

PINEWOOD NEWS

THE GOOD LIFE, COMMUNITY & MOUNTAIN LIVING SINCE '93

VOL. 31 NO. 18 DECEMBER 6, 2024

FREE!

HO! HO! HO!
SANTA IS COMING TO TOWN!
Merry Christmas!



PAGE 19

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The Pinewood News will attempt to publish letters received, except for those that are an invasion of privacy or libelous. Letters must be signed and include an address and phone number. Letters may be edited for space and clarity.

Letters: PO Box 18977, Munds Park, AZ 86017
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THE PINEWOOD NEWS

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COLDWELL BANKER NORTHLAND



\$1,495,000 • 17612 E FAIRWAY DR

Closed Restaurant with HUGE potential. Was an Italian restaurant opened during COVID and closed 11/9/2021. Sale price includes the land, building, all contents. The community really wants a good restaurant and this could be the one! Owner is a licensed real estate broker in the state of Arizona. Call Bill Spain, owner, 602-622-1196 for details. Owner may carry with a significant down-payment/scenario.

SOLD



**\$400,000
95 E FOXBORO ROAD, 11**

In serene Coconino National Forest, this 1.73-acre lot in Foxboro Ranch Estates offers a blend of tranquility and luxury with exclusive clubhouse access and all utilities ready.

SOLD



**\$350,000
259 E FOXBORO ROAD, 7**

Nestled in Coconino National Forest, this 2.24-acre lot in Foxboro Ranch Estates offers luxury with no build time, exclusive clubhouse access, and proximity to Sedona.



**\$445,500
17305 BIG SKY DR**

Turn-key 3-bed, 2-bath manufactured home in Munds Park. Fenced yard, carport, pellet stove, A/C, shed, apple trees, perennial flowers, and flagstone patio. All appliances included.

SALE PENDING



**\$299,500
125 E OAK DR**

Updated home with new flooring, granite countertops, wood-burning stove, vaulted ceiling, split bedrooms, covered deck, storage shed, carport, and more..

SALE PENDING



**\$391,900
17220 MESCALERO DR**

Updated 2-bedroom, 2-bath home, fully furnished with modern appliances, jacuzzi, RV parking, UTV storage, deck, and automatic drip system.

REDUCED!



**\$549,000
260 SANDIA CIR**

Enchanting cabin nestled among pines, fully furnished with new TV, light fixtures, Trex deck, Ring cameras, and WiFi locks. Enjoy al fresco dining under the stars. A cozy, modern retreat.

REDUCED!



**\$649,000
635 E OAK DR**

2017 Cavco home with 2,234 sq ft, 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, and 4-car garage. Situated on 2 lots, a redwood deck, and a natural stream, this move-in ready home offers privacy and outdoor space.



\$288,000

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THROUGH A LITTLE GIRL'S EYES

The True Spirit of Christmas

Genna shared a story with me that took my heart and taught me a valuable lesson this Christmas season. It happened at the Munds Park Business Alliance 3rd Annual Christmas Lighting Festival. While waiting in line for the lady's room during the tree lighting ceremony, Genna stood behind a mother and her young daughter. It was clear the family didn't have much. The mother carried the quiet weight of exhaustion—her posture said as much. But the little girl? She radiated pure joy. She kept thanking her mom over and over, her voice bubbling with gratitude: "Thank you for bringing me. This is so nice!"

The little girl was thrilled—enchanted by the lights, the Christmas spirit, and the simple pleasure of being among friendly people. Most of all, she was overjoyed to be there with her mom.

Genna said it was beautiful and heartbreaking. The mother appeared tired and worn by the weight of her struggles. But to her daughter, none of that mattered. All she saw was the magic of the moment and the love of her mom, who brought her to celebrate Christmas. And maybe, that's how it should be. I imagine that mother would endure a thousand struggles to see her little girl so happy.

I thought about this story as I reread the email I'd just sent to Marilyn Kaminski, president of the Business Alliance that organized the event. True to my blunt style, I told her the event needed more unexpected delights—I couldn't help but feel a bit underwhelmed by this year's production.

And sure, events can always be improved upon, but I totally missed what the event was really about. Genna's story reminded me that maybe Christmas isn't about dazzling performances or perfection. It's about moments like this. It's about tired mothers and grateful daughters. It's about a community coming together, not to impress, but to celebrate what truly matters: the birth of Jesus, love, kindness, and the simple joy of being together.

What a profound gift this reminder turned out to be—showing what the season is truly about. May this Christmas season bring you the same kind of joy that little girl felt—wrapped in the laughter of loved ones, the warmth of togetherness, and the magic of simple, meaningful moments. Thank you to the Munds Park Business Alliance for bringing our community together to celebrate the true spirit of Christmas.

We wish you a heartfelt Christmas season and a blessed new year.

Genna & Sandee Caviness

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CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Munds Park Community Church
Tuesday Evening, December 24, 6 pm





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17375 CRYSTAL BROOK PL

This lot is a hidden gem secluded from the road. A long driveway that opens to an extra large lot with beautiful oak trees surrounding the perimeter. Lot is fairly flat.

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\$525,000

660 TROUT CREEK RD

Escape to this cozy two-bedroom, two-bathroom cabin in Munds Park. With a rustic brick fireplace in the open living area, it's perfect for relaxing nights in. Outside, a spacious deck surrounded by pine trees offers a peaceful retreat. A large shed provides storage, and the lot has room to add a garage. Recent upgrades include a new roof and updated windows, ensuring durability and energy efficiency. Fully furnished and move-in ready, it's an ideal retreat.

