

# Letters to Santa produced some real winners

## KPC NEWS SERVICE

ANGOLA — When Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus came to town the night after Thanksgiving, children from throughout the area had the opportunity to deliver letters to Santa.

Numerous letters were delivered, some with just names that Santa could hopefully check off from his naughty and nice list, and others with complete addresses or phone numbers or emails that would help Santa's elves track people down.

Members of the Downtown Coalition, working with the Angola Meijer store and The Herald Republican, decided to have a contest to judge some of the best letters.

Working with Santa and Mrs. Claus, who really did have input, a couple letters emerged as winners of this last-minute contest. The two winners will receive Meijer gift cards, both for \$25.

Some of the letters were very thoughtful and some were humorous. Many of the letters had confirmation on whether the children had been naughty or nice.

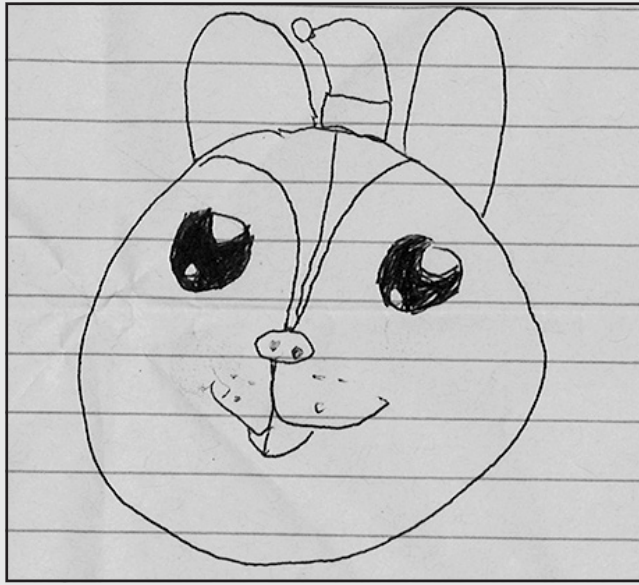
A letter from a boy named Lucas said, "I know I have made some bad choices, but I'll do better soon. I promise I will be better to my sister. I will do better to clean my room."

Hudson Manahan was good, of course, and he had a reminder to Santa that he wanted a Lego baseball field. The one he didn't get last year, "because last year, no hard feelings, you, you ... forgot. Like I said, no hard feelings. The rest, nothing, just surprise me."

One of our winners, Quinn Fellers, from Montpelier, Ohio, was also covering all of his bases when, in a post script, he mentioned that "I may have some more presents I can't think of."

In the event none of this worked, Quinn also had a backup plan: He placed a letter to Santa under the family Christmas tree.

Another youngster promised to be good, and apparently had help from a parent on the penmanship. "I will work REALLY hard on being good ALL



Lily Hoff's letter came complete with the "Holiday Chipmunk"

day. I will play games without whining and play with Lucas nicely. I like LOTS of stuff." When it came to the list, it was not very readable.

As one might guess, there were a few children who were angling for pets. One asked for a fish. Another asked for a "real" horse.

Lily Hoff, Angola, one of the winners, promised she would take care of a dog if Santa brought one to her.

Santa and Mrs. Claus also weighed in on their favorites in an email sent to The Herald Republican (yes, they use email):

- "This year my family is awesome and also, I have been a good boy....." ps. Hope you and the reindeer are doing great. Carson"

- "...I am thankful for my Elk Moose....I can't wait to leave you milk and cookies." Cohen"

- "I've been on the naughty list most of the year = but I'm getting better. Everyday is a struggle, if I'm really being honest. Just in case, you move me to the nice list by Christmas, I would like the following...." Lyndsay (note: handwriting looks very suspicious — like maybe Mom wrote it ... lol)

- "Thank you for all the gifts from last year ... be sure to bring an extra stocking for our new cat ... ps. Don't forget the real

