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December • 2015

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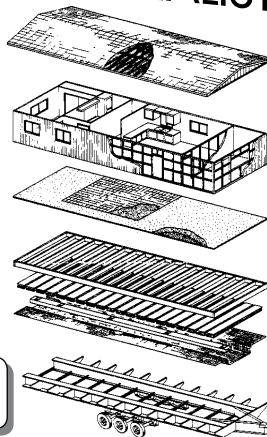
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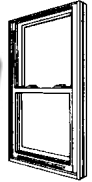
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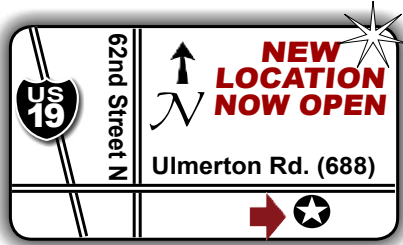
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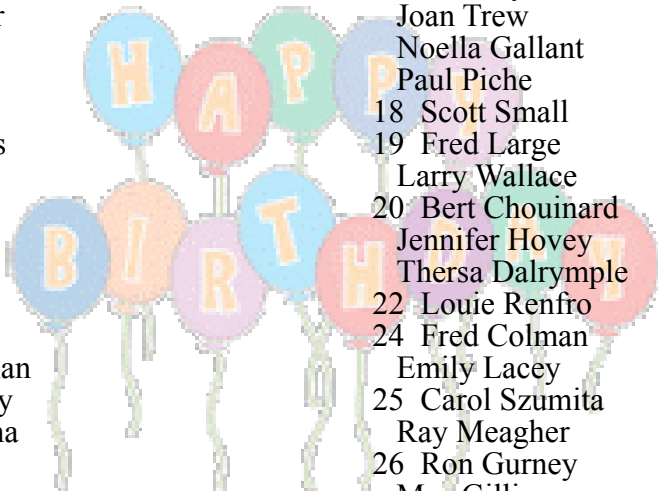
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December Birthdays

- 1 Joan Collins
Vincent Baselj
Denise Foster
- 3 Bob Fletcher
- 4 Madeleine Souliere
Sharon Mosher
- 5 Charlie Mason
- 6 Bernie Lake
Lucy Russell
Alice Summers
Joanna Proulx
Robert Arcand
- 7 Mike Surano
Norma Surano
- 8 Harriet Dray
Lou Lowery
Bryan Marshman
- 9 Eileen Kennedy
Doraine Belena
- 11 Steve Groh
Michael Jariz
- 12 Susan Berton
- 13 Jean Cahill
Mary Major
Celine Noblit
John Cushing
- 14 Gary Cook



- Lois Bruzek
- 15 Emmeline Walton
Augie Sperandio
Ellen Fletcher
- 16 Dorothy Wade
Joan Trew
Noella Gallant
Paul Piche
- 18 Scott Small
- 19 Fred Large
Larry Wallace
- 20 Bert Chouinard
Jennifer Hovey
Thersa Dalrymple
- 22 Louie Renfro
- 24 Fred Colman
Emily Lacey
- 25 Carol Szumita
Ray Meagher
- 26 Ron Gurney
Mac Gillis
- 28 Al Noel
- 29 Lucy Nadon
- 30 Ronnie Burman
Sarah Jaros
- 31 Linda MacKenzie

December Anniversaries

- | | | |
|----|-----------------------|------|
| 7 | Harold & Mary Parr | 1973 |
| 9 | Guy & Ruth Sproule | 1977 |
| 10 | Roger & Kathy Chasse | 1976 |
| 11 | Doug & Jean Griffiths | 1981 |
| 13 | Al & Sara Noel | 1969 |



Ladies, Please Take Care of Yourselves

A message from Rancher, Lynn Narkewicz

Recently, Lynn had to make a trip to New York to visit her daughter, Susan, who was very ill.

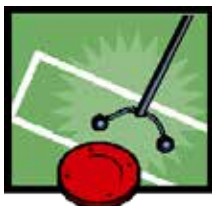
Just a few days after Lynn returned to Ranch Mobile she received word that her beautiful daughter had passed away from breast cancer. Susan was an amazing, loving daughter and a brilliant lawyer. Her life ended much too soon and left a big void in her family.