CALL ELIZABETH HAUSMAN



\$769,000

1325 E JAGUAR LANE

Large concrete drive leads to an oversized single-car garage. Sit on the covered deck and enjoy the grass. Open the front door to a huge living room, dining room, and kitchen. Woodburning stove. Kitchen is all electric with an extra-large island. Back door leads to the shed. Down the hall to the primary bedroom with its own bath. Another primary bedroom with its own bath and a bedroom with walk-in closet. Upstairs addition with its own balcony. Family room is large enough for a pool table and seating. Up two steps to the sleeping area and a half bath. Plenty of parking. Oversized lot with trees.

CALL DEBI BRIGHT



\$409,000

265 E FAIRLANE ROAD

Charming 3-bed, 2-bath 1991 Cavco home on two lots. Upgrades include a renovated kitchen with new cabinets, countertops, and appliances, along with upgraded baths, new windows, and fresh paint. Exterior features a pergola, fenced yard, sheds, and covered porches on both sides. The yard is beautifully landscaped with artificial grass, trees, and pavers. Additional improvements include a new hot water heater, updated plumbing, and an A/C unit in one shed. Ready to move in!

CALL DEBI BRIGHT



\$699,900

1385 BIG BEAR TRAIL

Fully furnished and tastefully decorated, this turn-key chalet in the desirable "Animal Hill" area offers 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, and a large bonus room. The cozy living space features a stone fireplace, rustic wood banisters, and knotty pine doors, adding mountain charm. The kitchen boasts wood cabinets, stainless appliances, and ample space for cooking. The large upstairs bonus room is perfect for a bunk room, office, or game room. Just bring your essentials and enjoy your mountain retreat!

CALL ELIZABETH HAUSMAN



\$229,000

405 E OAK DRIVE

This is a two bedroom, 1.5 bath with brand new carpet, newer dishwasher and garbage disposal. Also a newer roof. All electric split floor plan, open kitchen. Property is ready for your occupancy. Covered and exposed front deck for those cool summer days. Carport with an entrance right into the utility room. A couple of sheds off the backside..

CALL DEBI BRIGHT



\$419,000

17060 S PENGUIN

Meticulously cared for 3-bedroom, 2-bath home with a large front porch, extended by 3 feet, and a walkway porch leading to a covered back porch. Features include a large shed, fenced backyard, new flooring in the kitchen, hall, dining, and living rooms, and an extra-large lot. The airy primary bedroom has two closets, and the spacious bath offers dual sinks, a soaking tub, and a separate shower. Plenty of space for additional sheds or a garage.

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LOCAL HIGHLIGHTS

Pinewood News reshapes selected stories to bring our audience the most relevant news with a unique voice. All original reporting sources are credited.



AA Meetings - Feel Better!
Munds Park Community Church
Every Monday, 6 pm
17670 S Munds Ranch Rd

Munds Park Community Church Services
Services Sunday, 10:45 am
17670 S Munds Ranch Rd

Pinewood Fire Department Auxiliary meeting
The Community is Welcome!
Tuesday, January 7
6:30 pm • 475 E Pinewood Blvd

Pinewood Fire District Board Meeting
Public Welcome
Tuesday, December 17
3 pm • 475 E Pinewood Blvd

Pinewood Sanitary District Board Meeting
Public Welcome
Thursday, December 12
3 pm • 18075 Fairway Dr

Munds Park Town Hall
All residents are encouraged to attend. Stay informed about what's happening in our community—your presence and participation are essential!
Next Meeting May 15, 2025
Pinewood Country Club



ONTIVEROS READY TO LEAD: A THANK YOU TO MUNDS PARK

Let's get going! I am looking forward to working with the Munds Park community as your new District 3 Supervisor. Thank you for your vote and support in the general election. Enthusiastically, Tammy

SEDONA VOTERS TOSS OUT PROPOSITION 483 WITHOUT A SECOND SIP

You could almost hear the collective exhale of relief from homeowners who've got their feet up on a mortgage—voters rejected the city's plan to rezone a park for local workers to stay overnight, shutting down what would have been Sedona's first "Safe Place to Park" program for the people who keep the town running. Proposition 483 wasn't some wild, revolutionary pitch; it was a pragmatic, pretty-much-bare-minimum solution: a city-owned parking lot for workers who make the cappuccinos, stack the shelves, guide the tourists. A place to safely sleep in their cars, a restroom, maybe even some dignity.

But 68% said no thanks. The city, "valuing the democratic process," won't be looking for other sites either. That was Sedona's polite way of saying, "We've heard the people loud and clear—just not the ones who can't afford a roof."

And now? It's back to cars and couches for the people who make Sedona work. It's all about what you want to see. For some, Sedona is red rocks and high-end galleries, yoga retreats and air-conditioned hotel rooms. But for others, it's a second shift and a back seat.

This article has been re-reported from KJZZ's Michel Marizco

NEW OHV SAFETY COURSE REQUIREMENT STARTING 2025

Starting January 2025, Arizona off-highway vehicle (OHV) owners must complete a free online safety course through AZMVDNOW.gov before registering or renewing their vehicles. The 10-minute video and quick test, developed by the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD), aim to improve OHV safety and awareness. Conveniently integrated into the Arizona Motor Vehicle Division (MVD) portal, this one-time requirement applies to residents, non-residents, and businesses registering OHVs until June 2027. Decals on vehicles will serve as proof of course completion for law enforcement. Visit azdot.gov/mvd/OHV for details.