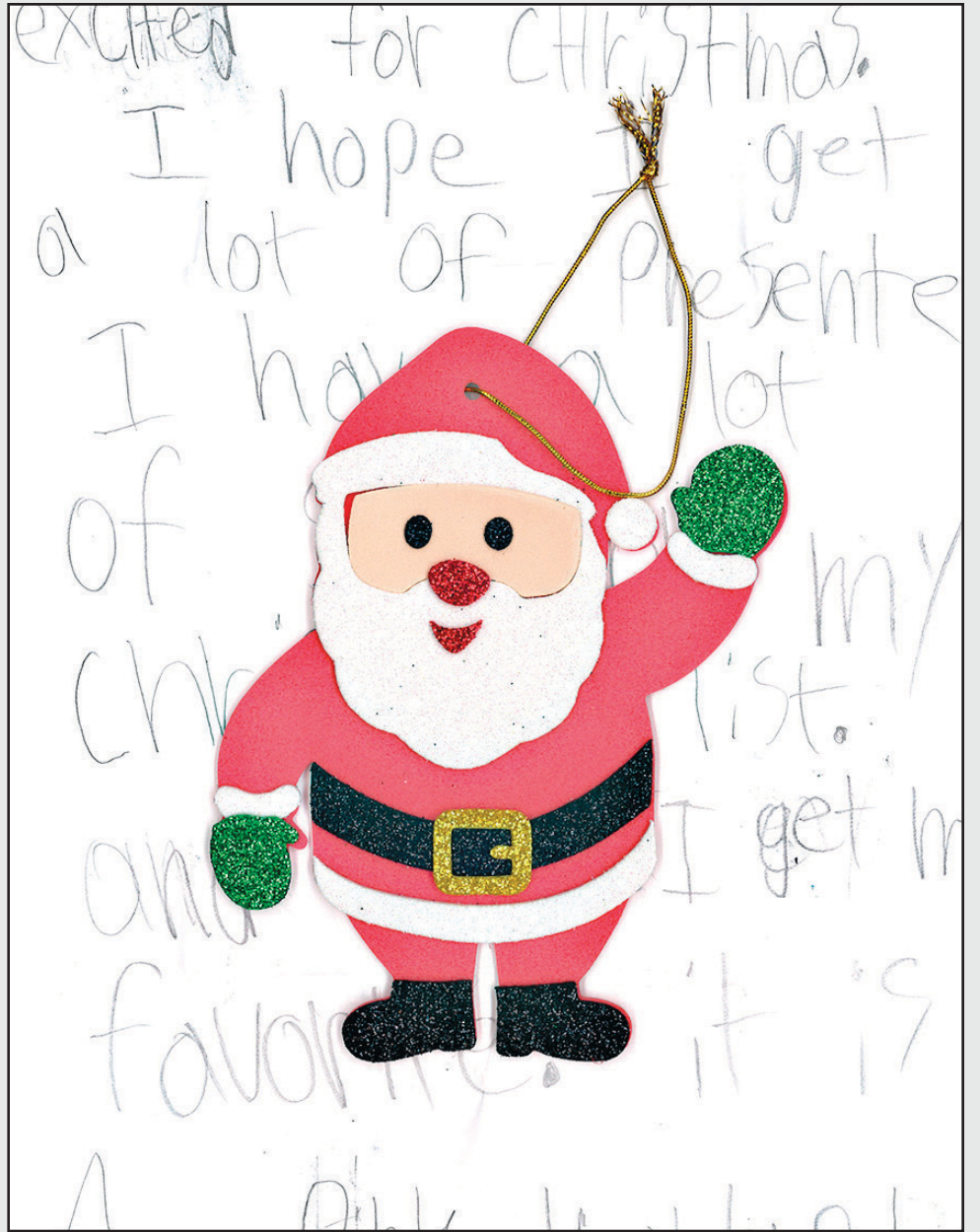
reason for the season." Peter

- "p.s. I think I love Ms. Claus"

