

the Scoop Today



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YOUR FREE HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2016

You need to know about the batch of new Illinois laws that could directly affect you

By Tony Carton
EDITOR

Regardless of your political ideology the rapid growth of laws and regulations has grown to the point where no single person can keep track of them all. This means that no matter who you are or what you do, it's impossible to go about your daily life without breaking some onerous and vague rule.

According to the Office of the Federal Register, which keeps track of government agency rules and public notices, 81,611 pages of regulations and proposed rules were created in 2015. All told, about 3,378 rules were finalized, and 2,334 regulations are at some stage of consideration.

Illinois will ring in 2017 with dozens of new laws. Here are a few worth mentioning:

"Tampon tax" An update to the tax code means women's health products including tampons, pads, and menstrual cups won't be taxed the same way as, say, makeup or hair care products. Additionally, health insurance now must cover FDA-approved contraceptive drugs, covering up to a year of contraceptives at a time.

"Nunya bizness" Is your boss or potential employer asking you to sign in to your social media accounts so they can peek inside your online life? Tell them to cut it off, because it's illegal.

New sick time rules say employees can spend their paid time off caring for members of their immediate family, not just limited to children, but also including spouses, siblings, and parents. Workers are also entitled to paid leave if they or a relative are the victim of abuse.

New protections for low-wage workers forbid employers from

forcing anyone making less than \$13.50 to sign a non-compete agreement. This comes after the Illinois AG sued Jimmy John's for doing just that. The "Domestic Workers' Bill of Rights" spells out that housekeepers and other domestic workers are entitled to workplace protections like overtime, wages and days off.

"Lead poisoning" Concerns about lead poisoning, especially in older buildings, led to new requirements that landlords have to disclose if the toxin may be present and take steps to get rid of it before selling or leasing a property.

"Medical referrals" Medical providers refusing to perform treatments (most likely abortions) under Illinois' Health Care Right of Conscience law now must inform patients of other providers and treatment options.

"Jail breaks" Reports of people unable to post bail because they didn't have a credit card or the jail's machine was broken, leaving them stuck behind bars, inspired new rules saying bail can be paid in cash. Limits on the cost of a call from prison are also meant to keep companies from profiting off of inmates by charging too much.

"Big brother" One interesting new rule requires licensed hair stylists, barbers, and cosmetologists to undergo domestic violence training, so they can identify potential victims and take steps to encourage them find help.

"Start seeing" Drivers take note: bikes and cars are treated equally under Illinois' rules of the roads. In particular, bicyclists are entitled to the same right-of-way as cars. Drivers are also now required to change

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TONY CARTON PHOTO The Scoop Today

Trophy night at Stockton Lanes

The Stockton Elementary School bowlers gathered at Stockton Bowling Lanes last Tuesday for their end of the season trophy celebration.

Stockton battles through the Erie Tournament

By Chris Johnson
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

The first half of the basketball season has come the midpoint. There will be tournament games the Stockton Blackhawks will have to work through to close 2016, but the trip to Erie allows them the chance to see how well-prepared they are, as 2017 approaches just days away.

Following wins over Warren, who was coming off the Pecatonica Thanksgiving Tournament Championship, as well as carrying an undefeated mark, Stockton toppled Scales Mound and began rising in the standings in the NUIC.

Since the Dec. 8 win over Scales Mound, 39-22, the Blackhawks have worked on getting back to consecutive win chances. On Dec. 10 they fell to NUIC partner Ashton-Franklin Center in the Rt. 84 Holiday Tournament opening-round. Following another win over Scales Mound, 42-14, they fell to 1-2 in the invitational as they dropped a nine-point decision to the Fulton Steamers 48-39. Unity Christian closed the Rt. 84 Invitational for Stockton.

The Erie Tournament opened on Monday, Dec. 26 and game play will carry Stockton through the final week of the year. January, 2017

opens a new series of chances for Stockton as it prepares for River Ridge on Thursday, Jan. 5. A Friday day off is followed by a Saturday match at West Carroll. Lena-Winslow will be waiting for the Blackhawks' visit on Tuesday, Jan. 10 and Eastland pays a visit to Stockton on Friday, Jan. 13.

For the Stockton Lady Blackhawks it is a similar close to 2016, as they also suited up for battle this week. Game play returns quicker in the new year for the Stockton girls' basketball athletes as they travel to

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Letters To Santa

Mrs. Libberton's Stockton Kindergarten

Dear Santa,
I hope you don't fall off your sled like in Christmas Vacation. I would like a Star Wars ship that can fly for Christmas. Thank you. Love, Alex Jordan

Dear Santa,
How is Mrs. Claus? I would like a new bike for Christmas because my pedal fell off. I hope your reindeer are ready for the trip. Thank you. Love, Karah Arnold

Dear Santa,
How are your reindeer doing? I would like a new stuffed animal puppy for Christmas. I hope you have a very merry Christmas! Thank you, Cadence Krueger

Dear Santa,
Are your elves busy making toys? I would like a Dallas Cowboys blanket for Christmas please. I hope you have a safe trip on Christmas Eve! Love, Kullen Steen

Dear Santa,
I hope you don't fall out of your sleigh on Christmas Eve! I would like a stuffed animal bear for Christmas! I hope your reindeer are ready to fly!!! Love, Brier McPeck

Dear Santa,
Do you have a Christmas tree? I would like an American Girl Doll for Christmas so I can play with my sister and hers! I hope you like my milk and cookies. Love, Delilah Haas

Dear Santa,
How are you Santa? I would like a Hatchimal for Christmas please! I hope my elf BooBooLouLou is making me a Hatchimal. Love, Danika Bergman

Dear Santa,
How are you? I hope your elves are almost done making all the toys! I would like a tablet for Christmas please! I hope your reindeer are nice and clean for the trip! Love, Jaycie Ernst.

Dear Santa,
How are your reindeer doing? I would like some new hair chalk for Christmas please! I hope you have a

very good Christmas. Love, Rayne Becker

Dear Santa,
How are your reindeer? I would like a Barbie house for Christmas please. I hope Mrs. Claus is doing good! Love, Gracie Kruse

Dear Santa,
Do your reindeer like cookies? I would like a laptop for Christmas please. I hope your reindeer and sleigh are ready for the big trip! Love, Jameson Brown

Dear Santa,
How is Mrs. Claus doing? I would like a Lego Krennic's Imperial Shuttle for Christmas please. I hope you have a very merry Christmas! Love, Zachary Larson

Dear Santa,
You are so silly. I want to give cookies to you. I want a Pop the Pig game for Christmas. Love, Hunter Snyder

Dear Santa,
How have you been doing? What do you make for people? Do you have a Christmas tree up? Do you have 100 elves? I want a FlipaZoo for Christmas. Love, Lauren Johnson

Dear Santa,
Do you always make sure your elves do the work right? Does Rudolph always listen? I want a jingle bell from your reindeer's harness for Christmas. Love, Trinity Bertucci

Dear Santa,
How is Rudolph doing? I want Pie Face and a microphone for Christmas this year. Thank you. Love, Andria Lancaster

Dear Santa,
I love you. How do the elves make all the toys and presents? I want an Xbox, a Wii, and a drone for Christmas this year. I know I won't get all this but I want some. Love, River Brenner

Dear Santa,
I like you. I want trolls for Christmas this year. Love, Alayna Haas

Dear Santa,
I like your reindeer. I want a remote controlled car that has a Nerf

gun on it. I also want a Lego Batman game. Have a good day. Love, Aaron Pieper

Dear Santa,
How are you? I want a Monster Truck for Christmas. Love, Erick Schreiner

Dear Santa,
How is Rudolph and the other reindeer? How are you, Santa? I want a Baby Alive Snackin' Sara for Christmas, please? Love, Emma Emanuelson

Mrs. Janecke's Warren Elementary Second Grade

Dear Santa,
My name is Jonathan. I am 7 years old. I live in the country. This year I have been very good. I have been very good because I do my homework. At school I have been quiet in line. What I would MOST like for Christmas this year is a 4 wheel drive tractor that looks real and a toy ammonia bar that looks real. I want these because my brother has one. If your elves are not too busy I would also like a combine. I will leave some yummy cookies for you on Christmas Eve! Merry Christmas! From Your Friend, Jonathan

Dear Santa,
My name is Wyatt. I am 7 years old. I live in Apple River. This year I have been very good. I have been very good because I have helped with chores. At school I play nicely with my friends. What I would MOST like for Christmas this year is an Elf on the Shelf. I want an Elf on the Shelf because I want it to watch me be good. If your elves are not too busy I would also like Orbeez, Wubble Bubble Ball, and a New York Giant sweatshirt. I will leave some chocolate chip cookies for you on Christmas Eve! Merry Christmas! From Your Friend, Wyatt

Dear Santa,
My name is Charlie. I am 7 years old. I live in Apple River. This year I have been very good. I have been very good because I clean my room every day. At school I have been super good and nice. What I would MOST like for Christmas this year is a box of Legos. I would like Legos because I want White Tiger and Doc Hoc. If your elves are not too busy I would also like a build a robot toy. I will leave some cookies for you on

