hospital before Christmas it will make a Happy Holiday for me and my family. Love, Oskar B

Dear Santa, One thing I want is an airsoft gun. The reason I why I want an airsoft gun is because my other one is going to break. The second thing I want is an airsoft pistol. The reason why I want that is because my other

on got jammed and broke. The third thing I want is an ice fishing pole. The reason why I want that is because I don't have one. Those are the three things out of my list that I want. Merry Christmas, Nathan B

Dear Santa, I would like a robot, tool shelf, medicine kit, and an airplane. Also, I would like a train set too! I also want a book called Wonder. I also like to read the 39 Clues Series. Your Friend, Aidan D

Dear Santa, For Christmas, I want toys, clothes, outside stuff, and I want a new pet. I want a new pet because my old pet dog, named Bear died from cancer. I want toys because I don't have a lot of toys in my house. I was new clothes because I am growing out of my clothes that I have now. I want outside stuff because I like to dig outside in the mud, dirt, sand, and grass. I like to get dirty. Love, Kelsey G

Dear Santa, I want a phone for Christmas because I can call my mom. Also, I will be able to play games on the bus. That is why I want a phone for Christmas. Love, Anna K

Dear Santa, I have a lot of stuff I want for Christmas. I want a four-wheeler from you. I have an iPhone 5, but I want an iPhone 7. I also want a million dollars and more! Another thing I want is a pick-up truck and a Lamborghini. Most of all, I want my Grandpa to come see me again! Sincerely, Brock K

Dear Santa, I want an iPhone X for Christmas. I would also like an

Apple computer. I want an Elmo. I also want another white board table. I want teacher stuff to play school at home. I want lots of candy. MERRY CHRISTMAS! Love, Katie L

Dear Santa, This is Kara. I hope this is not a bad time. I want a play horse stable and a Farm and Fleet gift card. I also want a long white fence to put around the horse stable. I hope you have a good day! Your friend, Kara L

Dear Santa: I am not sure on what I want for Christmas this year. Well, I do want a Samsung tablet since my other one broke. I want some plain black Nike tennis shoes with a white sign on them. I also want some Under Armor shoes and some boots. I want an iPod also so I can have some kind of phone, so that's what I want for Christmas. I hope I am not on the naughty list and you eat all the cookies and drink all the milk you want. I hope you have a great Christmas Santa!! Love, Rylee O

Dear Santa, Santa, I just want a bunch of stuffed animals for Christmas. Do you remember last Christmas you got me Snuggles? Well, I want Cuddles the Kitten, please. I will be super good. Santa you are also one of my favorite people. I am a good girl, but if you hear me or see me doing something mean, I do not mean it. I am just mean when I am stressed.

I love Christmas. It is my favorite holiday. I love the presents and everything that has to do with Christmas. I just love it so much. Santa, do you get stressed when you have to deliver

all the presents? I hope you fly safe! Love, Ivy P

Dear Santa, What I want for Christmas is a tree house at my Dad's house. I want an Easy Bake oven for my Mom's house. I want the materials that you can make slime. I also want a soft Nerf gun that comes with a target. I even want winter pajamas. Love, Brynlee S

Dear Santa, I have been very good this year. I want a Xbox 1x with 2 controllers. I also want Kyrie shoes. I want basketball sleeves too. My favorite football team is the Dallas Cowboys, and o I want some more fan stuff. Love, Hayden S

Dear Santa, What I want for Christmas is root beer. I also would like a toy train. I want a hover board. I also want a Minecraft Lego set. I hope I am on the nice list. I would like my family to be happy and healthy for Christmas. I hope you come to my house. Merry Christmas! Sincerely, Tristan S

Dear Santa, My wish list is full this year with video games, WWE stuff, and more! The things I want most is WWE2K18 deluxe edition and Madden 17 for my PS4. Merry Christmas. Sincerely, Elwyn T

Ms. Duncan's Pearl City Second Grade

Dear Santa Claus, How are you? How is Mrs. Claus? Are you Magic? How many elves do you have? First, I left some cookies and milk for you. Do you know why you shouldn't give Elsa a balloon, because she will just let it go. I love Christmas. Next, I have tried to be good. I have helped others. I have tried to be kind to my brother and sisters. I try not to fight with my brother and sisters. I do chores some of the times. I tried to be good in school. Finally, my family would like some gifts. My dad would like wood, tools, and a toolbox. My mom would like a necklace, bracelet, and earrings. My sister Skylar, would like a Pink sweatshirt and a new phone. Kylie wants a scented squishy and a new phone. Carson would like a Paw Patrol toy, and a robot. Please don't forget about me. I would like a new tablet and a TY stuffed animal with big eyes. Merry Christmas. Love, Morgan

