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YOUR FREE HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2016

Stockton Chamber of Commerce hosts TIF informational meeting

By Tony Carton
EDITOR

The Stockton Chamber of Commerce and JJ and Freddie's Restaurant hosted an informational luncheon Dec. 14, featuring Sharon Pepin of Community Funding and Planning Services presenting the intricacies of both Tax Increment Financing (TIF) and Business Development Districts (BDD).

"I mainly work with municipalities helping them to get money to do infrastructure projects, grants and low interest loans," said Pepin. "I also help municipalities get the economic tools to help them attract businesses."

Pepin has been in funding and planning services for about 20 years and operates Community Funding and Planning Services in downtown Stockton.

"We work with about 25 to 30 municipalities in Jo Daviess, Carroll, Stephenson, Ogle, Whiteside and Winnebago Counties that we work with on a regular basis," Pepin said.

The first part of Pepin's presentation focused on TIF or Tax Increment Financing districts. Tax Increment Financing is a powerful tool that enables municipalities to self-finance its redevelopment programs. TIF funds can pay for public improvements and other economic development incentives using the increased property tax revenue the improvements generate.

TIF is particularly useful to communities where local leaders envision a resurgence of population, a robust local economy and a town capable of providing the varied public services, security and quality of life many young families, workers, business owners, and elderly persons are searching for today.

"TIF and BDDs are economic incentive programs that municipalities can create and the purpose behind that is to help them get funding, and earn revenues to either do infrastructure projects or economic development projects or help retain or expand businesses," said Pepin.

Tax Increment Financing is the only local economic development

tool available to Illinois communities and since its inception in 1977, more than 250 Illinois municipalities have created at least one TIF District. Collectively, there are now over 1,000 TIF Districts within Illinois. Currently, most states utilize Tax Increment Financing as a catalyst for needed redevelopment. The success of TIF is a reflection of public and private entities working cooperatively to meet the redevelopment goals and objectives of those municipalities.

"A TIF District is a reimbursement from the municipality for a portion of your property taxes that you've already paid into and is a municipality's way of saying thank you for making an investment in our community and we are going to give you back a portion of your property taxes based on a project that you are proposing to do," said Pepin.

She explained that a TIF district is created in a particular calendar year. Property taxes collected prior to that calendar year are paid out to all the taxing bodies in a community. After the TIF is created, if there is any increase in those property values, instead of going to all the taxing bodies that increase in property values goes to the municipality that created the district.

"For example, when Stockton created its TIF in 2005 there was roughly 7.5 acres of vacant green space along Highway 20," said Pepin. "At that time the Equalized Assessed Value (EAV) was \$1745, so all the taxing bodies would receive a portion of that \$1745. Once the TIF was created and after development occurred on that property (specifically, a new restaurant, gas station and travel rest area) the EAV increased to \$235,185 creating \$233,440 in TIF increment and generating roughly \$16,830 into the Village TIF Fund."

As further development occurred the EAV rose to \$416,927 in 2007 creating \$415,182 in TIF increment and generating roughly \$29,900 into the Village TIF fund. That same, formerly vacant parcel currently sports an EAV of \$445,956 creating \$444,211 in TIF increment and

generating roughly \$42,500 into the village TIF Fund. All taxing bodies still get the property taxes on the \$1,745 base EAV from 2005 and all increases in the EAV go to the village which creates a Special Tax Allotment Fund to be used for infrastructure projects within the TIF district or to be used to reimburse private development.

There are a number of short and long-term benefits to the creation of a TIF no tax increases while property values increase, TIF funds can be

distributed to finance private investment and development which creates jobs. As the need for qualified workers increases, job training programs spring up leading to job retention and a stronger, broader tax base created by a stronger economic base that is locally controlled, and since the incremental revenue is reinvested in the TIF district investment outside the district is stimulated.

It should be emphasized that TIF does not generate tax revenues by increasing tax rates. Rather, TIF

generates revenues by allowing the municipality to capture, temporarily, the new tax revenues generated by the enhanced valuation of properties resulting from the various redevelopment projects.

While the maximum life of a TIF District is 23 years which may be extended one time by as much as 12 years, when the TIF ends and the town's investments in both public and private redevelopment proj-

See MEETING, Page 2



COURTESY PHOTO The Scoop Today

Bank gives back to the community

Brock Musser and Mike Mammoser of Citizens State Bank present a check to members of the Stockton High School Chapter of the Highland Community College Servant Leadership program for the groups' SNOW project which provides supplementary nutrition for elementary school children in Stockton.

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Stockton fourth graders speak to US cheese surplus

Compiled by Lemon
AMERICORPS VOLUNTEER
and Tony Carton
EDITOR

With the first annual Brewster Cheese and Stockton Chamber of Commerce co-sponsored Better with Brewster macaroni and cheese bake-off behind us, the Stockton Elementary fourth graders are wrapping up an essay project offering their thoughts on the best ways to distribute America's burgeoning cheese surplus.

The responses are heartwarming and humorous and since our children are our future; we are looking at bright tomorrows! Enjoy!

Lucas Baney

If I had 95.2 million pounds of surplus cheese I would make blocks of cheese and give it away so there would be no world hunger. I would give it to the whole USA. I would fly all around the 50 states for five years, or I would do it until the cheese was gone. This is what final

thing I would do. I would give it to the grocery stores in the whole US and UK. I would do this because people would have more cheese and more cheese products, like cheese burgers, macaroni, and a lot more. Then I would go to China and give some to their towns.

Dylann Broshous

This is what I would do with 95.2 million pounds of surplus cheese. I would give some to orphanages. I would do this because it would help the people who work there. The kids would be happy. It would help them because they wouldn't need to buy a lot of food. The kids would be happy because they would have cheese to eat. This is what I would do with the other half of the cheese. I would sell it. It would be \$5 a block. I would have free samples out. I would do this because I think it is fun to sell things. I would sell it for \$5 a block because I don't think that is a lot of money. I would also sell it for 50 cents per slice. I would

do that because I like it cut up. I would get clothes with the money.

Kinzie Reana Bruketta

This is what I would do with 95.2 million pounds of cheese. I would take it to Chicago. I would give some to the people under the bridge. I would give it to them for free because there are a lot of homeless people in Chicago. I would also give it to the freshmen football players in Stockton. All of them love cheese and would eat it. They would be happy because they love cheese. I could give I to them and they could eat it for dinner.

Masyn Cahill

This is what I would do with 95.2 million pounds of cheese. I would give some to the homeless. I would do that because it would be a nice thing to do, and people would not have to starve to death. They could go to any street and there would be cheese waiting. This is another thing I would do. I would also make a dog and cat out of cheese. I would do it because my dog could eat the other cheese dog. It would be funny to see my dogs eating a dog and cat made out of cheese.

Emma Demeter

These are the things I would do if I had 95.2 million pounds of extra cheese. I would give some to Africa and Asia because they don't have much food to eat. They could use it to make medicine for diseases that are in their tribes. It would be amazing if there were no more diseases in Africa and Asia. The people there have lots of orphans they could use it to feed them so they are not hungry any longer that would be awesome. The second thing I would do is make a giant rollercoaster called the Colby Coaster. The track would be made out of Swiss cheese. The cars will be made out of cheddar cheese. The seat belts will be made out of Colby Jack cheese. The cost for each ride is 10 dollars which also comes with the privilege to eat your seat belt. These are the things I would do.

Eli Haas

This is what I would do with 95.2 million pounds of cheese.

First, I would give each orphanage 20 million pounds of cheese. I would do this because orphanages usually don't have much money. This would affect people by having healthier orphans. Parents who have adopted kids won't have to take care of them as much. This is the first thing I would do with 95.2 million pounds of cheese. Next I would make a free cheese buffet full of cheese. I would do this because I don't need it. This would affect people by stopping hunger. The hungry people would be happier than ever. That is what I would do with 95.2 million pounds of cheese.

Kyle Haas

If I had 95.2 million pounds of surplus cheese I would sell \$3 a pound a cheese. I would sell some to adoption homes and the homeless too. I would go to a Wisconsin cheese fest. I would sell some there. I would love to go out of the county and sell some too. I would also donate some cheese to Haiti. They are in the top 10 poorest countries in the world. Their money comes from people sailing, and coming into the country. They need food especially after Hurricane Matthew. They didn't even have enough time to recover from the last hurricane. This is what I would do with 95.2 million pounds of surplus cheese.

Jacob Harlach

This is what I would do with 95.2 million pounds of cheese. I would give it to the homeless and hungry people. I would do this because the homeless could make homes of cheese, I could also give it to the hungry. They would be really happy to have food. It would be done all around the world. The last thing I would do with the cheese is I would make a football field out of cheese. It would be 100% cheese. It would hold the most fans out of any stadium. I would give it to the Broncos. I would do that because they are my favorite team.

William Hart

If I had 95.2 million pounds of extra cheese I would make cheese heaven. I would eat all the cheese

in cheese heaven all day long because cheese is healthy. It's made out of milk. If I had 95.2 million pounds of extra cheese, I would also make cheese rain everyone would have something to eat, and the world would never starve again. This is what I would do if I had 95.2 million pounds of extra cheese.

Sam Hille

If I had 95.2 million pounds of cheese I would make a cheese fight club. Where people wore cheese outfits with cheese boxing gloves. Any cheese left over can be food for people watching and it will be free, but if not it will be \$1 a slice. The other thing I would do is sell the cheese to make money. The cheese would be \$5 a pound. I would also make macaroni for \$17 a plate. I would put it in a restaurant called Sam's Cheese. I would use the money to give to my employees. That's what I would do if I had 95.2 million pounds of cheese.

Leighton Krueger

If I had 95.2 million pounds of extra cheese I would make a store that sold cheese. I would do that because homeless people could get some food. The people would need to pay; the homeless people would get it for free. I would get money very easily. I would eat some myself, and give some to my om, dad, and grandma. The second thing I would do with 95.2 million pounds of extra cheese is I would eat it all. I would do this because it would be tastier than some things I have at home. I don't know how much a pound is, but I would eat a pound a day, that is what I would do with 95.2 million pounds of cheese.

Madalyn Jo Mammoser

If I had 95.2 million pounds of extra cheese I would make a castle out of cheese. I would make a cheese bed, cheese kitchen, and everything that is usually in a castle. All I would eat is cheese, mac and cheese, and anything that involves a pound of cheese. When I get bored I'd read a cheese book. The second thing I could do is bake 95.2 million pounds of cheese and go out and give it to homeless people. I would go to different towns and countries searching for homeless people. They would get it for free. Sometimes you see people with signs. I would give them each 3 pounds of cheese. If I was in the car and I got hungry I would just get some cheese out and eat it.

• Meeting

(Continued from front page)

ects within the TIF redevelopment area are fully repaid, property tax revenues are again shared by all the taxing bodies. All taxing bodies then share the expanded tax base – the growth which would not have been possible without the utilization of Tax Increment Financing.

Stockton is preparing to create a Business Development District in 2017. In January 2017, The Scoop Today will look at that proposed BDD and its benefits to the Village of Stockton.



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Stockton Police Department report for Dec. 9 through 15

On 12/09 at 09:34, the Stockton Police Department was dispatched to a 2 vehicle accident at Main Street and Grandview Street. On arrival, the Officer spoke with the driver of the striking vehicle. The driver stated that she did not see the other car due to the sun reflecting in her eyes. This driver proceeded to turn from Grandview on northbound Main Street, at which time her car struck the second vehicle which had been northbound on Main Street at Grandview. Minor Damage is reported as a result of the accident, and there were no injuries. All proper reports were completed and the drivers went on their way.

On 12/11 at approximately 6:40 p.m., an officer of the Stockton Police Department responded to a request to check the welfare of a citizen who lives on Maple Street. The persons' sister had been trying to get in touch with the person and was not receiving any answer to phone calls. On arrival at the residence, the Officer found the subject of the welfare check to be in good health. The sister was contacted with the good news. No further police assistance was required.

On 12/11 at 7:08 p.m. the Stockton Police were dispatched to an assist the ambulance call at an address on Main Street. On arrival, the officer gave aid and comfort until the arrival of the Stockton Ambulance. Once the ambulance arrived, medical assistance was rendered and the victim was removed to the hospital. No further police assistance was required.

On 12/11 at approximately 8:16 p.m., A Stockton Police Officer was on routine patrol, when he observed

a Green, 2012 Toyota SUV bearing Illinois registration, travelling westbound on Route 20 near the intersection with Pearl Street at approximately 52 mph in a 30 mph zone. The officer then observed the vehicle to break sharply and then turn into the oncoming lane of traffic. The vehicle jumped the curb, ran under and through a chain link fence and over a sign at Stockton Lions Memorial Field, coming to a stop on top of the football field. On arrival at the scene, the officer was able to ascertain that there was only one person in the car and there was no injury to that person. The driver was identified and the vehicle was still operable and the vehicle was able to be removed from the field without a tow truck. Through investigation, it was determined that the driver lost control of his vehicle on the snow and ice while driving at an excessive speed. Accident reports were completed for the damage to the fence at the park and the driver was issued traffic citations for Speeding and Failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident. A court date has been scheduled in Jo Daviess County.

At approximately 12:35 p.m. on 12/14, The Stockton Police were dispatched to the area of the rear of the 100 Block of East Front Street in reference to a disturbance involving a snowplow. On arrival, officer met with the complainant who stated that he was snowplowing, as he always does in the rear parking area, when a resident of the building began to yell at him that he was plowing wrong and he would not be able to get his car out and that this was his property and he didn't want this plowing done in this manner. Upon further investigation, it was found that the snowplow driver was in fact, doing his job correctly, and that the resident was causing the disturbance for unknown reasons as he had already gotten his car out of the parking lot. The complainant stated that he was already done plowing and did not want any further action. The resident was advised not to cause a disturbance with the driver in the future. All persons left the scene and no further police

action was needed.

At approximately 2:03 p.m. on 12/14, the Stockton Police were dispatched to the area on Route 20 and Route 78 North, in reference to a young, male subject walking north along the road. The caller was worried about the persons' health due to the extreme cold. On arrival, the officer was able to locate the person. The person assured the officer that he was in fine health and only had a short distance to walk, and did not need police assistance.

On 12/14 at about 3 p.m. an officer of the Stockton Police Department was contacted by a female subject in reference to a theft. The female victim stated that on 12/12/2016, she discovered that her EBT card was missing. The victim contacted the phone number for EBT and was advised the EBT had been used on 12/12/2016 at 3:25 p.m. at Sullivan's Foods in Free-

port, Illinois and again on 12/13/2016 at 1:44 pm at Wal-Mart in Freeport. The victim did not contact the EBT until Dec. 13, to have the EBT card discontinued. The victim did not contact the police until 12/14/2016. The case is still under investigation by the Stockton Police Department.

At approximately 2:24 p.m. on 12/15, the Stockton Police Department was dispatched to assist the Jo Daviess County Sheriffs' Office on an accident involving a rollover car crash on Stockton Road. This accident is under investigation by the Jo Daviess County Sheriffs' Office.

On 12/15 at approximately 7:50 p.m., an officer of the Stockton Police Department met with a complainant regarding a custody dispute between the complainant and her ex-spouse, regarding their daughter. The complainant stated to the officer that her daughter had been arguing with her

and her step-father regarding a family matter. The daughter was upset, but was taken to school. When it was time to pick her daughter, the complainant stated that her daughter was already gone from school and had been picked up by the non-custodial parent. The non-custodial parent was contacted and due to the nature of the argument and the mental state of the daughter, it was agreed between parents, that they would exchange custody the following day at school. No further police assistance was needed at this time. This incident was documented by report, in case further action is needed in the future.

Police Chief Tom Sheehan of the Stockton Police Department would like to remind everyone, that persons charged with crimes or violations of Illinois Statutes are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Traffic crash with injury

On 12/16 at approximately 6:55 a.m. the Jo Daviess County Sheriff's Office received a report from the Grant County Sheriff's Office of a one vehicle rollover traffic crash that was located on RT 5 West approximately ¼ mile north of RT 6 West in rural East Dubuque. According to the report the vehicle's registered owner, Kelly Conrad Gorasson, had been taken from the crash scene by personal vehicle to Mercy Hospital for treatment. During the initial crash investigation, deputies were able to determine the crashed vehicle, a blue 1999 Chevy Tahoe, had been traveling southeast on RT 5 West when it veered off the roadway to the east and rolled. This crash remains under investigation

Village of Elizabeth to hold 'Truth in Taxation' hearing

The Village of Elizabeth will have an informational "Truth in Taxation" hearing explaining the new Tax Levy on Wednesday, Dec. 21, at 6:45 p.m. at the Village Municipal Building, Room 139.



COURTESY PHOTO The Scoop Today

Cargill donates to Warren FFA Alumni

The Cargill Care Committee and the Cargill Company have made a substantial donation to the Warren FFA Alumni to help us reach our goal of making the Warren CUD #205 greenhouse a reality this summer. We very much appreciate Charlie Nelson and Mike Kotten attending our bi-monthly meeting to promote the work of the Cargill Cares Committee who made a \$10,000 donation. The matching donation of \$5,000 was made by the Cargill Company. The next FFA Alumni meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on Feb. 13. All are welcome. Photo L to R: Mike Kotten, Ashley Heimann, Tyler Wulfekuhle, Bryana Wulfekuhle and Charlie Nelson

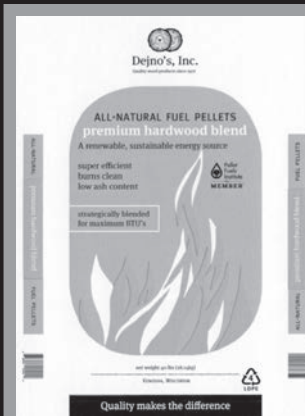
I would like to thank the Stockton Ambulance crew and police department and all the friends and neighbors that remembered me during the heart attack and in the recovery.

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VIEWPOINT

From the desk of Illinois State Representative Brian W. Stewart

Christmas is without a doubt my favorite time of the year. I'm not quite sure how to explain it exactly, but during the two weeks leading up to Christmas, everyone just appears to be happier, and it couldn't come at a better time considering we are suffering through a cold spell in the dead of winter.

We all enjoy the little things about the holidays: whether it be the decorations, the lights, the music, the presents, or the Christmas movies. And then there's the glimmering hope of the New Year; the idea that everything bad that happened in 2016 will be in the past. The year 2017 will be a blank slate and a fresh start. This is certainly the most wonderful time of the year.