Christmas Eve! Merry Christmas! From Your Friend, Charlie

Dear Santa,
My name is Levi. I am 7 years old. I live in Warren. This year I have been very good. I have been very good because I help my mom pick up toys. At school I am good because I have not touched the elf. What I would MOST like for Christmas this year is a Power Ranger suit. I would like a Power Ranger suit because I like the Power Rangers. If your elves are not too busy I would also like another Elf on the Shelf. I will leave some yummy cookies and cold milk for you on Christmas Eve! Merry Christmas! From Your Friend, Levi

Dear Santa,
My name is Isaiah. I am 7 years old. I live in Warren. This year I have been very good. I have been good because I keep my room clean. At school I am a kind friend. What I would MOST like for Christmas this year is an Elf on the Shelf. I want one because I don't have one at home. If your elves are not too busy I would also like a sand box and sand toys. I will leave some cookies and milk for you on Christmas Eve! Merry Christmas! From Your Friend, Isaiah

Dear Santa,
My name is Eden. I am 7 years old. I live in Warren. This year I have been good. I have been good because I do my homework. At school I have been a caring friend. What I would MOST like for Christmas this year is a Pom Pom Wow. I want one because I want to decorate my stuff. If your elves are not too busy I would also like Orbeez, Wubble Bubble Ball, and a Chocolate pen. I will leave some chocolate chip cookies and milk for you on Christmas Eve! Merry Christmas! From Your Friend, Eden

Dear Santa,
My name is Erik. I am 7 years old. I live in Warren. This year I have been good. I have been good because I do my homework, hunt and do chores. I also help my sister Katie with her homework. At school I am a nice boy. At home I am a little good. What I would MOST like for Christmas this year is a dirt bike. I want a dirt bike so I can race people. If your elves are not too busy I would also like \$11,000, a toy bulldog, a stuffed animal Santa. I will leave some candy for you on Christmas Eve! Merry Christmas! From Your Friend, Erik

Dear Santa,
My name is Lillian. I am 8 years old. I live in Apple River. This year I have been good. I have been good because I have been doing my home-

work. At school I have been helping my teacher. What I would MOST like for Christmas this year is a Pom Pom Wow! I want one because I want to decorate my stuff. If your elves are not too busy I would also like Orbeez, Wubble Bubble Ball and a Chocolate pen. I will leave some chocolate chip cookies and milk for you on Christmas Eve! Merry Christmas! From Your Friend, Lillian

Dear Santa,
My name is Kaitlin. I am 7 years old. I live in Apple River. This year I have been good. I have been very good because I do not touch the Elf on the Shelf at my house. At school I do all my math. I listen to my teachers. I try to return my homework every day so we can get another homework point at school. What I would MOST like for Christmas this year is Silly Putty. I would like to receive Silly Putty because I like playing with it when I'm mad. If your elves are not too busy I would also like a puppy, one more Elf on the Shelf, three packs of Orbeez, two Wubble Bubble Balls, and a gymnastics mat. I will leave some cookies and milk for you on Christmas Eve! Merry Christmas! From Your Friend, Kaitlin

Dear Santa,
My name is Jaren. I am 8 years old. I live in Warren. This year I have been very good. I have been very good because I help farm with my dad. At school I play with my friends. What I would MOST like for Christmas this year is an X Box 1. I would like one because my dad and I want to play Farming Simulator. If your elves are not too busy I would also like \$1,000, so I can buy a Ranger to ride in my yard. I will leave some sugar cookies and deer food for you and your reindeer on Christmas Eve! Merry Christmas! From Your Friend, Jaren

Dear Santa,
My name is Rylan. I am 7 years old. I live in Apple River. This year I have been very good. I have been very good because I am training a calf this winter to pull a sled with square bales in the sled. At school I have been very good every day. What I would MOST like for Christmas this year is some magic that will last me the rest of my life. I would want to use this magic on my toys. I have always wanted magic. P.S. I have been very good. If your elves are not too busy I would also like a gas powered remote control F-150, a 4-wheel drive mower with a loader and a cab. I will leave some cookies and milk for you on Christmas Eve! Merry Christmas! From Your Friend, Rylan

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Stockton Police report for week ending Dec. 22

At approximately 7:30 a.m. on 12/16, the Stockton Police Department received information in reference to a possible child abuse incident. The victim is a student of the Stockton School district and reported an alleged abuse to an official from the school district and fellow students. The victim alleged that she had been physically abused by a family member. The Stockton Police responded to the school and met with officials of the school and the alleged victim. After receiving the story of the alleged abuse from the victim, Police then interviewed family members. Due to the allegations of this nature against a family member, the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services was notified. This case is still under investigation by the Stockton Police and DCFS.

At approximately 3:11 p.m. on 12/16 the Stockton Police were dispatched to the area of the Stockton Elementary School 236 N. Pearl St. to meet with a subject who had been involved in a Domestic Related altercation. On the arrival of Police, they met with the caller who stated that she had had a fight with her daughter. After interviewing both parties involved, it was determined that the subjects involved should separate. The caller complained of pain and requested an ambulance to the scene. The Stockton Ambulance Service responded to the scene, and transported the caller to Freeport Hospital. Due to the medical attention requested and no immediate danger to either party involved, a report was made and no further Police assistance was required.

On 12/17 at approximately 1:20a.m. while on routine patrol, an Officer of the Stockton Police Department observed a male subject who appeared to be disoriented, near the Casey's General Store on South Main Street. Upon approaching and talking with the subject, it was apparent to the officer that the subject was extremely intoxicated. The officer ran a computer check on the subject and found that he was not wanted. Due to his intoxicated condition and his inability to function in a responsible manner, the subject was ordered to return to his nearby residence for his own safety, due to the extreme weather conditions. The subject complied with the officers' lawful order. No further police assistance was required.

At approximately 10:09 a.m. on 12/17 The Stockton Police received a call from a subject claiming to be the victim of a Domestic Battery. Upon the officers' arrival, the victim stated that she was attacked by her mother. The victim stated that her mother wanted some property from the victim and the victim would not give the property to her mother. The victim stated that her mother became irate and began damaging furniture and clothing in the victim's room. The victim stated that her mother also physically attacked her by striking her and throwing a piece of furniture on top of her. All injuries and the condition of the apartment were consistent with the victims' story.

Upon interviewing the mother, it was determined that she did commit the alleged offense. However, the mother claimed to be injured. At this time, the mother was taken by ambulance to Freeport Hospital for treatment. Upon completion of treatment, the mother was placed under arrest for Domestic Battery and Disorderly Conduct. She had fought with hospital personnel and police in an effort to resist arrest procedures, and was eventually transported to the Jo Daviess County Jail for processing.

At approximately 2:05 p.m. on 12/17, an Officer of the Stockton Police Department was dispatched to an address on South Simmons Street in reference to a disturbance with a neighbor. On arrival, police met with the caller who stated that a neighbor was leaving disturbing messages on his door. When the neighbor was confronted by police, he admitted to leaving the messages, but it was apparent to the officer that the subject may be in need of medical intervention. The neighbor was told not to leave any further messages on the neighbors' door. No further police assistance was required at this time.

On 12/17 at approximately 7:20 p.m. the Stockton Police were notified of a possible missing person. The complainant stated that her daughter was supposed to be home several hours earlier, but the daughter called and said there had been a large auto accident on route 20 near Lena. The complainant called the Stephenson County Sheriffs' Office to find out about the car accident and to see if her daughter was involved. The complainant was told by the Sheriffs' Office that there had been no accidents on Route 20, and that her daughter had not had any involvement with the Sheriffs' Office. The complainant began to worry that her daughter was in need of medical intervention. The Stockton Police searched several locations that the daughter patronizes in Stockton. The police were able to locate the

daughter at a local business. It was determined that the daughter did, in fact, require medical intervention. The Stockton Ambulance Service responded to the scene and transported the daughter to Freeport Memorial Hospital.

On 12/18 at approximately 12:55 a.m., an Officer of the Stockton Police Department was on routine patrol in the area of Main Street and North Avenue when he observed a black Dodge Dakota Pickup truck turning southbound onto N. Main Street from W. North Avenue. The officer observed the black Dodge Dakota excessively accelerate in such a manner as to have the rear of the vehicle swerve from side to side, which is commonly known as "fish tailing". The officer then observed the black Dodge Dakota turn westbound on to W. Maple Avenue from N. Main Street. While the vehicle was turning westbound, the vehicle again excessively accelerated in such a manner as to have the rear of the vehicle swerve from side to side. The officer then activated his emergency lights and attempted to stop the black Dodge Dakota bearing Iowa registration. The vehicle did not stop immediately, but instead turned southbound on to N. Pearl Street from W. Maple Avenue. While the vehicle was turning southbound, the vehicle again excessively accelerated in such a manner as to have the rear of the vehicle swerve from side to side. The officer then activated his squad siren, and the vehicle finally pulled over to the side of the roadway. The officer approached the vehicle, made contact with the driver, and informed him as to the reason specifically citing his repeated manner of acceleration which was causing his vehicle to "fish tail". The driver stated that he was driving too fast in the snow, and it was causing his vehicle to "fish tail." While speaking with the driver, the officer observed a strong odor of alcohol coming from him and that the driver was exhibiting several other signs of

intoxication. In addition, the driver made statements to the officer that he had been drinking alcohol. He was requested to perform several Field Sobriety tests due to the indication that he was operating a Vehicle under the Influence of Alcohol. After the Field Sobriety tests, he was taken into custody and charged with DUI, Improper Lane Change, Driving too Fast for Conditions and Excessive Acceleration. A Court Date has been set in Jo Daviess County.