Dear Santa, Thank you for all that you have given us. First, how is Mrs. Claus? How are the elves? I like your shoes, shirt, and your pants. I left some cookies and milk for you. Next, I have been sort of good. I help my mom fold laundry. I help my mom cook. I help my grandma, and I help my grandpa. I made Jayelle and Morgan bracelets. Also, please bring my family gifts. My sister would like two hermit crabs. My sister would also like Legos. My mom would like stained glass. My mom would also like a brand new teapot. My dad would like a brand new fishing rod. My dad would like Star Wars pajamas. My dog would like dog treats. Last, please don't forget about me. I would like some smoochins and Orbeeze Crush Magic Chef set. I would like a book called Dragons Love Tacos 2. I would like magic MC square star pixel purse. Feliz Navidad. Your biggest fan, Camdyn

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Letters To Santa

Dear Santa, First, thank you for the presents. I left some cookies and egg-nog on the table. How small are the elves? When is your birthday? I hope you had a good winter. I hope you like the North Pole. I hope you are warm in the North Pole. I like your clothes. I hope you stay warm in winter. Next, I have been sort of good. I fight with my brother. I will try to be better by not fighting. In school I do help people carrying their ball. I do my chores to help out in the house. I share my toys with my brother. Then, my family would like some gifts. My brother wants an X Box. My dad wants Buck-naked underwear. My mom wants warm clothes. My dog wants a fleecy sweater. Don't forget about me. I want baseball cards, soccer cards, football cards, and basketball cards. Merry Christmas. Love, Porter

Dear Santa, To start with, I left some cookies and milk and a carrot for the reindeer. So how are you? I like your suit. How are the elves? Next, I have been good this year. I am helping others as much as I can. I want to do more. I'm doing my chores. Also, please do not forget my family. My family would like a Polaris Ranger. Please get Mom another vacuum. My dad wants a light for his truck rack. Finally, please don't forget about me. I would like a lot of jeans, cowboy boots, and a cowboy hat. I would like a remote control racetrack, a RC car set, stuffed animals, and hockey rink. Merry Christmas. Love, Brodie

Dear Santa, First, I left some cookies and milk for you. Do you like lemonade, Santa? Why did Elsa let go of the balloon, cuz she just let it go. Is Mrs. Claus nice at all? How are your elves doing? Are they working hard at all? Are you and your reindeer Magic? Ho ho ho and everyone happy Christmas. Next, I have kind of been nice. The Gingerbread Baby is not nice. I know that I have been talking about people sometimes. I need to stop talking about people because I am hurting their feelings. I help Connor in gym. Also, don't forget about my family. My mom wants a treadmill. My dad wants a new ax. My friend Jayelle wants a new bed. I want a hatchimal and JoJo bow. Feliz Navidad. Love, Gemma

Dear Santa, Thank you for all that you have given me. First, how are you, Santa? How is Mrs. Claus? How are your elves and reindeer? Are you magic? How hard do you work? I like your shirt. I like your hat, and I like your shoes. Second, I have kind of been good this year. I told one friend that I liked his shirt and another friend that I liked his shirt. I told another that I like her shirt, but I got in a fight with my sister. I'll try to be better with my sister and not get in a fight again. Next, my family would like some gifts. My mom would like makeup, and my mom would like jewelry. My sister would like makeup and jewelry, too. My brother would like a stuffed animal. Finally, please don't forget about little ol' me. Can I please get a Lego Marvels 2 game? Can I please get the game Transformers? Can I please get a virtual reality headset? Please can I get a new scooter? Merry Christmas. Love, Isaac

Dear Santa, First, how are you San-

ta? I left some cookies for you. Are your elves nice? Do you like pop? How do you get around the world in one day? How do you eat all those cookies? Then, I have been good. I helped pick up my sister's toys. I help do the chores every night. I play with my sisters to make them happy. I'm helping others. I'm making friends. Next, my family wants gifts. My mom would like more days off. Bryan would like tools. My sisters would like a mini dirt bike toys. My dad would like a new bow. Finally, please don't forget about me. I want a football, gloves, dirt bike stickers, drum set, dirt biking knee pads, a guitar, Xbox, a virtual reality headset, and a 65 dirt bike. Merry Christmas. Love, Easton

Dear Santa, First, I like your red suit. I left you some cookies and milk. How are you? How are the elves? Are you magic? How is Mrs. Claus? What are some of the elves' names? Thank you for all that you have given us. Then, I have been trying to be good. I have helped my mom by cleaning the house. I have helped my dad on the farm. I was mean to my brother by not listening. I was mean to my dad by not following directions. I am trying harder to not be mean.

Also, don't forget about my family. My mom would like a new iPad. My dad would like a good trophy. Addie would like fake nails. Ava would like Barbie's. Lucas would like little farm stuff like tractors or hitchups. Last, please don't forget about little ol' me. I want little farm stuff like my brother. I want more little farms and big farms. Feliz Navidad. Love, Jayden

Dear Santa Claus, You are working really hard. Maybe you should take a break. I hope lots of kids are good. Have Holly Merry wonderful peaceful holiday and a Happy New Year, too. Merry Christmas. Thank you for bringing our family together.