COMMUNITY SPIRIT MEETS HOLIDAY SPARKLE!

The Pinewood Property Owner's Association warmly invites the Munds Park community to help decorate the pine tree in the Memorial Garden next to the Pinewood Fire Department. Place a home made ornament on the tree, and together, let's create a dazzling holiday display that celebrates the season and our community spirit!



Continued on page 8

THINGS TO DO

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7

SANTA IS COMING!

Get ready for some holiday cheer! Santa and Mrs. Claus will be making their grand arrival at the Pinewood Fire Department!

Snap a picture with Santa and his reindeer, and receive a stocking full of holiday goodies!

Don't miss out—sign up today!

Contact: Linda Burnett: Call or text 619-954-6901

Pinewood Fire Department, 9:45 am to Noon
475 E Pinewood Blvd, Munds Park



FREE WINTER MOVIE SERIES AT THE ORPHEUM THEATER

The Downtown Flagstaff Foundation and The Orpheum Theater proudly present the Winter Movie Series - FREE For All Ages! Join us on **December 7th, December 14th, & December 21st** for Home Alone, Elf, and The Polar Express respectively! Enjoy classic movies, crafts and food!

This event is free, but we encourage you to RSVP using the link: <https://downtownflagstaff.org/holidays/winter-movie-series>



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14

CHRISTMAS FESTIVITES IN CAMPE VERDE

Christmas Craft Bazaar

Step into the magic of the season at the Christmas Craft Bazaar! Discover one-of-a-kind treasures, from handmade decorations to unique gifts crafted by artisans from the Verde Valley and beyond. With up to 45 vendors filling the Community Center Gym and spilling outside, you're bound to find something special for everyone on your list.

FREE admission, Community Center Gym
51 E. Hollamon Street, Camp Verde
10 am to 4 pm

Christmas Parade of Lights

Gather round, folks—it's the Christmas Parade of Lights! Watch Main Street light up as floats from local clubs, businesses, and friendly neighbors roll by, each one decked out and glowing with holiday spirit. And when the lights dim, keep your eyes peeled for the big moment: Santa and Mrs. Claus arriving in his sleigh. After the parade, meet them in the Community Center Gym for a cozy holiday hello!

Main Street Downtown, Camp Verde
6 pm



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14

HOLIDAY PARADE OF LIGHTS

The Holiday Parade of Lights will light up Historic Downtown Flagstaff! Bring your hat, mittens and plenty of hot chocolate and enjoy the beautiful sights as dozens of twinkling floats pass by. The parade begins at the corner of Beaver and Elm, proceeds south of Aspen, east past a reviewing stand at Heritage Square to San Francisco and then back up to Elm. Prizes are awarded in several categories including "Best in Show."

Make a day of shopping local businesses during the day and then enjoying the parade that night.

Flagstaff, 6 - 8 pm



FLAGSTAFF'S HORSE DRAWN CARRIGE RIDES!

This December through January, enjoy a magical horse-drawn carriage ride through historic downtown Flagstaff! Starting December 7th, 2024 through January 5th, 2025, join us for a festive journey every Saturday and Sunday from 1 to 4 PM.

The ride departs from the Flagstaff Visitor Center and takes you on a scenic, non-stop tour of downtown's charming streets.

Don't miss out on this enchanting winter experience – perfect for families, couples, and visitors of all ages!



GOOD FOOD



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LOCAL HIGHLIGHTS

HEART & HONOR ON THE MAT: LOCAL FATHER-DAUGHTER DUO SHINE IN FIRST JIU-JITSU TOURNAMENT



Local Robert Foose and his daughter Jocellynn made their jiu-jitsu tournament debut, but they were fighting for much more than medals. They stepped onto the mat in memory of Robert's mother and Jocellynn's grandmother, who passed away from cancer when Jocellynn was just a newborn.

Jocellynn, who's only been training for a few months, showed incredible skill and poise. She won her first match with a sharp kimura submission, then went on to dominate her next opponent 15-0, without letting anyone score a point against her throughout the tournament.

She walked away with the gold medal, leaving behind a tough group that included twin sisters who took silver and bronze.

Robert, a local small business owner, also had a remarkable run. Despite a last-minute bump up to a heavier weight class and a toe fracture just two hours before competing, he nearly grabbed the gold himself. He managed a full mount in the last seconds of his final match but ran out of time to secure the win. His journey to the tournament started as a way to tackle a chronic back pain that had plagued him for over seven years. Since signing up for jiu-jitsu along with his daughters, he's not only overcome his back issues but also gotten into the best shape of his life.

Both Robert and Jocellynn's efforts in the tournament were about more than just competition; they were a tribute to Robert's Mother. Their achievements are a testament to their strength and the deep bond between them. Congratulations!



LOOK WHO DROPPED BY THE PINWOOD RESTURANT & BAR

George J. Schuller Jr. shared a snapshot on Facebook that's got everyone talking. William H. Macy, the well-known actor, popped into the Pinewood Restaurant and Bar for a bite. He was headed to a movie shoot in Monument Valley but took some time to enjoy a good meal and chat with folks at the restaurant. According to George, Macy had nothing but praise for his lunch.





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HOMEMADE & WONDERFUL

A JOURNEY THROUGH CHRISTMAS FOODS THAT TIME LEFT BEHIND

By Margaret Ivey

As Christmas draws near, kitchens everywhere come alive with the comforting aromas of roasted turkey, creamy mashed potatoes, and the buttery sweetness of freshly baked pies. But what if we told you these familiar staples are just the latest chapters in a much older story? Come with us as we travel back through the ages and uncover the forgotten Christmas foods—each brimming with history, flavor, and a pinch of holiday magic.