Over the past several months you've heard me week after week lamenting the current state of the state. By now you know that we have more than our share of challenges in the coming New Year, but we also have a grand opportunity: we can start the New Year fresh. Of course, the issues

that have plagued our state will still exist 2017, but that doesn't mean that the partisan conflicts need to continue.

Perhaps I'm being a hopeless optimist, but I see a sliver of hope for Illinois. The task ahead is daunting and the road is long, but as I've said before there isn't a reason why we can't meet somewhere in the middle. Just this morning I read that the other side of the aisle is considering backing away from an adversarial role. If true, that would be welcoming news to just about all of us.

There is also a report out from Chicago Tonight that House Democrats may be considering an early retirement for the longtime Speaker of the House. Just maybe, for the first time in decades, bi-partisan compromise is within grasp. Perhaps my friends on the other side of the aisle will seek a thawing of relations for the good of the state. As far as I'm concerned, that would be the ultimate Christmas gift.

I mentioned Christmas movies earlier in the column, and right now

there's one that comes to mind when we talk about putting aside our differences to meet in the middle. There's a foreign World War I film (I know, not your traditional Christmas movie) called *Joyeux Noel*. To give you a brief synopsis: Allied and German soldiers reach an unofficial truce on the Western Front in 1914, and both sides cross into no-mans land and spend the night singing Christmas carols. The premise sounds ridiculous right? Well believe it or not the movie was inspired by actual events.

My point is this: if Allied and German soldiers could come together at Christmas, then maybe it's not too farfetched to believe that there's hope for us in Illinois. We aren't enemies facing off on a battlefield; we are political opponents who just see things differently. I hope and pray that we can find a way to leave our trenches and meet in the middle.

I would be remiss if I didn't make mention of all the local charities that need all of our help at this time of year. There are too many to mention, but all

of them do great work for Northwest Illinois. Amidst the hustle and bustle of Holiday shopping and gift giving, please remember to give a gift to those in need. I truly believe that you reap what you sow, so why not go into the New Year sowing good seeds throughout our community. Whether it's a red kettle, a toy drive, or a donation to a food pantry - please consider investing in our community.

I'll leave you with the profound

words of Winston Churchill who said: "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." May we all take stock of this simple truth as we go about the Holiday Season? And from the bottom of my heart to all of you, I wish you a Merry Christmas!

As always, you can reach me or Sally at 815/232-0774 or e-mail us at repstewart@gmail.com. You can also visit my website at www.repbrianstewart.com or on Facebook.

Want to volunteer? The Senior Resource Center needs your help

The Senior Resource Center in Hanover is seeking volunteers to assist primarily with general office and receptionist duties. These individuals would answer phones and greet those who visit the office. Other volunteers could help with activities as needed.

According to Sue Lambert, center executive director, hours are flexible. "We adjust schedules to meet the needs of our volunteers. We rec-

ognize that people are available at different times, and we are happy to have them help when they can."

Prospective volunteers need to complete a short application, which can be mailed to them, or picked up at the Hanover office, 500 Fillmore St.

For more information, please call the Senior Resource Center at (815) 777-1316.

Senate Week in Review

Little progress was made during the week on crafting a full-year state budget with economic reforms for Illinois, even as the clock continues to run on the current compromise stop-gap budget. The state's spending authority for a number of programs ends Jan. 1.

Also during the week, Senate and House legislators questioned Illinois Department of Human Services officials about abuse and neglect charges against a group home company.

No progress on budget

Gov. Bruce Rauner and legislative leaders did not meet this week to discuss a full-year spending plan and necessary economic reforms. It

also appears that little was accomplished during recent meetings of working groups trying to find agreement on workers' compensation reform and mandate relief for local governments.

"Every day we don't fix the budget it gets worse, and we need real reforms that'll put us on a sound fiscal path," said Senate Republican Leader Christine Radogno of Lemont. "Getting a balanced budget should be our top priority, and I'm ready to meet at any time."

Legislative leaders and the Governor had been meeting regularly for several weeks, but House Speaker Michael Madigan has appeared to be using stall tactics and refusing

to engage in meaningful good-faith negotiations, in order to pass yet another stopgap measure that will lead to an even bigger tax hike without reforms. In response, Gov. Rauner announced Dec. 7 that budget meetings would be suspended until Democrat legislative leaders submitted their own budget proposal.

Years of irresponsible tax-and-spend policies by the two prior administrations have left state government teetering on the edge of a fiscal cliff. Republican lawmakers will continue to work for a complete and constitutional state budget - in which spending matches revenue - and essential economic reforms that will keep businesses and jobs from leaving Illinois.

The following programs are endangered if there is no budget agreement on Jan. 1:

- MAP grants for students relaying on state assistance
- Community Care Program for moderate-income seniors to keep them in their homes instead of nursing homes (just the non-Medicaid portion would be affected. Medicaid portion is covered by court order)
- Community-based addiction treatment
- Community Mental Health
- Prostate Cancer programs at Department of Public Health
- Bullying Prevention

New law to reduce recidivism

A new law signed this week will ensure that any person being released from the Department of Corrections (DOC) or Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) has a valid state identification card upon release, a commonsense act that will help low-level offenders secure employment, housing and establish fi-

financial stability.

Senate Bill 3368 requires the Secretary of State to issue a standard Illinois ID card, at the time of their release, to any person being released from the DOC or DJJ who present their birth certificate, Social Security card, or other documents authorized by the Secretary, and two proofs of address. For individuals without these documents, the Secretary of State will issue a limited-term, 90-day ID to released individuals who present a verified document from DOC/DJJ with their name, birth date, Social Security number, and proof of address. They then have 90 days to present this ID at the Secretary of State to receive a standard issue ID.

The new law is a recommendation by the Illinois State Commission on Criminal Justice and Sentencing Reform convened by the Governor to reduce the state's current prison population 25 percent by 2025.

Lawmakers question abuse and neglect of disabled residents

On Dec. 13, a Cook County judge ordered Disability Services of Illinois, a group home company whose state license was revoked in November after media reports of abuse and neglect, to release 18 resident adults with disabilities from the company's care.

Lawmakers in a joint Senate-House hearing questioned Illinois Department of Human Services (DHS) officials on Dec. 13 about a Chicago Tribune report of hundreds of cases in which abuse and neglect charges were investigated and cleared by group home employees.

Senate Republican members of the Senate Human Services Committee, noted that the Chicago Tri-

bune's investigation made clear that the problem occurred almost entirely during the administration of former Gov. Pat Quinn. The Senators had requested that former DHS Secretaries Carol Adams and Michelle Saddler be asked to present testimony during the hearing. Neither Adams nor Saddler attended the meeting.

At the hearing, current DHS Secretary Jim Dimas outlined the steps the department has taken in the last two years to prevent tragic deaths like those detailed by the Chicago Tribune in November. According to Dimas, who was appointed by Gov. Rauner in May 2015, DHS has instituted more than a dozen reform measures to ensure proper care of 12,000 adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Perhaps one of the most important reforms Dimas discussed is one which would provide the public with some access to previously sealed investigative files. According to Dimas, DHS is working with the office of the Illinois Attorney General to provide more information to families and guardians of those in DHS care.

Cold weather safety tips

With a wave of bitterly cold temperatures sweeping through Illinois, the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) reminds people of the health dangers of extreme low temperatures, such as frostbite and hypothermia, and provides tips about how to stay warm as well as information about heating safety.

Weathering Winter information can be found on the IDPH website, and additional safety information is available on the state's Ready Illinois website at www.Ready.Illinois.gov.

THE SCOOP TODAY

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ON THE RECORD

Obituaries

EVELYN A. FOSTER

Evelyn Ann Brudi Foster, age 81, a long time resident of Yorba Linda, California, went to be with the Lord on Nov. 27, 2016, after a long courageous battle with cancer.



She was with her husband and loving family.

Evelyn Ann was born to Carl and Lois (Winter) Brudi, on the family farm, in Woodbine, IL, July 13, 1935. Evelyn was confirmed in 1949 from Christ Lutheran Church, Stockton, IL. She was a graduate of Stockton High School, class of 1953, with additional college courses.

She moved to Long Beach, California in 1955 where she met her husband Jack. They married Sept. 3, 1955. She loved sewing, with many beautiful projects completed. As a member of the American Sewing Guild, she sewed chemo hats for those afflicted with cancer.

Evelyn retired from Hughes Aircraft, after 15 years, where she was a Planning Supervisor. She was generous, kind, and adored by those who knew her.

Evelyn is survived by her husband, Jack Foster, son, Walter, three daughters, Valerie Foster-Young, Linda Foster, and Carol Foster; eight grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren; sisters, Carol (Wayne) Westaby, Lena IL; Beulah (Paul) Klaus, Freeport, IL; brothers Armin (Jolene) Brudi, Rock Grove, IL; and George (Mary) Brudi, Mannette, WI.

She was preceded in death by her parents Carl and Lois Brudi; and grandson Joshua Stephenson.

Funeral Services were held on Dec. 13, at Trinity Lutheran Church, 4101 E. Nohl Ranch Rd., Anaheim, California.

MURNICE DITTMAR

Murnice Dittmar, age 90, of Elizabeth, Illinois, died Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2016, at the Elizabeth Nursing Home.



Visitation was held Dec. 15, at Law-Jones Funeral Home, Elizabeth. A funeral service was held Dec. 16, at the First United Methodist Church in Elizabeth. Burial took place in the Elizabeth Cemetery. Family and friends are invited to share in Murnice's life at www.lawjonesfuneralhome.com.



COURTESY PHOTO The Scoop Today

Twenty 4-H members from across the state were honored for their lifetime 4-H achievements. The Illinois 4-H Award recognizes exemplary work in five major areas, including communications, community service, leadership, personal growth and project mastery. The winners were recognized during a ceremony held Nov. 19 in Champaign. Pictured (front, left to right) Erin Stichter, Grace Skelton, Shelby Ledbetter, and Parker Karrick; (middle) Eli Tobin, Courtney Wiedenmann, Alyssa Garner, Isabella Warmack, Clayton Skelton, Kaley Rouse, and James Martin; and (back) Devin Koester, Josephine Hubele, Clare VanSpeybroeck, David Kloppe, Zachary Perkins, and William Short. Not pictured are Kaitlyn Ball, Austin Brockmann, and Julia Taraszewski.

State's highest award presented to local 4-H members

Twenty 4-H members from across the state were honored for their lifetime 4-H achievements. The Illinois State 4-H Award recognizes exemplary work in five major areas, including communications, com-

munity service, leadership, personal growth and project mastery. The winners were recognized during a ceremony held Nov. 19 in Champaign.

Winners received either a trip to National 4-H Congress, \$1,000 toward the cost of another national 4-H event, or a \$1,000 college scholarship as their prize. The award is supported through gifts to the Illinois 4-H Foundation by donors, including the Illinois Farm Bureau, Durbin Veterinary Clinic, Ruthann Bauroth, Jennifer Cowser, Peter Johnson, Susan Moore, Donna Mueller, Keith Parr, Phyllis Ruwe, Ryan Ruwe, Elizabeth Schnitzler, James Shinn, Kenneth Smith, Rod Stoll, and Gerald Theile. Illinois 4-H Foundation Board Members Barbara Clark and Jan Sibley made the presentations of prizes to the winners.

Award recipients recognized at this ceremony included three area 4-Hers; Drew Groezinger, Kyle Hubb, and Devin Koester.

Winners in the Personal Growth area included Devin Koester of Jo Daviess County. Devin is the 16-year-old son of Karen Koester of Elizabeth. He is a 9-year member of the Top Notchers 4-H Club where his project work focused on the Health project.

Previous winners who continue to excel in their previous award area were presented 4-H Blue Awards. Winners included Drew Groezinger of Jo Daviess County. Drew is the 18-year-old son of Pennie and Daryl Groezinger of Stockton. He is entering his 11th year as a member of the Chelsea Busy Bees 4-H Club. He was a member of the Illinois 4-H Poultry Judging Team.

The 4-H Key Award winners were

also recognized during this event. This award was given to members for their achievements in leadership, community service, and mentoring. Winners included Drew Groezinger of Jo Daviess County and Kyle Hubb of Jo Daviess County. Kyle Hubb is the 19-year-old son of Larry and Leisa Hubb of Stockton. He just completed his 11 year membership in Jo Daviess County 4-H and is eager to begin his 4-H career as an adult volunteer.

Births

CHARLOTTE MAURER

Hannah and Zach Maurer of Shannon, Ill. are the parents of a daughter Charlotte Michelle Maurer born Saturday Dec. 10, 2016 at FHN Memorial Hospital, Freeport, Ill. Grandparents are Michelle Boyer of Mt. Carroll, Ill., Randy and Lori Boyer of Kent, Ill. and Tim and Julie Maurer of Pearl City, Ill.

HUDSON WARD

Shawn and Jessica Ward of Orangeville, Ill. are the parents of a son Hudson Albert Ward born Tuesday Dec. 13, 2016 at FHN Memorial Hospital, Freeport, Ill. Hudson joins a sister, Kinley, 4. Grandparents are Pam and Rodney Vautsmeier and Steve Ward all of Freeport and Brian and Julie Markel of Orangeville. Great grandparents are Jane Lindenman of Freeport, Rosemary Ward of Boca Raton, Fla., Carson Ward of Cape Coral, Fla. and Bev Markel and Eleanor Willhite both of Orangeville.

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Area 4-H'ers honored at annual award and volunteer recognition event

Nov. 13, set the stage for the annual Stephenson County 4-H Award & Volunteer Recognition event held at the Eagles Club in Freeport. This annual event is held to award 4-H members for their outstanding ac-

complishments throughout the year and recognize 4-H volunteers for all the time and energy they give to make Stephenson County 4-H the best it can be. Emcee for the event was Lori Tessoroff, 4-H Program

Coordinator.

Prior to the event, 4-H members are judged on award applications they fill out and turn in at the county level. "The award applications are a way for 4-H'ers to explain progress and challenges they faced while completing their projects," states Lori Tessoroff, Program Coordinator. "It also gives them a chance to highlight other activities they've participated in at the club, county, and state levels both within and outside of 4-H."

Awards were given in the following project areas: Michelle Marck of Freeport Fantastics for Communications and Project Mastery; Krista Keene of Lena Live Wires for Community Service; Megan Hayunga of Freeport Fantastics for Leadership and Project Mastery; Sydney Hayunga of Freeport Fantastics for Personal Growth; Anna Kuper of Florence Crickets for Personal Growth; Zakary Krahmer of Lena Lucky Clovers for Project Mastery; Leah Kuper of Florence Crickets for Project Mastery; Odin Stabenow of Lena Lucky Clovers for Project Mastery; Madison Young of Lena Lucky Clovers for Project Mastery; and Rachel Young of Lena Lucky Clovers for Project Mastery.

This year's Top First-Year 4-H members included: Cassie Boyer (Davis Rockets), Rachel Busker (Country Cuzins), Alaina Dinderman (Snappy Snazzers), Jacob Mitchell (Country Cuzins) and Lillian Webb (Freeport Fantastics).

Taryn Mathews (Florence Crickets) was the 4-H Program Book Cover winner. The following Club Officers were also recognized: Madison Young (Lena Lucky Clovers) for Scrapbook; Davis Rockets 4-H Club for Recreation; Krista Keene (Lena Live Wires) for Club Reporter; Samantha Elliott (Davis Rockets) for Treasurer; Margaret Otto (Florence Crickets) for Secretary; Kyla Glendenning and Leah Kuper (Florence Crickets) for Co-Presidents; and Casey Crain, Della Crain, Krista Keene, Samuel Pecoraro, Andrea Sutter, Christian Sutter and Michael Sutter (Lena Live Wires) for Officer Team of the Year.

A new award titled the 4-H Bright Futures Award (sponsored by Green Leaf and Tractor Supply) was given to Jasey Sheffey (Pearl Valley Rangers) who exhibited an outstanding agricultural 4-H project. Jase impressed the judges with his Animal Science poster and vast knowledge of his project area. Talking one-on-one with the judges not only earned him a champion ribbon and trophy at the county show, but also a Superior ribbon at the IL State Fair.

Twenty-Five adult volunteers who reached a milestone year of 1, 5, 10, 15, 20 and 30 years for being leaders in a 4-H club were given special recognition. The one-year leaders were: Staci Boeck (Freeport Fantastics), Michael Dechy (Shooting Sports), Katie Engelkens (Rainbow Rangers), Alicia Glendenning (Florence Crickets), Ashley Wichman (Country Cuzins), Jessica Willis (Whiz Kids), and Connie Witte (Freeport Fantastics); Five-year leaders were: Kristi Krahmer (Lena Lucky Clovers), Mark Rust (Shooting Sports), and Talena Wuebbels (Freeport Fantastics). Ten-year leaders were: Larry Campbell (Davis Rockets), Dean Kuper (Florence Crickets), Lisa Kuper (Florence Crickets), Leslie Musser (Pearl City Hornets), and Karen Wilhelms (Rainbow Rangers). The fifteen-year leaders were: Sheila Bolen (German Valley Golden Eagles), Bonnie Campbell (Davis Rockets), Jacki Sander (Baileyville Bandits), Larry Sander (Baileyville Bandits), and Barbara Wire (Lena Lucky Clovers). Twenty-year leaders were: Karlene Beckmeier (Country Cuzins), Carol Hayungaperrin (Whiz Kids), and Kathy Lochowitz (Pearl City Hornets). The thirty-year leaders were: Linda Meier (Country Cuzins) and Dorothy Wire (Lena Lucky Clovers). Pat Yeagle (Snappy Snazzers), who has served many, many years and given

so much to the 4-H program, was recognized for reaching her 37-year anniversary.

Bonnie Campbell of Davis Rockets was also chosen as the 2016 Adult Volunteer of the Year; Megan Hayung of Freeport Fantastics for 2016 Youth Volunteer of the Year; Judy Zier of Lena Live Wires was named the 2016 4-H Alumni of the Year; and the Club Leader Team of the Year award was presented to Alicia Glendenning, Dean Kuper, Lisa Kuper and Marsha Lott from the Florence Crickets 4-H Club.

Club of the Year is awarded to a large club with 20 members or more and a small club with 19 members or less. Selection is made from applications submitted by the club, detailing yearly activities and volunteer and youth involvement. This year's Large Club of the Year is Lena Lucky Clovers. This year's Small Club of the Year is Davis Rockets.

The Sutter Family (Bob, Darci, Kevyn-Ann, Michael, Christian, Andrea, Garrett, Alonnah and Ainsley) were recognized as the Family of the Year. This family started its 4-H career more than seven years ago and has participated as a family at the Pork Chop Dinner, Pizza Hut stand, and the 4-H recruitment booth at the fair. They are county and state 4-H show champions, are always actively promoting 4-H through local events, and very involved with their church and teaching.