We love all of the holidays but especially Christmas. You're welcome for all that I have said. You are a great guy. Please don't let down kids. Oh and have fun. I've been kind of good. I help others. I would never fight with

my brother. Oh no. I did some chores; maybe a lot! I gave people things that I used to have. Please bring my family some presents. My mom wants shells. My other mom wants toys for my little brother. My papa would like a DVD player and Nana would like another dog. Please don't forget about little ol' me. I would like a Lego set. It's called Rey's Speeder and a Star Wars Rogue one movie. I wish you a happy holiday and Merry Christmas. Thanks for the presents, family, and of course, love. Love, Nathan

Dear Santa, To start with, how are your elves? Are you magic? How are you doing? How are your reindeer? How is Mrs. Claus? Thank you for all that you have given me. Also, I have been kind of good this year. I help others. I help Mrs. Duncan with our choices for school. I helped with picking up my toy room. I helped with the popcorn sale. I help my sister with her homework. Next, my family would like presents. Kip wants a hoverboard and Xbox with some games. Dad wants a Cubs Jersey that has Bryant on it.

Sandy wants a Shopkin. Mom wants a pretty vase Last, please don't forget about me. I would like a 3 DS with some 3DS games. also I would like an Xbox with Xbox games. Random legos and Knex would be awesome.

Have a happy holiday. Love, Dusty

Dear Santa, First, I like you because you give a lot of presents to me and I got something for you in return. Here's a joke: Why don't you give Elsa a balloon? She'll Just Let It Go . I wonder how my elf Finn Finn is doing? Finn Finn is funny. I can't wait until I find Finn Finn. Are you Magic? On Christmas Eve I will leave some cookies and milk on the table. But I don't see you accept at Red Oak. I like Christmas because I get presents. Next, I have been sort of good this year. I am doing chores at my grandma's. I have been listening to my parents. I have been doing my homework. Also, my grandma wants a new car for Christmas because her window broke. My mom wants per-

fume, and my dad wants a Chicago Cubs shirt. My brother would like a set of fingerboards and my sister would like a Spider-Woman costume. Finally, a Lego set is something I want. I would like a Spider-Man costume. So, yeah, I can't wait until Christmas. Feliz Navidad. Love, Miles

Dear Santa, First, are you magic? How are you? How are the all of the elves? I love you Santa! How is Mrs. Claus and the reindeer. I left some cookies and milk on the table. I bet your favorite color is red Santa. How old are you? You are the best. Next, I tried to be good all year. I listen to my mom and dad. I haven't fought with my brother. My brother has been good this year. My pet cat and dog have been good this year. Then, my family would like some gifts. My mom would like a can opener. My dad would like some jeans. My brother would like a new car. My cat would like some toys. Finally, I would like a hatchimal, a nightcap like on Little House on the Prairie so hair won't get messy, and a baby sister. Merry Christmas. Your friend, Braylen,

Dear Santa, First, how are you and Mrs. Claus? Next, you work very hard do you want to hear a joke?

Why couldn't Elsa hold a balloon? because she would let it go. Are the elves working hard? I left some cookies and milk on the table. Next, I've sort of been good this year. I have sometimes fought with my sister. I have been doing chores. I have been helping my friends up. Also, my family would like some gifts. My mom would like a snow globe and a pillow. My dad would like a squeaky toy, dog blanket, and treats. Jolie would like a hatchimal, Legos, and a comfy blanket.

Finally, please don't forget about me. I want a hatchimal, Legos, American Girl doll, a comfy pillow, and a play car. Feliz Navidad. Love, Brianna

Dear Santa, First, how are you? I have some jokes for you. Which reindeer is the rudest? RUDolph. Who says Oh, Oh, Oh? It's Santa walking backwards. Next, I've been good this year. I do not fight with my brother or sister. I tried to break up fights or get Mom when they fight. I tell them to stop fighting. Also, don't forget my family. My mom wants the house clean. can you get my dad a bear's hat? Finally, please don't forget about me. I want a little farm and a \$700 combine. Merry Christmas, Wade

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from
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Painting

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Letters To Santa

Dear Santa Claus, To start with, how are you? Are you magic? I like your red suit. Thank you for all that you have given me. I want to know some elf names how is Mrs. Claus doing? I bet you work really hard. Here's a joke for you. Why do you not give Elsa a balloon? She will just let it go. Next, I have sort of been good. I have been good in school. I am quiet in school. I always help others. I am kind and I do chores, but sometimes I fight with my brother. I will play nice with him. Also, don't forget about my family. My brother would like Thomas the Train stuff. My mom would like my dad would like Chicago Bears stuff. My dog Mickey would like a squeaky toy. Finally, please don't for-

get about me. I want Packers stuff. I want American Girl Doll stuff. I want Wii games. I want camouflage stuff. I want a couple Nerf guns. I want some gift cards. I want an iPod case. I want a portable charger. Merry Christmas have a happy holiday and Feliz Navidad. Love, Jayelle

Dear Santa, First, are you Magic? Please tell me yes or no Here is a joke: Why don't you give Elsa a balloon? because she will let it go. Next, I have been mostly good. I do my homework. I will start folding laundry soon. Also don't forget my family. My mom would like a little pink car. My dad likes tools and a riding lawn mower. Last, please don't forget about me. I want a PS4 that can slide up and down

and a real old-fashioned truck.