Frumenty: The Festive Porridge of Yore

Imagine a frosty medieval evening in the 14th century, the hearth crackling with warmth and a cauldron of frumenty bubbling away—a creamy blend of boiled wheat, milk, eggs, and the heady perfume of honey and spices. This ancient dish was no ordinary porridge; it symbolized abundance and comfort, transforming the simplest ingredients into a treasure worthy of the holiday table.

A staple on Christmas tables during the Middle Ages, frumenty was often flavored with cinnamon, nutmeg, and dried fruits. It served as an early predecessor to the modern Christmas pudding, capturing the sweetness of the season long before sugar became commonplace. By the 17th century, however, richer desserts like plum pudding began to take its place in festive feasts.

Though long absent from today's tables, frumenty remains a humble yet heartwarming reminder of Christmases past—a time when



"The Christmas Hamper" by Robert Braithwaite Martineau, ca. 1850. By depicting a Christmas gift hamper that includes a turkey, Martineau participates in a tradition that goes back to England in the 1680s. Note that one child is reading a Christmas card, an innovation dating to the 1840s.

the warmth of the hearth and the shared joy of a simple meal were as cherished as the feast itself.

The Yule Boar: Feast of Legends

Long before the turkey claimed its festive throne, the Yule boar reigned supreme as the star of the Christmas feast. This tradition can be traced back to pre-Christian Norse and Germanic cultures (500 BCE to 400 CE), where the boar was revered as a symbol of strength and prosperity. The custom endured well into the Middle Ages (12th to 15th centuries), with the boar's head becoming a celebrated centerpiece at English midwinter feasts.

Bore was served with great ceremony; the head was adorned with evergreen garlands and triumphantly carried into the dining hall as traditional carols echoed through the room. The feast symbolized triumph over the hardships of winter, seamlessly blending Pagan traditions with emerging Christian practices.

However, by the 18th to 19th centuries, the Yule boar fell out of favor. Turkey, introduced to Europe by Spanish explorers in the 16th century, gained popularity and became the festive choice during the reign of King George II in the 18th century. Yet, echoes of the Yule boar endure in old carols like The Boar's Head Carol—a lingering reminder of a time when feasts were as much about spectacle as sustenance.

Continued on page 12



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HOMEMADE & WONDERFUL

Continued from page 11

Minced Meat Pies: A Spicy History

Today’s mince pies—tiny, sugary parcels filled with dried fruits and a hint of spice—have their roots in a surprising past. In Tudor England (late 15th to early 17th centuries), minced meat pies were hearty and savory creations, blending finely chopped meat, suet, dried fruits, and a medley of exotic spices introduced by explorers and traders from India and the Spice Islands.

These pies weren’t just delicious; they were deeply symbolic. Often shaped into an oval or crib-like form to represent the Nativity, their spices—cinnamon, cloves, and nutmeg—were said to honor the gifts of the Magi. Over the course of the 17th century, tastes began to change. The meat content diminished, and sweetened fruits and brandy gradually became the dominant flavors.

By the Victorian era (mid-19th century), the fully sweet version of the mince pie had taken hold, becoming the treat we recognize today. Yet in every bite of a modern mince pie, there remains a faint echo of its adventurous origins—a nod to the daring explorers, resourceful cooks, and festive traditions of centuries past.

Wassail: The Cup That Brought a Community Together

“Waes hael!”—“Be in good health!”—was the joyous cry that accompanied the ancient custom of wassailing, a practice rooted in Anglo-Saxon England (5th to 11th centuries). Far more than just a drink, wassail embodied the spirit of communal celebration. This spiced ale or cider, made with apples, honey, and fragrant spices, was passed from hand to hand in a communal bowl, bringing warmth to the darkest days of winter.

The tradition flourished in the Middle Ages (12th to 15th centuries), when wassailers—groups of friends and neighbors who traveled from house to house—sang festive songs, shared blessings, and spread holiday cheer. Wassailing was not only a celebration of community but also a ritual to wish health and prosperity for the coming year. In some places, it even extended to orchards, where wassailers sang to the trees to ensure a bountiful apple harvest.

By the 18th century, the custom of wassailing began to decline, replaced by more structured holiday traditions like caroling. Still, the drink itself persisted, evolving into mulled cider or wine, which remains a festive favorite. With every sip of these warming drinks, we pay homage to the wassail bowl and its enduring message of health, good company, and the season’s simple joys.

Raising a Glass to the Past

The Christmas table has transformed over the centuries, shaped by shifting tastes, new discoveries, and evolving traditions. Frumenty, the Yule boar, minced meat pies, and wassail may no longer grace our tables, but their stories enrich our understanding of the season. They remind us that Christmas has always been about more than just the food on the table; it’s about the moments we share, the history we honor, and, most importantly, the celebration of Christ’s birth—a gift that transcends time.

So this year, as you gather with loved ones, let your feast be a reflection of the greatest story ever told. Raise your glass to the Savior’s birth, to frumenty’s warmth, the Yule boar’s courage, the mince pie’s symbolic spices, and the wassail bowl’s overflowing cheer. The dishes may have changed, but the true meaning of Christmas—the joy of God’s love, the wonder of Christ’s arrival, and the promise of hope for all—remains as timeless as ever. Cheers to the enduring miracle of Christmas and the faith that brings us together!