Lynn would like to urge all women to make their own health a top priority, and make sure you get regular mammograms. She doesn't want to see your families go through this kind of pain.



Ranch Mobile is Extremely Lucky to Have Two of the Best Shuffleboard Players in the World, Steve Raimondi and Frank Niziolek!

In the International Shuffleboard Association's World Tournament held at Clearwater Shuffleboard Club, Oct. 25-30, 2015, with 13 nations from around the world sending their best shufflers, Frank came in 4th place while Steve came in 9th.



They have proven to the world they are among the very best shufflers in the World!

Ironically, in the 2013 ISA Tournament held at St. Petersburg Shuffleboard Club, Steve finished 4th while Frank finished 14th out of over 150 shufflers from 15 nations.

Ranch Mobile's Betty Bober was Co-Chairperson of the event with Kathy Brennan (CSC's President). Ranch Mobile has a lot to be proud of in the sport of shuffleboard!

Christmas Tree Trivia

Christmas just wouldn't be the same without a Christmas tree twinkling in the night on Christmas Eve. Where did this Christmas tree tradition come from? What is our great nation's national Christmas tree? Find out the answers to these questions and more as you increase your Christmas tree trivia knowledge with the interesting facts below.

What is the Origin of the Christmas Tree?

The Christmas tree is thought to have originated in a play often performed in the Middle Ages during the Advent season. Based on the story of Adam and Eve, the play featured a Paradise Tree in the Garden of Eden that was decorated with apples to symbolize Eve's temptation. The tree used in the play was an evergreen tree, which symbolized fertility and a renewal of life.

Later, in 16th century Germany, people would hang apples, gilded candies, colored paper,



and roses from tree branches. Martin Luther, inspired by the beauty of stars shining through the branches of a fir tree, is credited with being the first person to add lighted candles to a tree.

Some believe that King George, a native of German, brought the tradition of decorating a Christmas tree to England. Others credit Queen Victoria with bringing the tradition to England from Germany where her husband, Prince Albert, was raised.



An etching of the British royal family gathered around a Christmas tree in Windsor Castle in 1848 prompted the spread of this favorite decoration throughout Victorian England. The custom was brought to the United States when German immigrants in Pennsylvania continued to decorate Christmas trees just as they had done in their homeland.

What is the History of the Wreath?

Wreaths have a long history, dating back to ancient Druids who believed that holly, a perennial evergreen with lush, red berries, was a magical plant. Wreaths were first created when holly and other evergreens were arranged in a circular shape, a shape with no beginning or end, and therefore, synonymous with eternity.

The Circular Shape of a Wreath is Synonymous with Eternity

This representation took on more meaning when Jesus Christ was crowned with a wreath of thorns. In the days of Julius Caesar, wreaths were worn by aristocrats and used by Greeks to crown victorious athletes in the original Olympic games. It is believed that hanging a wreath on a door became a custom when Olympic athletes began to hang their wreaths on their doors following a victory.

Although the word wreath evokes thoughts of Christmas, these lovely decorations can beautify doors and walls year-round. They can be embellished with a vast assortment of dried or artificial flowers to fit any holiday or season.

Who Has Recorded "Everybody's Doing the Jingle Bell Rock?"

Released in 1957, "Jingle Bell Rock" has been a favorite of recording artists for nearly 50 years. Who has recorded this tune?