Happy holiday and Feliz Navidad. Your friend, Carlito

Dear Santa, First, thank you for all that you have given me. Why do you never give a balloon to Elsa? Because she will let it go. Did you know that my favorite reindeer is? It is Prancer. Next, I think I have been good this year. I tried to stop fights with my brother unless it is just playing around. I do chores like sorting clothes folding towels, and clean my bedroom. I teach Connor hard math like square roots.

Also, don't forget my family. My brother wants electronic stuff. My mom wants cat stuff. My mom and brother want Chicago Bears tickets make it 3 please. Last, please don't forget me. Give me anything. Make it a surprise. Merry Christmas. Love, JJ

Dear Santa, To start with I have a Christmas joke for you. Why don't you give a balloon to Elsa? She'll let it go. Are you magic? Yes or no. Thank you for all you have given me. Your elves work hard on making toys. How are you? Christmas is my favorite holiday and so are you. Next, I have been good this year. I help my mom get groceries in the house. I have not fought with my sister. I have let my sister watch The Flash when she wants. I feed my dog most every night. Then, my family wants presents to. My mom would like some new dishes. My dad would like Cubs football team poster. My sister would like some Giftums. My dog wants more dogs toys. My Grandpa wants a drone. Last, please don't forget about me. I want a Nintendo switch, Super Mario Odyssey, X Box 1x, Xbox One games, X Box One, and an X Box One remote. Merry Christmas. Love, Connor

Dear Santa, Are you magic? I have been good all year long. I have been doing as much that I can. I do my chores. My family would love a

horse, cars, baby toys, makeup and a computer. And do not forget about me. I would like horse. Thank you. Love, Bridget

Mrs. Lawler's Pearl City First Grader

Dear Santa Claus, Do you have a puppy? Do you have a baby reindeer? My mommy would like a new ring. My daddy would like more money. Lacie wants a new tablet. Parker wants an iPod and a hoverboard. I want a hoverboard and an iPod. I would like earphones too. I have tried to be good all year! Your friend, Aubrey

Dear Santa Claus, How do the reindeer fly? How does the sleigh work? Please bring Alyssa a big bear stuffed animal. Dad would like a dot-to-dot. My mom wants some new instruments. Please bring me camo walkie talkies, camo Nerf guns, and Camo gear. I have tried to be good all year! Your friend, Jonah

Dear Santa Claus, How does Santa make toys? How does the sleigh work? Please bring my mom a pair of new slippers. Jakari would like new books. Please bring me a hoverboard and Xbox. I would also like a remote control car. I have tried to be good all year!

Your friend, Javian

Dear Santa Claus, How does the sleigh work? How do the reindeer fly? Please bring my mom a new word search. Dad would like a new shirt. Aiden wants a new pliers holder. Anna wants craft things. Maxx and I would each like a four-wheeler. I have tried to be good all year! Your friend, Mason

Dear Santa Claus, How do the reindeer talk? How do the reindeer fly? My Mommy wants more necklaces. My daddy wants another hat. Maya wants lipstick. Emma wants more clothes.

Sarah wants a necklace. Lakin would like jewelry. Logan wants a Packer shirt. Aiden wants headphones. Brady wants a truck. Colin wants a phone case. I would like a JoJo Siwa music. I want hatchimals. I want an iPad. I have tried to be good all year! Your friend, Sophia

Dear Santa Claus, How does Santa deliver all the toys or coal in 8 hours? How many cookies can you eat? Please bring my grandma a new phone. My dad would like a new football. Kooper wants an iPad and a stuffed animal. I would like an Elf on the Shelf, a cotton candy maker, and Doctor Dreadful zombie lab. I have tried to be good all year! Thank you Santa. Your friend, Kolton

Dear Santa Claus, How do you eat all the cookies? How does Rudolph's nose glow? Please bring my brother an Xbox One. Mom and dad need a TV. I would like tractors. I have tried to be good all year. Your friend, Joshua

Dear Santa Claus, What is your favorite cookie? How does Rudolph's nose glow? My mom wants a car. My dad wants wood. I would like an office for my bedroom. I have tried to be good all year! Your friend, Nathan

Dear Santa Claus, How do the reindeer talk? How does Santa make toys? Please bring my brother toy tractors. My mom would like new shoes. I would like a TV and a couch in my bedroom. I have tried to be good all year! Your friend, George

Dear Santa Claus, How do the reindeer fly? How does Rudolph's nose glow? My Mom and Dad want a new refrigerator. Gracie would like earrings. I would like new headphones. I want Jojo Siwa music. I want a hatchimals. I have tried to be very good all year! Your friend, Abigail