At approximately 5:09 p.m. on 12/18, the Stockton Police received a call of a loud disturbance in the area of Benton and Pearl Streets. Police were advised by complainant that there was a male subject who was shouting obscenities and threatening to shoot someone. On arrival, Police could hear shouting and were able to locate the source of the disturbance in the north alley of Benton Street, just east of Pearl. Officers found a subject banging on a door and shouting and swinging his arms in anger. It was determined that the subject was kicking and pounding on his own front door of his residence. The officer attempted to assist the subject

into his residence; however, the subject became belligerent and shouted obscenities at the officer when he was told he would receive a citation for causing the disturbance. The subject refused to cooperate with the officer, and at this time the subject was informed that he was under arrest. The subject attempted to physically resist the officer's attempt to place him into custody. The subject was finally placed into custody and placed into a squad car for transport to the Jo Daviess County Jail for processing. During the transport to the County Jail, the subject continued to make threats to do harm to the officer, stating that the officer would "die young" and that he would not suffer any consequences because he knows the judge. The subject is charged with Disorderly Conduct and Resisting/Obstructing a Police Officer.

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.

DEADLINES

News Items

Friday at 4 p.m. the week prior in the Lena Office on a space available basis.

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Friday noon the week prior to publication.

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Season's

Greetings

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Letters To Santa

Mrs. Gray's Stockton Elementary First Grade

Dear Santa,
Hey Santa! It's Delanee. I like first grade. I like PE because we have fun. I like Miss Gray. For Christmas I want Legos, movies, and trollies. What are your reindeer's names? Is the North Pole really cold? I want my friend Sadie to get a new dog because they had Maggie for a long time.

Love, Delanee Adleman
Dear Santa,

I love you Santa. I love first grade because Miss Gray is the best teacher. I like PE, too. I want Barbies, ponies, and trolls. What are your favorite cookies? How do you make your cookies? I want my friend Khannon to have a puppy because he is my best friend.

Love, Evelyn Craft
Dear Santa,

Hi Santa! How are you? Miss Gray is my first grade teacher. I like the crafts we make too. For Christmas I want a sled, a dog, and a flute. How cold is it in the North Pole? How many elves do you have? I want my mom to get new hunting equipment because we like to go hunting.

Love, Wesley Gile
Dear Santa,

Hi Santa! I like crafts we do in first grade because the crafts turn out nice. I like Miss Gray, too. She teaches us so we can be smart. For Christmas I want a Christmas tree, a Smartboard, and a dry-erase board. How does your sled fly? Does the North Pole have a lot of snow? I want Miss Gray to get a million dollars because she is nice to me.

Love, Adam Haas
Dear Santa,

Hi Santa! I like all of my friends in first grade. I like Miss Gray because she is the best teacher. For Christmas I want a sled, Hatchimals, and a Lego set. How do you make the toys? How many elves do you have? I want Miss Gray to get a new necklace because she never wears them.

Love, Emma Haas
Dear Santa,

Hi Santa! How are you? In first grade we make lots of fun crafts. I like the computer lab. For Christmas I want an Xbox 1S, a Nerf gun, and a new Call of Duty game. How do you get around town so fast? How do you get your reindeer to fly? I want my mom to get a new Scentsy because it will make her happy.

Love, Mason Henderson
Dear Santa,

Hi Santa! How are you? First grade is so much fun. I like being the Room Captain. I like Miss Gray because she is the best. I want the Angry Birds Movie, Trolls, and a new Mario Brothers game for the Wii. How do your reindeer fly? How do you make all of those toys? I want my grandma to get a new car because she gives me presents.

Love, Jarrett Johnson
Dear Santa,

Hi Santa! How have you been? I am in first grade. I like being Room Captain because you get to do show-and-tell. I like Miss Gray because she

is the best teacher ever. For Christmas I want flower bedding, an Orbeez Soothing Spa, and Hatchimals. How do you get to all of those houses in one night? How do you get the reindeer to fly? I want Jarrett to get Legos because he doesn't have very many. Love, Sadie Johnson

Dear Santa,
Hi Santa! I am in first grade. I like my teacher Miss Gray. I like all of my friends, too. Can I please have a bike, a Chucky toy, and a monster truck for Christmas? How do you get your reindeer? How do you get down the chimney? I want my friend Jarrett to get a nice robot because he is nice to me. Love, Khannon Jones

Dear Santa,
Hi Santa! I like first grade. I can dance in first grade. I can play with my friends. Please bring me a princess doll, a bike, and a kitty cat. Do you live at the North Pole? Do you come when I sleep? Could you bring an Elf on the Shelf for mom and dad? It would be fun. Mom would like it. Love, Stella McGovern

Dear Santa,
Hi Santa! How have you been? I am in Miss Gray's first grade. I like math and I love to read. For Christmas I would like a scooter, an iPad, and a toy dinosaur. How do you get around town? How many elves do you have? I want my dad to get new hunting equipment because he likes to hunt. Love, Sawyer McPeck

Dear Santa,
Hi Santa! I am in first grade. I like Miss Gray and I like to do math. For Christmas I want a Power Ranger, a toy dog, and a bike. How are the reindeer doing? How are the elves too? I want Jarrett to get a new bike because he is my best friend. Love, Bencho Montalvo

Dear Santa,
Hi Santa! How are you doing? I am in first grade. I like Miss Gray and all of my friends. Can I please have a phone, a tablet, and Pie Face Show Down for Christmas? How many reindeer do you have? How many elves do you have? I want Sadie to get a blue bow because her favorite color is blue. Love, Maliani Munoz

Dear Santa,
Hi Santa! I am a first grader. I like my teacher and I like being the Room Captain. There are only a few things I want for Christmas. I would like a movie, a Barbie, and a Monster High doll. How many elves do you have? How many reindeer do you have? I want my dad to get some hunting stuff because I want to go hunting. Love, Maddalyn Nowvick

Dear Santa,
Hi Santa! I like my teacher because she lets us watch movies sometimes. I liked making our elf craft. I want a remote control car, semi-truck, and a remote control semi. How many elves do you have? How many reindeer do you have? I want Slayten to get Legos because he is a good friend. Love, Cooper Raab

Dear Santa,
Hi Santa! I am a first grader. I like Miss Gray and PE. For Christmas I want a Dino Zoomer, Legos, and a movie. How cold is it in the North Pole? How do you get around

so fast? I want mom to get new close because she works hard and should get new clothes.

Love, Samuel Sikora
Dear Santa,

Hey Santa! I am in Miss Gray's first grade class. I like math in first grade. I like going to the computer lab. I want a toy fox, math paper, and a Llama Llama book for Christmas. Why are the elves so tiny? Why do you have a beard? I want my friend Delanee to have a new shirt because it might match her shoes and her colorful pants.

Love, Emelia Steien
Dear Santa,

Hey Santa! It's Cohen! I'm in first grade. I like to do crafts. I like recess. Can I please have games, a Kindle, and books for Christmas? How many elves do you have? How many reindeer do you have? I want my mom to get a new shirt because she helps me do lots of stuff.

Love, Cohen Wampfler

Mrs. Schafer's Third Grade - River Ridge Elementary

Dear Santa,
Thank you for that Barbie house. I always put my Christmas tree inside my Barbie house. How are the elves doing? How is Rudolph doing and the other reindeer? How is Mrs. Claus doing? How are you doing?

I would like a leotard. I would also like orbeez and some balloons. I would also like some posters. I would also like a frame to put my posters in for my room. I would also like my sister to have some stress balls. Love, Averil

Dear Santa,
Thank you for the presents last year. How is Rudolph? How are you? How is Mrs. Claus? Do the reindeer ever get tired flying around the world? How do you fit down the chimney? What does Mrs. Claus do at your house?

I would like the 2016 barbie of the year Aqua and 2016 birthday wishes-blondelove, Elaina

Dear Santa,
How are your elves? How is Mrs. Claus? How is Rudolph? I want a teddy bear. I want a dump truck. I want an airport play set. Love, Loran

Dear Santa,
Thank you for the video games last year really appreciated the games and the wolf hat. How is Mrs. Claus doing, good or bad? How are the elves doing making the toys? How are you doing Santa with the reindeer?

Santa can i please have Charizard pokemon card and an iphone 6 and a mini dirt bike. Your friend, Deaven Love Deaven Thank you

Dear Santa,
Thank you for last year's presents. Why do you not want to be seen? How many elves are at the North pole? Do you really give coal? Is it always snowing outside? For Christmas I would like crazy Aaron's thinking putty. I would like orbeez and balloons so I can put the orbeez in the balloons. I would also like a Hatchimal. Last I would like a hoverboard. Love, Ava

Dear Santa,
Thank you for shopkins, new

boots, ipad and clothes last year. How is Mrs. Claus and the elves and Rudolph. Is Rudolph really good! Is Rudolph helpful! Do you do a lot of cookies or do you bring them back for Mrs. Claus! How old are you and Mrs. Claus.