1957	Bobby Helms	1984	Elmo & Patsy
1961	Chet Atkins	1990	Wild Rose
1961	Eddy Arnold	1992	Neil Diamond
1961	Bobby Rydell and Chubby Checker	1992	Glen Campbell
1962	Bobby Vee	1993	Vince Gill
1963	The Platters	1994	John Anderson
1964	Brenda Lee	1995	Dion
1968	Herb Alpert	1996	Flash Cadillac
1969	Johnny Mathis	1999	George Strait
1970	Bobby Sherman	1999	Amy Grant
1971	Lynn Anderson	2000	Billy Gilman
		2000	Ricky Van Shelton
		2003	Hilary Duff

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(Allow 4-6 weeks for mailing of check). This month's cash winners are:

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Angie Sweet.....\$10.....	Air Masters of Pinellas, Inc.	Ronald Cirincione.....\$5.....	Bob's Appliance Repair
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Pumpkin Bars

Ingredients

- 4 eggs
- 1-2/3 cups granulated sugar
- 1 cup vegetable oil
- 15-ounce can pumpkin
- 2 cups sifted all-purpose flour
- 2 tsp baking powder
- 2 tsp ground cinnamon
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 tsp baking soda

Icing:

- 8-ounce package cream cheese, softened
- 1/2 cup butter or margarine, softened
- 2 cups sifted confectioners' sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.
2. Using an electric mixer at medium speed, combine the eggs, sugar, oil and pumpkin until light and fluffy. Stir together the flour, baking powder, cinnamon, salt and baking soda. Add the dry ingredients to the pumpkin mixture and mix at low speed until thoroughly combined and the batter is smooth. Spread the batter into a greased 13 by 10-inch baking pan. Bake for 30 minutes. let cool completely before frosting. Cut into bars.
3. To make the icing: Combine the cream cheese and butter in a medium bowl with an electric mixer until smooth. Add the sugar and mix at low speed until combined. Stir in the vanilla and mix again. Spread on cooled pumpkin bars.

Pumpkin Goopy Butter Cakes

Filling:

- 8-ounce package cream cheese, softened
- 1 (15-ounce) can pumpkin
- 3 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 8 Tablespoons butter, melted
- 1 (16-ounce) box powdered sugar
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon nutmeg

Cake

- 1 (18-1/4 ounce) package yellow cake mix
- 1 egg
- 8 Tablespoons butter, melted

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.
2. Combine the cake mix, egg and butter and mix well with an electric mixer. Pat the mixture into the bottom of a lightly greased 13 x 9-inch baking pan.
3. To make the filling: In a large bowl, beat the cream cheese and pumpkin until smooth Add the eggs, vanilla, and butter, and beat together Next, add the powdered sugar, cinnamon, nutmeg, and mix well. Spread pumpkin mixture over cake batter and make for 40 - 50 minutes. Make sure not to overbake as the center should be a little goopy.
4. Serve with fresh whipped cream.

Variations: For a Pineapple Goopy Cake: Instead of the pumpkin, add a drained 20-ounce can of crushed pineapple to the cream cheese filling. Proceed as directed above. For a Peanut Butter Goopy Cake: Use a chocolate cake mix. Add 1 cup creamy peanut butter to the cream cheese filling instead of the pumpkin. Proceed as directed above.

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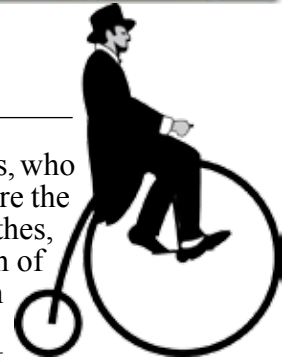
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The Old Coot Saved by the Bell

By: Merlin Lessler



There are two kinds of bike riders: athletic, physically fit, serious riders, who approach a ride as though it was an Olympic event, and then there are the fun peddlers. I'm a fun peddler; I ride without a helmet, in regular clothes, on a cheap, heavy bike. I face traffic when the road is narrow (in violation of N.Y.S.'s motor vehicle regulations). I even glide down the sidewalk when it's the only safe way to go. My friend, Jeff Poulin, is an athletic biker. When I take a ride to Newark Valley and back you'll hear me crow about it for weeks. When Jeff (who by the way is the race director for the Chris Thater Memorial races) completes a quick 50 to 75 mile run in less time than my Newark Valley ride, you have to pry out of him how far he rode.