Dear Santa Claus, How does Santa make the toys? How does the sleigh work? Please bring my family a new speaker for the TV. I would like a new Xbox One and a PS3. I have tried to be good all year. Thank you, Santa. Your friend, Trevion

Dear Santa Claus, How does Santa deliver all the gifts in one night? How does Rudolph's nose glow? Please bring my mom a new iPad, my dad instruments, K.K. new headphones, and Nola a giant sloth. I would like a Nintendo switch, Cosmo, and a Nintendo switch case. I have tried to be good all year! Thank you, Santa. Your friend, Miles

Dear Santa Claus, How do the reindeer talk? How does Santa deliver all the gifts in one night? Dad wants a new microwave. Mom wants a door knob. Jayda wants Minecraft toys. Xander, Autumn, and Arianna want new bikes. I want a LOL doll, a hatchimals, and PJ Max action figure. I have tried to be good all year! Your friend, Rayne

Dear Santa Claus, How do the reindeer fly? How does the sleigh work? Dad wants a video game. Mom wants a golden necklace. Mason wants an I-Pad. Brian wants a computer. Mad-die wants hair spray. Mari wants a game boy. Zinnia wants a new LOL doll and pet. I want a Mustang car, a toy semi and a world record book. I have tried to be good. Your friend, Jack

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Christmas!

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The Shopper's Guide

Tony, Cyndee,
and Laurie

228966

SANTA'S SHOPPING WISH LIST

Freedom, joy, a jar of harmony.
Would you believe
Santa found them all in aisle three?
Eggnog, Yule logs,
There are plenty in store,
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Best wishes to you, our friends,
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Letters To Santa

Mrs. Robinson's Pearl City Second Grade

Dear Santa, I have been good this year. I have given my brother a hug. I have been good in school for not getting negatives and getting lots of positives. My brother wants a Coper, and it has to be yellow. My dad wants a dirt bike. My mom wants pajamas. I want another scooter that is gas powered. P.S. I want a stuffed person of Mrs. Claus and a stuffed person of an elf like as big as him or Mrs. Claus. Do you like an elf for Christmas? It will be me. Do you like slippers? Happy New Year!

Your friend, Deaken
Dear Santa, I have been very good to my sisters by helping them clean up their toys. I want to buy my mom a new kitchen. I would buy my dad a new kitten. I would like my sisters to have a dollhouse. Could you please bring me farm toys on Christmas? How old are you Santa? How is Mrs. Claus doing? Your friend, Spencer

Dear Santa, I try to be good. It's hard to do it sometimes. My baby sister wants a baby doll. My brother wants nerf guns. My dad wants a gun. I want nerf guns. I want a scooter. Do you stop time? Do you get the job done on Christmas Eve? Happy New Year! Your friend, Alan

Dear Santa, I did a few naughty things this year Santa. But I've been good the rest of the year. Addie wants a Harry Potter picture and so does Ava. Jayden wants little farm grain setup with a dryer. I want a trampoline and big farm. How are your reindeer? How are you doing? Your friend, Lucas

Dear Santa, I've been good. I help clean the house. My mom wants a thing you can bake eggs on. My dad wants concrete for our garage. My brother wants Curry 4 shoes. And my sister wants a phone. I want socks and a shirt. Are you really alive? How do you get around the world in 24 hours? Happy New Year! Your friend, Colt

Dear Santa, I have tried to be good, but I have been bad some too. My sister wants a doll. My mom wants peace. My dad wants a Camaro. I want a Gator and a canoe. Have I been good? I don't know. Happy New Year! Your friend, Karsen

Dear Santa, I have had fun times helping my mom. I help her wash

dishes. Mom would like a tablet. Dad wants a phone. Zxandyr wants a phone too. My sister would like a guitar. Billy would like a phone and Crystal needs a shield to protect her from me jumping on her. I want a tablet. I need to be nice. Will you eat any cookies? Happy New Year. Your friend, George

Dear Santa, I have been good because I help others. I help people get high on the swings. I help my mom put ornaments on the tree. My sister wants a guitar. My dad wants more tools. My mom wants a dress. My dogs want a bone and a toy. I want Lego Minecraft and I want other Legos. Do you like oatmeal cookies? Do you like chocolate milk? Happy New Year! Your friend, Marlee

Dear Santa, I've been trying to be good but my brother was screaming so I whined. I can't stop whining. Mom wants new pajamas. Dad wants new slippers. Dad's slippers stink. Nathan wants a Batman set. I want Aquabeads and I also want a Barbie head. How do elves fly? How does Mrs. Claus bake very good cookies? Happy New Year! Your friend, Krista

Dear Santa, I have tried to be good and not to be bad. I will try to be good the rest of the year until Christmas. My dad wants a new pair of gloves. My sister wants a soft animal unicorn. Maddi wants a new case for her phone. Mom wants a new charm for her bracelet. I want a fingerling and a play monkey in a cage. How does your sleigh fly? How old are you? I am seven. Happy New Year! Merry Christmas! Your friend, Cassidy