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Andalusian horse on Playa Muralla, Spain
Photo by Alfredo Casquete



Harvesting prickly pear fruit at Tanque Verde
Ranch in Tucson | Photo by Stacey Wittig



Winemaker dinner aboard
Princess cruise ship | Courtesy photo



Mather Point
J. Baird of Grand Canyon National Park photo

7 MOST POPULAR UNSTOPPABLE TRAVEL STORIES OF 2024: A YEAR IN REVIEW

By “UNSTOPPABLE Stacey” Wittig

As we wrap up another exciting year of adventures, it's time to unveil the most captivating UNSTOPPABLE Stacey travel stories of 2024. From foraging prickly pears to savoring exquisite wines, these tales have inspired wanderlust and sparked curiosity in Munds Park readers and travelers worldwide.

Based on our analytics, here are the most popular of the almost four dozen travel stories posted on UNSTOPPABLEStaceyTravel.com in 2024. Let's dive into the seven stories that resonated most with our globe-trotting community.

No.1 How to Harvest & Prepare Prickly Pear Fruit Like a Pro

Our top story reveals the secrets of harvesting and preparing prickly pear fruit, straight from a Tucson dude ranch kitchen. Readers were captivated by this unique culinary adventure, learning how to transform desert flora into delicious juices and cocktails.

No.2 Caymus Vineyards Winemaker Dinner You'll Love

Wine enthusiasts flocked to this article, which detailed an exquisite

Continued on page 14

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TRAVEL

Continued from page 13

dining experience aboard the Discovery Princess. The descriptions of perfectly paired wines and gourmet dishes, coupled with insider stories from the Caymus Winery team, left readers yearning for their own winemaker dinner experience.

Wine enthusiasts know that Caymus Vineyards’ Cabernet Sauvignon is one of the most sought-after wines to pour and share around the table for special celebrations.

No.3 Your Ultimate Guide: From Grand Canyon to Antelope Canyon

This comprehensive guide became an essential resource for travelers exploring Arizona’s natural wonders. It’s part of the Grand Canyon Trip Planner on the UNSTOPPABLE website. You can learn how to visit the Grand Canyon for free, where to find the best viewpoints and how to travel from the Grand Canyon to Antelope Canyon.

The Grand Canyon Trip Planner section is compiled of stories written by locals like you to help visitors have a safe and fun trip. If you have Grand Canyon tips, contact me at stacey@unstoppablestaceytravel.com with your ideas and photos.

No.4 Visit Andalusian Horses in Spain

Not only does this guide tell you where to experience Andalusian horses in Southern Spain, but it also tells you why you should seek them out on your next trip. Because this article was also on the 2023 most popular list, this year I visited Buena Park, California, to write about the Andalusian horses at Medieval Times. Who needs to go to Spain when you can experience the magnificent creatures in California?

No.5 You’ll Never Forget Your Time at Hatch Chile Festival

The sights, smells and flavors of New Mexico’s famous Hatch Chile Festival came alive in this vibrant account. Readers were transported to the streets of Hatch, experiencing the excitement of this unique culinary celebration. Put it on your 2025 calendar!

No.6 Discovery Princess Cruise | Don’t Overlook These Hidden Secrets!

Drawing on the collective wisdom of 19 seasoned travel experts, this article revealed 20 easily overlooked surprises or indulgences aboard the Discovery Princess. These insider tips proved invaluable for cruise enthusiasts looking to maximize their seafaring adventures. I’ll be revisiting this article as I embark on another Discovery Princess cruise this month.

No.7 Authentic Route 66 Car Shows, Including The Mother Road Classic

As excitement builds for the Route 66 Centennial in 2026, this story offered a behind-the-scenes look at authentic car shows along the historic highway. Complete with a month-by-month guide to major Route 66 car shows, it became an essential resource for classic car aficionados and road trip enthusiasts alike.

In 2024, UNSTOPPABLE Stacey’s journeys spanned 6 countries, 146 cities and countless new experiences, all shared to inspire your next adventure. Whether you’re planning a wine-tasting excursion, a desert foraging expedition or a classic American road trip, these stories prove that the world is full of wonders waiting to be discovered.

Like what you read here? Then, grab a look at the complete stories at UNSTOPPABLEStaceyTravel.com. Stacey Wittig is an award-winning author and travel writer based here in Munds Park. Find her travel guidebooks on Amazon.

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GARDENS IN THE PARK

THE HISTORY OF CHRISTMAS TREES

GARDEN'S IN THE PARK

Sponsored by



At Warner's Nursery, the holiday season officially kicks off when our Christmas trees arrive each year. It's a joy to help families find just the right

tree to serve as the heart of their holiday decorations. But have you ever wondered how this tradition of bringing a tree into your home for the holidays started?

The use of evergreen plants to symbolize everlasting life dates back to ancient civilizations. Egyptians, Chinese, and Hebrews decorated their homes with greenery like wreaths, garlands, and even small trees. European pagans, many of whom revered trees, adapted these beliefs even after converting to Christianity. It's widely thought that Christmas was timed to align with winter solstice festivities, where trees played an important role.

The modern Christmas tree tradition, however, is rooted in Germany, where December 24 was celebrated as the feast day of Adam and Eve. A popular medieval play about the two featured a "paradise tree," a fir adorned with apples to represent the Tree of Knowledge. Wafers, symbolizing the eucharistic host, were also hung, later evolving into various holiday-shaped cookies.

The addition of lights to trees is often attributed to Protestant reformer Martin Luther. Legend has it that one evening, Luther noticed stars twinkling through tree branches on his walk home and wanted to



Engraving from the Illustrated London News showing Queen Victoria and Prince Albert around the Christmas tree, 1848, England © British Library Board. P.P.7611.

recreate this beauty by adding candles to his family's tree.