The Top 4-H'er award is the most prestigious award a member can receive at the county level. The Top 4-H'er award was given to Megan Hayung of the Freeport Fantastics 4-H Club. When reading Megan's award application, she stated, "I have had to stand in front of large groups and speak about my experience in 4-H. I am sure the leadership skills and confidence I have learned through 4-H will continue to help me in college and my career."

Illinois 4-H strives to help youth learn skills for living. 4-H programs are offered in every Illinois county by University of Illinois Extension. Illinois 4-H aims to impact the lives of 250,000 youth each year through sustained learning clubs and groups and short-term programming. 4-H is a community of seven million young people around the world learning leadership, citizenship, & life skills. For more information on how to get involved with 4-H, contact University of Illinois Extension-Stephenson County at (815) 235-4125.



There's no place like home for the holidays

Here's hoping yours is filled with Peace, Love and Joy, and may the New Year bring you Health and Happiness. Our Best Wishes to all.

Pat, Faye, Bill, Adam, Ashley, Lisa and Linda



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Stockton to host thirty-first annual Community Christmas Dinner

The annual Stockton Community Christmas Dinner will be held Dec. 25, at noon at Holy Cross Church in Stockton. We believe this is the thirty-first year the churches have worked together to provide this dinner. All persons are invited, especially those who will not be with family on Christmas. Reservations can be made at each church until Dec. 20 or by phone to Elaine Schlichting at (815) 947-3795, but are not needed. If you need a ride, please let us know. Deliveries will also be made to shut-ins in the immediate Stockton area, just remember to give your address and phone number.

Turkey, dressing, potatoes, gravy, corn, beans, red salad, rolls, pies and angel food cake are on the menu.

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Warren students recognized as IL State Scholars

Warren Jr/Sr High School is pleased to announce that JoAnna Dillon and Emma Riedl have been recognized as Illinois State Scholars. Selection is based on SAT or ACT scores, and/or class rank at the end of the junior year.



COURTESY PHOTO The Scoop Today

Scales Mound Artists and Musicians of the Month

Scales Mound Community Unit School District 211 congratulates the following students who were recognized as art and music students of the month. These students are chosen based on leadership, positive attitude, responsibility, reliability, respect, effort, and growth in art and music. Congratulations to: Arts of the Month (back row): Kennedy Kudronowicz and Isabella Cole. Musicians of the Month (front row): Collin Malin, Garrett Pickel, and Erin Winter

33rd Annual Clinton Bald Eagle Watch scheduled for Jan. 7

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Mississippi River Project, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Clinton Community College, and the Stewards of the Upper Mississippi River Refuge will be hosting the 33rd Annual Bald Eagle Watch on Saturday Jan. 7, 2017. Educational

programs and environmental exhibits will be held at the Clinton Community College. Clinton Community College is located at 1000 Lincoln Blvd, Clinton, Iowa. Eagle viewing will be held at Lock & Dam #13 in Fulton, Illinois off Highway 84.

The event will be open from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. to view exhibits and watch educational programs. This year's schedule is as follows:
9:20 a.m. - Welcome to Eagle Watch.
9:30 a.m. - "Live Birds of Prey" - Bald Eagle and other raptors - Kay Neumann & Terrie Hoefler - SOAR, Dedham, IL

10:45 a.m. - "Investigating Bald Eagle Movements across the Midwest Landscape" - Sara Schmuecker - USFWS, Rock Island, IL
11:15 a.m. - "Who Lives with Eagles?" - David Stokes, Naturalist - West Berlin, IL
1 p.m. - "Live Birds of Prey" - Bald Eagle and other raptors - Kay Neumann & Terrie Hoefler - SOAR, Dedham, IL

Programs and exhibits at the college will feature live animals, puppets, song, and food & drinks. A courtesy bus shuttle will be provided

between Clinton Community College and Lock & Dam #13 departing and arriving every hour beginning at 10 a.m. and concluding at 2 p.m. Taking the bus is encouraged as parking is limited at the Lock & Dam. Refreshments will be served at the viewing area and visitors will be allowed to enter the Lock & Dam

to view educational material and warm up. There is no charge to attend this event.

For more information on the 33rd Annual Clinton Bald Eagle Watch please contact the Thomson Rangers at (815) 259-3628 or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at (815) 273-2732.

Millie's quote of the week

"You must ask God to give you power to fight against the sin of pride which is your greatest enemy - the root of all that is evil, and the failure of all that is good. For God resists the proud."

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Citizens State Bank gives back to the community

(Above Left) Fritz Kuhlmeier of Citizens State Bank President and CEO presents a check in the amount of \$1000 to the Lena Food Pantry.

(Above Right) Citizens State Bank Customer Service Representative Annette Wichman presents a check to Dean Wright Freeport Area Church Cooperative.

(Right) Brock Musser and Mike Mammoser present a check from Citizens State Bank to Darlene Steffes of the Stockton Food Pantry

Discovery Center hosts New Year's Eve celebration for families

Discovery Center Museum will host a kid-style New Year's Eve party on Saturday, Dec. 31 from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Science, games, music, crafts and art come together as Discovery Center counts down to midnight - somewhere in the world - at 1, 2, 3 and 4 p.m. during Countdown to Fun! And no New Year's Eve party would be complete without party hats, confetti, and noisemakers to add to the festivities! The event is sponsored in part by Williams-Manny, Inc.

Cost (except planetarium shows) is included with admission to Discovery Center - \$8 adults; \$8 children ages 2-17 and free for Discovery Center Members and children age 1 and younger. Planetarium shows are \$1 for the public and \$.50 for members.

Discovery Center will close at 3 p.m. on Christmas Eve, and be closed Christmas Day. Discovery Center will be open normal hours on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day - from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

GET FITTEAM CHALLENGE

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



The challenge kicks off on January 8,
with baseline screens* being held at
FHN Burchard Hills Facility Lower Level on:

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| January 4, 2017 10 am-1 pm | January 5, 2017 3 pm-6 pm | January 7, 2017 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 2017—or if you'd like to resolve that now—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.



CHURCH NOTES

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church will gather for worship Dec. 25, at 118 E. Mason St. Lena, IL, at 9:30 a.m. All are invited to worship on this Christmas Day Service with lessons, carols and Holy Communion.

Following the service the congregation will gather for conversation, sharing, coffee, juice and treats in the Fellowship Hall.

On Monday Dec. 26, the church office will be closed.

On Wednesday Dec. 28, at 8:00 a.m. the Piece Corps Quilters will work together to craft quilts for Lutheran World Relief. They are always looking for more people to help tie quilts and sew. No previous quilting experience is necessary. Come join the fun and make a difference in the world!

St. John's

St. John's will host Christmas Eve Candlelight worship services at 5 and 9 p.m. on Dec. 24. The services will include special music and the Chancel Choir will sing at the 9 p.m. service. A Christmas Day worship service will be at 9 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 25.

St. John's will have a service of carols and readings on Sunday, Jan. 1, titled, "The Five Gifts of Christmas." All are welcome to join us to celebrate the Christmas season.

Anyone is interested in walking for exercise is welcome to walk at St. John's on Monday Dec. 19, and Thursday, Dec. 22, at 8:30 a.m. in the Lower Level. Everyone is welcome to join the walk (members and non-members are welcome)! No walking the week of Dec. 26, but will resume on Jan. 2.

The St. John's office will be closed on Dec. 24-26 and Dec. 31 - Jan. 2, 2017. However, all voicemail messages and email messages regarding pastoral care will be addressed. Merry Christmas!

St. Paul Lutheran Church

Come to St. Paul Lutheran Church in Elizabeth on Dec. 24 at 6 p.m. for our annual Children's Christmas Eve Program! The children will be answering the question, "What is Christmas?" Familiar hymns will be sung throughout the program, and it will conclude with a candlelight singing of "Silent Night". Join us as we remember the real reason of the Christmas season. We will also hold a Christmas Day service at 10 a.m. Questions? Please call the office at (815) 858-3334.

St. Paul's

At 4:30 p.m. on Dec. 24, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 1334 N. Sunnyside Road, in Kent will hold their annual Christmas Eve Service, weather permitting. Deb Winning will provide organ music. "O Holy Night" will be sung by Pastor Carole Andres. Holy Communion will be celebrated. An antiphonal reading of Old Testament prophecy and selections from the first chapter of John will be read, emphasizing the relationship of prophecy to the birth of Christ. The lights will slowly go out until the sanctuary is bathed in candlelight. "Silent Night" will be sung, and we will return to our homes to wait for the coming of the Christ Child. There will be no Christmas Day Worship. All are welcome at the little church with the big heart. Come join us in the suburbs of Kent. For more information, call 232-4010.

Willow/Kent United Methodist Churches

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be Sat., Dec. 24, at 5 p.m. at Willow UMC. All are invited and welcome to this service. Come celebrate the arrival of our Lord Jesus Christ, and look forward to celebrating His birthday the next morning. All are invited and welcome.

Willow UMC is located about 7 miles SE of Stockton, IL on Willow Rd.

Christmas Day, Sunday, Dec. 25, we will be celebrating the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ together at Kent UMC at 9 a.m. Pastor Brenda Morris will be bringing the Christmas message. All are invited and welcome.

Kent UMC is located right in the town of Kent, IL. For more information, please call (815) 601-6742.

What's Christmas without nativity sets, manger scenes, and crèches?

Do you love these symbols of the season? If so, join us at Calvary United Methodist Church in Stockton Friday Jan. 6, (Epiphany) from 5-7 p.m. for the first ever Nativity show. Come see collections including free standing sets, wall hangings, and ornaments - new and old- purchased and handmade. If you have

a set or item(s) you would like to share, bring them to the church by 5 p.m.

For more information, contact Vicki Croffoot, at (815) 443-2406 or (815) 291- 6090. Light refreshments will be provided. Non-perishable donations for the Stockton Food Pantry would be appreciated.



COURTESY PHOTO *The Scoop Today*

Thank you for your support

Volunteer Hospice of Northwest Illinois would like to thank the communities in Jo Daviess, Stephenson and Carroll Counties for your generous support of our "Holiday Evergreen Fundraiser". Because of you, there were 56 cases of evergreens delivered to our office the Monday after Thanksgiving. Our office was filled with the winter smell of Christmas pine and our elves became very busy sorting, bagging, labeling and making sure all who ordered received them. The money raised through this fundraiser will be used to equip us with a few much needed items that will keep our office efficient and organized and able to fill the needs of those we serve. We hope you enjoy your evergreens as much as we enjoyed helping you choose them. Merry Christmas to all of you from all of us. We look forward to seeing you next year with our Holiday Evergreen Fundraiser.

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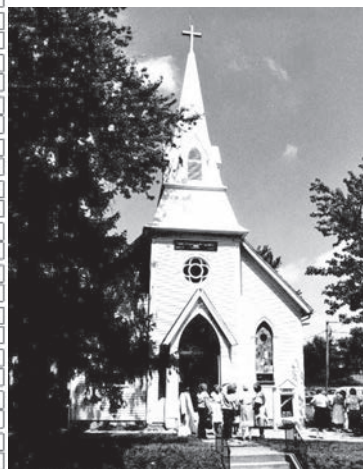
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Youth Wednesdays 7:00 p.m.

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Joy to the World!

Schapville Zion Presbyterian Church
635 E. Schapville Road
Elizabeth, IL 61028 • www.schapvillezion.org



Join us for
Christmas Eve
Candlelight
Worship

Saturday,
December 24
7:00 p.m.

266658

Letters To Santa

Mrs. Calow's Warren First Grade Class

Dear Santa,
Do you have a thousand elves? Is Rudolph true? Do you eat gingerbread men? Can I please have a cool army set that has cool stuff in it? Can I please have Plants vs Zombies Garden Warfare too? Can I also please have an electric scooter? Do you like chocolate cookies and milk? I will love you some.

Love, Logan
Dear Santa,
Do you really live in the North Pole? Do you help the elves make toys? What kind of cookies do you want? Santa I really want gel pens and papper, a hatchimal, and a hoverboard? Can I have an owl hatchimal? Can the pens be mostly every color? Santa you are the best person. You deliver the best presents ever. I will give you oatmeal cookies and white milk.

Sincerely, Winter

Dear Santa,
How do you get around the world? Do you get the presents for the children? Santa do you train the reindeer? I want a American Girl doll. The doll name is Tickles. I want Tickles to be Peach. Also I would like a penguin. I want a balrena doll because I want to be a balrena wen I grow up. What do you want?

Love, Isabel
Dear Santa,
Santa have your elves been good? Santa have your elves been working hard for Christmas? Santa have you been ocka? Santa can I please have a robot that can talk? Can I please have a stuff animal jumbo owl? Can I please have a compass wistle? Have a grat trip.

Love, William
Dear Santa,
Santa, is Rudolph really real? Do the elves get presents? How do you get the reindeer trande? I wood like

a Ipad that plays music not gams because my Mom said I can't. I wood like a blue hatchimal penguin. I wood like a big barn owl because I want it to match the owl on my wall. Thank you for giving to people all arwond the world.

Love, Merrick
Dear Santa,
How do your elves make toys? How do you deliver presents? Are some of your elves green? Santa can I have a cat, a real cat? Also can I have a dog? And can I cat food? Have a good Christmas.

Love, Larken
Dear Santa,
Do you the elves wreck riley hard at the North Pole doing toys? How do your rander have magic to fly? Do you fix your sleigh? Can I please have a John Deere tractor? Can I also have a toy elf? I hope you have a good trip.

Love, Mitchell

Mr. Kubat's Warren Elementary Third Grade

Dear Santa,
What have you done? What are your elves' names? Do you like oreos and milk? I will give you some if you like them. Please will you have some oreos and milk for free? You can ride my quad and have fun at my house. For Christmas I would like a Kindle Fire, please. Come to my house please. Can I ride in the sleigh, please? Can I have my family's presents? I will help my mom with dishes and laundry. I will help my dad and grandpa with chores and bottles.

Love, Riley
Dear Santa,
Is Mrs. Claus cookies good?

When is my elf on the shelf coming back? How is it going in the North Pole? One thing I want for Christmas is a Xbox One with the minecraft game. The reason I want it is because I played it with my cousin and I loved to play it every since. I deserve it because I feed my new dog and keep my room clean. Can I have the Xbox One please? Have a good Christmas!

Your friend, Kennedy
Dear Santa,
How many elves do you have? I will guess that you have a 1000,000,000 elves at your shop. What is your favorite food? (I would think cookies with thick frosting.) I really would like an iPad this Christmas. I would really like an iPad because my brother has one and he got it at this age. I would really like to get music, games, and YouTube on it. I would get those because that is what you do on an iPad. I would like the iPad to be an apple. I should get this because I ask my mom if I can clean the house with her. I would like a case with it and the case would be a dance one. I would also like if you could put me on it dancing. I deserve it because I am a good girl. I hope you have a good Christmas!

Love your friend, Averi
Dear Santa,
Is Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer real? I think he is only for babies. Do you want some Pepsi for Christmas? Who is your favorite elf? This year I really want a real four wheeler. I think I have been a good/bad boy this year. I want a toy to get around without having a car. I can't wait for Christmas. How many elves do you have? How many children in the world are there? I hope you had a nice year so far. Do you want some cookies? How old are you?

Your friend, Eric
Dear Santa,
Do you like cookies and milk? We give you cookies and milk and you don't eat it! Who is your favorite elf? How is Mrs. Clause? I hope she is doing good. How do your elves make toys? Can I have a PS4 because all my family members have more games than me. I help my mom clean and do dishes. I help my family and friends do their chores. Can I please have a PS4? Merry Christmas.

Your friend, Clif
Dear Santa,
How is it going? How many elves do you have? How do you make toys? I want an elf on the shelf this Christmas. I help feed calves at my Grandpa Rick's farm. I help my mom clean. I have always wanted an elf on the shelf, but my notes never get in the mail. So, if you bringing me one I would sure like that. I wish you a merry Christmas.

Your friend, Landon H
Dear Saint Nicholas,
What kind of cookies do you like? I like sugar cookies the most! Santa, what do you want for Christmas? For Christmas I want a new dolly and cloth clothing please! Can I have a black haired doll with a big dress the color of cream? I also want more dresses for the dolly! I want her so much! I cleaned, helped with laundry, and with cleaning the Guinea Pigs' cage! Santa, please oh please give me the dolly! I will be good for you all year long!

Love, Claudia
Dear Santa,
I wanted to know hoe Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer is doing? How many elves do you have? I am guessing you have over 500,000. I hope Mrs. Clause is doing good. This year I want a drone. I would put my phone in a place and fly it around. I was very good this year. I get my chores done. I feed and walk my dog Bear. Please could I have my drone for Christmas? I will set cookeis and milk out for you. Have a Merry Christmas!

Your friend, Keegan
Dear Santa,
Who is your favorite elf? What is your favorite food up north? Who is your favorite reindeer? Who does the toy machine? This year for Christmas I want NBA 2K17 for Xbox One. I should get it because I have watched my brother and cleaned my house. I also did my chores. This is special because there is barely any left and too much money for Xbox One. It looks like the game is 3D. I hope I get NBA 2K17 from you.

From, Jordan
Dear Santa,
Can you fly all around the world in just 50 minutes? How many elves do you have at the North Pole? I would like a model big boy locomotive. I want this toy because I can set it up on a train track at my house and play with it. I cleaned my room and my house and helped with the Christmas tree. I will leave you some milk and cookies on Christmas Eve.

Love from your friend, Landon M
Dear Santa,
Is it fun to make toys? I want to make toys. I can design Barbie dolls. I especially want to design their outfits. I want a Shoppy for Christmas. It could buy my Shopkins. A Shoppy is a doll that you can get some Shopkin sets. I deserve it because I try to remember to make my bed every morning and most of the time I remember. Also, I sometimes cook with my mom. Except sometimes, I get caught playing video games. Please leave the answers on a note by the cookies on Christmas night.

Love, Tarynn



May all your Christmas wishes come true!

We wish you & yours the best holiday ever!

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May the Holidays bring much joy to your home and family.
We look forward to seeing you again in the coming year.