Dear Santa, I have been good. Only on church mornings I am a little squirrely. My mom wants another Christmas cactus. My dad wants a remote holder. My brothers want sweatshirts. My dog wants a chew toy. I would like a combine with tracks and a tug-of-war toy for me and my dog to play with. How fast can your sleigh go? Is your beard 1,000,000 feet long? Happy New Year! Your friend, Brogan

Dear Santa, I've been very good this year. I helped my mom with my dogs. I helped my dad with the laundry. This is what my family wants. Mom wants jewelry. My dad wants shorts. My brother wants an Xbox. I want a Nintendo Switch and a make-up kit. What's your favorite kind of

cookie? Do you eat a lot of cookies? Happy New Year! Your friend, Elley

Dear Santa, I have been good this year and I wish I could be on your nice list please. My dad wants some traps for coons. My mom wants pancake batter. My brother wants an Xbox 1S. I want a Nerf rifle gun for Christmas and a hover board. Is Mrs. Claus a great cook, and is she the best cook ever? Happy New Year! Your friend, Porter

Dear Santa, I have been good. I help put the dishes away. I help clean up the playroom. Mom wants a teacup. Dad wants tools. Elizabeth wants Stij pajamas. Jon wants and iPad, and Jared wants cars. I want makeup and crafts. How do you eat a lot of cookies in one day? How old are you? Happy New Year! Your friend, Hannah

Dear Santa, I've been good because I helped clean my room. I helped my sister clean her room. My mom wants a purple soft blanket. My sister wants new jeans. My dad wants a hat. I want a real baby kitten and a real baby puppy. Why do you like cookies so much and why do you have reindeer? Happy New Year! Your friend, Kennedy

Dear Santa, I have been good this year but both of my brothers start a fight and I join them. They also are mean to me. My mom wants a gold twisty necklace. My dad wants a Blackhawk key chain. My brother Kip wants a hover board. My other brother wants Pokemon. I want Easy Braid. I also want Shopkins Tall Mall. Are your reindeer well? Is your sleigh magic? Happy New Year! Your friend, Sandy

Dear Santa, I have been OK this year, but I might have gotten grounded for a whole week because I was being stubborn. For my brother I

think he would like VR goggles. My dad wants some new guitar picks. Mom wants a fruit Ninja. KK would like a new bed. Finally, Violet should have a new chew toy. I would like a Kendall doll, and also some clothes. How old are you? Will you ever quit? Happy New Year! Your friend, Nola

Dear Santa, I am good at home and kind of good at school. At home I help my mom and dad. If one of my friends gets hurt I help them. My mom wants a cooking pan. My dad wants some cow clippers. My brother wants a real cow. My sister wants a real horse. I want a real pony and horse. How is the reindeer? How is Mrs. Claus? You are the best! Happy New Year! Your friend, Charlotte

Dear Santa, I tried to be nice but my sister punches me. I try not to fight back but I do. Dad would like a Fitbit. Weston wants a hover board. Diem likes Barbies. Mom wants a Fitbit, and Sadie would like a squeaky toy. I would like a hover board and

a Nerf tank. How do you fly? How do you do your magic? Happy New Year! Your friend, Colton

Dear Santa, I have been good. I will give you a fact. I am nice because I have not been bad. When someone punches me, I do not punch them back. My mom would like jewelry. My dad likes games. Evelyn would like a monkey that hangs on to your finger. I would like new games for my Xbox 1 and my iPad. I would like game money for my iPad and my Xbox 1. Are you magic, Santa? Can you live forever? Happy New Year! Your friend, Anthony

Mrs. Werhane Pearl City first grade

Dear Santa Claus, I would like a new remote control tank and nerf gun. I would also like some Legos. How do the elves build toys? I have tried to be good all year
Your friend, Reid

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**From your friends
at Spahn & Rose**

Letters To Santa

Dear Santa Claus, How does Santa deliver all the gifts in one night? How can you eat all the cookies? Please bring my mom and dad a family picture. Kristopher would like Legos. Fenixx and Rozylnne want new soft chairs. I would like a diary of a wimpy kid book, plush bear, and clothes. I have tried to be good all year!

Your friend, Hendrix
Dear Santa Claus, How does Rudolph's nose glow? How do the reindeer fly? My mom would like more make-up. My sister would like a real cat. Dad would like a new pillow. I would like a cat stuffed animal and a long sleeve dress. I have tried to be good all year!

Your friend, Rayvin
Dear Santa Claus, Have I been a good girl? How does your sleigh work? My mom would like a clean house. Andy wants a bow for deer hunting. Dad wants to spend more time with me. Lindsey wants a pup-

py. Levi would like a new bouncer. Cora wants a new bed. For me, I would like a Barbie carousel, Barbie fair set, and Barbie cotton candy set. I have tried to be good all year!

Your friend, Aubrianna
Dear Santa Claus, Have I been a good girl? How does your sleigh work? My mom wants a new dress. Dad wants tools. Brody and Brycen want a new game. Brooklyn wants a new puppy. Briella wants a new doll. Please bring me a Princess Barbie and a puppy. I have tried to be good all year!