For Christmas I would like something for my mom and dad. I would like to have a ring for my mom. Could I have a fake bird for Christmas. I would like a fake baby doll that really looks real. Love, Maddie

Dear Santa,
How are your reindeer doing? Are they having hot cocoa over winter break? Santa how do you get our reindeer to fly Santa?

What I would want for Christmas is a rocket launching station and a star wars shuttle. Thank you Santa for my presents last year. Love, Devin

Dear Santa,
Thank you for the presents from last year. Thank you for giving me presents each year. How is Rudolf doing this year? How are all the elves and you doing? How many toys do you make per year? How many elves do you have? How many toys and clothes do you have?

For Christmas I would like a new bike. I would like to get my mom a diamond ring. I would like a new baseball bat. I would like to get my sister a new Barbie house.

I would like a baseball glove. I would like lots of books. Love, Vinny

Dear Santa,
Thank you for bringing me presents every other year. Thank you for bringing me great stuff. How are you doing up there? Can you please ask Mrs. Claus how she's doing?

Hey! Santa here are 4 things I would like to have pajamas, coat, remote control car, and a toy dinosaur. Have a very merry Christmas Santa. Love, Bentley

Dear Santa,
Thank you for giving me a stuffed bear that was purple, from last year. I love that bear I sleep with it every night. I snuggle with it and I even play dress up with the purple bear. I also want to thank for giving me a pair of winter gloves. I use them all the time at least. By the way how many presents did the elves make for boys and girls all around the world? Are all the reindeer getting ready for Christmas and they need to be ready for running all over the world they need to be strong runners too. Also Santa how old are You? I never thought about that before.

I don't really want anything for Christmas but I would like Think putty for Christmas because I like putty things like that. Love, Gracie

Dear Santa,
Thanks for the baby doll crib. Can you please say hello to Mrs. Claus for me? How is the reindeer? How are you? Are you going to drop off my presents in Springfield or Hannover? Do you have kids? How old are you and Mrs. Claus? Can you please get me Orbeez thank you. Can you get me some friendship necklaces? Love, Zoey

Dear Santa,
Thank you for the presents that

I got last year. I got a tablet, friendship bracelets, a pogo stick but my parents took it back because they thought it was too dangerous for me but thank you anyway, and I got Shopkin puzzles. In our stockings we got gummy soda candies, fruit punch gummy candies, and toothbrushes. For Christmas can I please have only chocolate because I love it and it is good, Chocolate Pen, Chocolate Pen is chocolate in different colors, and may I please have a box of chocolate for Mrs. Schafer, thank you!! Love, Jasmine

Dear Santa,
Thank you for giving all the kids in the whole world a present. Thank you Santa for flying your sleigh all around the world. Thank you for all the cheer you gave us. Do you have Rudolph in the front of your sleigh? Can you tell Mrs. Claus I said hi? Can you tell Rudolph I said hi too?

Can you please get me some Shopkins for Christmas? Can you please get me a shopey doll? Can you please get me a stuffed animal? Your friend, Kaitlynn

Dear Santa,
Thank you Santa for the presents you gave me for Christmas. Is it colder where you live than I live? Do you like my cookies? I hope you do!

For Christmas I want pet shops. What I want for Christmas is a horse. I just want for Christmas to have everybody happy. Love, Jaime Dear Santa, How are you doing in the North Pole? I bet it's very cold up there. Are the elves being good? What are the reindeer doing? Are the Elves very silly?

Do you know what I want for Christmas? What I would like for Christmas is a drill, rc car, candy, bunny, farm toys, green spray paint, and a chain. Your friend, Ethan

Dear Santa,
How is it going up there? How is Rudolph doing? How are the reindeer going? Are you having a good time? Is it colder where you live or where we live? How do all your elves do all that work? Are you doing good?

What I want for Christmas is a baby alive 2nd, and a easy bake oven. Love, Taeler

Dear Santa,
I like your reindeer. How is Mrs. Claus?

I want a white snare drum. I would also like a monster truck with a remote control. Love, Matthew

Dear Santa,
How are you doing up at the North Pole? How many presents do the elves have to make?

I would like 8 presents for Christmas for me, sis, mom, dad because they are my special gift for Christmas family. I would like a gocart, and a camera. Then for my sister I would like for her and Thea.

Next 2 presents are for my dad, I would like him to have a camera and a clean hat that is just his size and is dirt proof. Then last I would like my mom to have fancy earrings and 2 snowglobes. Your Friend, Thomas

ON THE RECORD

Obituaries

I. RONALD LAWFER

Irvin Ronald Lawfer passed away Sunday morning Dec. 18, 2016 at home surrounded by his family. He was born a twin to Ivan Donald Lawfer on May 15, 1934 at home in Kent, Illinois to Myron D. and Martha C. (Beyer) Lawfer. He married Patricia A. Renken on Oct. 2, 1955 in Mason City, Illinois. They celebrated 61 years together.

Ron attended grade school at rural Wards Grove School and graduated from Stockton High School in 1951. He graduated with a degree in agriculture and journalism in 1955 from the University of Illinois at Urbana and was a member of Farm House fraternity where he served as President his senior year. He worked as a reporter for the Daily Illini and the Champaign News-Gazette during his college years.

He was commissioned an officer in the U.S. Army upon his college graduation and entered active duty at Fort Benning, Georgia in 1955. After schooling at Ft. Benning, he was assigned to the 7th Infantry Division in Korea. During his eighteen-month tour in Korea as an Infantry Officer, he was an executive officer of a regimental medical company and also served in Eighth Army Engineer headquarters dealing with soil erosion problems on military installation throughout all of South Korea. He was awarded the Army Commendation Ribbon for these soil conservation efforts and his tour of duty ended in October 1957 with the rank of 1st Lieutenant.

Upon his return to Illinois, he purchased a dairy farm adjoining the farm where he was born. He served as director and vice president of Jo Daviess County Farm Bureau. He was a member of the Midwest Dairyman Cooperative. He was named outstanding dairyman of Jo Daviess County.

Ron and his brother hosted the Illinois Land Improvement Contractor's Association Show in 1973. The conservation practices implemented at this show are all still in use today. From 1974 to 1976, he served on the Illinois Agricultural and Stabilization Committee, appointed by U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz, traveling the state implementing the USDA Farm Programs.

Ron believed that a farmer could be a conservationist and still produce food from the land. Because of his extensive soil and water conservation practices on his rolling Jo Daviess County dairy farm, he was named Prairie Farmer "Master

Farmer" in 1985. He was proud to see his son and daughter-in-law receive the "Master Farmer" award in 2016. He served as chairman of the Jo Daviess County Agricultural Extension Council and as Illinois delegate chairman of the Jo Daviess County Agricultural Farm-land Trust.

He was Wards Grove township supervisor from 1974 to 1982 and a member of the Jo Daviess County Board from 1982 to 1992, serving as chairman of the agriculture committee. He also served on the Illinois Rural Bond Bank and as a director of the Kent Bank.

In 1992, Ron was elected State Representative in the Illinois General Assembly representing five Northwest Illinois counties and was named top ranking freshman legislator. He was reelected for five terms before retiring in 2002 with a perfect attendance record. He continued to operate a hay and grain farm after retirement from the General Assembly as his son took over the dairy.

He was baptized at the St. John's Lutheran Church at Massbach, confirmed at St. Paul's Lutheran Church at Kent, and was a member of Christ Lutheran Church in Stockton where he served as member and chairman of the church council.

Ron is survived by wife, Patricia; five children, Kathy Lawfer of Cooktown, Australia, Karen Lawfer of Juneau, Alaska, Kay Johnson of Watska, Ronald L. (Julie Stiefel) Lawfer of Kent, Kristine (David) Griffith of East Peoria; nine grandchildren, Brian (Wendy) Felix of Salem, Oregon, Sarah Felix of Miami, Florida, Anne Johnson of Watska, Justin (Tonya) Lawfer of Stoughton, Wisconsin, Ben (Samantha) Lawfer of Kent, John Lawfer of Kent, Dr. Serena (Kevin) Larsen of Morrison, Kyle Griffith of Seattle, Washington, and Michelle Griffith of East Peoria; and four great-granddaughters, Norah Felix, Skyla Lawfer, Sydney Lawfer, and Veronica Larsen.

He was preceded in death by his parents and twin brother Donald.

Visitation was Dec. 21 at Hermann Funeral Home in Stockton. A memorial service was held December 22 at Christ Lutheran Church in Stockton. There will be a private burial at Wards Grove cemetery, which overlooks the Lawfer family farms. In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to The Lawfer Legacy fund to promote agriculture in the area through scholarships and grants. Remembrances and condolences may be shared with Ron's family at www.hermannfuneralhome.com

JOSEPH P. STAPONAITIS

Joseph P. Staponaitis 73, of Freeport, IL formerly of Cicero, IL passed away on Dec. 20, 2016 at the

Lena Living Center. He was born on June 20, 1943 in Chicago, IL, the son of Charles and Mary (Zienicki) Staponaitis. Joseph graduated from Morton East School and College and he served his country in the United States Navy during the Vietnam War.