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The Man behind the Story of Father Christmas/Santa Claus

St. Nicholas was a Bishop who lived in the fourth century in a place called Myra in Asia Minor (now called Turkey). He was a very rich man because his parents died when he was young and left him a lot of money. He was also a very kind man and had a reputation for helping the poor and giving secret gifts to people who

needed it. There are several legends about St. Nicholas, although we don't know if any of them are true!
The most famous story about St. Nicholas tells how the custom of hanging up stockings to get presents in first started! It goes like this:

There was a poor man who had

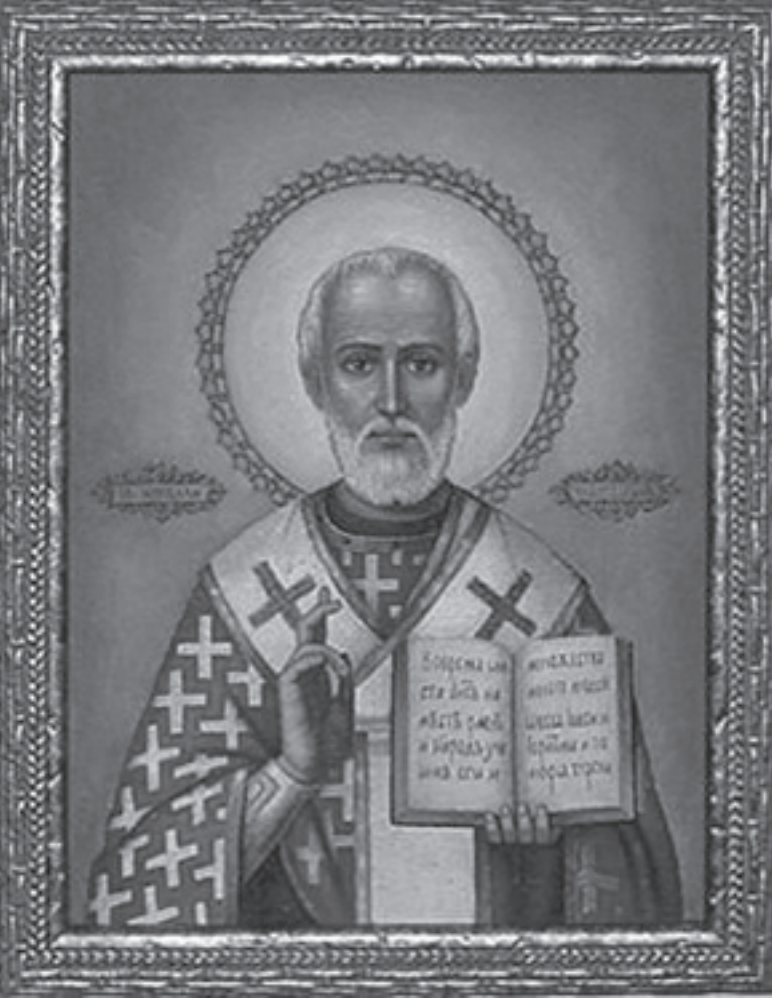
three daughters. He was so poor, he did not have enough money for a dowry, so his daughters couldn't get married. (A dowry is a sum of money paid to the bridegroom by the brides parents on the wedding day. This still happens in some countries, even today.) One night, Nicholas secretly dropped a bag of gold down the chimney and into the house (This meant that the oldest daughter was then able to be married.). The bag fell into a stocking that had been hung by the fire to dry! This was repeated later with the second daughter. Finally, determined to discover the person who had given him the money, the father secretly hid by the fire every evening until he caught Nicholas dropping in a bag of gold. Nicholas begged the man to not tell anyone what he had done, because he did not want to bring attention to himself. But soon the news got out and when

anyone received a secret gift, it was thought that maybe it was from Nicholas.

Because of his kindness Nicholas was made a Saint. St. Nicholas is not only the saint of children but also of sailors! One story tells of him helping some sailors that were caught in a dreadful storm off the coast of Turkey. The storm was raging around them and all the men were terrified that their ship would sink beneath the giant waves. They prayed to St. Nicholas to help them. Suddenly, he was standing on the deck before them. He ordered the sea to be calm, the storm died away, and they were able to sail their ship safely to

port.

St. Nicholas was exiled from Myra and later put in prison during the persecution by the Emperor Diocletian. No one is really knows when he died, but it was on 6th December in either 345 or 352. In 1087, his bones were stolen from Turkey by some Italian merchant sailors. The bones are now kept in the Church named after him in the Italian port of Bari. On St. Nicholas feast day (6th December), the sailors of Bari still carry his statue from the Cathedral out to sea, so that he can bless the waters and so give them safe voyages throughout the year.



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Thanks for your support
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We look forward to
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AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR



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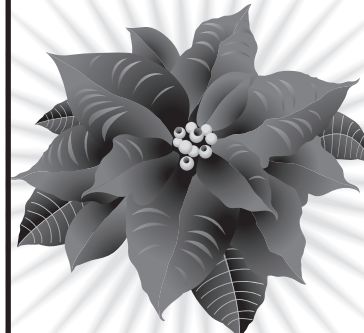
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& Joy
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Letters To Santa

Mrs. Steele's River Ridge First Grade Class

Dear Santa,
 How are you and Mrs. Claus doing? I tried to be good. I would like a Shoppy Girl.
 With love, Breck
 Dear Santa,
 Do you like Christmas cookies? I like Christmas cookies. Can you bring me some?
 With love, Grey
 Dear Santa;
 Do you like Christmas cookies? I would like a doll house and a Monster High doll.
 With love, Cheyenne
 Dear Santa,
 How are you and Mrs. Claus? I hope your elves are helping you. I want a computer for Christmas please.
 With love, Gavin
 Dear Santa,
 I want a fake dog to play with. Are the elves working for you?
 With love, Hailey
 Dear Santa,
 I want DC Collection toys and DC Hawkman and Shazam Gemod. Merry Christmas Please.
 With love, Dominick
 Dear Santa,
 How are you doing? I would like a laptop and a doll and that is all. For my mom she wants a new TV and I will bring cookies for you.
 With love, Bria
 Dear Santa,
 How are you? Can you bring

presents for me. How are your reindeer? Can I see Rudolph? Can I have a baby doll for Christmas.
 With love, Jordan
 Dear Santa,
 How are your doing? I think you are busy Santa and Mrs. Claus. Are the elves doing good? I want a nerf gun. Santa I hope you give me it.
 With love, Dalton
 Dear Santa,
 How are you doing? I hope you're fine. I want a Blue Echo Charly delta big size.
 With love, Clyde
 Dear Santa,
 How are you doing? If I'm on your good list I would like a tablet. Have a safe trip.
 With love, Alex
 Dear Santa,
 How are you doing? I bet you are getting helped a lot? I want a notebook for Christmas. I will leave milk and cookies for you.
 With love, Briton
 Dear Santa,
 I hope that you have a good Christmas. How are your reindeer? I hope that you like my apples. I hope that my sisters and me get presents. I hope that I get a toy truck.
 With love, Garrett
 Dear Santa,
 How are your reindeer doing? I would like a new DVD and a new PAW Patrol set.
 With love, Hayden

Dear Santa,
 How are you and Mrs. Claus and your elves doing today and your reindeers? I tried to be good, if I am on the good list, I would want money and a Lalaloopsy and legos elves and Doc Mcstuffins Vet.
 With love, Ella
 Dear Santa,
 What are you doing? I bet your elves are helping you a lot. I want a Barbie Toy. My sister wants a flashlight pen. I will have milk and cookies. Merry Christmas Santa.
 With love, Ashlynn
 Dear Santa,
 How are you and Mrs. Claus? I bet you are busy. Are your elves helping? I would like a 4 wheeler. How is Rudolph?
 With love, Wyatt
 Dear Santa,
 I want a remote, a special remote that makes me an elf.
 With love, Angelina
 Dear Santa,
 Can I have a new Stegasaurus? Santa when do you deliver presents? Have a Merry Christmas!
 With love, Bronx
 Dear Santa,
 How are you? Would you please give my sister an extra blanket. I want a Back To The Future Time Machine Lego Set.
 With love, Carson
 Dear Santa,
 How are you? I want night vision goggles. I want a Power Ranger watch.
 With love, Bryce

hele show and art things. I will leve milk and cakes for you and carits for the renedeer and hot coklit and my list.

Love, Gracie Allen
 Dear Santa,
 Hi Santa! How are you? I have been a very good boy this year. Can I please have a toy Milleneon Falcon in Star Wars? Can I please have a toy Whale? Can I please have a toy Polar Express? Thank you! Have a good Merry Christmas! Have a good time with your elves.
 Love you.
 Love, Nick Cobine
 Dear Santa,
 Hi Santa! How are the elves doing? I only would like 7 things. My mom and I have cookies for you. Thanks for the presents in the past.
 Your friend, Isabella Wasmund
 Dear Santa,
 Hi Santa! Are your raindeer doing good or bad? I bet they are doing great! I do not know if I have cookies for you. Anyway, I want a ukulele please. I really want one. And a book to teach me how to play it. Thank you for all you do!
 Love, Anna Wachter
 Dear Santa,
 How are you doing. I miss you. I have been a good girl. May I please have a phone, toys, tablet, and tire-swing, a millen wishes.
 Love, Khia Dyson
 Dear Santa,
 Hi how are the raindeer? Can I pleas have a real hammer and the lego camper set. Thank you for the presents in the past.
 Love, Cooper Douvikas
 Dear Santa,
 How is the elves and the raindeer. I have been kind of good but your watching me so I don't know. Can I have a scooter and some Legos?
 Love, Connor Bourrette
 Dear Santa,
 I love you so much. I have been a

good girl but it has been a hard year for me. I believe in you and can I please have some candy, Push Pops and stuffed animals.
 Love, Tami Ware
 Dear Santa,
 How are your reindeer doing? Are you full from all those cookies that people gave you? I have been a very good girl this year. We will leave carits out for the reindeers. May I have for Christmas a monster Hish school a cado comes. Merry Christmas!
 Love, Aubree Niccum
 Dear Santa,
 How are the raindeers? How is Mrs. Claus doing? How are you doing? How are the elves? How is the sleigh? Can I please have a hachimal and a gymnastics mat with my name on it.
 Love, Kenley Patterson
 Dear Santa,
 How are your elves doing? How are your raindeer. May I please have a tireswing? Thank you for the presents last year for Chirmis I what a sled for the snow.
 Your Friend, Makenna Wurster
 Dear Santa,
 Hi Santa! How are you? I've been a very good boy. I really want pokemon cards, Pokemon stuf animals and pokemon slippers. Merry Christmas!
 From, Hamish Boden
 Dear Santa,
 Hi. How are you? I have been a very good girl this year. Can I have for Christmas a rainbow cat and my papa to come home? Me and my family will leave you cookies for you and carrots for the reindeer.
 Love, Faith Morhardt
 Dear Santa,
 How is Rudolf doing? My brother wants drums and candy. I would like these dolls called Super Hero High. They are like heros.
 Love, Sydnie Bertucci
 Dear Santa,
 Please can I have ather laego set and a real peanoy and Pokemon? Can I have a DS and a cofe maker. Can I have a robot and a new lauge set. Can I have bloon that dose not pop and a phone watch?
 Your friend, Kameran Young



Happy Holidays
 from
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Ms. Priegel's River Ridge Second Grade

Dear Santa,
 How are you? I have been a good girl. I want a cat, bunny, and a no

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Letters To Santa

Mrs. Curtiss' Stockton Elementary Second Grade

Dear Santa,
What do you do at the North Pole? For Christmas I want a tablet and I want some Ever After High Dolls. I hope you have a happy, happy new year. Sincerely, Payton Goswick

Dear Santa,
How are the reindeer at the North Pole? For Christmas can I please get an X-box 360? Merry Christmas Santa, I hope you have a
Dear Santa,

Have you been busy Santa this year? For Christmas I want Halo 5, a lego pelican, and a lego vulture. I hope you have a merry Christmas.
Love, Tyson Winters

Dear Santa,
How are the reindeer at the North Pole? For Christmas I would like a PS4 with Watch Dogs2. Merry Christmas Santa, have a great trip.
Love, Haydyn Hinrichs

Dear Santa,
How do your reindeer fly at the snowy North Pole without wings? I hope you will give me a toy dragon. I hope you have a happy new year.
Love, Isaha Glass

Dear Santa,
How do your reindeer fly in the sky? Santa, can I please have some chapter books. Merry Christmas Santa, have a great new year. Love, Madalynn Perry

Dear Santa,
How are you and your cute little reindeer? Santa, for Christmas I want a baby pony, a mouse, and a big lego friends set. Santa, I wish you a happy new year. Love, Autumn Perez

Dear Santa,
How do your reindeer fly in the sky? For Christmas I would like the book, Frozen, and some new shoes. Santa, I hope you have safe travels and a merry Christmas. Love,
Dionne McIntosh

Dear Santa,
How many elves do you have at the North Pole? For Christmas I would like a puppy, a flipside bow, and a 20 dart gun. I hope you have a safe travel around the world. Love, Jazmine Curtiss

Dear Santa,
Santa, how do your reindeer fly so fast? Santa, what I want for Christmas is Thunder-trax and an X-box. Have a merry Christmas and a happy new year. Sincerely, Carter Blair

Dear Santa,
How is Mrs. Claus doing? For Christmas I want a Zootopia Police Station toy. I hope you have a happy new year. Love, Owen Stich

Dear Santa,
How do elves fly and how do reindeer fly? Santa, what I want for Christmas is a drone and an RC car. I hope you have a very happy new year. Love, Huntlee Burris

Dear Santa,
What do you do all season in the summer? What I want for Christmas is a new I-phone and a real guinea pig. I wish you a happy new

year. Love, Taylor Haas

Dear Santa,
What do you feed the reindeer at the North Pole? I want a Hatchimal, a hamster, and Mr. Putter and Tabby books. Have a merry Christmas and happy new year.
Love, Taylor Haas

Dear Santa,
Will you fall asleep in our sleigh on Christmas? What I want is a beanbag hamburger chair, please. Have a safe trip and a happy new year. Love, Dannyn Broshous

Dear Santa,
How fast do your reindeer go, especially Rudolph? For Christmas could I have a Hatchimal, a snow globe, and the girls Ghostbusters movie? Santa, have a merry Christmas and I hope you like my cookies that I made for you.
Love, Caitlynn Robledo

Dear Santa,
How many elves do you have at the North Pole? For Christmas I want hamsters, a hatchimal, and a phone with a case. Santa, I hope you have a merry Christmas and a safe journey.
Love, Evelyn Noller

Dear Santa,
How do your reindeer fly, Santa Claus? I want a Thunder-trax, an X-box, and hot wheels. I hope you have a merry Christmas and safe travels. Love, Kameron Rowe

Dear Santa,
How long does it take you to get from the North Pole to Stockton? For Christmas can I please have 3 more guinea pigs and a snow globe with the North Pole? Santa, have a merry Christmas this year.
Love, Ariana Arand

Dear Santa,
Do you eat all of the cookies? For Christmas I want another tablet and another I-phone 7+. Merry Christmas, I hope you have a good Christmas. Love, Lucas Dreyer

Dear Santa,
What is the weather like at the North Pole at Christmas? Can you please bring me a Nintendo DS? Merry Christmas and I hope you have safe travels on Christmas Eve.
Love, Quinton Preston

Dear Santa,
Do your reindeer want food this year? May I please have a Hatchimal, a cheer bear, and a mini American Girl Doll? I hope you have a merry Christmas this year.
Love, Haley Lietzen

Mrs. Sigafus Warren Elementary Third Grade

Dear Santa,
I have been good this year. Did you enjoy having a vacation? How are the reindeer? Thank you for all the gifts last year. How is Mrs. Clause? Last year you got the gift that I wanted. That was Infinity. This year I really want a big box of mixed up Legos. I need the Legos because my sister has some. I have to secretly sneak in my sister's room and steal her Legos. Then I have to take the Legos to my room and make sure that she does not go in my room. I will give you 2X the cookies if you get me the Legos. I

need the Legos because I'm running out of spots for my Legos. If I had the mixed up Legos I would've able to build something and break it. Then I could build something else. I could build Lego cars, buildings, and houses. Please try to get me the Legos, I will see you soon.
Your friend, Troy

Dear Santa,
How are you doing? Is Mrs. Clause doing well? Are the elves being good? Thank you for getting my Ipod last year. For Christmas this year I want Snuggles the toy puppy. I want to snuggle with it. I would like to snuggle with it at night so I won't get lonely at night. It is nice and fluffy so I can fall asleep faster. I would play with it all the time and take really good care of it. I love it so so much. I will feed it if I have to and make sure that I give it water if I have to. I would be excited if I got that.
Love, Sophie

Dear Santa,
How are you doing? Thank you for the nerf gun. I've been playing Halo. Can I have the new Halo game because you have to play them in order to figure out the situation with their flood. I like monsters and aliens named Corendent and Flood. I can't wait to figure out the rest of the story. I would be excited if I got it. From: Dravin

Dear Santa,
How are you? I'm fine. What do you do at the North Pole? What do you do when you get bored? I play the X-Box or my tablet. How old are you? I'm 9. How many elves do you have? So Santa, can I have the Xbox 1 or Madden 17 disk? I have been a good boy. I want you to get it for me because I like to play football. I think the Broncos are going to be the best team because they won the SuperBowl 50. I can play it with my dad and my family. I can play it with my cousins and my friends. I like to play the Xbox 1. I think I deserve it because I was good boy and I never fought with

my sisters. I can't wait to see you.

Love, Bryce
Dear Santa,
I want to know how you are doing. Are you sick? If yes, what is the sickness? I really want a 3DS. I want it because our last one broke. I also want it because I can get Super Mario Maker for it. It also will keep me occupied. My old one occupies me for a long time. There are people that don't believe in you. But I know you are real. I have been good all year. Please give me the 3ds that I want. Love, Jacob

Dear Santa,
How are you doing? Thank you for getting presents at Christmas. This year I really want an Ipod for Christmas. I want this gift because I can listen to music, I can play games on it, and I can call people with it. I can play games like Robox. I can play games like on a Robox. I can play the Pizza Hut game on Robox, too. An Ipod is good for me because I can look at facts on my Ipod. I would look up who can do stuff the longest. Have a great Christmas. Love, Dylan

Dear Santa,
How are you doing this year? Are you ready to deliver presents this year? Can you get me an Ipod touch screen? I have always wanted one. I could play games and music on it. I was very good this year because I help clean a lot. Can you please get it for me? I like playing games on electronics like Subway Surfer, Color Switch, and Panda Pop. I want to have one so I can download a whole bunch of apps. I want to have a message thing on it so I can text my friend Sophie Leverton and my family. I would really like to see it when I wake up on Christmas day! Have a good Christmas!