Your friend, Brynlee
Dear Santa Claus, How did Rudolph get a red nose? How do the reindeer fly? Please bring Lila a bulldog, my mom some jewelry, and my dad army food. I would like a Nintendo switch, googley eyes, and Airheads gum. I have tried to be good all year!

Your friend, Ty
Dear Santa Claus, How do the

reindeer fly? How does the sleigh work? Please bring Anna a baby sister. Aiden wants pliers. Dad wants new work boots. Mom would like a new pair of snow boots. Mason wants a new tractor. Please bring me a new pet fish and a pet dog. I have tried to be good all year!

Your friend, Maxx
Dear Santa Claus, How does Santa get through the Chimney? How can you eat all the cookies? Please bring Lincoln farm toys, Hudson transformers, my mom jewelry, and dad a new watch. I would like an American girl doll and clothes for her. I have tried to be good all year!

Your friend, Lucy
Dear Santa Claus, How do the reindeer fly? How do you get in the houses? My sister would like a toy cat. My mom would like a new house. My dad would like a bigger garage. Please bring me Pokémon cards. I have tried to be good all year!

Your friend, John
Dear Santa Claus, What is your favorite cookie? How do the elves build toys? Please bring Efrain a big TV. Anahi would like some mechanical pencils. Sherlyn wants new crayons. Dad would like a new truck. Mom wants a new dress. Please bring me a nerf gun and a tree house. I would also like a German Shepard puppy. I have tried to be good all year!

Your friend, Eriberto
Dear Santa Claus, How does Rudolph's nose glow? What is your favorite cookie? My dad wants new basketball shoes. Mom would like a new dress. Beckett wants a garbage truck toy. Fallyn would like a new doll. Please bring me a blue light saber, a remote control car, and a bunk bed. I have tried to be good all year!

Your friend, Mason
Dear Santa Claus, How do you get in the houses? How do the reindeer fly? Please bring my dad a new car. Mom would like a new baby. Alvaro wants an Xbox. Samantha wants a playroom. Please bring me a tree house for my tree. I would also like a nerf gun and a pet dog. I have tried to be good all year!

Your friend, Dylan

Mrs. Pieper' Lena-Winslow third grader's Letters of Thankfulness

I am thankful for my family because when I'm sick they can take care of me. Also food so I have something to eat. Also I'm thankful for a house so I can stay safe. By: Annabelle Wise

I am thankful for food because it helps us stay alive. I'm also thankful for trees because they give us air. I am also thankful for water because then we can stay alive. By: Ava Marie Taft

I'm thankful for food because if we don't food we can starve. Also I am thankful for my home so I'm not cold when it's winter. Last, I'm thankful for clothes because it would be really cold if I didn't have clothes. By: Brianna Fye

I am thankful for food because I eat it. I am thankful for family to love me. I'm thankful for water drink. By: Christopher Rohdy

I'm thankful for food because I would die. Family because they love me. Money because I can buy stuff. By: Dane Rose

I'm thankful for my tablet because you can play games on there. I'm thankful for my life because you can do stuff with like clean, run, and walk. I'm thankful for my fam-

ily because you have someone with you. By: Dayne Busser

I'm thankful for it's almost Christmas because my family is going on a cruise on Christmas break. I'm also thankful for food so everyone can eat. I'm thankful for sports because if I didn't have sports I wouldn't have anything to do. By: Gannon Dunker

I am thankful for my family because they love me. Also I am thankful for wrestling because I have friends. I am thankful for friend because I have fun. By: Gavin Kaiser

One of the things I am thankful for is my family so I am not bored. I am also thankful for my friends so I can have fun. I am thankful for my house for shelter and a place to sleep. By: Ian Geiseman

I am thankful for Mario because he is super. I am thankful for my mom because she makes me pizza. I am thankful for home because it is really nice. By: Jackson 10

I am thankful for my great grandma because she gives me toy games. I am thankful for my cats because they make me happy. Last, I am thankful for food because I would die without it. By: Jakeb Daschner

I'm thankful for my whole family. They love me. I am thankful for many things. By: Kadya Martinez

I'm thankful for a life because I would not be here. Also I'm thankful for family because you would not have people to love. Finally I'm thankful for football because I love sports. By: Kaiden Harner

I'm thankful for these things. Food because if we did not have food we would have to be hungry. Friends' because I would be lonely. Family because then I would have to stay home and not go anywhere or do fun things. By: Kaydan Yount

I am thankful for all of the teachers in the whole wide world because we wouldn't be smart. Teachers are amazing. I am thankful for teachers because they teach us stuff we need to know. By: Kaylie Potter

I am thankful for my family because they keep me safe. I am also thankful for Grandma and Grandpa because they help my mom and dad. I'm also thankful for my house because it gives me a place to live. By: Mason Kempel

I am thankful for my family because they make me feel special. I am thankful for friends because they're fun to play with. I am also thankful for the army because they fought for our freedom. By: Nate Taylor

