

Holiday Greetings



Hallelujah

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Merry Christmas!

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~Jennifer & Pete~ www.mywalworthcounty.com~

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John, David, Adi, Nova & Marshall



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YES VIRGINIA, there is a Santa Claus

Editor's note: Eight-year-old Virginia O'Hanlon wrote a letter to the editor of New York's Sun, and the quick response was printed as an unsigned editorial Sept. 21, 1897.

The work of veteran newsman Francis Pharcellus Church has since become history's most reprinted newspaper editorial, appearing in part or whole in dozens of languages in books, movies, and other editorials, and on posters and stamps.

Dear editor:

I am 8 years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says, "If you see it in THE SUN it's so." Please tell me the truth; is there a Santa Claus?

Virginia O'Hanlon
115 West Ninety-Fifth Street

Virginia,

Your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except (what) they see. They think that nothing

can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! How dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus. It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch

Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You may tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world, which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God! He lives, and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

2022 WHITEWATER
& PALMYRA-EAGLE

Holiday Greetings

An annual publication of the
Whitewater Register,
the Palmyra/Eagle Enterprise and Southern
Lakes Newspapers, LLC
www.mywalworthcounty.com

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on the cover top: Visitors to last year's Christmas parade in Whitewater enjoy making s'mores at one of the activity stations. **on the cover, bottom:**

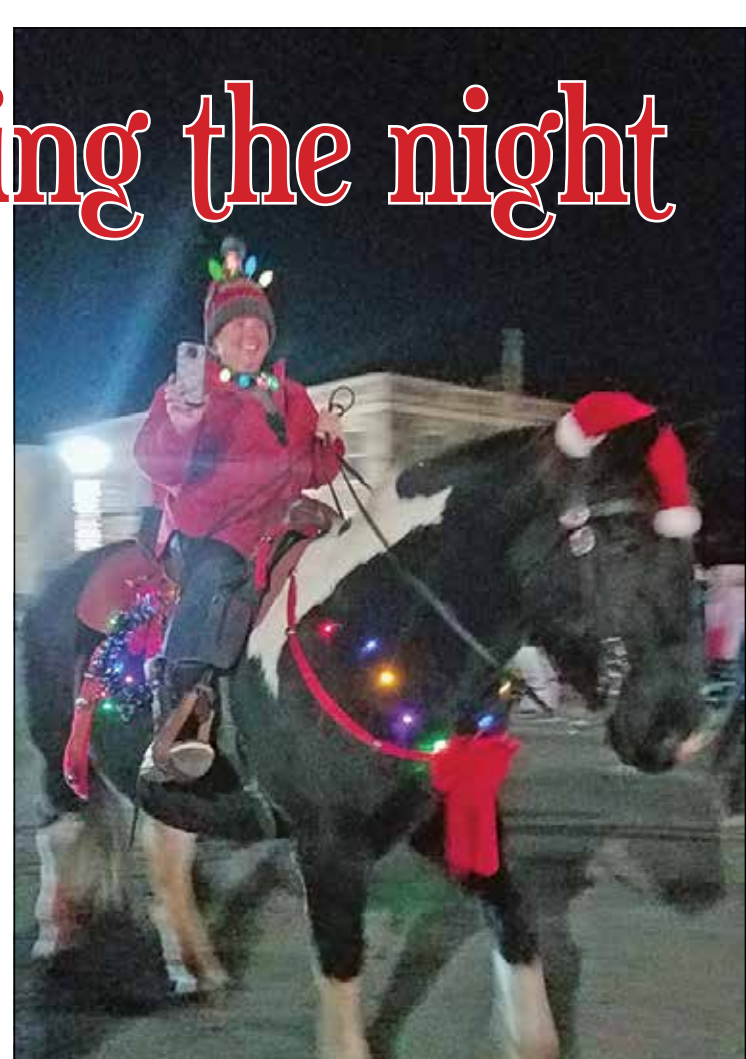
Attendees got to witness the "real" Santa and Mrs. Claus during the annual Christmas parade. **above:** Santa visits with children at First Citizens Bank in Whitewater last year.

The annual holiday kick off in Whitewater includes a lighted parade and other activities for kids of all ages.