He's definitely a different rider than I am; he cruises along on a bike that weighs less than my Medicare Card. He's swathed in Spandex and a perfectly sized, aerodynamic helmet. Expensive bike shoes interlock with his pedals, pulling the pedal as his foot comes up and achieving maximum energy efficiency. Water is supplied from a camel pack on his back through a tube that runs over his shoulder and lets him take a sip by simply turning his head whenever he feels the need. A safety light blinks on the back of his vehicle when it's dark or foggy; a rear view mirror prevents him from "getting it" from behind. He obeys the N.U.S. traffic laws; my crowd ignores stop signs, red lights, one-way street markers. But, we never ever exceed the speed limit, not that we don't try. Sometimes I come close, like when I'm peddling through a school zone. But usually, I'm riding along the side of the road with a red face, embarrassed by the number of joggers and speed walkers who catch up to and pass me.

Now comes my rant. It wouldn't be an Old Coot column if it didn't have one. I won't criticize the Spandex, the cost of the bikes or any of the other differences between my crowd and Jeff's. I've done all that and all it ever gets me is a protest poem from Bill Schweizer. No, my issue today concerns the lack of a bell on athletic bikers' handlebars. I have a bell; I use it to say hello to friends as I "fly" by, to warn walkers that I'm coming up from behind them on the sidewalk (slowly and carefully) and to signal a biker on the road ahead of me that I'm about to pass. A rare event. Nevertheless, I'm prepared when it does.

And, that brings me to the genesis of my complaint. Those speeding, athletic bikers silently sneak up on us fun-peddlers and scare the heck out of us when they elbow past. No warning whatsoever. No jingle, jingle, to prepare for someone coming up on your shoulder. Just a swoosh, as they fly by, startling us and nearly sending us tumbling into a ditch. It's bad enough when they do it to one of their own, or to a young and fit, fun-peddler. But, it's a bigger issue when they pass an old coot. We don't ride in a straight line; we weave and wander in a meandering route along the shoulder. Sometimes I'm listing left just as one of Jeff's friends pulls along side. I haven't ended up in the ditch yet, but I've had a legion of close calls. So, I say, "Please; buy a bell." I know you're loath to add weight to your bike, but a bell won't really add much, not enough to put you at the back of your pack. You'll still be an Alpha biker. But now, a polite one.

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Letters to Santa

I love children's letters to Santa ... here are some reasons why.

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I would like a couple of things, but I don't really matter. The kids that do matter are the ones that don't have a lot of stuff. Last year I got a lot of stuff from you and my parents. But this year is different. I don't need a lot of toys. So if you would, just get me a couple of toys and give the poor people what they really need. Anyway just get me some of these things: books, littlest pet shop, legos, a cozy blanket and a couple of things in my stocking (your choice).

Love, Julianna S.

Dear Santa,

I really hope you are real. But I am not so sure. It might be against your rules, but on Christmas eve, could you come wake me up? Just to reassure me. If it IS against your rules, just put on one of my presents: From supercalifragilisticexpialidocious. I want to know I promise I won't tell anyone. I know how busy you are, and I am sorry it is last notice, but please be sure to get a pair of brown cowgirl boots, and some overalls. I would really appreciate it. I have a question. My mommy says that you hide presents all around the world because your sled isn't big enough. How big is your sled?

Alyssa

Dear Santa

all i want for christmas) PLEASE this is all i want is for Mrs. Santa to have a baby child and name it after ME!!! PLEASE oh PLEASE i know i have been very good latley. I think you need a kid sooooo ... please i want you to have a baby!!!! Love Santa Jr. P.S, next christmas i want to see him, or her if you don;t i will be very mad! Just Joking with you big guy!!!! LOL.

P.S.S. I also want a Wii ... !!!!

emy j

The Candy Canes of Christmas



Candy cane sweet treats made primarily from boiled sugar seem to have first appeared in Europe in the late 1600's to early 1700's. They were made in many different colors (most often white) and shapes (most often straight sticks), evolving to the familiar cane or upside down J shape with the red and white stripes in the early 1900's.

The cane shape turned out to be a great way to hang the sugar treats on the Christmas tree that was also strongly associated with the Christmas season and the bright colors of red and white were a nice contrast with the green of the Christmas trees. This was during a time when many food items were hung on the Christmas trees from strings of popcorn to cookies and pastries.