I am thankful for my mom because she cooks very good. I am thankful for my dad because he lets me hammer nails. I am thankful for my brothers because they let me play on their phone. By: Samantha Borman

This is what I'm thankful for. I'm thankful for trees because without trees we have no oxygen. I'm also thankful for food and water because if there is no food and water I could starve to death. I'm also thankful for family because without family I wouldn't have anyone to take care of me. What are you thankful for? By: Shaylen Smith 14

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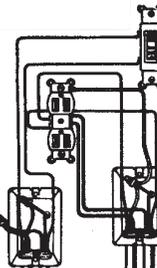
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Volunteers needed for 2018 Bald Eagle Count

The Eagle Nature Foundation (ENF) is seeking volunteers to help with its 58th Annual Mid-Winter Bald Eagle Count to be conducted on Jan. 27 and 28, 2018. This annual bald eagle count is being conducted throughout the Midwest from Northern Minnesota to Louisiana. To eliminate duplication the count is actually a three hour count on Saturday, with Sunday being used only if weather, or health, does not allow a person or organization to count the bald eagles in their own locality on the official count day. At least 90% of the eagles will be counted before 11 a.m. on Saturday, the 27. Each year some counters start the day by counting the bald eagles that can be seen leaving their nighttime roosts, while it is still so dark that the birds are only silhouettes flying overhead. Some conservation organizations use teams to count the bald eagles as a project for their club. Counters have used cars, boats and airplanes to count the bald eagles during past counts.

This annual count was started and coordinated for 20 years by the late Elton Fawks from Moline, IL. Terrence Ingram, President of ENF, from Apple

River, has been the coordinator of the count for the past 37 years. Mr. Ingram states, "This count has been the most important bald eagle count in the nation for many, many years. It was the results of this count in the early 1960's that truly documented the decline of the bald eagle in the nation. Now this count is the only accurate record of how our eagles are reproducing in the Midwest. Since the USFW removed the bald eagle from the Endangered Species List in 2007, there has been no funding for agencies to be involved in monitoring the bald eagle's reproduction. Most all of their reproduction records are just

estimates, or extrapolations, of how many young have been raised. This count helps document what percentage of these young birds have survived."

The last few years have documented a low percentage of immatures being seen during this count. This is actually lower than the same low percentage that the count had recorded in the mid to late 1960's. In fact, the 5-year average of immatures in the late 1960's was 28.5%, while the last 5-year average was only 25.5%. The cause for this low percentage of documented immatures on this count is unknown and any suggestions about a cause have been pure-

ly speculative. It could be that the immatures are living somewhere else, or something could actually be affecting their survival: such as starvation; poisoning by chemicals, such as Roundup or Neonicotinoids; or a disease, such as West Nile Virus; or many of the young may be getting killed by vehicle collisions or wind turbines.

Organizations and volunteers for this count are needed all across the Midwest. ENF would like to document the bald eagles that may be found all along the Mississippi River, from Minnesota to Louisiana, as well as along the Illinois, Ohio, Missouri, Rock, Pecaton-

ica, Iowa, Maquoketa and Wisconsin Rivers, as well as many of the historic inland wintering areas, which the bald eagle still uses.

Anyone interested in helping with this research to document our changing bald eagle population by counting the bald eagles in their own area on Jan. 27 or 28, should contact Mr. Ingram at ENF, 300 East Hickory Street, Apple River, IL 61001 or phone 815-594-2306 to get the necessary count forms and to receive their area assignment. Contacting Mr. Ingram and getting your area assigned must be done in advance of the count date, Jan. 27.

LEGALS

ASSUMED NAME PUBLICATION

Public Notice is hereby given that on **November 27, 2017**, a certificate was filed in the Office of the County Clerk of Stephenson County, Illinois, setting forth the names and post-office addresses of all persons owning, conducting and transacting the business known as: **What's For Dinner** located at **3213 W. Forest Rd., Freeport, IL 61032**.

Dated November 27, 2017
VICIR. OTTE
Stephenson County Clerk
by *HB*
Heather Becker Deputy
(Published in

The Shopper's Guide
Dec. 6, 13 & 20, 2017)

302081

ASSUMED NAME PUBLICATION

Public Notice is hereby given that on **December 4, 2017**, a certificate was filed in the Office of the County Clerk of Stephenson County, Illinois, setting forth the names and post-office addresses of all persons owning, conducting and transacting the business known as: **East to Midwest Massage** located at **214 1/2 Carver Street, Winslow, IL 61089**.

Dated December 4, 2017
VICIR. OTTE
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by *HEATHER BECKER*
Heather Becker, Deputy
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Stock #275251
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CHRISTMAS EVE AT 8:00 P.M.

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CHRISTMAS EVE AT 11:00 P.M.

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CHRISTMAS EVE MASS AT 6:00 P.M.

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608 E RAILROAD, WARREN
CHRISTMAS MORNING MASS AT 8:00 A.M.