Joseph in his younger years enjoyed working at Walgreens, and claimed his title as the "Original Soda Jerk" and he was very proud of that job. Joseph worked as a refrigeration repair man at Sears in Melrose Park for 30 years. He was a loving and giving man who always saw the best in everyone he met.

He is survived by his twin sister Johanna (Jim) Leamy of Lena, and a nephew Jim Leamy of Carpentersville, IL a niece Jean Schloskey of Belvidere, IL and a nephew Jeff (Melissa) Leamy of Franklin Park, IL. He is also survived by four great nieces and two great nephews.

Joseph was preceded in death by his parents and one sister Phyllis Fiore.

Services will be Tuesday, Dec. 27, at 11 a.m. at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Lena, IL.

Visitation will be held at 10 a.m. until time of service at the church.

Cremation rites were accorded and burial will take place in St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery in Lena, IL.

Friends and family may send condolences to the family at www.leanonfh.com

LEON MOELLER

Leon Moeller, age 56, of Preston, Iowa passed away Tuesday, December 20, 2016 at home. A visitation and a memorial service were held Dec. 23, at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Preston with Pastor Carina Schilte officiating. In lieu of flowers, a memorial fund has been established in Leon's memory. Family and friends are invited to share in Leon's life at www.lawjonesfuneralhome.com.

Leon was born Feb. 22, 1960 in Clinton, Iowa, the son of Lester and Alice (Scheper) Moeller. He is a 1978 graduate of Miles High School, Miles, Iowa. On August 29, 1981 Leon married Paula Jean Hueneker at St. John's Lutheran Church, St. Donatus, Iowa. They raised three children and celebrated thirty-five years of marriage.

Leon was a member of the Jackson County Pork Producers. He enjoyed farming and attending the Farm Progress Show. He also worked at Blue Hyll Dairy, Clinton, Iowa for sixteen years. Leon was a member of St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Preston. He liked watching sports, especially the Chicago Cubs, Chicago Bears and Iowa Hawkeyes. He loved spending time with his grandchildren.

Leon will be dearly missed by

his wife, Paula Moeller of Preston; two daughters, Susan (Tim) Devine of Cedar Falls, Iowa and Nancy (Aaron) Evarts of Marion, Iowa; a son, Thomas (Rachelle) Moeller of Preston; six grandchildren, Kenzie, Madison and Bentley Devine, Weston Evarts, and Bridgette and Troy Moeller; both parents, Lester (Alice) Moeller of Preston; two sisters, Carmen (Jason) Oostenryk of Davenport, Iowa and Pauline Putman of Oregon; and two brothers, Bruce (Dennis Pelletier) Moeller of Florida and Paul Moeller of Preston. Leon is preceded in death by his grandparents.

MORRIS J. BLAIR

Morris J. Blair, age 90 of Stockton, IL, passed away at home Friday, Dec. 16, 2016. He was born Sept. 21, 1926; the son of the late Orville and Ruth (Taylor) Blair. He was a graduate of Stockton High School. Morris had served in the United States Navy during WWII. He married Mariam Pierce on May 15, 1948.

He was a lifelong farmer, retiring in 1987. He was a member of the Unitarian-Universalist Church of Stockton where he was very involved in the church and had served on the church board. Morris also served on the Stockton School Board, the Jo Daviess County Farm Bureau, the Rush Township Board, and the Warren Fair Board where



he had been a past president. He was also a 4-H leader and a Freemason. For all his contributions to the community, no accomplishment was greater than his role as father and husband. He married his high school sweetheart (Mariam) and truly loved her for more than seventy years. He was a loving supportive father and a wonderful role model for his children and others. His big sunny smile filled the room and also the hearts of friends and family alike. He will be deeply missed.

Morris is survived by two sons, Curt (Linda) Blair of Madison, WI and Brett Blair of Stockton; daughter, Beth (John) Mueller of

Pecatonica, IL; grandchildren, Jeremy & Matthew and Jason, Arnold &

Anna; three great grandchildren; one great great grandchild; brother, Marlow (Ardale) Townsend, Meredith (Pat) Townsend, and Mike (Bonnie) Townsend; and sisters, Marjorie Jergens, Marilyn (Bob) Davey, Myrna (Jack) Gusloff, and Maxine Franz. He was preceded in death by his parents; step-father, Lige Townsend; son, Tad; and granddaughter, Lacy.

A memorial service will be held Tuesday, Dec. 27, at 11 a.m. at the Unitarian-Universalist Church in Stockton. There will be a visitation before the service beginning at 10 a.m. Interment will take place at Ladies Union Cemetery in Stockton at a later date. A memorial fund has been established for the Unitarian-Universalist Church of Stockton. Condolences may be shared with his family at www.hermannfuneralhome.com.

Births Published FREE

The Shopper's Guide & Scoop Today publishes baby's birth announcement information for free. The only requirement is that the parents or grandparents be in the home delivery area.

A picture may also be included.

For information, call Laurie at 815-369-4112 or 815-947-3353



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Saturday 8:30 - 10:30 a.m.
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SUPPLEMENTS

Cubs World Series Trophy to visit Freeport

The official word from the Chicago Cubs is received and the day and time for the World Series Trophy visit to Freeport has been changed to Sunday, Jan. 8, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Masonic Temple, 305 West Stephenson, Freeport, IL. The change (from Jan. 9th) will allow more people to see the trophy and get photos. Also, the public will be able to take their own photos, and we will have volunteers take the photos for them, so bring your cameras and cell phones. The volunteers will use the cameras you bring. There is no

charge for this event! As you enter the Masonic that day, come to the auditorium where you can wait until going into the Crystal Room, where the photos will be taken. We will show the last game of the Series on the large screen in the auditorium and have a rally. Wear all your Cubs gear. Please share this announcement, as the date has changed. Folks in wheelchairs should enter at the west parking lot, and there will be special considerations for that group. The entire area we are using is handicapped accessible. Go Cubs!



COURTESY PHOTOS The Scoop Today/Shopper's Guide

Pearl City students learn about reindeer

On Friday, Dec. 9, Pearl City first grade and kindergarten students enjoyed a visit from Brittani DeVries, Education Coordinator of the Stephenson County Ag in the Classroom program. She shared many facts about reindeer and students enjoyed making a reindeer ornament as part of the lesson.



Births

OBADIAH DALE BENSON

Stephen (Bud) and Stephanie (Heid) Benson of Thomson, IL are the proud parents of a son, Obadiah Dale, born Friday, Dec. 16, 2016 at Mercy Medical Center, Clinton, IA. He weighed 6 lbs 3 oz. and was 19 in. long.

He was welcomed home by sister Ivy Ruth (1½) and two brothers, Cosmo and Wyatt.

Grandparents are Bill and Kim Heid of Thomson, IL and Shannon Brasher of Asbury, IA.

Great-grandparents are Dean and Ruth Wright of Stockton, IL ; Betty Gallentine of Thomson, IL ; Galen and Linda Heid of Stockton, IL and Dale and June Clabaugh of Picayune, MS.

LEVI JANTZEN

Steven Jantzen and Haley Holmes of Lena, Ill. are the parents of a son Levi Scott Jantzen born Thursday December 22, 2016 at FHN Memorial Hospital, Freeport, Ill. Levi has a sister Alivia Lou, 4. Grandparents are Scott and Kim Holmes of Lena and Tammi Jantzen of Platteville, Wis. Great grandparents are Dewayne and Cindy Hintz of Lena, Pat and Paul Tessororf of Madison, Wis. and Jeff Holmes of Lena. Great great grandparents are Morris and Elaine Holmes of Lena and Madge Dawson of Stockton, Ill



As the old year ends and the New Year begins, our thoughts turn gratefully to those who have made our progress possible. We thank you for your business and are sincerely wishing for you and your family a healthy and peaceful New Year.

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



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(Restored Elevator on Main Street, in Lena)

Holiday shopping

River Ridge Elementary students had the opportunity to purchase gifts for loved ones at the Santa Store, a project sponsored by River Ridge PTO and manned by River Ridge Middle School students.

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The Scoop Today and Shopper's Guide join these local businesses in wishing you a safe and
Happy New Year! 2017

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 99602

Citizens State Bank
 267983

Raders Insurance Agency
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BRANDON'S HARDWARE RENTAL & LUMBER
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COUNTRY FINANCIAL
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STAGECOACH TRAIL STORAGE
 189910

VILLAGE OF WARREN AND WARREN POLICE DEPARTMENT
 230177

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 146127

STOCKTON TRAVEL CENTER
 230225

WERHANE ENTERPRISES, LTD.
 99639

THE SHOPPER'S GUIDE
 99594

ONE TOSS CAN END A LIFETIME

Call it a toss. A shot. A throw.
 The fact is, even one drink of alcohol can impair your good judgement when you get behind the wheel.