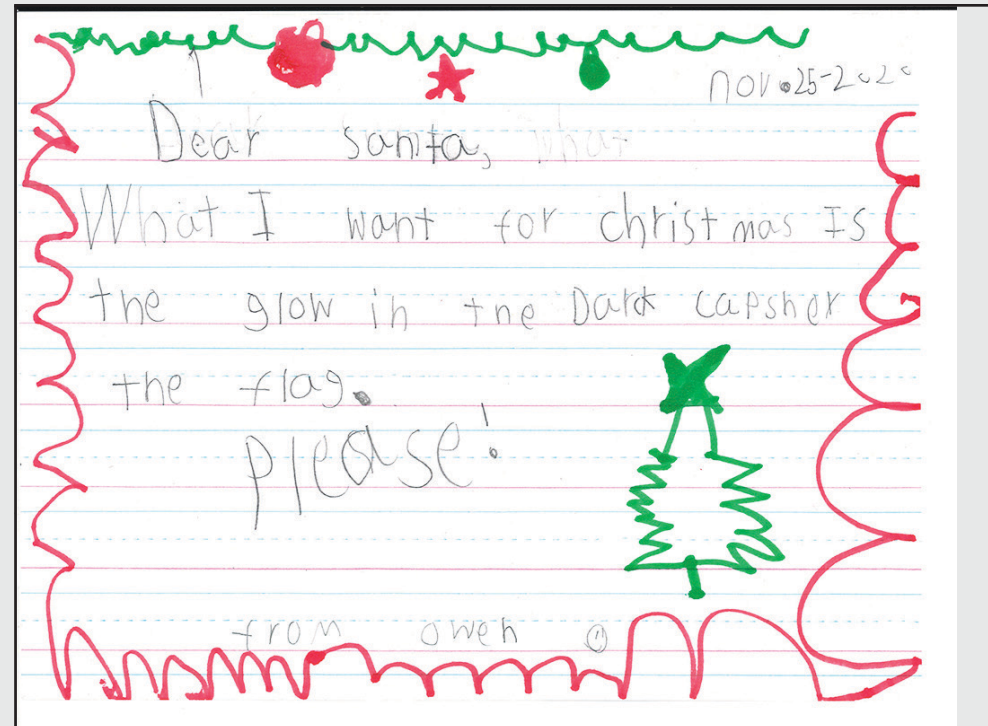
The Clauses wrote to replies to children who gave their addresses.

"This was just great fun," said Colleen Everage, president of the Downtown Angola Coalition.

Everyone involved in this year's Christmas activities in the downtown are hoping everything will be back to normal next year, with actual visits with Santa instead of the drive-through arrangement that was held at the Steuben Community Center with the blessing of the Steuben County Board of Commissioners.



This letter to Santa included a foam Santa Christmas ornament.



There were many letters to Santa in the Downtown Angola Coalition letters to Santa contest that were quite colorful, like this one from a youngster named Owen. This last-minute letters to Santa contest put on by the Coalition was done in cooperation of the Downtown Coalition, the Angola Meijer store and The Herald Republican. Letters were collected from children during the drive-through Santa greet that was held Nov. 27 in the parking lot of the Steuben Community Center.

## Police Blotter

### Local police make two arrests in two days

ANGOLA — The following people were booked into the Steuben County Jail following arrests made on Wednesday and Thursday.

- Lindsay A. Harrington, 43, of the 00 block of West

5th Street, Fremont, arrested on misdemeanor charges of possession of paraphernalia and possession of marijuana or hashish.

- April M. Salay, 46, of the 500 block of Northcrest Road, arrested at the jail on a charge of misdemeanor contempt of court — civil.

# Steuben in red for second week

## BY STEVE GARBACZ

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INDIANAPOLIS — Indiana's COVID-19 looks worse this week, overall, with more counties in red than ever.

That's likely been brought on by a change in how the state is calculating positivity rates, suggesting the half-red status of the state is maybe more how Indiana has actually looked in recent weeks.

Locally, there wasn't much change except for LaGrange County dropping from the worst red rating to orange for the first time since Nov. 4.