Your Friend, Abby Harris
Dear Santa,
Can I have a German Shepard for Christmas so I can have my own dog? Can I have some dog food for it too? I would need a leash and

a collar for it so I can take it for walks. I will use it for protection so I will be safe. I will hug it, play with it, and name it Gooch. I know an owner at Sal's that has a German Shepard that is named Gooch. Have a good Christmas. Love, Andrew

Dear Santa,
How are the reindeer? Are the elves busy working? I was a good boy this year. I worked hard at school. May I have a puppy with big ears? I would take him on walks. I would teach him to play catch. I would teach him to play catch. Then, I would take him to Troy's and Bryce's houses to play football together. Please can I have a puppy for Christmas? Have a good Christmas. Love, Karson

Dear Santa,
How are you doing this year? Are you ready for Christmas? I am! I am totally ready for Christmas! I can't wait until Christmas, so I am going to tell you one thing I have to have~ I have the Ipod touch 6th Generation (not the music player one). I want the one that looks like an Iphone, but it's not. You have to get it for me; I have been good all year! I helped my mom, did chores, and worked hard in school! So, what do you think? Have I been pretty good this year? I want it because right now I have a purple tablet and it glitches really bad. Can you pretty please get it for me? If your get it for me, I will be so happy, and I will use it all the time. It will be so awesome and I will take care of it, I promise. If you get it for me I will not let anything happen to it. I will not let it break either. Well, I hope you get it for me. It's at Walmart, make sure if you get it for me you get the gold one. Thanks for taking your time to read this! I will also stop bothering my parents because I will play on it all the time! Have a Merry Christmas! Also make sure to stop at my house!
Love, Kaiya

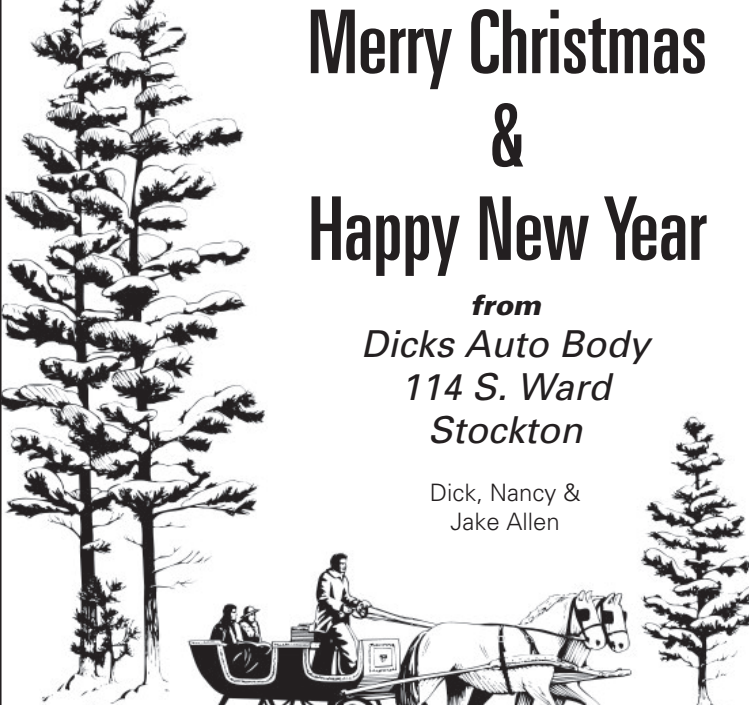


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peace and harmony
this holiday season.

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**Merry Christmas
&
Happy New Year**

from
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114 S. Ward
Stockton

Dick, Nancy &
Jake Allen

168798



TONY CARTON PHOTOS *The Scoop Today*

Warren Christmas Walk

(Above) The folks at Apple River State Bank in downtown Warren were offering refreshments and “Crisp” holiday gift ideas during the Warren Christmas Walk held Monday evening.

(Right Top) The Warren II, Troop 26 Boy Scouts offered a soup and sandwich supper at Hixster’s Bar and Grill in downtown Warren as part of the village’s annual Christmas Walk.

(Right Bottom) Dozens of Christmas walkers were roasting marshmallows over the coals set up by the folks from Hartzell’s IGA during Warren’s annual Christmas Walk and Festival of Trees on Monday evening.



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BE MERRY**

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& may all of you be happy
throughout the coming
year!

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Letters To Santa

Mrs. Kelzer's River Ridge Kindergarten

Dear Santa,
I want a skateboard for Christmas. I have been good. I am being respectful. Merry Christmas Santa.
Love, Justice
Dear Santa,
I want presents for Christmas. I want a Christmas tree and Santa to

come. I just want to say Hi Santa!
Love, Tristen
Dear Santa,
I want presents for Christmas like trains on a carpet. How do your reindeer float in the sky? Is it magic?
Love, Brock
Dear Santa,
How do your reindeer fly? Santa can I visit your house in the North

Pole? Will you let me ride in your sleigh? Can I have money for Christmas? I just want money and an airplane.
Love, Dylan
Dear Santa,
I would like a toy car for Christmas. I want to know how your reindeer fly? Merry Christmas.
Love, Sophia
Dear Santa,
I want a Barbie house for Christmas. Do you have a Christmas tree



too? Are you going to bring me a lot of presents because I have been good at home?

Love, Madylynn
Dear Santa,
I want to know what are you doing right now Santa? I want a Fairy Barbie please. Merry Christmas Santa.

Love, Yasmin
Dear Santa,
I love you Santa. I want Fuzzies and Lego Friends for Christmas. I have been good this year.

Love, Lyla Rae
Dear Santa,
I want a flying robot for Christmas. If you are bad for Christmas

do you get coal? I think that might be okay because you can use that to make a snowman. Can I have my own garden for Christmas? I think it is weird that a reindeer has a red nose. Red is my favorite color!

Love, Violet
Dear Santa,
I want a red Superwings toy for Christmas. What do your reindeer look like? Thank you for giving us presents.

Love, Christian
Dear Santa,
I would like more Skylanders for Christmas. How do your reindeer fly? Thank you for bringing me presents.

Love, Luke
Dear Santa,
I would like the Lego Batman 4 game for Christmas. I want Minecraft for my TV. I want to go the North Pole to see the elves. I love you Santa and miss you.

Love, Damian

Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer

By Robert L. May
STORY ADAPTATION BY BIL SCOTT

Hi, my name is Candy and I am going to tell you the story of a very special reindeer. One Christmas not too long ago Rudolph, that's the name of this special deer, was standing alone on the day before Christmas. He watched as the other reindeer ran and played together, they had such fun. Rudolph was small but that wasn't the reason the others didn't ask him to join the reindeer games. Rudolph had a big, bright red nose. It was not a regular reindeer nose at all, it was so bright it seemed to glow. The other deer teased him, and they laughed about Rudolph's nose. They rolled in the snow with delight as poor Rudolph walked back to the stable, lonely and very, very sad. The others soon went back to their games and Rudolph tried to have fun by himself, because it was Christmas after all. It wasn't as much fun as playing with the others would have been, Rudolph sighed.

The light faded from the day and everyone was scurrying to load Santa's sleigh. It was getting dark fast, and a fog was making matters worse. The mood was somber and even the reindeer began to quarrel about who would be the best one to lead the team this evening. Soon all

was set and Santa climbed into the sleigh and he set off. He was already late, and it was so dark he couldn't even see the lead reindeer. Time was passing and it became clear that no headway was being made. Santa was flying in circles.

What would happen to Christmas? Santa was quite worried, he didn't even know how to get back to the North Pole, then dimly at first, he could see a faint red light. Santa directed the sleigh towards the light, and it grew steadily stronger. What could it be he thought? It was ever so bright. Carefully Santa brought the sleigh to rest close to the light. He found Rudolph playing by himself trying to enjoy Christmas Eve. Santa asked Rudolph if he would mind helping out with the sleigh, that big shiny nose is just what he needed to stay on track. Rudolph was thrilled, and jumped at the chance. The other reindeer knew this would save Christmas and they smiled their approval as Rudolph went to the front of the team. Jingle bells rang out crisply on that dark night as Rudolph and his shiny nose lead Santa and the sleigh full of toys around the world. From that day forward Rudolph became proud to be known as Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, a very special reindeer indeed!

'Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer'

Lyrics by Johnny Marks (1949)
The song, Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, was recorded by Gene Austry in 1949 and became the second best-selling song of all time, behind "White Christmas"

"Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer"

You know Dasher and Dancer and Prancer and Vixen,
Comet and Cupid and Donner and Blitzen.,

But do you recall
The most famous reindeer of all?
Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer
Had a very shiny nose,
And if you ever saw it,
You could even say it glows.
All of the other reindeer
Used to laugh and call him names;
They never let poor Rudolph
Join in any reindeer games.
Then one foggy Christmas Eve,
Santa came to say:
Rudolph with your nose so bright,
Won't you guide my sleigh tonight?"

Then how the reindeer loved him
As they shouted out with glee,
Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer,
You'll go down in history."

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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Letters To Santa

Mrs. Wurster's River Ridge School Kindergarten Class

Dear Santa,
I would like a Spiderman Web Shooter for Christmas. I have been good. I want some Spiderman shoes.
I like when you bring your elf.
Love, Aiden
Dear Santa,
I want Spiderman hands please. I want a Spiderman shirt. I want to hug you.
Love, Cruz
Dear Santa,
Can I have a guitar? I want a Barbie swimmer that goes in the water and swims. Can I have some gum? I love you.
Love, Natalie
Dear Santa,
I would like a little remote controller car that you press the buttons and it starts to go and then it brings the stuff back to you. Have a good Christmas Santa!
Love, Brogan
Dear Santa,
I want a remote control truck. I don't remember the rest. I have been good Santa.
Love, Samuel

Dear Santa,
How are you doing Santa? What are you doing today? I want a toy My Little Pony. I want a Little Mermaid toy. I love you Santa. I want a t.v. to watch cartoons anywhere. That's it.
Love, Morgan
Dear Santa,
Hi Santa I want a kitty zoomer action cam at Amazon.
Love, Luke
Dear Santa,
I would like a live baby. Not a real baby. The doll Live baby and a blanket and a unicorn toy. What kind of cookies do you like?
Love, Francie
Dear Santa,
I want a puppy toy stuffed animal for Christmas. 4 of them. I have been good. I have been nice to my brother.
Love, Ashley
Dear Santa,
I want 2 things. I want a flying airplane and an American Girl doll.
Love, Olivia
Dear Santa,
All I want for Christmas is a little flying car that has a controller and a new remote. I want the car to be light green. I want a butterfly ro-

bot that has a remote. I really, really, really want to have breakfast with Santa. I want to eat roll-ups. I want to stay up when you come to my house when everyone is sleeping and have fun with you.
Love, Daly
Dear Santa,
I want a Lion Guard training play set. I also want a Wubble Bubble Strongest. I also want a telescope. Santa, Merry Christmas. I also want reader books please.
Love, Addison
Dear Santa,
I would like a Little Einsteins movie, play dough and markers.
Love, Cameron

Mrs. Cassens 2nd Grade Stockton Elementary

Dear Santa,
How are your elves doing today? Please bring me a Hatchimal and a Cheer Bear. Have a good Christmas on Christmas day! Love, Hanna Lietzen

Dear Santa,
What kind of presents are you passing out this year? Please bring me a stuffed Christmas animal. I wish you a happy new year for Christmas. Love, Zoey Pfile

Dear Santa,
How are you doing Santa? Please bring me Lego sets and new sweat pants. I wish you a merry Christmas Santa. Love, Morgan Haas

Dear Santa,
How are your elves doing at the North Pole? Please bring me a phone and a Hatchimal. I wish you a merry Christmas. Love, Zada Preston

Dear Santa,
What do you like to do? Please bring me a Barbie Dream House and a princess house for my room. I wish you a merry Christmas and a happy new year. Love, Vada Huett

Dear Santa,
How are your reindeer? This is what I really like. Please I would like a stuffed reindeer and a Hatchi-

mal. If your elves can't make it, it is ok with me. Santa Claus, I love you very much. Love, Addison Thornton

Dear Santa,
What kind of presents are you going to have? Please bring me a stuffed animal. Thank you for a stuffed animal. Love, Cullen Schubert

Dear Santa,
How are your reindeer doing this year? Please bring me a pet puppy and a drone for Christmas. Have a great Christmas. Love Isaiah Carter

Dear Santa,
How cold is the North Pole? Can I please have a toy Hot Wheels Flyer? Have a holly jolly Christmas!
Love,

Gage Hazelwood

Dear Santa,
What kind of presents are you passing out this year? Please bring me a hoverboard and a trampoline. Have a nice December this year. Love, Kaydra Wright

Dear Santa,
How are you and the elves doing at the North Pole? May you please get me a Nerf gun or two and a tablet. I wish for you to have a happy new year. Love, Logan Dreyer

Dear Santa,
What kind of presents are you passing out this year? Please bring me a Zoomer Kitty and Aqua Beads. Thank you for all the presents you gave me. Love, Alexis Bennett

Dear Santa,
How are you? It must be cold at the North Pole. Please bring me a Nerf Rival and an air soft gun. I wish you a happy new year. Love, Deryn Broshous

Dear Santa,
How are your reindeer doing? Please bring me a Zoomer Chimp and a Case combine. I wish you a happy new year. Love, Jackson Martin

Dear Santa,
Did your sleigh break down Santa Claus? Can you please bring me a super hero Lego set that's DC comic and some super hero action figures? I wish you a very merry Christmas. Love, Isaac Hullinger

Dear Santa,
How many elves do you have? Please bring me an Xbox 360 and a Hatchimal. I wish you a happy holiday.
Love, Brissia Garcia

Dear Santa,
Will you get me all of the things that I wish for? Please bring me a unicorn and an American Girl Doll. Or you can bring me a stuffed unicorn. I wish you a merry Christmas. Love, Delaney Julius

Dear Santa,
How are you doing Santa Claus? Please bring me a zip line and a football. I wish you a merry Christmas this year.
Love, Raiyn Dauphin

Dear Santa,
How are your elves doing at the North Pole? Please bring me a Little Live Pet and an ornament that Rudy is on. I wish you have a happy new year. Love, Ireland Mensendike

Dear Santa,
How are your reindeer doing at the North Pole? Please can I have horse stuff and cowgirl stuff? I hope you liked our cookies and I hope the reindeer liked the carrots and have a merry Christmas. Love, Karmon Parsley

Dear Santa,
What kind of presents will you bring me? Will you please bring me a new football and a new Superman costume, pretty please Santa Claus? I hope you have a holly jolly Christmas! Love, Brody Gardner

Dear Santa,
Where is Darwin? For Christmas will you please bring Darwin back and me a Zoomer Kitty? Love, Lydia Paisley

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

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Season's Greetings

from
Stockton Auto Body
Rich, Penny, Lindsay & Andy

Letters To Santa

Mrs. Arnold's First Grade Stockton Elementary

Dear Santa,
I am 7 and in first grade. I am helpful. I am good at math. You are cool. I am good. Can I please have two snowboards and an electric scooter? Do the elves get a break? How long is your list? Why do you live in the North Pole? How do you make presents? Have a great Christmas!

Payne Mercer
Dear Santa,
I am 7 years old and I have one sister and one brother. I would really like an iPod and a laptop. My dog wants a bone for Christmas. Why do you live in the North Pole? Where do elves come from? Do you have magic? My birthday is August 11 and you are nice, Santa! HO HO HO!

Veronika Drane
Dear Santa,
I'm 7 years old. I have one dog and one cat. My favorite thing at school is P.E. I am good at wrestling and football. I would like a RipStik. My brother would like Madden 17 for an Xbox 360. How long is your list? Why do you eat so many candy canes? Where do elves come from? You are nice, Santa!

Aiden Larson
Dear Santa,
I have one sister, one brother and one dog. I am 6 years old. I am in first grade. I like to read books and have Friday free choice. I like to eat candy canes. Can I please have a Hatchimal and a puppy basket for my dog to sleep in because my dog always sleeps in my mom and dad's bed. Why do you live in the North Pole and do elves ever get a break? How long is your list? How do reindeer fly? How does your sleigh hold all the presents? Where do elves come from? You are nice!

Madelyn Libberton
Dear Santa,
I have 2 dogs and 1 cats and I have 1 bunny rabbit. I love school! I love my animals! My birth-

day is on May 29. Can you bring me a hover board and an electric scooter and if you can, maybe get me a slime kit. How do reindeer fly? Why do you live in the North Pole? Where do elves come from? Do you have magic? Do the elves get a break? How long is your list? Why do you eat so many candy canes? HO HO HO

Natalee Sullivan
Dear Santa,
I am 7 years old. My birthday is September. I have 2 sisters and 2 brothers. Can I please have a laptop and a guinea pig and an American Girl doll and a slime kit? Finally, some lipstick. How long is your list? How do reindeer fly? Do the elves get a break? How do you make all the presents? HO HO HO

Alice McGovern
Dear Santa,
I have 6 brothers and 3 sisters and one is a baby. I miss them. I am 6 years old. My birthday is August 4. I love school! School is fun. I get to have fun. I have a step-dad and his name is Ben. I get to make crafts for Christmas. Can I have a Minecraft game? Can Mason have a cool car? Oh and can I have a phone, please and thank you.

Makai Thoman
Dear Santa,
I am 7 years old. My dog's name is Zoey. I live in Stockton. I love to do homework. For Christmas, I want a Barbie Dream House and I want an iPhone. I want for my sister an owl stuffed animal. Where do elves come from? You are nice, Santa! Do the elves get a break? Why do you live in the North Pole? Merry Christmas.

Gabby Montalvo

Dear Santa,
I love school. I love math. I like Friday free choice. My birthday is April 8 and I like to draw. Can you get my sister a tablet please? I want a tablet, too and a behavior chart (like the one at school) and a Lego set. Do the elves get a break? How long is your list? Why do you live at the North Pole? How do you make presents? HO HO HO

Max Schuldt
Dear Santa,
I like playing at recess. I like doing math facts. I am 6 years old. Can I please have a Bengals flat-billed hat? Can I please have an iPod? Can I please have a Bears flat-billed hat for my dad? Why do you live in the North Pole? Where do the elves come from? Christmas will soon be here! HO HO HO!