And as any pro can tell you, when you're not in top form you can wind up losing -- your license...your livelihood...or worse yet, your life. You can even destroy somebody else's chances, too.

This holiday season we urge you to give drunk drivers the toss. Don't drink and drive and be a team player by watching out for the other guy.



play it safe Don't Drink & Drive

THE SCOOP TODAY
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THE BAUER GROUP, LTD.

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FULL THROTTLE POWERSPORTS
 189913

TWISTED METAL COLLISION CENTER
 229674

SMILEY'S PUB
 268074

STATE BANK OF PEARL CITY
 Member FDIC
 268073

STOCKTON POLICE DEPARTMENT
 146071

LEAMON'S AMBULANCE SERVICE
 99906

ROD'S WELDING SERVICE
 146128

LENA FIRE DEPARTMENT
 99659

LEVERTON SALES
 146129

MAX & LINDA BOEKE
 189911

MARVIN UECKER AGENCY

 Dan Harnish
 190089

!!DON'T!! DRINK & DRIVE

After Christmas Blowout!

First week of January

Sale on ALL Christmas and Holiday Items at Lena Business & Professional participating businesses

Big Sales!

267978



COURTESY PHOTOS The Scoop Today/Shopper's Guide

Define ugly

Le-Win Elementary celebrated its annual Ugly Sweater Day and to be honest, things did not get all that ugly.

To show our appreciation for everyone supporting Small Local Business, We are having a year end clearance sale throughout the store!

Thank you for supporting your local farm toy store.

Down on the Farm 502 S. Schuyler Lena (Route 73) 815-369-4444

www.downonthefarmtoys.com WED-THURS-FRI - 10-6 • SAT - 10-4

267965



Third grade students Derrick Distler, Mr. Kudronowicz, Michael Winter, Seth Birkett, Haleigh Curtis, Chloe Busker, Carly Weis, and Aidan Wand used their engineering skills to construct towers using Christmas candy and tooth picks.



Celebrating learning

Under the guidance of Kaelan Shetler and Maddie Frey elementary students Grace Behlke, Macy Rivers, Brayden Roberts, and Collin Curtis created Christmas trees. The branches of the trees contained different Christmas jokes and answers that could be flipped and read to their friends and families.

ZZZZZZZZZZ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$

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187188



The gift of giving

Students from the Lena-Winslow High School Servant Leadership chapter purchased gifts for the three families they sponsored.

CHURCH NOTES

Red Cross Home Fire Response soars

Two steps can help save lives: Check smoke alarms & practice fire safety drills

The American Red Cross of Chicago & Northern Illinois has responded to more than 100 home fires so far in December 2016. This number is higher than the region has seen in at least the past seven years. The region has helped 520 people, including 216 children affected by home fires.

"Home fires increase during the colder months. We've found that winter months bring more instances of home fires due to burning candles, leaving the oven on to help heat a home, and smoking in bed. A home fire is often a devastating loss to families," said Harley Jones, Regional Disaster Officer. "We encourage families to be prepared."

The Red Cross, on average, responds to four home fires everyday across Northern Illinois. The Red Cross provides safe shelter, food, clothing, health services, and emotional support to aid in long-term recovery for the affected families.

HOME FIRE CAMPAIGN The Red Cross and partners are on a mission to reduce death and injury from home fires by 25% by 2020. Each year, the Red Cross responds to nearly 66,000 disasters, the vast majority of which are home fires.

On average:

- 7 people die every day from a home fire
- 36 people suffer injuries as a result of home fires every day
- Over \$7 billion in property damage occurs every year

WHAT PEOPLE CAN DO The Red Cross asks everyone to take two simple steps to help prevent injury and death during a fire in their home – check their smoke alarms and practice fire drills at home. Every household should develop a fire escape plan and practice it several times a year and at different times of the day. The plan should include two ways to get out of every room and a place to meet outside. Consider escape ladders for sleeping areas or homes on the second floor or above.

People should also install smoke alarms on every level of the home, inside bedrooms and outside sleeping areas. The alarms should be tested every month and the batteries replaced at least once a year.

People can visit redcross.org to find out more about how to protect themselves and their loved homes from fire or contact their local Red Cross to learn about the location of local smoke alarm installation events. They can also help by volunteering their time or making a donation today to Red Cross Disaster Relief by visiting redcross.org, calling 1-800-RED CROSS.



COURTESY PHOTO The Scoop Today/Shopper's Guide

Operation Christmas Child

The Northwest corner of Illinois Christmas shoe boxes was a great success this year.. Towns involved include Apple River, Lanark, Elizabeth, Lena, Freeport, Pearl City, Mt. Carroll, Milledgeville and Savanna, Ill. Gratiot, Monroe and Argyle, Wis. Together, they collected 1,424 boxes. The drop-off site was Christ Lutheran Church in Stockton and the volunteers there included Staci Ven Huizen, Judy Schubert, Ethan Cook, Garrett Wilkenson, Janice Kehl, Darci Raab, Kayla Broshous, Addie, Steven and Nancy Rice, Bryan Broshous furnished the trailer to put 89 cartons of shoe boxes.

Lessons and carols Sunday at St. Paul's in Kent

On Jan. 1, 2017, at their 10 a.m. family worship, St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Kent will celebrate the first Sunday after Christmas with a Service of Lessons and Carols. Select scriptures from Old and New Testament will be read and beloved Christmas carols will be sung. There

will be no sermon.

We are located in the suburbs of Kent on 1334 N. Sunnyside Road. We welcome all persons at the little church with the big heart.

Please join us for this special celebration of the Christ Child and of the New Year!

St. John Church in Pearl City to host service of carols and readings

St. John's will have a service of carols and readings on Sunday, Jan. 1, titled, "The Five Gifts of Christmas." The service will begin at 9 a.m. All are welcome to join us to celebrate the Christmas season.

ral care needs will be addressed.

Walking at St. John's will resume on Monday, Jan. 2, at 8:30 a.m. All are welcome to walk downstairs in the lower level on Mondays and Thursdays at 8:30 a.m. The Bible Studies will resume on Monday, Jan. 9, at 7 p.m. and the Thursday morning study will resume on Thursday, Jan. 12, at 9:30 a.m.

The St. John's office will be closed on Dec. 24-26 and Dec. 31-Jan. 2. However, all voicemail messages and email messages regarding pasto-

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church will gather for worship Jan. 1, at 118 E. Mason St. Lena, IL, at 9:30 a.m. All are invited to worship on this New Year's Day as we celebrate with Name of Jesus Service and Holy Communion.

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

On Monday Jan. 2, the church office will be closed.

On Wednesday Jan. 4, at 8 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!

Willow/Kent United Methodist Churches

Willow/Kent UMC will worship together on Sunday, Jan. 1, at Willow UMC at 9 a.m. Pastor Brenda Morris will be bringing the message; also serving Holy Communion (it will be offered to all, no one is turned away). All are invited and welcome. Also to stay for the fellowship following.

Sunday school is at 10:30 a.m. studying from the Holy Bible; and all are invited and welcome to stay and join in on the study.

Willow UMC is located about 7 miles SE of Stockton, IL on Willow Rd. For more information, please call (815) 601-6742

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From Lena's Kitchen



The not so skinny cook

I hope you all had a great Christmas. We had a little snow, a little fog, and a little rain; however, the weather didn't really stop people from getting to Christmas celebrations. We are now heading into the New Year—2017, can you believe we raced through last year and are ready to start again. This week I have some new appetizers and some of my favorites. Enjoy these as you welcome in the new year.

The first recipe is for a trail mix that uses popcorn. A reader sent it to me, and she said it is tasty. The hardest part is popping corn (you could microwave it) and then trying to stir the honey butter throughout the mixture. The end result is worth all the work.

Popcorn Trail Mix

6 C. popped popcorn
7 C. multigrain Cheerios
2 C. whole almonds, roasted and salted
5 oz. dried cranberries
¼ C. butter
¼ C. honey

In a large bowl, mix the cereal, almonds and popcorn. In a separate large bowl, mix the butter and honey. Microwave on high for 1-2 minutes, stirring every 30 seconds, until mixture comes to a full boil and butter is melted. Pour honey

butter over the cereal mixture stirring until evenly coated. Stir in cranberries and mix well. Store in an airtight container.

The next recipe is for the ever popular pinwheel appetizers. This one is a little different because it has sun dried tomatoes and some Dijon mustard. Both of these give the sausage a different flavor. A lot of pinwheel appetizers are cold and made with tortilla wraps. This one uses crescent rolls, and they are baked in the oven. You could save some time by buying the crescent rolls without the perforations.

Sausage Pinwheels

1 t. extra-virgin olive oil
1 lb. ground sausage
¼ t. pepper
½ C. sun-dried tomatoes, finely chopped
3 T. Dijon mustard
1 T. finely chopped green onions
2 cans refrigerated crescent rolls.
In a medium skillet, heat the oil over medium-high heat. Add the sausage and pepper and cook, stirring frequently, until browned and crumbly, about 5 minutes. Remove from skillet, and let drain on paper towels. In a medium bowl, stir together the sausage, tomatoes, mustard and chives.