The exact story of how and why the candy canes evolved into the red and white striped cane shapes we are so familiar with today is lost to history, but a reasonable explanation is that the cane shape was created to look like the staff of a shepherd (which fits in not only with the story of shepherds attending Jesus' birth, but also of the symbolism of Jesus as a shepherd of his flock). These treats were then given to small children to encourage them to behave at long church services during the Christmas season.

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
		9:00a V 9:00a D @ CH 9:30a S 1:00p T
6:30p Vespers 7:00p Bid Euchre	6 9:00a Walkercise 7 9:30a Bowling 10:00a Aquacise 5:00p Poker@HH <i>Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day</i>	9:00a V 9:30a S 1:00p T 7:00p V Dance
6:30p Vespers 7:00p Bid Euchre	13 9:00a Walkercise 14 9:30a Bowling 10:00a Aquacise 5:00p Poker@HH 5:30p Silver Circle	8:00a Pa fast 9:00a W 9:30a Sh 1:00p Tr 7:00p M CH <i>Bill O</i>
6:30p Vespers 7:00p Bid Euchre	20 9:00a Walkercise 21 9:30a Bowling 10:00a Aquacise 5:00p Golden Agers 5:00p Poker@HH <i>Winter Begins</i>	9:00a V 9:30a S 1:00p T <i>First D</i>
6:30p Vespers 7:00p Bid Euchre	27 9:00a Walkercise 28 9:30a Bowling 10:00a Aquacise 5:00p Poker@HH	9:00a V 9:30a S 1:00p T

Ranch Mobile

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Walkercise 1 Dance Mtg. Shuffle Triple Play	9:00a Walkercise 2 7:30a Koffee 10:00a Aquacise 10:00a Line Dancing 12:30 Nickle Bingo 6:30p Triple Play & Cribbage 7:00p Cards/Euchre	9:00a Walkercise 3 10:00a Pool Club Mtg. 10:00a Golf 6:00p Poker 6:45p Bingo	9:00a Walkercise 4 10:00a Aquacise 6:30p Triple Play& Cribbage 6:30p Bunco	9:00a Miniputt 5 10:00a Shuffle Fun Day 7:00p Court Whist
Walkercise 8 Shuffle Triple Play Winter	7:30a Koffee 9 9:00a Walkercise 9:30a Golf Mtg. 10:00a Aquacise 10:00a Line Dancing 12:00 BP Clinic 12:30 Nickle Bingo 6:30p Triple Play & Cribbage 7:00p Cards/Euchre	9:00a Walkercise 10 10:00a Golf 6:00p Poker 6:45p Bingo	9:00a Walkercise 11 10:00a Aquacise 6:30p Triple Play& Cribbage 6:30p Bunco	9:00a Miniputt 12 12:00p Special Shuffle Meeting 12:30p Shuffle
pancake Break-15 Walkercise Shuffle Triple Play Mark Ralston @	7:30a Koffee 16 9:00a Walkercise 10:00a ANNUAL MTG 6:30p Triple Play & Cribbage 7:00p Cards/Euchre	9:00a Walkercise 17 10:00a Golf 6:00p Poker 6:45p Bingo	9:00a Walkercise 18 10:00a Aquacise 6:30p Triple Play& Cribbage 6:30p Bunco	9:00a Miniputt 19 10:00a Shuffle 7:00p Court Whist
of Rights Day 22	7:30a Koffee 23 9:00a Walkercise 10:00a Aquacise 10:00a Line Dancing 12:30 Nickle Bingo 6:30p Triple Play & Cribbage 6:30p Bridge@HH 7:00p Cards/Euchre	9:00a Walkercise 24 10:00a Golf 12:00p OFFICE CLOSED	25 1:00p Dinner	9:00a Miniputt 26 10:00a Shuffle
Day of Winter		Christmas Eve	Christmas	
Walkercise 29 Shuffle Triple Play	7:30a Koffee 30 9:00a Walkercise 10:00a Aquacise 10:00a Line Dancing 12:30 Nickle Bingo 6:30p Triple Play & Cribbage 7:00p Cards/Euchre	9:00a Walkercise 31 12:00p OFFICE CLOSED 8:30p New Year Dance		JANUARY 2016 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
		New Year's Eve		



Santa Loves to Travel to Places with the Most Snow! Which Cities are Easiest for Santa to Visit?