Christmas trees became fashionable in England in the mid-1800s. That's when Queen Victoria and her German-born husband, Prince Albert, showcased a Christmas tree in the Illustrated London News and the tradition quickly spread across the UK. German immigrants brought their Christmas tree customs to the United States around the same time.

The use of electric lights on trees began in 1882, thanks to Edward Johnson, an associate of Thomas Edison, who decorated his tree with small bulbs. Another story credits New England Telephone Company worker Ralph Morris, who, after witnessing a candle nearly ignite his family's tree, used telephone switchboard lights for a safer display.

This November, Warner's Nursery has a wonderful selection of trees, including fresh cut Douglas and Noble firs up to 11 feet high. Our live potted trees (which are usually 4- to 5-feet in height and can be planted in your yard after the holidays) include Colorado Spruce, Baby Blue Spruce, Dwarf Alberta Spruce, and Austrian Pine.

Along with our trees, we'll have fresh wreaths, garlands, and other festive decor to brighten your home.

Happy holidays and happy gardening from all of us at Warner's Nursery!

—Misti Warner-Andersen



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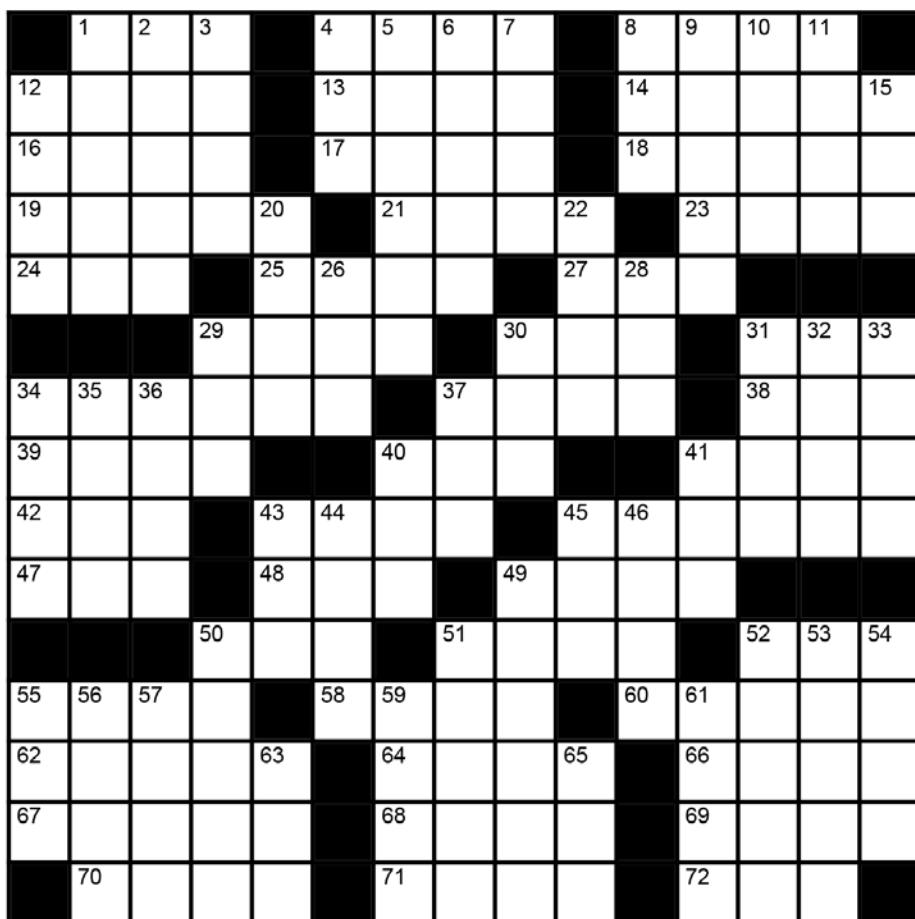


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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Created by Paul Mason • Solution Page 34



ACROSS

- Ghost's cry
- Froth
- Call to attention
- Verb preceder
- Vega's constellation
- Where embryos develop
- "It ____ what you think!"
- "Back in the ____"
(Beatles song)
- Environmentally friendly
- Drink served with marshmallows
- Santa's sackful
- Yemen's Gulf of ____
- WSW's opposite
- "Big Brother" host Julie
- Wrigley Field flora
- Christmas tree topper
- Keep ____ on (watch)
- Ram's mate
- Splinter group
- Travelers to Bethlehem
- Santa's suit color
- Bird on a Canadian dollar
- Scrooge's cry
- Olympian's quest
- Building wing
- Newborn
- Popular snowman
- Calendar square
- Rainbow shape
- "See you later!"
- Ewe's mate
- Thick paper
- Catch in the act
- Too
- Give the cold shoulder
- Like some winter days
- Martin's TV partner
- White-tailed eagle
- Woodwind
- "Cheers!"
- Security for a debt
- Wapiti
- Legendary story
- Religious ceremony
- Stan who created Spider-Man

DOWN

- Subatomic particle
- Postal scale unit
- Catch ____
- Winter bug
- Pearl source
- Torch's misdeed
- Mother of Jesus
- Curly-tailed dog
- It may be rounded up in a roundup
- Plant part
- Christmas decoration
- Not naughty
- What a keeper may keep
- Plays a part
- Carol
- ____ and cheese
- Half of XIV
- Wrongdoing
- Sound of relief
- Symbol of love
- Whip mark
- Whirling water
- Downhill racer
- Pepsi or RC
- Sacred
- Word of possibility
- World Service provider
- Sticky stuff
- Sheep's cry
- Extremities
- Wreath material
- X-ray units
- Film festival site
- Traditional Sunday fare
- Papal court
- Majestic
- Came to
- Parting words
- Gallery display
- Weaving machine
- Go to and fro
- Bridge site
- Yuletide
- Utmost degree
- U.S.N. officer

SHAKEN & STIRRED IN PINEWOOD

The Cocktail Connoisseur's Corner

FLAMES, FRIENDS, & THE FINE LINE BETWEEN CHAOS & MAGIC



Early photo of my parents with their friends, who shared diverse beliefs and enjoyed philosophical discussions that bonded this group for decades.