Unroll 1 can of dough onto a lightly floured surface and press seams and perforations together. Spread half of the sausage mixture onto the dough, leaving a ¼ inch border on all sides. Starting at one long side, roll up the dough into a log, brushing the seams with water to seal. Repeat with remaining dough and sausage mixture. Freeze for 15 minutes.

Preheat the oven to 375. Line 2 baking sheets with parchment paper. Using a serrated knife, cut the logs into ½-inch slices, and place

on prepared pans. Bake until golden brown, 15-17 minutes.

The following recipes are my tried and true appetizer recipes. I have been making them for years. Some of the recipes have a base that you can use to make many different appetizers. Have a good time making some of these for your New Year's Eve or Day celebrations.

This is an easy taco dip that I have made for many occasions. In fact, I have several children of friends who ask if they can have a carry out carton to take with them. It is my no fail taco dip that everyone loves. Use the red and green tortilla chips for a festive look.

Taco Dip

8 oz. cream cheese, softened
2 C. sour cream
1 jar salsa (mild)
Mix the cream cheese and sour cream together with a mixer until smooth. Carefully add the salsa and blend. Refrigerate at least 2 hours before serving. Serve with Tostitos—I like the whole grain scoops with this.

The next base can be used for vegetable pizza, dill sandwiches or shrimp or crab dip. It is great to keep in the refrigerator for a week to have handy if you need a quick appetizer.

Base for Dill Sandwiches and Shrimp Dip

1 pkg. (8 oz.) cream cheese, softened
1 pkg. Ranch Dip mix, dry
½ C. sour cream
½ C. salad dressing
½ t. dill weed
¼ t. garlic powder
Dill Sandwich Ingredients
1 Cucumber, sliced thinly
Cocktail Rye Bread
Dill Weed

Shrimp Dip Ingredients

10-12 cooked, peeled and deveined frozen shrimp, thawed

Cocktail Sauce

Mix the first six ingredients together until smooth. You may refrigerate until you are ready to use this base.

Dill Sandwiches:

Spread the rye slices with the cream cheese mixture. Place the rye slices on a cookie sheet and place the cucumber slices on top. Sprinkle with the dill weed. Refrigerate for at least two hours. Place on a serving tray.

Shrimp Dip:

Spread the base on a pie plate or long shallow glass tray. Cut up the shrimp (remove the tails and be sure they are dry) into bite size pieces. Sprinkle the shrimp on top of the base. Drizzle red cocktail sauce over the shrimp.

You may also use this base for vegetable pizza. Spread Crescent Roll out on a pizza pan sprayed with cooking spray. Seal all the perforations. Bake according to directions and cool. Spread the base over the dough. Add finely chopped onions, celery, carrots, broccoli, cauliflower, or cumpers or any combination of these. Sprinkle with Dill weed. Spread shredded cheddar cheese on the top. Cut into pieces. Refrigerate until serving. (I like to refrigerate for at least 2 hours and then cut it.)

Years ago my mother made this easy appetizer that has only three ingredients. You make part of it on the stove and then dump it in a crock pot. Everyone loves it; if you want it with more kick, you can add a can of Rotelli to it.

My Mom's Easy Appetizer

1 lb. ground beef, browned and drained

1 can Hormel No Bean Chili
¼ lb. Velveeta cheese, cubed

After browning ground beef and draining excess liquid, add the chili and combine. Heat mixture and then add the cheese. Place on low heat until the cheese is melted. Refrigerate until serving. (I put mine in a small greased crock pot—you can leave it for at least 4 hours.)

This last recipe is from the old sorority cookbook. I make it once every year. You can make it ahead of time and freeze them in a Ziploc bag. They are a great hit at any party. Enjoy these easy to make appetizers (you can use the canned crab, but I use the imitation crab sticks or chunks. Both taste great.)

Betty's Crab Triangles

6½ oz. crab
1 T. mayonnaise
1 stick butter, softened
¼ t. garlic powder
5 oz. Old English cheese spread
6 English muffins
Mix all the ingredients together. Split the muffins. Spread mixture on muffin halves. Cut into quarters. Place on ungreased cookie sheet and broil until bubbly. You can freeze them on a cookie sheet until they are hard and then place them in a Ziploc bag.

This week between Christmas and New Years is usually full of more celebrations or just plain rest. We are looking for some good soup recipes as we travel into the New Year. We are also looking for some sandwiches for football parties.

If you have some new or favorite recipes, you can contact us in person, by mail, or email us at From Lena's Kitchens, Shopper's Guide at 213 S. Center St. or email scoopshopper@rvpublishing.com. Have a great New Year's celebration!

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2017

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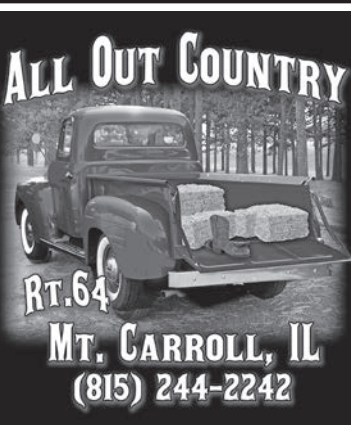
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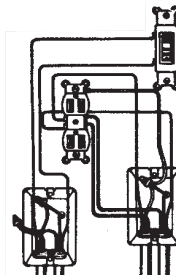
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TIRED OF THE SNOW? Become a Winter Texan where the sun meets the gulf. Over 100 RV resorts and retirement communities for you to choose from. RV sites, fully furnished rentals and more. For more information visit www.rgvparcs.org (MCN)

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Adoption

A CHILDLESS MARRIED COUPLE seeks to adopt. Will be hands-on mom & devoted dad. Financial security. Expenses PAID. Call Holly & Tiger. 1-800-790-5260 (ask for Adam) (MCN)

Announcements

DISCLAIMER NOTICE This publication does not knowingly accept fraudulent or deceptive advertising. Readers are cautioned to thoroughly investigate all ads, especially those asking for money in advance.

HOTELS FOR HEROES - to find out more about how you can help our service members, veterans and their families in their time of need, visit the Fisher House website at www.fisherhouse.org.

Firewood / Fuel

FIREWOOD WHITE OAK split for fireplace. \$70 for 4' x 8' stack. Can deliver. 815-858-2406

Lost or Found

REWARD STILL MISSING black with brown legs male Chihuahua. Any info call Ernie Wilber 815-369-2836

Misc. For Sale

TRAILER SALE: 6'x12' V-nose ramp Cargo \$2,750.00; 7'x16' V-nose ramp \$4,199.00. Skid-loader trailers SAVE \$600.00 to \$700.00, Fuel trailers, Scissor lift trailers, Snowmobile trailers 2 place & 4 place; 150 trailers; 100's of Trailer PARTS! Trailer Repairs. 515-972-4554 www.FortDodgeTrailerWorld.com (MCN)

Music/ Instrumental

ROGERS KIT 1970's black finish. Bearing edges and shells in great condition. Includes 22" bass, 13" mounted tom, 16" & 18" floor toms. Shell pack only, bass drum has some scuffing. \$900 or best offer. Lots of snares and misc hardware available for purchase also. Call anytime, 815-262-1479, Rockford.

Notice

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Personals

MEET SINGLES RIGHT NOW! No paid operators, just real people like you. Browse greetings, exchange messages and connect live. Try it free. Call now: 800-357-4970 (MCN)

Wanted to Buy

TOP CASH PAID FOR OLD GUITARS! 1920 thru 1980 Gibson, Martin, Fender, Gretsch, Epiphone, Guild, Mosrite, Rickenbacker, Prairie State, D'Angelico, Stromberg, And Gibson Mandolins/Banjos. **1-800-401-0440**

Automobiles

1987 OLDS TORONADO, rare, original, V6 FWD. Car show beauty. New factory wheels, new tires. \$1,600. 847-987-7669

1987 OLDSMOBILE 442 1600 ORIG. MI. Blue w/blue interior, sun roof, all orig. same family till 2010. Asking \$18,900 262-514-2116 Cell# 262-995-8904

1999 CHRYSLER CONVERT Sebring loaded. V6 duals, \$2,250, trade4WD? 847-987-7669

1999 CHRYSLER SEBRING LXI Loaded, leather, air, roof, V6. Bargain. \$1,990? 847-987-7669

For Sale

1999 GRAND AM GT 2 dr., red, auto, very clean inside & out, 137k, \$1,200 OBO Call 262-206-9688.

2007 HYUNDAI TIBURON GT red fire pearl, excellent condition, 1 owner, new pioneer sound deck w/pandora bluetooth hands-free calling, sunroof, auto, 71k miles, \$7,000 OBO, 262-767-0550.

2007 NISSAN SENTRA 140k, 6-speed manual, \$2,400 262-758-4685.

2012 CAMARO ZL1 580 HP. 6 speed, one owner, 2,100 mi. mint condition, never driven in snow or rain, kept in heated storage. Asking \$38,000. 262-514-2116 or 262-995-8904

2013 FORD FUSION SE 37k, silver, \$11,497. 262-539-3600.

2014 MITSUBISHI MIRAGE green, auto, ex. cond., only 4,500 miles, 3.5 yrs factory warranty remain., \$9,600 Call 262-332-7248.