Those with snow, of course! According to the Statistical Abstract of the United States, the average snowfall each December in the following locations is more than two feet?

- Valdez, Alaska
- Yakutat, Alaska
- Blue Canyon, California
- Marquette, Michigan
- Muskegon, Michigan
- Sault Sainte Marie, Michigan
- Mount Washington, New Hampshire
- Syracuse, New York

Does Santa Really Exist?

Yes, Santa Claus really does exist - and he lives in Rovaniemi, Finland! AT Santa's Village, you can visit Santa in his workshop and watch his trusty elves building toys and decorating for the holidays you can also stop by one of the gift shops and pick up Santa's favorite Finnish Candies or a toy from Santa's workshop.

In keeping with Santa's North Pole address, Santa's Village is located in the Finnish Lapland on the Arctic Circle. The Lapland is a region that includes northern Finland, Sweden, and Norway. It is north of the Arctic Circle, an imaginary line on the surface of the earth where the sun does not rise on the winter solstice or set on the summer solstice.

What are Santa's Aliases?

Christmas gifts are bestowed by different gift givers in various countries. These include Pere Noel in France, St. Nicholas or Sinter Klass in Holland, Father Christmas in England, the Three Kings in parts of Latin America and Spain, and Santa Claus in the United States. In Germany, children are visited by Christkind, an angelic messenger of Jesus.

Babouschka, a grandmotherly figure, brings presents in Russia, while in Sweden, Jultomten, a gnome who rides a sleigh, does the honors. Syrian children receive gifts from a camel of one of the Three Wise Men, reportedly the smallest one in the caravan. And in Italy, a kindly old witch named La Befana leaves gifts for children.

Can You Name Any Reindeer Facts?

Reindeer are one of several subspecies of caribou found around the world.

Reindeer are herbivores, which means they eat vegetation. In the summer, they eat leaves and herbs. In the winter, they eat lichen and moss.

Reindeer generally don't run very fast. In fact, a white-tailed deer could outrun a reindeer.

Reindeer use their antlers like a shovel to break through the crust of snow to reach to vegetation underneath.

Reindeer are various colors, including white, dark gray, and brown. Males can have light colored manes, necks, and shoulders.

The only female deer to grow antlers are reindeer. Each summer, both males and females grow their wonderful racks, but males usually shed theirs in late November to mid-December. Females keep their antlers until spring. Because all of Santa's reindeer are depicted with antlers, one might conclude that every one of them, including Rudolph, is female.

After testing your Santa trivia knowledge, you should know all there is to know about Santa Claus and his reindeer.

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Christmas Song Trivia

Did you know that carols can be traced back to as early as 1350, but most of today's Christmas carols were written during the 18th century? You can discover entertaining facts like this and more as you test your Christmas song trivia knowledge with the tidbits below.

Holiday carols can be traced back to the 1800's.

What is the Origin of Holiday Carols?

In 1847, the music for "O Holy Night" was written by French composer Adolphe-Charles Adam, who also wrote the ballet *Giselle*. Now a mainstay for church celebrations and carolers, the song was first denounced by church authorities for its "lack of music taste and total absence of the spirit of religion." The English words to the song were translated from French by American clergyman John Sullivan Dwight.

In 1857, James Pierpont, musical director at his brother's Unitarian church, was inspired to write a song about the rollicking sleigh races he watched as a young man. "Jingle Bells" was first published as "One Horse Open Sleigh," and though it was well liked from the beginning, it really took off when the Hayden Quartet recorded it in 1902.