In 1981, the Brown Derby restaurant opened within the Safari Hotel in Scottsdale, Arizona. This establishment continued until 1996, offering patrons a taste of the original's Hollywood charm in the Southwest.



One Christmas Eve, my father shared the joy of Fire Falls with family and friends—and taught Genna how to make them to carry on the tradition.

By Sandee Caviness

My parents had a knack for creating magic out of ordinary evenings. They loved to entertain, and their friends—what a remarkable group they were—often became part of unforgettable nights filled with food, drinks, and lively debate. My mother, the gourmet, poured her heart into creating decadent appetizers. She used only the finest ingredients, not because it was trendy, but because it was her way of showing love. My father, meanwhile, was a skilled bartender, commanding not just one, but two fully stocked bars in our home. Together, they were a dream team.

The evenings with friends would start at home with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres. After a few rounds of laughter and libations, sometimes the if my mother wasn't crafting dinner, the group would head out to Scottsdale's Brown Derby, an upscale dining gem of the time. The restaurant, famous for its Hollywood roots and fine dining, brought a touch of glamour to the evening. It wasn't just a meal—it was an event. Scottsdale's Brown Derby carried forward the legacy of its Los Angeles counterpart, combining sophisticated dining with a splash of theatrics.

After dinner, the festivities didn't end. Back at my parents' house, the group would gather again for hours of conversation that spilled into the early morning. As a child, I'd be awakened by bursts of laughter or the

unmistakable sound of raised voices. Curiosity always got the better of me, and I'd sneak out to see what I was missing.

There they were, gathered around our large, low coffee table, the shag carpeting beneath them a bold swirl of yellow and gold. The room was alive with the era's signature touches—macramé plant hangers dangling ivy and ferns in every corner, art splashed across the walls, and a soft, warm glow from a pottery lamp my father crafted.

The coffee table itself was a chaotic masterpiece: glasses clinked against bottles, half-empty appetizer plates teetered on the edges, and ashtrays brimmed with the remnants of fiery conversation. Friends sat cross-legged on the floor, the plush carpet softening their casual seating arrangements. They leaned in close, their animated expressions revealing the story of fiery debates, neck veins straining as they passionately argued politics. Democrats and Republicans clashed in spirited exchanges, voices rising and falling like the hum of the stereo spinning Fleetwood Mac in the background. But no matter how heated it got, nobody ever stormed off.

Continued on page 18

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SHAKEN & STIRRED IN PINewood

Continued from page 17

Even religion wasn't off-limits. My parents' group of friends included Jews, evangelistic Christians, Catholics, and an agnostic, all exchanging views on theology with a mix of respect and curiosity. When the night finally wound down, they'd embrace, express their affection for one another, and eagerly plan the next gathering. Growing up in this environment, I learned to appreciate the value of open, spirited discussions—especially about the topics many people tend to avoid. I've always found meaning in exchanging ideas, even when there's disagreement. It's a skill I hold dear, one that feels especially relevant in today's political and religious climate. But those lessons didn't just come from the debates around our coffee table—they extended to the little rituals and moments that made these evenings unforgettable.

One such moment came during a visit to the Brown Derby, a place that seemed to inspire its own kind of magic. My father, always observant and intrigued by new experiences, noticed a bartender performing an extraordinary tableside presentation: the Fire Fall. The bartender warmed a brandy snifter over an open flame, carefully poured in several liqueurs, and ignited the drink. With dramatic flair, he raised the flaming drink high before dropping it into another snifter, extinguishing the fire in a dazzling swirl. My father, utterly captivated, approached the bartender and asked to learn the art of the Fire Fall.

The bartender, generous with his craft, came to their table and walked my father through the process step by step. Before long, Dad was serving Fire Falls to their delighted party, a tradition that followed him home. From that night on, the Fire Fall became a holiday staple in our family. Watching my father prepare it—a flickering display of warmth and hospitality—never failed to impress.

If you love entertaining and want to add a touch of theatrics to your gatherings, the Fire Fall is a drink worth mastering. It's the perfect companion on cold winter nights, guaranteed to warm not just the glass, but the hearts of those lucky enough to share in the experience.

The Art of Fire Falls

Gather Your Tools

- Metaxa – The Original Greek Spirit – 7 Stars
- Galliano L'Autentico
- Tia Maria – Coffee Liqueur
- 3 shot glasses
- 2 large brandy snifters
- A can of Sterno

The Method

Prepare for the Performance: Line up your liqueurs, measured at 2/3 of a shot each. Light your Sterno, and place two brandy snifters front and center—they'll soon be the stars of this fiery show.

Warm Up the Act: Take the first snifter and gently warm it over the Sterno flame by rotating the glass. Let the heat kiss the glass before introducing the Metaxa. Pour it in, then warm it by rotating the snifter over the flame, coaxing the flavors to bloom.