SOUTHERN PT CRUISER Under 100k. Drives new. Auto, 4-door. \$3,750 847-987-7669.

Automobiles Wanted

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19 FT' SEA SPRITE, TANDEM TRAILER. Black, new interior. Bow rider. Fast. \$3,825 847-987-7669

Campers and RVs

2004 HOLIDAY RAMBLER-ADMIRAL MOTOR HOME 32', 2 slides, workhorse 8.1 liter, 15,870 miles. Ex. condition, many extras, stored indoors. \$41,995 OBO. 262-594-5225.

Motorcycles

2011 HARLEY DAVIDSON FATBOY 1750 miles, \$10,500, 262-539-3600.

WANTED OLD JAPANESE MOTORCYCLES KAWASAKI Z1-900 (1972-75), KZ900, KZ1000 (1976-1982), Z1R, KZ1000MK2 (1979,80), W1-650, H1-500 (1969-72), H2-750 (1972-1975), S1-250, S2-350, S3-400, KH250, KH400, SUZUKI GS400, GT380, HONDA CB750K (1969-1976), CBX1000 (1979,80) CASH !! 1-800-772-1142, 1-310-721-0726 usa@classicrunners.com

Snowmobiles

2007 YAMAHA VECTOR Rage Long Track. 4 stroke, low miles, 20mpg, Yamaha overnight luggage carrier. Many extras - call for details Health reason for selling. \$4600 - 608-345-8645

Sports/Classic Cars

1934 FORD P. U. LT-1 350, 370 Hp Chev. Polished ram intake, 6-97 carbs, turbo 400 trans. Chevelle 12 bolt posi. Crager mag wheels. 847-838-1916

1965 FORD THUNDERBIRD LANDAU \$8,000 OBO Call 414-915-9885.

1977 AUSTIN MINI with parts to convert to rear wheel drive, w/215 alum., V8 & 5 speed, wt. 1,500lbs Call 847-838-1916.

1978 JAGUAR XJS V12, 88K Runs & drives needs interior and paint. \$1250 OBO. Must go! 414-218-6398.

1989 TRANS AM Red, new engine, less than 5000 miles, asking \$3800, 414-659-0680

AVENGER FORD GT40 Tube frame, mid eng., turbo Buick v-6, 4 spd., silver, w/ chin spoiler. 847-838-1916

MANTA MIRAGE, STREET CAN AM RACE CAR S. B. C., 4 spd. tube frame, custom wheels, chrome yellow, show winner, fast. 847-838-1916

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Trucks & Trailers

1994 CHEVY PICKUP extended cab, long bed, 4 wheel drive, 6.5 diesel, weak engine, new sensors. Originally Wyoming truck, very little rust. \$1900 OBO 815-979-1480

2002 CHEVY 1500 SILVERADO 4x4 ext. cab, very clean, topper & bedliner, selling bought lgr. truck, 177k, \$4,500, 414-531-7055.

2015 2500 HD GMC DURAMAX CREW CAB 11,100 mi, one owner, asking \$48,500 262-514-2116 Cell # 262-995-8904

Find your next vehicle in the classifieds



• Letters (Continued from page 2)

Dear Santa,
My name is Beau. I am 7 years old. I live in Apple River. This year I have been good. I have been very good because I have been a kind friend. At school I have been doing good on my Accelerated Reader tests. What I would MOST like for Christmas this year is a bow and arrow with 3 arrows. I would like this because they are fun to hunt with. If your elves are not too busy I would also like roller skates with four wheels, Apple iPad, Xbox 1 and Xbox 360, and Wubble Bubble Ball. I will leave some of my grandma and mother's chocolate chip cookies for you on Christmas Eve! Merry Christmas! From Your Friend, Beau

Dear Santa,
My name is Ethan. I am 7 years

old. I live in Warren. This year I have been good. I have been good because I take out the garbage. I have been good because at school I am a good student. What I would MOST like for Christmas this year is a train set. I would like a train set because trains are my favorite toys. If your elves are not too busy I would also like car sets, a school bus, a school set and an iPod. I will leave some chocolate cookies and milk for you on Christmas Eve! Merry Christmas! From Your Friend, Ethan

Dear Santa,
My name is Cohen. I am 8 years old. I live in Nora. This year I have been very good. I have been very good because I do chores. At school I am very helpful. What I would

MOST like for Christmas this year are all the Power Ranger costumes. I think they are cool. If your elves are not too busy I would like a watch and a chocolate pen. I will leave some milk and cookies for you on Christmas Eve! Merry Christmas! From Your Friend, Cohen

Dear Santa,
My name is Emily. I am 7 years old. I live in Warren. This year I have been good. I have been good because I helped my family do chores. At school I have been a good student. What I would MOST like for Christmas this year is an iPod because I can call my friends and snap chat with them. If your elves are not too busy I would like an iPod case. I will leave some chocolate cookies and milk for you on Christmas Eve! Merry Christmas! From Your Friend, Emily

Dear Santa,
My name is Madisyn. I am 8 years old. I live in Apple River. This year I have been very good. I do my homework every night. I also clean my room so Lillian can come over. I follow rules at school and listen to my teacher. What I would MOST like for Christmas this year is an iPod and Shopkins Season Six. I want an iPod so I can call my parents, family and friends. I also want to play games on the iPod on my bus ride. If your elves are not too busy I would like a silicone mermaid tail and a bed tent. I will leave chocolate chip cookies and milk for you on Christmas Eve! Merry Christmas! From Your Friend, Madisyn

• Laws (Continued from front page)

lanes when approaching a car with its hazard lights on.

“Indigenous history” The pirogue (not pierogi), a narrow canoe made from a single tree trunk, is now the Official State Artifact of Illinois after a group of students asked their state legislator to honor Native American history.

“Forget noodling” if you're looking to bag a catfish, anglers can also hunt using a pitchfork, spear gun, or bow-and-arrow.

“Drugs” The sale of “bath salts” is officially banned in Illinois. While the chemicals contained in the drugs are illegal, the bans of “bath salts” in particular are happening on the state level. Additionally, police and first responders across the state are allowed to administer epinephrine, which is commonly used to help prevent overdoses.

You can find a complete listing of new laws on the IL Senate Democrats' Website.

• Tournament (Continued from front page)

Stillman Valley for a frosh-soph/varisty double-header on Wednesday, Jan. 4.

The Lady Blackhawks return home on Friday, Jan. 6 to host Warren and will have the benefit of home crowd support for the first few weeks of January. AFC is in on Jan. 10 followed by Eastland on Thursday, Jan. 12, River Ridge-Scales Mound on Tuesday, Jan. 17 and against West Carroll to wrap up the home swing on Friday, Jan. 20.

The next road trip for conference-action for the Stockton Lady Blackhawks will be on Monday, Jan. 23 as they travel to Dakota. They return home for a Thursday, Jan. 26 game with NUIC title-chaser Pearl City.

The post-season starts the week of Feb. 6. Discussion and the seeding meetings begin to surface into late January. By February, there should be a pretty good understanding of

who the top-teams in the NUIC are and who the top seeds will be.

Right now there is no clear-cut front-runner in the NUIC. Stockton's recent stretch of .500 ball courtesy of wins over Polo and Lena-Winslow and losses to River Ridge/Scales Mound and Galena is a snapshot of some of the parity in the league this season. There seems to be a feeling that no one in the NUIC is going to run away with anything, maybe until the final games of the regular season. Numbers show there are too many good teams to think that is going to happen.

The Stockton Lady Blackhawks are one of those teams to keep an eye on as they enter Erie this week. Their performance in the calendar-closer could be a good indicator of how prepared they are for battling for the conference title against nearby-nightly NUIC neighbors.

Engagement, Marriage or Anniversary in the family recently?



The Shopper's Guide & Scoop Today will publish for FREE your engagement, wedding or anniversary picture and information. Please call Laurie at 815-369-4112 or 815-947-3353 or stop by the Lena office.

158961

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LEGALS

TRUTH IN TAXATION CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that I am presiding officer of Stockton Township Taxing District, and as such presiding officer I certify that the levy ordinance, a copy of which is attached, was adopted pursuant to, and in all respects in compliance without the provisions of section 18-60 through 18-85 of the “Truth in Taxation Act”.

1. The taxing district publishing a notice in the newspaper and conducted a hearing, meeting the requirement of the Truth in Taxation Law.

And/or
2. The taxing district aggregate levy did not exceed a 5% increase over the prior year's extension. Therefore, a notice and a hearing was not necessary.

This certificate applies to the 2017 levy.

Date: December 20, 2016
Gary Townsend
Township Supervisor
(Published in The Scoop Today Dec. 28, 2016)

268007

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- ★ Hixster's Bar & Grill
- ★ Scales Mound Sinclair
- ★ Stockholders Saloon

To make donations or buy advance tickets contact Brian Saunders at 815-541-1031, Adam Wurster 815-238-5103 or Mike Blair at 815-541-3512