In this week's Indiana State Department of Health COVID-19 county metrics release, Indiana saw a significant worsening of its color-coded ratings, with just about half of the state's counties now in the worst red rating representing very high spread.

That shift, however,

comes with a caveat, in that this week the state corrected and error and updated how it was calculating positivity rates, one of the two metrics used to determine the weekly color code.

Last week, Indiana State Health Commissioner Dr. Kris Box announced that the state had identified an error with how positivity rates were being calculated as well as the state was changing the calculation it used.

Previously, the state had been calculating seven-day averages by taking the average of single day positivity rates. Indiana has now shifted its approach, instead calculating the percentage based on total positives divided by total tests, giving a more accurate picture as the previous method could be influenced if counties had wide variability in their day-to-day testing numbers

and percentages.

Those changes were reflected this week, leading to swing in seven-day positivity rates compared to a week ago.

It appears that the change resulted in many counties seeing higher positivity and therefore throwing them into red ratings.

This week, 45 of the state's 92 counties were in the red, with 46 in orange and one in yellow. That's a significant shift toward red after 24 red and 68 orange last week, with none in yellow and blue.

Counties hit red status if they have more than 200 cases per 100,000 residents — a criteria that all 92 counties in the state are over for another week — and higher than 15% positivity rate.

Locally, LaGrange County improved a rating while Steuben, DeKalb and Noble counties were all

unchanged.

LaGrange County, which spent the previous seven weeks in a red rating, dropped to orange this week. Although the changes in positivity affected many counties, LaGrange County's improvement actually came on the case count side.

In Steuben County, per-capita case rates were down to 560 per 100,000 from 696 per 100,000 the week before, but the county saw sharply higher positivity at 23.72% compared to 16.97% last week. That's the third-worst positivity rate in the state this week.

LaGrange's per-capita case rate dropped to 151 cases per 100,000, down from 239 per 100,000 a week ago. Since the rate fell under 200 per 100,000, that was good enough to drop the county a level.

Positivity in LaGrange did improve, albeit only slightly to 17.3% from 18.93% a week ago.

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### Monday, Jan. 4

- **Steuben County Board of Commissioners**, Steuben Community Center, 317 S. Wayne St., Angola, 1 p.m. Drainage board meets at 10 a.m.
- **Angola Common Council**, City Hall, 210 N. Public Square, Angola, 7 p.m. Board of works meets at 6:30 p.m.

### Tuesday, Jan. 5

- **Angola Historic Preservation Commission**, 5:30 p.m., virtual meeting, contact City Hall, 665-7465,

for a Microsoft Teams meeting link. For audio only, call 219-293-4381, conference identification is 262 975 032#.

- **Fremont Plan Commission**, town hall, 205 N. Tolford St., Fremont, 6 p.m.

### Wednesday, Jan. 6

- **Angola Park Board**, virtual meeting, 10 a.m. To attend, dial 219-293-4381. Conference identification is: 702323989#
- **Prairie Heights Community Schools**, 305 S. C.R. 1100E, LaGrange,

6:30 p.m. Board of finance.

- **Steuben County Plan Commission**, Steuben Community Center, 317 S. Wayne St., Angola, 7 p.m.

### Monday, Jan. 11

- **Steuben County Board of Zoning Appeals**, Steuben Community Center, 317 S. Wayne St., Angola, 7 p.m.

### Tuesday, Jan. 12

- **Lake George Regional Sewer District Board**, 1040 Angola Road, Coldwater, Michigan, 6:30 p.m.
- **Metropolitan School**

District of Steuben County Board, Central Gym, 500 S. Martha St., Angola, 7:30 p.m.

### Wednesday, Jan. 13

- **Steuben County Soil and Water Conservation District Board**, Steuben Community Center, 317 S. Wayne St., Angola, 5 p.m.

### Monday, Jan. 19

- **Steuben County Board of Zoning Appeals**, Steuben Community Center, 317 S. Wayne St., Angola, 7 p.m.