Deacon Zink
Dear Santa,
I am 6 years old. I have a brother named Landyn. I like pizza. For Christmas, I would like a Minecraft game and my brother would like the game Lookout. Do the elves get a break? How long is your list? Why do eat so many candy canes? Have a great Christmas! HO HO HO

Slayten Shockey
Dear Santa,
I am in first grade. I like to make crafts and I like Friday free choice. I want a hover board and a walkie talkie please. For mom and dad, give them a speaker please. Do the elves get a break? How old are you? How does your sleigh hold all the presents? Where do elves come from? How long is your list? Is Rudolph fake?
Weston Haas
Dear Santa,
I am 7. My birthday is October

1. I live in Stockton, Illinois. I have a dog named Kiera and she is 1. I have a sister and 2 brothers. Their names are Lizzie, Ian and Ausitn. For Christmas, I would like a slime kit and my own iPad. How does your sleigh hold all the presents? Where do the elves come from?

Emma Eisfeller
Dear Santa,
I am in first grade. I like Friday free choice because it is fun. For Christmas, I want an American Girl doll and a Barbie Dream House. My big brother wants an iPhone. My little brother wants a drum set. I am nice. My birthday is April 18. Christmas will soon be here. HO HO HO

Alyssa Reed
Dear Santa,
I am 6 years old. I live in Stockton. I love school! My favorite sport is football. For Christmas, I want an iPad and Minecraft Legos. Do the elves get a break? How long is your list? HO HO HO

Daxton Drane
Dear Santa,
I'm 6 years old and on my birthday I'm going to be 7 years old. At school, I'm good at writing. On Christmas, can you please bring

me a baby dog and an iPad? Do you have magic and do the elves get a break. How long is your list? I love you.

Kyli Kness
Dear Santa,
I like pizza. I am in first grade. I am good at math and P.E. Can I please have an iPhone and a slime kit please? My birthday is May 5. Do the elves get a break? How long is your list? Where do elves come from? HO HO HO HO HO HO HO HO HO HO !

Margaret LaLond
Dear Santa,
I am 7 and a half. I am in first grade in Stockton Elementary School. I like doing math and science. I want an electric scooter that the sun charges. Why do you eat so many cookies? How do reindeer fly? Merry Christmas Santa! Boston Keleher
Dear Santa,

I'm a good helper. I'm 6 years old. I know a lot. My birthday is August 5. I want a hover board and a Minecraft Lego set. For my sister, could you bring an American Girl doll? Ho Ho Ho from Wyatt to Santa. I wish you to have a good day.

Wyatt Anderson



IT'S CHRISTMAS!

May you share in many fun-filled moments. Our sincere thanks and tidings of joy to each of you.

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from our families to yours

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Merry Christmas

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Letters To Santa

Mrs. Dobernecker's Warren First Grade Class

Dear Santa,
Do your reindeer acshaly fly? If so ples tel me. May I no wate your girl elf's war? Do you bild toys? May I ples have a Hachamil because they are so cute! Next I would like a ryl life unicorn be-cause I love unicorns. Last I wolde like an American girl doll because Tarynn and I rely want one. I hope you like the cookies I set out.

Love, Trista
Dear Santa,
Do your reindeer work hard? Do your elves really work? Does Mrs. Claus work hard? I want a Bee Bee gun so I can shoot targets. I want air hakeye. I want a football field so I can play want it is fun at play with my brother. Have a good trip.

Love, Collin
Dear Santa,
Do your elfs wre hyrd? How do you git uroond the wrld in one day? Do your reindeer go fast? Can I ples have a video game? I hop you have a good trip.

Love, Caden
Dear Santa,
Do your elves work? Do your randeer fly? Does Mrs. Claus work? I want a bike because all of my bikes are too little. I also want a hatchimal. Can it be the green one? I hope you have a good way to the North Poll.

Love, Isabella

Dear Santa,
Do the elves sleep with you? Does Mrs. Claus play with the elves? Is Mrs. Claus your daughter? Please can I have an American Girl doll? I want maching clos for me and my American Girl doll. Have a rilly fun trip.

Love, Payton
Dear Santa,
Do your reindeer really fly? Does Mrs. Claus make a lot of goodies? I would like a dig up Lego set. I really like the guys. I really want a nrf gun. I want it to be blue. I really like a nrf bot. I would like a pocket knife too. I would also like foose ball. I hope you have a nice trip.

Love, Gaige
Dear Santa,
Do your elves work realy hard making toys? Do the reindeer stay in your house? Do you have fun delivering presents? Can I ples have a pocket knife to use to cut stuff when I need to? Secent, can I pleas have a fake car that drives? I wolde drive with my sisters. Last, can I please have a shot gun to hunt with? I am going to hunt deer with it. I want to go hunting with my dad. I hope you have fun delivering presents.

Love, Carson Hill
Dear Santa,
Can your reindeer really fly? Are your elves real? Do you have a big bag? Can I please have a hatchimal? Can I please have a troll phone case? Can I please have a

troll bed? Have a good trip!

Love, Alexa
Dear Santa,
Are your elves being good? Are your elves woring hard? Can your elves be bad? Can I have a talking horse? I want it to be a rainbow horse because then I will play with it. A coloring book because then I will play with it. Can I have a paint book because I will paint it a lot? I hope you have a good trip!

Love, Brooklyn
Dear Santa,
Do you like to eat my cookies? Do the elves wear tutus? Do your elves work hard? Can I have a dog named Georgie be cus my dogs are noisy and thay can't dance. I really want a dog named Chip because he is playful. I hope you have a fun trip.

Love, Harper
Dear Santa,
Do all the elfs have their own room? How menny elfs do you have? Do the elfs driv a car? I rillie want some clows for my glass doll because I need some more. I ownie have one outfit. Can I plees have a hatchimal? I rillie want it to be pink and purple. I rillie want airhoke too. I will lev you milk and cookoes on Christmas.

Love, Kaylee
Dear Santa,
Do your elves work hard? Do you have Rudolph? Is Mrs. Claus your daughter? I want a Barbie car for my Barbie house because I really want a car and I hope that I get it. And I want a hatchimal to because I want to see what color is it? And I want a cute Rudolph plush because the nose is cute? I will leave some milk and cookies.
Love, Jayde

Dear Santa,
How are your reindeer? I want a remote control truck. I want a basketball. I want a bears football. I will leave you cookies.
Love, Carsyn

Mrs. Lawson – River Ridge Second Grade

Dear Saint Nick,
How are you doing? How old are you? Is your house invisible? For Christmas I would like...A... Miny bike, Pet puppy or hege hog, TMNT stff, Drone, iPod, to meet Ruhgtoph. Love, Amber
P.S. Merry Christmas.
XOXOXOXOXOXO

Dear Santa,
How are you doing? For Christmas I would like farming simulator 17 and a snow ball lantcher.

Your friend, Ashton
Dear Santa,
May I have a deise with games and my game are Animal crossing and Zelda and sonic the Hedge Hog race and some shopkines. Your friend, Madilynn

Dear Santa,
Is my elf good at the north pol? I am stil thinking abut what I want. Canian

Dear Santa,
How are you? How is Mis. Clos? May I have a star wars lego set? How is my elf? May I have a Dinosor please? May I have a chip-munk stuffed animl. Love, Braden

Dear Santa,
How are the randeer doing? Am I on the good list? How is his buddy? I would like starwars toys please. I would like farm toys. Love, Kaden

Dear Santa,
How are you? I am good. May I please have a star wars toys please? And some dinos to. How is my elf? Love, Auron
Dear Santa,
How is Bubles. I haven't seen

him in a while. Can you send him today or tomaroe and I will see him. I love him. Love, Allauna

Dear Santa,
How are the elves? I want a monster high doll and I want a big stuffed bunny rabbit and a Christmas makeup set. Have a merry Crissmess and thank you for all you do! Love, Maddison

Dear Santa,
Can I ples have a wiiu and super Mario maker and a new cat. Thank you. How are you doing? Haw are the elfs and the raindere dowing? Your friend, Damien

Dear Santa,
Is there pagwans at the North pol? How are the elfs. Can I please have a toy dragin. It's so cute. May I also have a Hatchamlig? And if my grandpa doesn't find friend ship nedises could I get it from you?

Love, Piper
Dear Santa,
How are you? I haven't seen you in a while. Can I please have three toys. My frst toy is a baby Aalive and sum shopin and to hear back from you. Love, Vivienne

Dear Santa,
I hope you're having a good time in the North Pole. How is your wife Mrs. Claus good, ok or bad? Can I have a light saber biulder pack?, Sully

Dear Santa,
How are you? I am good. Am I on the bad or good list? May I have some trolls and a sleingkey.

Love, Adrianna
Dear Santa,

How are you doing? I would like to have a puppy. I would like a now bike. A now playstation 2 for my dad and jewelry for my mom. Love, Halee

Dear Santa,
How are your reindeer doing? I bing god evrey day. I wold like a remote control dirt bike for my dad. I wold lik a blanket for my mom. I wold like a pepar pig hose for my sister. I wold like a moster high dolse for my sister. I wold like a remot control dirt bike. Love, Andrew



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SULLIVAN'S
FOODS & STAFF

Letters To Santa

Mrs. Montgomery's Scales Mound Second Grade

Dear Santa
How are you doing? I've been good this year. I helped my Grandpa when he was in the hospital. Can I please have a Go-Pro and case? I will take it on vacation to make videos under water. I would also like neon light up shoes. They are really awesome. WWE2K17 would be another great gift. I hope you have a good trip delivering gifts. Love, Brody Busker

Dear Santa,
How little are the elves? I tried to be good all year by helping my grandma cook. We make supper for my Grandpa. For Christmas, I would like a Hatchimal. I would also like a mini paint set. Have a jolly Christmas Santa! Love your friend, Emily Kieffer

Dear Mr. Claus,
How are you? Are your elves doing well too? My elf is watching my brother and I at home. Santa, I helped my mom do the dishes and I have been a good friend to our new student at school. Please surprise me with a new board game. Also, I would like a pink hat to match my coat. An iPod would be special so I could play games. Last, could I have another elf who will hide at Christmas. Have a nice holiday. Love, Jady Busch

Dear Santa,
How is the smallest reindeer doing? Did you get a new sleigh? Do you have room for all the presents? Are you ready to go up, up, up, and away? I have been putting x-mas ornaments on the tree. Can I please have darts, CD's, shirts, and pictures for Christmas? I hope you have a great time at Christmas! Love, Matthew Winter

Dear Santa,
How are you? I have been good this year. I help my mom do the laundry at home. For Christmas, I would love a Zoomer Meowzies. I will play with it all the time. I would also love to get a stuffed dog too! I will have cookies waiting for you. Love, J'Asia Hunt

Dear Santa,
How are your reindeer doing? Is Mrs. Claus making you a new suit for Christmas Eve? For Christmas, I would love some Legos to build a city. Also, I grew out of my old boots so I need a new pair. In school, I am trying to get a higher AR score and meet my goal. Mr. Jingles, my elf on the shelf, is watching to see if I am good at home. Oh, also, an iPod 5 would be spectacular too! I'll have some cookies and milk for you, and carrots for your reindeer. Love, Aidan Travis

Dear Santa Claus,
How are the reindeer? We did a play at school about how Santa got stuck in the chimney. Santa, I was good when I helped my Nana bake a cake. I put chocolate frosting on it. It tasted delicious! For Christmas, can I please have roller skates and wrist guards? Also, a Nintendo DS would give me something to play with by myself. Last, fill my stocking please. Merry Christmas,

Brayden Roberts
Dear Santa,
How are you and Mrs. Claus doing this year? How is Rudolph and the other reindeer doing? I've been a good girl. Just a few days ago, I helped my sister with her homework. Santa, please can you please get me some art supplies so I can draw pictures? What kind of cookies do you like? I hope you like snowman cookies. I will try to write next year too!

Merry Christmas, Lydia Behlke
Dear Santa,
Hey Santa Claus, are you watching over us each day and night? I think I have been good all year. I like to help my friends if they get hurt at school. May I please have a special present this year? I would like a Go Pro. A Go Pro is a camera that I can use in many places, even under water. Or maybe I could have a new iPad case and a pink Beanie Boo for Oscar's girlfriend. Thank you Santa. Happy Holidays, Pouloupoulos

Dear Santa,
Is Rudolph a boy or a girl? And how are your elves doing? I have been responsible by feeding my dog. Can I please have a pair of roller skates to make me happy? I also want my own Christmas tree to put in my room. Can you send Louie, my elf, back next year? Merry Christmas! Your Friend, Collin Curtis

Dear Santa,
Do you only wear red once a year and wear green and yellow the rest of the year? You must be a packer fan! May I please have roller skates because I would not have to walk and it will be much more fun! Also, may I please have a mini fridge so

my brother would not eat my food. Can I please have onesies jammies so I can go bed easy. This year I have been good because I helped my mom clean my room! I hope you have a safe ride home. Merry Christmas! From, Halle Wiegel

Dear Santa,
I have been good so far. I have not touched my elves since I got them! I would like a mini iPad. If I had one of my own, I wouldn't use up all my mom's battery on her iPad. I would be happy to get an American Girl Lea or Rebecca Doll. Since I like gymnastics, a pull-up bar would be a nice gift. I will always leave milk and cookies for you. Happy Holidays, Macy Rivers

Dear Santa,
How is Rudolph doing? How old are you? I helped Lexi clean our clubhouse so I've been really good. I have a new baby brother so I help my family take care of him! So, I'd love some things! Those things are Elf on the Shelf, American Girl Doll, and MH Freaky Fusion Frankie Doll. Please and thank you! Oh, could the elf be a girl please?

Merry Christmas, Farrey
Dear Santa,
How is the North Pole? Who is the littlest reindeer? I try to do chores at home to help out like take out the trash. I hope you bring me gifts. I would love a Go Pro camera and case? A Go Pro Camera goes in snow and water! The sticky thing that goes on my helmet would be great too! Also, a ski mask would be great because I fall a lot! Merry Christmas!

Love, Payton Van Lent

Dear Santa,
How are you doing? I helped my mom clean my room this week. For Christmas I would like a game for my Xbox 360, and a tiny green football. Also, could I have Chicago Bear gloves? My shoe size is 2.5. Have a safe trip!

See You Soon, Hunter Mrzlak
Dear Santa,
Have you ever gotten stuck in the chimney? I have been a good boy this year by helping my mom clean my room. For presents I would like a Cozmo, Hatchimal, Mario Maker 3D game and maybe Five Nights at Freddy's Legos? I hope you can bring me some presents. Your Truly, Cale Ohms

Dear Santa,
How are your elves doing? Are they packing your sleigh? I have tried to be a good helper at home this year. I help my mom do the dishes. So, I would love some presents. I am asking for four Barbies, a Hatchimal, and an American Girl Doll. It would also be great to get a mini Christmas tree. I hope you have a Merry Christmas! From, Anna Grace Staver

Dear Santa,
How are you and your elves? Are

you working hard? Do you think that I have been good? I hope so! If you can bring me another elf, that would be great. I would also like some colored clay to make things at home. Can I find a Hatchimal under the tree or some school stuff? I love Christmas! Love, Ellaina Kostenbader

Dear Santa,
Hi Santa, is Rudolph going to guide your sleigh in a few days? You know I have been feeding my dog to help my mom out. I have a few presents on my list. Can I please have Charm U's? They will keep me busy and they are so cute! Also, I would like some shaped erasers and a 3D pen. It's cool and I love watching it grow, grow, and grow! Have a safe trip to my house and Merry Christmas! Love, Campbell Hereau

Dear Santa,
Are your elves doing ok? Are they making presents for children? I helped my dad put up our Christmas tree and put on the ornaments. I would like to have a warm blanket for Christmas. I could also use an Ipod case and some colored clay. I always like to get cute clothes too! I hope you have a Merry Christmas! From, Quinn Driscoll

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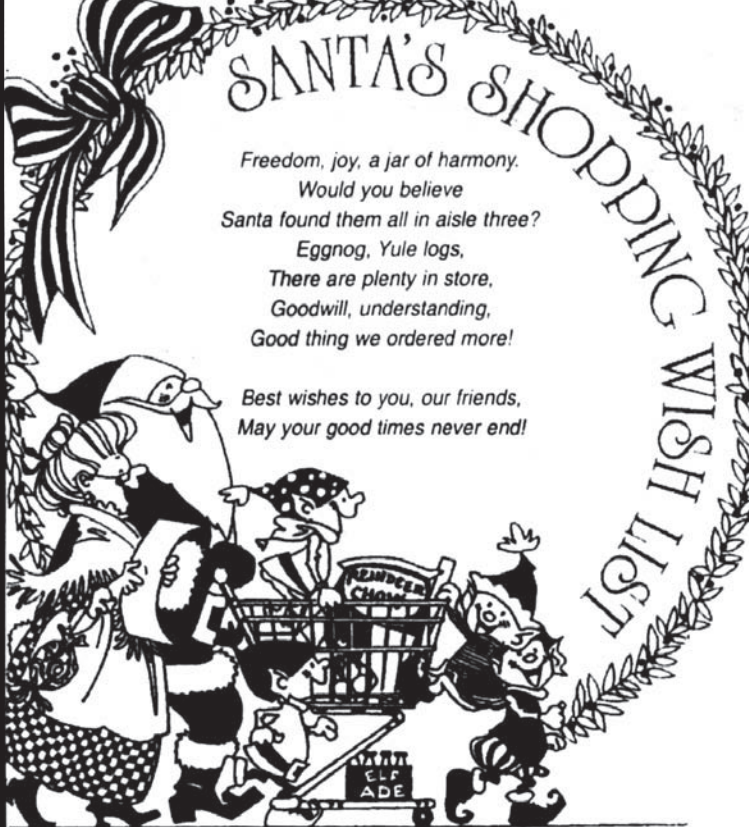
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SANTA'S SHOPPING WISH LIST

*Freedom, joy, a jar of harmony.
Would you believe
Santa found them all in aisle three?
Eggnog, Yule logs,
There are plenty in store,
Goodwill, understanding,
Good thing we ordered more!*

*Best wishes to you, our friends,
May your good times never end!*



HARTZELL'S IGA
Warren, IL

Letters To Santa

River Ridge Third Grade

- Mrs. Reese

Dear Santa,
Thank you for the candy last year. You're the best Santa! Can I please have Lebron 10s and Lebron 13s and Cozmo with the charger and the games? Merry Christmas Santa! Love, Dayan

Dear Santa,
Thank you for the presents I got last year. I really liked the dog you got me. I play with him. This year may I please have a camera drone because I can watch videos? Merry Christmas. Your Friend, Seth

Dear Santa Claus,
Thank you for the stuff you got me over the last 8 years. I really liked the presents you got me last year like the iPad you got me. I really appreciate how hard your elves work. May I please have Bright Bugz and Microbots because I will play with it all the time? When I have friends over then they can play with me and we will have fun. Merry Christmas Santa!
Your friend, Sawyer

Dear Santa,
Thank you for the presents I got last year. I played with my Kindle. I play it 3 or 4 times a week. You and your elves are the best. This year may I please have a hoverboard, iPad, a real puppy and a phone. I need a puppy because my dog is very old and it might die. I need a phone because then I can call my parents and an iPad because my Kindle is too small. I need a hoverboard because my legs might hurt. Merry Christmas!
Your friend, Berkeley

Dear Santa,
Thank you for the presents I got last year. I really enjoyed that Ninja Turtle sword you brought. This year may I please have Pokemon games, Legend of Zelda games, and a deck of Yo Kai Watch cards? I want this stuff because I lost all of my Pokemon games. I have been waiting for two years to get a Legend of Zelda game. A deck of Yo Kai Watch cards would go great with my Yo Kai Watch game. Have a jolly Christmas, Ryan

Santa,
I have been really good and I named my elf on the shelf Spritz. She hid in my curtain so when I opened the curtain and I look up I saw her. Thanks for the presents last year. They were fun and cool. You got all the things I wanted and I bet you will get me all the presents this year, too. I might leave carrots too for your reindeer, and milk and cookies, too. I already got the Christmas tree up and the ornaments and the lights. I hope Mrs. Claus is doing well and I don't know if you will need Rudolph 'cause so far it has not snowed yet. Love, Eli

Dear Santa Claus,
Thank you for the presents I got last year. I really liked the tablet. I play with it almost every day.