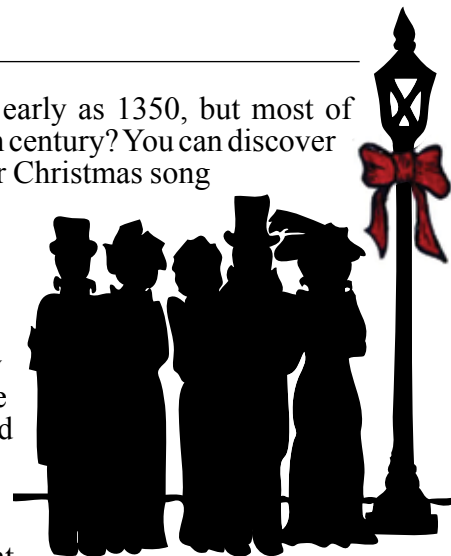
Pastor Phillips Brooks wrote the words to "O Little Town of Bethlehem" in 1867, recalling the view of Bethlehem from the hills of Palestine at night. His church organist, Lewis Redner, added the music so that the children's choir could sing the song. The song, "Jolly Old St. Nicholas" is usually considered anonymous, but some people claim that it was written by Wilf Carter, also known as country singer Montana Slim.

What is the Biggest Selling Christmas Song of all time?

According to the Guinness Book of World Records, "White Christmas" has sold more than 100 million copies around the world. The song was written by Irving Berlin and recorded by Bing Crosby for the 1942 musical *Holiday Inn*.

The song appeared again in the 1954 film *White Christmas*, which starred Crosby. According to the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers (ASCAP), there are more than 500 versions of "White Christmas" in dozens of languages, making it the most recorded holiday song.

Released annually since 1942, the song's last chart appearance was in 1998, when it reached number 29 in the United Kingdom.



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Santa Trivia

Do you believe in Santa Claus? Test your Santa trivia knowledge with the St. Nicholas facts below ~ then decide.

It wasn't until 1809 that Americans had an actual description and drawing of St. Nicholas.



Who is Santa Claus?

For centuries, St. Nicholas has been remembered by Christians for his generosity toward children and the poor. The real St. Nicholas lived in Turkey, where he served as bishop in the town of Myra, during the fourth century. According to Dutch legend, Sinter Klaas (St. Nicholas) brought gifts at Christmas time, either through an open window or down a chimney. This legend is the basis of the Santa Claus we know and love today.

Prior to the 16th century, gifts were exchanged during the feast of St. Nicholas on December 6. After that time, German Protestants began celebrating Christkindl on December 25, a feast day for the Christ Child. Soon the two days merged into one, although, today many people in Europe continue to celebrate both days. As early as 1773, the name "St. A Claus" appeared in print.

But Americans did not have a details description of St. Nicholas until Washington Irving included a drawing of him in the 1809 publication *A History of New York*. Then, in 1823, Clement Clarke Moore wrote *'Twas the Night Before Christmas* (or *A Visit from St. Nicholas*). It was Moore's account that characterized Santa as a jolly old man who rides in a sleigh pulled by flying reindeer and slides down chimneys to deliver gifts.

Who's Tracking Santa Claus?

"Deter. Detect. Defend." This motto of the North American Aerospace Defense Command, better known as NORAD, applies to the Canadian and American agency's responsibility to defend the airspace of Canada, Alaska, and the continental United States. However, each December 24, NORAD is also involved in tracking Santa Claus's sleigh ride across the globe.

Using data obtained from a worldwide network of radar and satellites in space, NORAD staff and more than 360 volunteers begin reporting on Santa's progress at 5:00 a.m. MST. Real-time updates via e-mail, the internet, and telecasts are transferred into streaming audio and video updates and then translated into French, Japanese, Spanish, Portuguese, and English.