TOM GANSER and BOB MISCHKA
Holiday Greetings



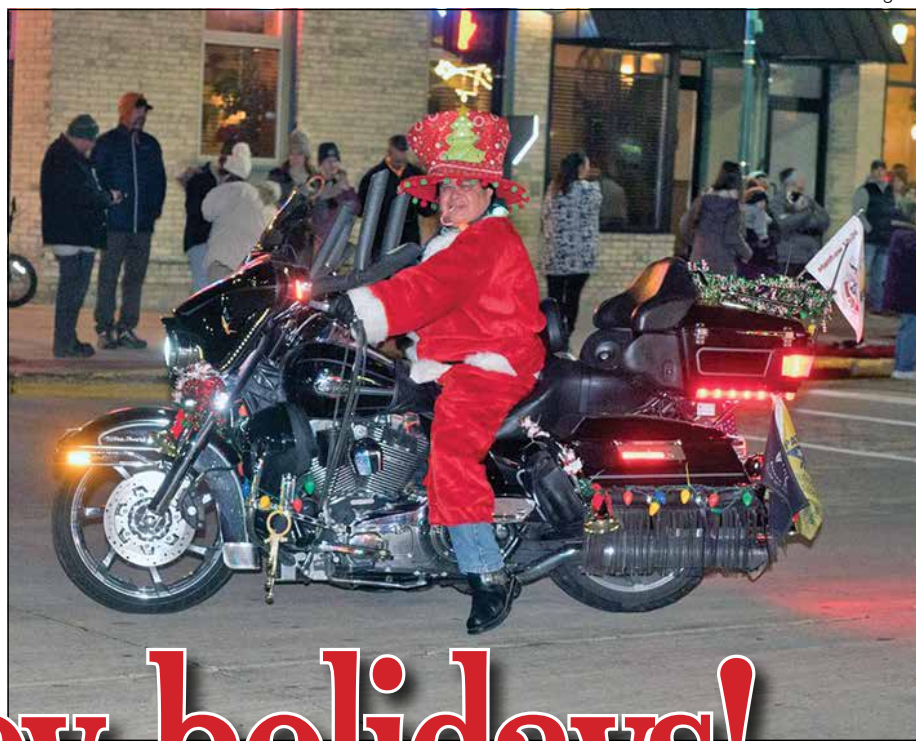
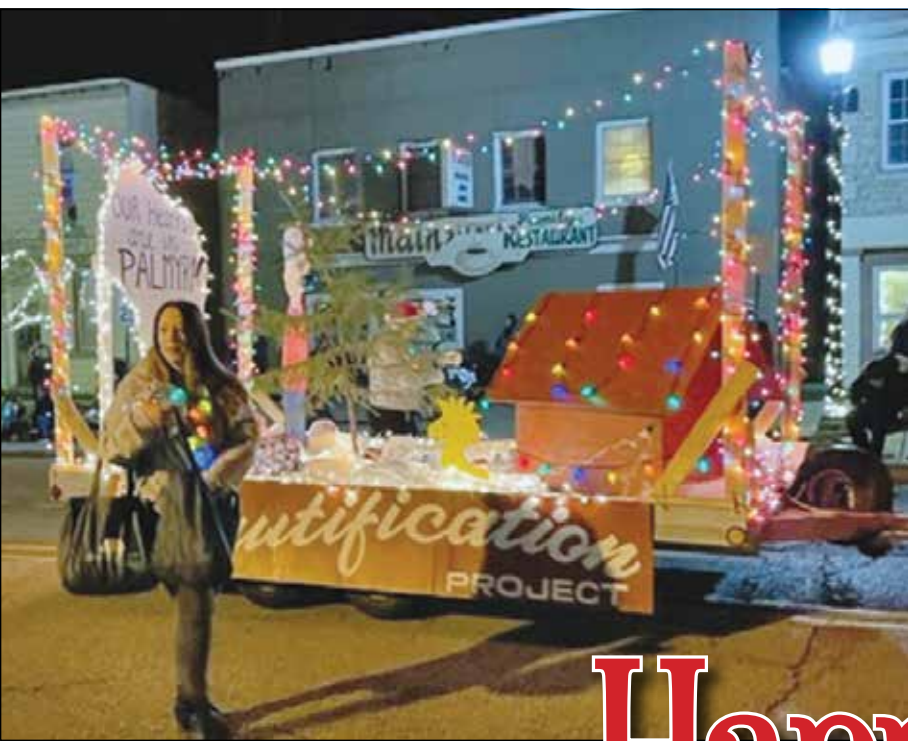
Lighting the night



The Palmyra Lions Club had its annual lighted Christmas parade in downtown Palmyra Dec. 3. Families, individuals, businesses and organizations created floats for the holiday event. Clockwise from the top left are Santa and Mrs. Claus leading the way; a horse and rider from the area's horseback group navigates the route; the Palmyra Lions Club advertises its annual fisherie with its float; twinkle lights adorn the Palmyra Storage float; one of the student floats ride the route; the Palmyra-Eagle Dance Team gets ready to perform in the parade; and The Grinch shows off his holiday spirit. Winning floats for 2022 were: Palmyra Storage, first; Boy Scouts, second; and the Mud Slingers ATV Club, third.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF TARA LEROY *Holiday Greetings*





Happy holidays!



clockwise from top left: The first-place winner in the 2021 Palmyra Christmas Parade was entered by the Palmyra Beautification Project; the City of Whitewater 2021 parade featured a wide variety of floats, musicians, marchers and vehicles, including royalty from the 2021 Miss Whitewater competition. The holiday kick off also had plenty of pre- and post-parade activities as community members ramped up for the holiday.

SUBMITTED PHOTO Holiday Greetings



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Merry Christmas
and

**Happy
New Year**



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~Tracy & Pete~

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Giving generously



The University of Wisconsin-Whitewater Community Optimist Club wrapped Christmas gifts as part of the annual "Toys for Kids" project at the Whitewater Armory last year. The toys were distributed at the Whitewater Food Pantry as well as the armory. Clockwise from top left: Costumed club members deliver toys; Cole Schlicher gets a gift ready; Paul Waelchli (left) wraps gifts with the help of Espen Heim; Olive Coburn helps out; Cole Schlicher gets a gift ready; and Santa Mrs. Claus and an elf get ready to deliver Christmas joy.

MAY THIS SEASON
BRING YOU PEACE, JOY,
HEALTH AND HAPPINESS.



Merry Christmas!

407091



*May The Spirit
Of The Season
Be Ever In Your Heart*

*Best wishes from all of us
for a very Merry Christmas
and a Safe New Year!*

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