This year may I please have a dog of my own? Can I also please have a phone? May I pretty please with a cherry on top have a Minion speaker? At least them three please. I would love the dog so I can love and adore him and I would take care of it every day. I would love a phone so I can play games on it and call family if I'm in trouble. I would really love a Minion speaker because I could plug it in at my dad's house and plug it into the radio and it would be louder and I can use it for other things, too. I wish you and Mrs. Claus have a great Merry Christmas. Your friend, Daigon

Dear Santa Claus,
Thank you for the presents you got me last year. I love you! Can I please have Thinking Puddy? So I can think and sometimes it will relax me when I am mad. Next can I please have a zipper bed set so I am not cold? Then can I have a Wubble Bubble ball? Finally can I have a Zoomer dog and a Zoomer cat? So I have something to play with. I have like 3 toys right now. Merry Christmas and a happy new year! Your friend, Daphne

Dear Santa,
Thank you for presents. I really like the toy helicopter. You got me a lot of cool stuff. This year I want a remote car that is fast and strong so I can spy on Zandrey. It will be awesome. I hope you have a Merry Christmas. Love, Zylar

Dear Santa,
Thank you for the presents I got last year. I really liked the light-up board when me George had a drawing contest.

This year may I please have gum in my stocking because my dad has a sweet tooth. Merry Christmas! Your friend, Sarah Winter

Dear Santa,
Thank you for the presents I got every year. I really played with every toy you brought me. This year may I please have ballet band. I want to get stronger. I also want some footie pajamas please because I love them so much. I see my cousin all the time with footie pajamas. I would like any type of book please because I love reading. It is so much fun. I need new snow pants because mine are too small, black ones please. I want 1 more thing, a ballet bar please Merry Christmas! Your friend, Leah

Dear Santa,
Thank you for the iPod you gave me and the desk. I used them a lot. This year may I please have a new bike because my old one has rocks in the bearings. Merry Christmas! Your friend, Aaron

Dear Santa,
Thank you for the presents I got last year. I really liked the Shopkins you got me last year. I play with them a lot.

This year may I please have a balance beam because I need to practice my skills for gymnastics. I also want some headphones because my other ones are too small. I also want Shopkins again because I like to play with them and also if I get a duplicate I

can trade with my friends. I hope you have a Merry Christmas. From, Sophie

Dear Santa
Thank you for the presents from last year. I really played with the hot wheels. This year may I have a Hatchimal. I would like a Hatchimal because it looks cool and I want to play with it. May I have some dirt bike goggles for my dirt bike because mine are falling apart. May I also have a Build-a-Bunny with glasses for it. May I also have a winter coat for my Build-a-Bunny? I would like Build-a-Bear and bunny stuff because I need stuff for my Build-a-Bear. I hope you have a good Christmas! Your friend, Kaci

Dear Santa,
Thank you for all the presents I got last year. I really liked that American Girl doll you brought me. This year may I please have Heel Wheels and a hoverboard with gears? May I have a can of Aaron's Thinking Putty because I would want to squeeze it when I get mad? I want a hoverboard because I think it is cool, please and thank you.

MERRY Christmas! Santa and Mrs. Claus how do you get in my house because I don't have a chimney? Your friend, Bindi

Dear Santa,
Thank you for the present last year. I wore my clothes a lot. This year I want a guinea pig because it is like a little sister or brother to me. May I have a hoverboard? They are so cool! Can I have an electric scooter because they are fast and they are cool. Can I have the Stylist Barbie?

Merry Christmas! Love, Sophie G.

Dear Santa,
Thank you for the presents that I got last year, like the trampoline chair. Thank you Santa Claus. Thank you for caring about all the kids you visited with their presents. Thank you Santa! This year may I please have a hoverboard. This is why I want a hoverboard is because me and my brothers can take turns with it. I also would like a puppy of my own. This is why I want a puppy of my own because I can play with her.

Love, Caylee

A Day of Celebration

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Each in your way,
May you celebrate the meaning
Of this Christmas Day

Wishing
you a
Merry
Christmas



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Wishes

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Letters To Santa

Miss Freese Warren Second Grade

Dear Santa,
My name is Natalie. I am 7 years old. I live in Warren, IL. This year I have been very good. What I would MOST like for Christmas this year is an iPod that comes with a charger because I can't find the charger. P.S. I want a pink case. If your elves are not too busy I would also like a pink balloon castle that is like a house and a pink snackie. Will you actually leave candy in Logan's and my stocking? Will you stop at Mommy's house? I will leave some cookies, milk, and carrots for you on Christmas Eve! Merry Christmas!

Love, Natalie
Dear Santa,
My name is Alina, I've been good. What I would most like for Christmas this year is Animal Jam toys, legos, little live pet birds, and a huge dollhouse because I think it would be fun to play with. If your elves are not too busy I would also like a kitten, a peacock necklace, cookies, and a best friend charm for two. Also I have some questions, Do you make all the presents or do you buy all the presents? Does Rudolph's nose really glow? Is your beard really long? This year I will leave some cookies and milk for you on Christmas Eve. Merry Christmas!

Love, Alina
Dear Santa,
My name is Madissen. I am 7 years old. I live in Apple River. This year I have been very good. What I would MOST like for Christmas this year is a pom pom wows, glow in the dark stars, and speak out because I can make pom pom wows around my house. If your elves are not too busy I would also like an iPod, legos for my cousin, a whistle, a best friends bracelet, and pie in the face game. How old are you? How many elves do you have? Do the elves make all the toys? How many toys do you make a year? Is your beard really long? I will leave some cookies and milk. Merry Christmas.

Love, Madissen
Dear Santa,
My name is Darin. I live in Nora. This year I have been very good. What I would most like for Christmas this year is a DS and a Xbox 4 because those are the things I want very bad and it will make me so happy. If your elves are not too busy I would also like Max the monkey thing, an iPod, and a Secret Life of Pets. Santa is Rudolph the red nose reindeer real? How many elves do you have? I will leave some cookies and milk for you on Christmas Eve!

Love, Darin
Dear Santa,
My name is Mayci. I am 7 years old. I live in Warren, IL. I have been very good. What I would most like for Christmas this year is to be a Elf because I would like to fly and see my elves. If your elves are too busy, I would also like them to check on me because elves check on each other. What would you like for Christmas? How old are you? How many elves do you have? Could I

be an elf? Is your sleigh really invisible? Does Rudolph's nose really glow? I will leave some cookies for you on Christmas Eve!

Love, Mayci
Dear Santa,
My name is Brody. I am 7 1/2 years old. I live in Warren, IL. This year I have been good. What I would MOST like for Christmas this year is a sky high jump because Thomas can fly across the water. If your elves are not too busy I would also like Legos because you get to build stuff. How old are you? How many elves do you have? How can you fly across the Earth in 1 night? I will leave some cookies and milk for you on Christmas Eve! Merry Christmas!

Love, Brody
Dear Santa,
My name is Ava. I am 7 years old. I live in Warren. This year I have been very good. What I would most like for Christmas this year is a barn with 3 horses, because I have been horse training. If your elves are not too busy I would also like a Robot dog because dogs are so fluffy and fast. How many toys do you have to make? How old are you? How many reindeer do you have? I will leave some cookies and milk for you on Christmas Eve.

Love, Ava
Dear Santa,
My name is Nik. I am 8 years old. I live in Warren. This year I have been very good. What I would MOST like for Christmas this year is an iPod with a case so I can face-time with my friends. If your elves are not too busy I would also like to ride in your sleigh and see Prancer. Does Rudolph's nose glow at night when you're in the sleigh? Do you

have a good dog named Santa Paus? Do you actually have a head elf? I will leave some reindeer food and cookies. Merry Christmas!

Love, Nik
Dear Santa,
My name is Josie. I am 7 years old. I live in Apple River. This year I have been good. What I would MOST like for Christmas this year is a Orbeez spa because it will tickle my toes. If your elves are not too busy I would also like a Frozen castle because it's cool. How old are you? How many elves do you have? I will leave some Oreos and milk for you on Christmas Eve!

Love, Josie
Dear Santa,
My name is Camden. I am 8 years old. I live in Warren. This year I have been very good. What I would most like for Christmas this year is a remote control bulldozer so I can plow snow in the winter. If your elves are not too busy I would also like a flatbed truck with a semi so I can haul my bulldozer. How many elves do you have? How do you get down the chimneys? I will leave some cookies and milk for you on Christmas Eve! Merry Christmas!

Love, Camden
Dear Santa,
My name is Kyra. I am 8 years old. I live in Warren. This year I have been very good. What I would most like for Christmas this year is a flipzoo because they can fly and I can get a remote control to go with it. If your elves are not too busy I would also like a princess doll, too. How many toys do you have to make every year? Does Rudolph really have a red glowing nose? How old are you? I will leave some cook-

ies for you on Christmas Eve! Merry Christmas!

Love, Kyra
Dear Santa,
My name is Wyatt. I am 7 years old. I live in Apple River. This year I have been good. What I would most like for Christmas this year is a Lego Star Wars set because I like Star Wars. If your elves are not too busy I would also like a Xbox for Christmas and games for it too. How many presents do you have to deliver? How many years old are you? How does your sleigh fly? I will leave some cookies and milk for you on Christmas Eve! Merry Christmas!

Love, Wyatt
Dear Santa,
My name is Chase. I am 8 years old. I live in Warren. This year I have been very good. What I would most like for Christmas this year is a Lego robot that plays with me because you can build it. If your elves are not too busy I would also like a car game because I can race. How old are you? Do your elves work hard? I will leave some milk and cookies for you on Christmas Eve. Merry Christmas!

Love, Chase

Dear Santa,
My name is Landon. I am 7 years old. I live in Apple River. This year I have been very good and a bit bad. What I would most like for Christmas this year is a guitar, a drum, and a Wii with dancing games because you can play songs. If your elves are not too busy I would also like to help your elves. How old are you? How are you going to deliver the presents? I will leave some milk and cookies for you on Christmas Eve! Merry Christmas!

Love, Landon
Dear Santa,
My name is Bryce. I am 7 years old. I live in Warren. This year I have been very good. What I would MOST like for Christmas this year is football gloves and a Bears helmet because football is my favorite sport. If your elves are not too busy I would also like a USA knife for playing army in real life. Is the Polar Express real? Santa do you drive the elves to the childrens houses? Santa do you drive the Polar Express? I will leave some cookies and milk for you on Christmas Eve!

Love, Bryce

happy holidays

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Spread the News
It's Christmas!

It's Christmas in the city, and in the country too. As the spirit of the season lights up the world and wraps us in it's glow, we want to express our appreciation to you, loyal friends and neighbors. We wish you the brightest holiday season ever and thanks for making our year extra special.

The Scoop Today

Tony, Cyndee, and Laurie

Letters To Santa

Kristi Leverton's Warren Elementary School Kindergarten

Dear Santa,
This year I have been really nice. A few things I did that were nice were: I helped clean my room and shared with my friends. If you are not too busy here is my wish list. I would love a Monster High doll, A frozen book to read, I really need a soft Frozen blanket and a pretty pair of pajamas to wear. But, the number one thing on my wish list is a dirt bike.

Drink lots of hot chocolate! Your Friend, Hailey Bennett
Dear Santa,

This year I have been really nice. A few things I did that were nice were: I played nicely with my friends and helped clean up. If you are not too busy here is my wish list. I would love a baby husky, A jungle book to read, I really need a new pair of brown gloves and a sweatshirt with jungle animals to wear. But, the number one thing on my wish list is Playmobil zoo animal blind bags.

Drink lots of hot chocolate! Your Friend, Bentley Barker
Dear Santa,

This year I have been really nice. A few things I did that were nice were: I helped to clean up and I shared with my friends. If you are not too busy here is my wish list. I would love a guitar with My Little Pony on it, Llama Llama Holiday Drama book to read, I really need a new pair of black shoes and a Nike

sweatshirt to wear. But, the number one wish on my list is a dog.

Drink lots of hot chocolate! Your Friend, Addey Wills
Dear Santa,

This year I have been really nice. A few things I did that were nice were: I helped clean my room and shared with my friends. If you are not too busy here is my wish list. I would love a book, A Lightning McQueen book to read, I really need a necklace and a Rudolph shirt to wear. But, the number one thing on my wish list is a hat.

Drink lots of hot chocolate! Your Friend, Tommy Downing
Dear Santa,

This year I have been really nice. A few things I did that were nice were: I played nicely with my friends and helped clean up. If you are not too busy here is my wish list. I would love a dog, A racing book to read, I really need a new pair of shoes and belt to wear. But, the number one thing on my wish list is a dirt bike.

Drink lots of hot chocolate! Your Friend, Levi Hogan
Dear Santa,

This year I have been really nice. A few things I did that were nice were: I shared with my friends and helped clean up. If you are not too busy here is my wish list. I would love an American Girl camp set, A book about Santa to read, I really need a new bike and a pretty dress to wear. But, the number one thing on my wish list is an American Girl

doll.

Drink lots of hot chocolate! Your Friend, Madyson Long
Dear Santa,

This year I have been really nice. A few things I did that were nice were: I played nicely with my friends and shared with my friends. If you are not too busy here is my wish list. I would love some Legos, the Elf on the Shelf book to read, I really need a new pair of shoes and some Christmas clothes to wear. But, the number one thing on my wish list is a robot.

Drink lots of hot chocolate! Your Friend, Kyle Broege
Dear Santa,

This year I have been really nice. A few things I did that were nice were: I helped clean up and shared with my friends. If you are not too busy here is my wish list. I would love a Polly Pocket pop up house, How the Grinch Stole Christmas to read, I really need a scarf and a necklace to wear. But, the number one thing on my wish list is baby doll clothes.

Drink lots of hot chocolate! Your Friend, Aleigha Smith
Dear Santa,

This year I have been really nice. A few things I did that were nice were: I shared with my friends and played nicely with my friends. If you are not too busy here is my wish list. I would love a purple dress with a pony, The book Llama Llama Holiday Drama to read, I really need socks with Anna on them and a pink dress with Pinky Pie to wear. But, the number one thing on my wish list is an American Girl doll.

Drink lots of hot chocolate! Your Friend, Kinsley Jones
Dear Santa,

This year I have been really nice. A few things I did that were nice were: I helped clean up and shared with my friends. If you are not too

busy here is my wish list. I would love a scarf, The Elf on the Shelf book to read, I really need a new dress and a new coat to wear. But, the number one thing on my wish list is a dog.

Drink lots of hot chocolate! Your Friend, Trista Lawson
Dear Santa,

This year I have been really nice. A few things I did that were nice were: helped clean up and shared with my friends. If you are not too busy here is my wish list. I would love a wagon, The Gingerbread Man book to read, I really need a new pair of shoes and new shirts and pants to wear. But, the number one thing on my wish list is a robot.

Drink lots of hot chocolate! Your Friend, Austin Hermez

Crystal Barker's Warren Elementary School Kindergarten

Dear Santa,
This year I have been really nice. A few things I did that were nice were: I helped mop the floor and picked Kaley's paper up off the floor for her. If you are not too busy here is my wish list. I would love a Elsa and Anna doll, A Hello Kitty book to read, I really need a phone and a sweater to wear. But, the number one thing on my wish list is a house for my mom.

Drink lots of hot chocolate! Your Friend, Dalilah Jones
Dear Santa,

This year I have been really nice. A few things I did that were nice were: sharing toys with my brother and helping my mom make chocolate pudding. If you are not too busy here is my wish list. I would love a remote control car, a Pokémon book to read, I really need a cup and a hat to wear. But, the number one thing on my wish list is a remote control fighting robot.

Drink lots of hot chocolate! Your

Friend, Corbin Wolber

Dear Santa,
This year I have been really nice. A few things I did that were nice were: I helped my mom with everything and I helped my dad clean up the garage. If you are not too busy here is my wish list. I would love a basketball hoop, A book on reindeer to read, I really need warm winter clothes and a pair of pants to wear. But, the number one thing on my wish list is a stroller for my dolls.

Drink lots of hot chocolate! Your Friend, Addelyn Gibbons
Dear Santa,

This year I have been really nice. A few things I did that were nice were: I cleaned with my mom and played with Trevor. If you are not too busy here is my wish list. I would love a flower, an Elsa and Anna book to read, I really need socks and a pretty dress to wear. But, the number one thing on my wish list is a castle.

Drink lots of hot chocolate! Your Friend, Sadie Peterson
Dear Santa,

This year I have been really nice. A few things I did that were nice were: I hug my family and I help mom clean dishes. If you are not too busy here is my wish list. I would love a fighting robot, The book Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star to read, I really need a pool ball and a pair of pajamas to wear. But, the number one thing on my wish list is a driving Blaze.

Drink lots of hot chocolate! Your Friend, Donald Euler
Dear Santa,

This year I have been really nice. A few things I did that were nice were: I held the door for my family and I pick up my toys. If you are not too busy here is my wish list. I would love some baby diapers, an ABC book, I really need crayons and a pretty shirt to wear. But, the number one thing on my wish list is a baby doll.