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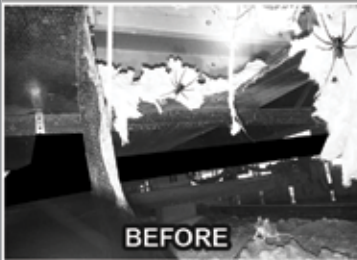
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- God Jul - Swedish
- Boldog Karacsony - Hungarian
- Feliz Navidad - Spanish
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- Frohliche Weihnachten - German
- Geseende Kersfees - Afrikaans
- Hyvas Joulua - Finnish
- Kurisumasu omedeto - Japanese
- Mele Kalikimaka - Hawaiian
- Suksun Wan Christmas - Thai
- Wesolychg Swiat Bozego Narodzenia - Polish



Hawaiian Dream Cake

- 1 package yellow cake mix
- 1 (20 oz) can crushed pineapple, drained, reserve juice
- 1 (8-ounce) package cream cheese
- 1 (3 oz) pkg. instant vanilla pudding
- 1 cup cold milk
- 1 (9-ounce) container Cool Whip
- Nuts and coconut

Prepare cake mix according to package directions, using the reserved pineapple juice and water for the liquid called for in the directions. Bake at 350° F. for about 35 minutes in a greased and floured 15 x 10 x 1-inch jelly roll pan (I used a 9-1/2 x 13 pan). Cool in pan, set aside.

In a large bowl blend together cream cheese, pudding mix and milk until smooth. Fold in drained pineapple and spread over top of cake. Cover with whipped topping and sprinkle with nuts and coconut. Refrigerate.

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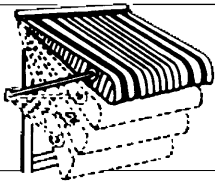
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NEA: Fewer Americans enjoy the arts in person

When was the last time you went to the symphony, the ballet, or a museum? A National Endowment for the Arts study points to a disturbing trend: The number of Americans attending core arts events like the opera, the theater, and other activities is on the decline.

According to “A Decade of Arts Engagement: Findings From the Survey of Public Participation in the Arts, 2002–2012,” only 33.4 percent of U.S. adults attended any arts events between July 2011 and July 2012—down from 34.6 percent in 2008, and down yet again from a decade earlier when the figure was 39.4 percent.

One bright spot in the report: Although only a third of U.S. adults attended a cultural event in person, 71 percent said they had watched, listened to, or downloaded some kind of artistic event via the Internet. That includes streaming pop music, however, lumping Beethoven in with Nicki Minaj.



Americans upbeat about science



Despite controversies and disagreements about climate change, genetically modified foods, animal testing, and other scientific issues, most U.S. citizens have a positive view of science and scientists, according to a study from the Pew Research Center.



The study found that 79 percent of U.S. adults believe science has made their lives better, and a majority of them have a positive view of science’s impact on such matters as food quality, health care, and the environment. Additionally, 61 percent believe that government investment is essential to scientific progress, although 34 percent say that private investment would be sufficient.

The effort to understand the universe is one of the very few things that lifts human life a little above the level of farce, and gives it some of the grace of tragedy.

—Steven Weinberg

Get on pace for a healthy new year

The end of the year is the perfect time to commit to a healthier lifestyle going forward. How can you maintain your resolve on a daily basis? Try these tips:

- **Pick a partner.** People who exercise with friend have a higher success rate.
- **Set concrete goals.** Don't vaguely aim to walk "more" each day. Set challenging but realistic goals. And be sure to chart your progress.
- **Shorten the duration.** Rather than a single hourlong session, aim for three 20-minute workouts or four 15-minute workouts a day. People who opt for shorter sessions actually tend to work out more over the course of a week.
- **Redefine "exercise."** You don't have to spend hours at the health club to stay in shape. Keep track of your daily activity and try to incorporate healthy behaviors like walking for at least 20 minutes, taking the stairs instead of the elevator, or getting off the bus or train a block early. Exercise will become part of your day, not an added chore.
- **Clear your mind.** Make a regular date with yourself for exercise and train yourself not to think about all the other tasks you could be doing. Focus on the here and now and don't get distracted by the future or the past.
- **Find exercise you enjoy.** Most gyms offer a variety of exercise equipment, so choose an activity that makes you feel good while you're doing it, not something you detest no matter how beneficial it may be. Riding a bike through your neighborhood is just as helpful as sitting on a stationary bicycle in the gym.
- **Set your own goals.** Even if you work with a buddy or trainer, decide for yourself what you want to achieve. Set realistic targets that challenge you, not impossible goals that make you reluctant to try.



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-Monthly Media Staff

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