Drink lots of hot chocolate! Your Friend, Koralyne Wehe
Dear Santa,

This year I have been really nice. A few things I did that were nice were: I cleaned off the table and helped Tanner pack his bag. If you are not too busy here is my wish list. I would love a Chubby Puppy, a frozen book to read, I really need a Bible and new underwear to wear. But, the number one thing on my wish list is Snuggles the Puppy.

Drink lots of hot chocolate! Your Friend, Kaley Thompson

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LEGALS

Ordinance Number 633 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE OF STOCKTON TO BORROW FUNDS FROM THE PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY LOAN PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Village of Stockton, JoDaviess County, IL operates its public water supply/waterworks system ("the System") in accordance with the provisions of 65 ILCS 5/11-139-1, et. seq., and the Local Government Debt Reform Act, 30 ILCS 350/1 (collectively, "the Act"), and

WHEREAS, the President and Board of Trustees of the Village of Stockton ("the Corporate Authorities") have determined that it is advisable, necessary and in the best interests of public health, safety and welfare to improve the System, including the following:

Approximately 3,625 linear feet of 1-inch diameter, 2-inch diameter, and 4-inch diameter water mains will be replaced with approximately 3,150 linear feet of 4-inch to 8-inch diameter water main, along with looping of the new water mains. The project also proposes to provide an auxiliary power supply for both Well #4 and Well #6.

together with any land or rights in land and all electrical, mechanical or other services necessary, useful or advisable to the construction and installation ("the Project"), all in accordance with the plans and specifications prepared by consultants of the Village of Stockton; which Project has a useful life of 21 years; and

WHEREAS, the estimated cost to purchase and install the Project, including engineering, legal, financial, administrative and other related expenses is \$1,627,200, and there are insufficient funds on hand and lawfully available to pay these costs; and

WHEREAS, the loan shall bear an interest rate as defined by 35 Ill. Adm. Code 662, which does not exceed the maximum rate authorized by the Bond Authorization Act, as amended, 30 ILCS 305/0.01 et seq., at the time of the issuance of the loan; and

WHEREAS, the principal and interest payment shall be payable semi-annually, and the loan shall mature in 20 years, which is within the period of useful life of the Project; and

WHEREAS, the costs are expected to be paid for with a loan to the Village of Stockton

from the Public Water Supply Loan Program through the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, the loan to be repaid from revenues of the System and the loan is authorized to be accepted at this time pursuant to the Act; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the provisions of the Act, the Village of Stockton is authorized to borrow funds from the Public Water Supply Loan Program in the aggregate principal amount of \$1,750,000 to provide funds to pay the costs of the Project;

WHEREAS, the loan to the Village of Stockton shall be made pursuant to a Loan Agreement, including certain terms and conditions, between the Village of Stockton and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency;

NOW THEREFORE, be it ordained by the Corporate Authorities of the Village of Stockton, JoDaviess County, IL, as follows:

SECTION 1. INCORPORATION OF PREAMBLES

The Corporate Authorities hereby find that the recitals contained in the preambles are true and correct, and incorporate them into this Ordinance by this reference.

SECTION 2. DETERMINATION TO BORROW FUNDS

It is necessary and in the best interests of the Village of Stockton to construct the Project for the public health, safety and welfare, in accordance with the plans and specifications, as described; that the System continues to be operated in accordance with the provision of the Act; and that for the purpose of constructing the Project, it is hereby authorized that funds be borrowed by the Village of Stockton in an aggregate principal amount (which can include construction period interest financed over the term of the loan) not to exceed \$1,750,000.

SECTION 3. PUBLICATION

This Ordinance, together with a Notice in the statutory form (attached hereto as Exhibit "A"), shall be published once within 10 days after passage in *The Scoop Today*, a newspaper published and of general circulation in the Village of Stockton, and if no petition signed by electors numbering 10% or more of the registered voters in the Village of Stockton (i.e., 118) asking that the question of improving the System as provided in this

Ordinance and entering into the Loan Agreement therefore be submitted to the electors of the Village of Stockton, is filed with the Village of Stockton Village Clerk within 30 days after the date of publication of this Ordinance and notice, then this Ordinance shall be in full force and effect. A petition form shall be provided by the Village Clerk to any individual requesting one.

SECTION 4. ADDITIONAL ORDINANCES

If no petition meeting the requirements of the Act and other applicable laws is filed during the 30 day petition period, then the Corporate Authorities may adopt additional ordinances or proceedings supplementing or amending this Ordinance providing for entering into the Loan Agreement with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, prescribing all the details of the Loan Agreement, and providing for the collection, segregation and distribution of the revenues of the System, so long as the maximum amount of the Loan Agreement as set forth in this Ordinance is not exceeded and there is no material change in the Project or purposes described herein. Any additional ordinances or proceedings shall in all instances become effective in accordance with the Act or other applicable law. This Ordinance, together with such additional ordinances or proceedings, shall constitute complete authority for entering into the Loan Agreement under applicable law.

However, notwithstanding the above, the Village of Stockton may not adopt additional ordinances or amendments which provide for any substantive or material change in the scope and intent of this Ordinance, including but not limited to interest rate, preference, or priority of any other ordinance with this Ordinance, parity of any other ordinance with this Ordinance, or otherwise alter or impair the obligation of the Village of Stockton to pay the principal and interest due to the Public Water Supply Loan Program without the written consent of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency.

SECTION 5. LOAN NOT INDEBTEDNESS OF VILLAGE OF STOCKTON

Repayment of the loan to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency by the Village of Stockton pursuant to this Ordinance is to be solely from the revenue derived from revenues of the System, and the loan does

not constitute an indebtedness of the Village of Stockton within the meaning of any constitutional or statutory limitation.

SECTION 6. APPLICATION FOR LOAN

The Village President is hereby authorized to make application to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency for a loan through the Public Water Supply Loan Program, in accordance with the loan requirements set out in 35 Ill. Adm. Code 662.

SECTION 7. ACCEPTANCE OF LOAN AGREEMENT

The Corporate Authorities hereby authorize acceptance of the offer of a loan through the Public Water Supply Loan Program, including all terms and conditions of the Loan Agreement as well as all special conditions contained therein and made a part thereof by reference. The Corporate Authorities further agree that the loan funds awarded shall be used solely for the purposes of the project as approved by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Loan Agreement.

SECTION 8. RESERVE ACCOUNTS

The Village of Stockton does not contemplate establishing any reserve accounts because it does not have any revenue bonds outstanding that would be superior or senior to the debt obligation contemplated herein.

SECTION 9. AUTHORIZATION OF VILLAGE PRESIDENT TO EXECUTE LOAN AGREEMENT

The Village President is hereby authorized and directed to execute the Loan Agreement with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. The Corporate Authorities may authorize by resolution a person other than the Village President for the sole purpose of authorizing or executing any documents associated with payment requests or reimbursements from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency in connection with this loan.

SECTION 10. SEVERABILITY

If any section, paragraph, clause or provision of this Ordinance is held invalid, the invalidity of such section, paragraph, clause or provision shall not affect any of the other provisions of this Ordinance.

SECTION 11. REPEALER
All ordinances, resolutions or orders, or parts thereof, which conflict with the provisions of

this Ordinance are, to the extent of such conflict, hereby repealed.

PASSED by the Corporate Authorities on December 13, 2016
Approved - December 13, 2016

Rodney A. Brandt

Rodney A. Brandt, President
Village of Stockton

Jo Daviess County, Illinois

AYES: Gonnerman, Hayes,

Kunz, Lickes, Stewart

NAYS: Curtis

ABSENT: None

RECORDED in the Village of Stockton Records on December 14, 2016

ATTEST:

Susanne Young

Susanne Young, Village Clerk

Village of Stockton

Jo Daviess County, Illinois

CERTIFICATION

I, SUSANNE YOUNG, certify that I am the Clerk of the Village of Stockton. I do further certify that the above and foregoing, identified as Ordinance Number 633, is a true, complete and correct copy of an ordinance otherwise identified as "An Ordinance Authorizing the Village of Stockton to Borrow Funds from the Public Water Supply Loan Program" passed by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Stockton on December 13, 2016, and approved by the President of the Village of Stockton on the same said date, the original of which is part of the books and records within my control as Clerk of the Village of Stockton.

Dated this 13th day of December 2016.

Susanne Young
Susanne Young, Village Clerk

Exhibit "A" NOTICE OF INTENT TO BORROW FUNDS AND RIGHT TO FILE PETITION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to Ordinance Number 633, adopted on December 13, 2016, the Village of Stockton, JoDaviess County, IL, (the "entity") intends to enter into a Loan Agreement with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$1,750,000 and bearing annual interest at an amount not to exceed the maximum rate authorized by law at the time of execution of the Loan Agreement, for the purpose of paying the cost of certain improvements to the public water supply system of the Village of Stockton. A complete copy of the Ordinance

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page accompanies this Notice.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that if a petition signed by 118 or more electors of the Village of Stockton (being equal to 10% of the registered voters in the Village of Stockton), requesting that the question of improving the public water supply system and entering into the Loan Agreement is submitted to the Village Clerk within 30 days after the publication of this Notice, the question of improving the public water supply system of the Village of Stockton as provided in the Ordinance and Loan Agreement shall be submitted to the electors of the Village of Stockton at the next election to be held under general election law on April 4, 2017. A petition form is available from the Office of the Village Clerk.

Susanne Young
SUSANNE YOUNG,
 Village Clerk
 (Published in The Scoop Today
 Dec. 21, 2016)

267572

Letters To Santa

Dear Santa,
 This year I have been really nice. A few things I did that were nice were: I gave Corbin a ball and I helped my mom do the dishes. If you are not too busy here is my wish list. I would love a remote control car, a Blaze book to read, I really need a toothbrush and long sleeve shirts to wear. But, the number one thing on my wish list is a fighting remote control robot.

Drink lots of hot chocolate! Your Friend, Alex Heimann

Dear Santa,
 This year I have been really nice. A few things I did that were nice were: I played with everyone at recess and I helped my mom with laundry. If you are not too busy here is my wish list. I would love a Lego snowman set, A scary book to read, I really need tools and gym shoes to wear. But, the number one thing on my wish list is a scooter.

Drink lots of hot chocolate! Your Friend, Zachary Bawden

Dear Santa,
 This year I have been really nice. A few things I did that were nice were: I cleaned my house and read books to my mom. If you are not too busy here is my wish list. I would love a toy car, a book about cars to read, I really need a blanket and socks to wear. But, the

number one thing on my wish list is a remote control monster truck.

Drink lots of hot chocolate! Your Friend, Kyron Saunders

Dear Santa,
 This year I have been really nice. A few things I did that were nice were: I gave my elf some clothes and I let my friends play with my toys. If you are not too busy here is my wish list. I would love a lip gloss kit, A princess book to read, I really need an expensive eyeshadow kit and butterfly dress to wear. But, the number one thing on my wish list is a Disney Princess diary.

Drink lots of hot chocolate! Your Friend, Hailie Pafford

Dear Santa,
 This year I have been really nice. A few things I did that were nice were: I pet my cat and I am nice to my friends. If you are not too busy here is my wish list. I would love a scooter, A Peppa Pig book to read, I really need a phone and a pair of high heels. But, the number one thing on my wish list is a polaroid camera.

Drink lots of hot chocolate! Your Friend, Paisley Logan

Mrs. Byrne's River Ridge First Grade

Dear Santa,
 How is Mrs. Claus doing? Would you bring me a toy dog? May I please have a computer? Have a safe trip!

With Love, Aubreanna

Dear Santa,
 How are you? How is your family? Will you please give me a Tablet and a Max Dog and a leash and stuffed animal?

With Love, Ashlyn

Dear Santa,
 Hi! How are you doing? I would like Minecraft Mutans mod video game because I have not played Minecraft for a long time. I would like some My Singing Monsters stuff because I like My Singing Monsters.

With Love, Deion

Dear Santa,
 Hi! How are you doing? May I have a Amazon Kindle for Christmas because I lost my first one? It got lost. May I have Shopkins for Christmas?

With Love, Amber

Dear Santa,
 May I please have a PS3 it is fun to play. May I please have a Nerf gun because I like target practice.

With Love, Kovan
 River Ridge Elementary Santa Letters

Mrs. Byrne's First Grade Class

Dear Santa,
 How are you doing? I would like some Transformers. I would like a zookeeper outfit. Did you feed your reindeer today?

With Love, Josh

Dear Santa,
 How are you doing? May I please have a box of Shopkins because I love to play with them. My baby brother would like a Christmas hat because I think it would be cute.

With Love, Andi

Dear Santa,
 For Christmas I would like a ball tower, puzzles and Legos.

With Love, Gryphon

Dear Santa,
 May I please have a ipad because they have lots of games. May I please have skinny Mr. Smelly markers because I can do lots of drawings. May I please have a cat.

With Love, Clara

Dear Santa,
 Merry Christmas! I would like a guitar for Christmas because I can play music. May I please have some imaginex? Have a good day.

With Love, Wesley

Dear Santa,
 How are you doing? Will you bring me a toy dinosaur? How are the reindeer?

With love, Joey

Dear Santa,
 Can I please have some stress balls. Can I please have some smell markers because I like to color stuff in. Have a good Christmas.

With love, Alexa

Dear Santa,
 How is your day? I will be really good because I want a ukulele. I will

wait until Christmas for it. I wish everyone will be good.

With love, Evalynn

Dear Santa,
 How are you doing Santa? Will you bring me a toy monkey? My mom and my dad would like a new bed. My brother would like a tablet.

With love, Lexi

Dear Santa,
 How are you doing Santa? Will you give my family good luck? Would you give my dad new pants?

With love, Michael

Dear Santa,
 Merry Christmas! May I please have a hoverboard because I will ride it. I would like a drone because I will drive it. Bye Santa!

Love, Chance

Dear Santa,
 How are you doing with your elfs? May I have some jewelry because I can wear it? Can I please have a box of 100 shopkins? Love Karmah

Dear Santa,

How are you doing Santa? I want a toy train for Christmas and a toy paw patrol stuffed animal. Tell me how Rudolph is doing and how your elves are doing Santa.

With love, Lane

Dear Santa,
 I would like a phone and a laptop. I would like a hoverboard. Santa what are you doing? I've been good helping with my sister.

With love, Brayden

Dear Santa,
 Merry Christmas! I would like a ipad because I like to listen to music. May I please have a baby doll house because I can play with it. I will give you chocolate chip cookies!

With love, Trinity

Dear Santa,
 How are you doing? May I please have a drone because I would like to see what is going on outside. May I please have a robot because I would like to get stuff that I can't get.

With love, Russell

Dear Santa,
 May I please have a dog named Chip because I can tell him what to do. I would like a xbox because I like to play games. I will put carrots and milk on my table for you.

With love, Kyler

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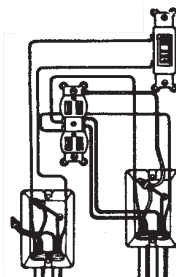
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Registered Nurse

Job Duties: Medication administration training; monitor clients health; update and maintain health records; provide written reports as needed; monitor and distribute medication; give immunizations. These duties would be done in our two group homes in Galena, and with two of our homes in Stockton.

Qualifications: Must be a Licensed RN with the State of Illinois; must have a valid drivers license and an acceptable driving record; must be able to provide your own transportation. We require two years clinical experience and prefer at least one-year experience working with individuals with developmental disabilities.

Benefits: Competitive salary; paid mileage; tuition reimbursement; paid time off plan based on hours worked. Working in a comfortable home like environment with a strong client-centered team.

Interested?

Send Resume to:
moserly@kreiderservices.org
or mail to
Kreider Services
521 South West Street
Galena, IL 61036
Kreider Services is an EEO,
Drug Free workplace 266946



\$1000 New Hire Bonus
\$2.00 Premium for
2nd & 3rd Shifts

1st, 2nd, 3rd Shift Welders

\$17-\$25/hr

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Full time positions with benefit package including health, dental, vision, 401k, and company provided uniforms. For a list of current job opening descriptions and applications go to www.monroetruck.com

Please apply between 8AM – 4PM (M-F)
or submit resume to:

Monroe Truck Equipment, Inc.
1051 West 7th Street
Monroe WI 53566
Fax 608-329-8456

hmonroe@monroetruck.com
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266939

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Experienced technicians needed for full – time positions. Must possess good communication skills & maintain a strong attendance record. Valid drivers licenses required.

Please send resume to:
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Freeport Metal Specialties
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Freeport, IL 61032

267087

HELP WANTED

Body shop looking for an energetic, upbeat people person for inside/outside sales. Automotive experience a plus but will train the right candidate. Salary + bonus plan available. Send resume & references to

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267207

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Warren personnel:
Seated: Laura Busch, Donna Ernst, Val Stocks, Bobbie Borsdorf, Calé Doubler, Janette Leehan.
Standing: Janan McNett, Ben Wooden, Lindsay Kent, Rachel Schelberger, Brock Gill, Martha Dillon.
Not pictured: Brielle Harwick, Cynthia Waters.



Apple River personnel:
Seated: Brenda Story, Tammy Renz, Shelley Thompson.
Standing: Nick Mackall, Sally Toepfer.



Scales Mound personnel:
Front row: Bill Wubben, Sophie Wubben.
Back row: Andy Bussan, Celeste Aurand, Mary Anne Hoftender, Karen Redfearn.



Hanover personnel:
Seated: Susan Fulton, Jason Thomasson, Dee Dee Aadson.
Standing: Anita Larson, Carol Unangst, Cindy Shaw, Crystal Geerts.
Not Pictured: Katherine Groezinger, Mary Ohms.



Elizabeth personnel:
Seated: Troy Pafford.
Standing: Jason Thomasson, Goldie Foley, Margaret Truppa, Cindy Shaw.



Galena personnel:
Seated: Amanda DuHack, Brittini Busch, Nicole Winter, Tammy Hesselbacher, Sandy Frank, Abby Wills, Abby Strack, Jan Radabaugh.
Standing: Joel Holland, Zeke Winders, Lynn Houy, Cynthia Meyerhofer, Marcy Doyle, Cyndy Muchow, Rena Smith, Megan Harris, Lavonne Ohms, Mary Ambrosia, Kelsea Brown, Doug Laity, Nathan Vondra, Rick Weis.
Back row: Chris Weis, John Osmanski, Jeff Becker, David Wilmarth, Greg Duerr, Mike Staver, Russ Farrey, Mike Levens, Tim Swigart.
Not pictured: Linda Hyde, Cassidy Potter, Stephanie Hyde, Sydney Schuler.



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www.appleriverstatebank.com