Build the Layers: Add your second liqueur, Galliano, letting it blend seamlessly into the Metaxa. Rotate and warm again, then bring the final ingredient, Tia Maria. Keep the rotation going until the liquid is perfectly warmed and ready for the grand finale.

Ignite the Fire: Hold the snifter with the liqueurs in your dominant hand and tip it slightly over the Sterno flame. Watch as the vapors ignite into a flickering blue flame.

Create the Fire Fall: With your empty snifter in your non-dominant hand, lift the flaming glass high and pour the liquid in a slow, steady stream, creating the spectacular cascade of light and heat we call the Fire Fall.

Seal the Moment: As the flames dance in the second glass, use the now-empty snifter to cap the drink. The flame will bow out gracefully, leaving behind a drink that's as warm and inviting as a holiday hearth.

Savor the Glory: Pause to appreciate the creation before you. Don't lean in too close—your nose might not appreciate the heat! Instead, breathe lightly through your mouth to take in the toasty, rich aroma. Sip slowly, and let the warmth and flavors carry you into the season's magic.

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THE CHRISTMAS THAT CHANGED CHARLIE FOREVER

By George Dee

Charlie Jenkins was eight years old, and he loved his mom more than anything. She worked hard—really hard. She had to, to keep a roof over their heads and food on the table. She was a waitress at the local diner, which meant long hours and even working on holidays. On Christmas Eve, she had to cover both breakfast and dinner shifts.

"I'll be home by eight, Charlie," she said as she hugged him goodbye that morning. "We'll still have Christmas together. I promise."

Charlie smiled and nodded, but as the day stretched on, the little house felt emptier and quieter, and his loneliness for his mother deepened. He loved his mom and understood why she worked so much, but he couldn't help feeling sad they couldn't spend Christmas Eve together.

Just as Charlie sat down by the small Christmas tree, there was a soft knock at the door. It was Mrs. Fletcher, the kind elderly woman who lived next door. She handed him a plate of gingerbread cookies and smiled warmly. "Merry Christmas, Charlie. I know it's just you today, so I thought I'd stop by."

They sat together by the tree, nibbling on cookies and sipping cocoa Charlie had made from a packet. Mrs. Fletcher's eyes twinkled as she looked at the small Christmas tree Charlie had decorated by himself.

"You know," she said, her voice warm, "this tree reminds me of the one my family had when I was a girl. We didn't have much money back then, so my brothers and I made our own ornaments. We strung popcorn on thread and hung little paper angels we drew ourselves."

"Really?" Charlie asked, leaning forward. "I thought everyone had big fancy trees back then."



"Oh no," Mrs. Fletcher chuckled. "We didn't even have electricity for lights. We lit candles and sang songs around the tree. But those were the happiest Christmases of my life."

"Why?" Charlie asked, puzzled. "If you didn't have lights or presents, what made them special?"

"It was the time we spent together," Mrs. Fletcher said. "My parents would tell us stories, we'd play games, and we'd find ways to make other people smile. One year, my father spent weeks carving wooden toys for the kids in our neighborhood who didn't have any. He told us, 'Christmas isn't about what you get—it's about what you give.'"

Charlie sat quietly for a moment, imagining what it would be like to make a Christmas so magical without lots of presents or decorations.

Mrs. Fletcher smiled and patted his hand. "You may not have a lot this year, Charlie, but you have something even more precious. You have your time, your hands, and your big heart. That's more than enough to make Christmas special—for yourself and for others."

She stood to leave, pulling her coat tightly around her shoulders. "Thank you for sharing your cookies with me, Charlie. You're a wonderful boy, and I'm so lucky to have you as a neighbor. Merry Christmas!"

After she left, her words stuck with Charlie. What could he do to give something back? Then an idea came to him. He grabbed his mom's old snow shovel and headed outside.

Mrs. Fletcher's walkway was covered in snow, so Charlie got to work clearing it. It wasn't easy, but he felt a spark of joy as he imagined her surprise. He finished by writing "Merry Christmas!" in the snow with the shovel.

Continued on page 20

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SCAN ME!

As he stood back, he noticed Mr. Carmichael, another neighbor, struggling to carry firewood into his house. Mr. Carmichael was always kind to Charlie and his mom. Charlie ran over to help, carrying load after load of wood until the pile was neatly stacked by the fireplace.

“Thank you, Charlie,” Mr. Carmichael said, patting him on the shoulder. “You’ve got a heart of gold, young man.”

When Charlie finally returned home, he still felt the glow of Mrs. Fletcher’s words. He cleaned up the house, baked cookies (after a few messy tries), and made a card for his mom. It read: “Merry Christmas, Mom. You’re the best gift I could ever have.”

As he set everything up, a soft glow filled the room. Turning around, Charlie froze. There, in the middle of the living room, stood Santa Claus himself!

“Hello, Charlie,” Santa said with a chuckle. “I’ve been watching you today, and I’m impressed. You turned your sadness into kindness, and that’s the true spirit of Christmas. How about we make this day even more special?”

With a wink, Santa waved his hand, and suddenly the little Christmas tree sparkled with new lights and ornaments. Underneath, there were

wrapped gifts—small but thoughtful things Charlie knew his mom would love: a warm scarf, a book she’d mentioned, and a picture of the two of them in a beautiful frame.

When Charlie’s mom came home just after eight, her eyes widened in amazement. The house was clean, cookies were cooling on the counter, and the tree twinkled like magic.

“Charlie, did you do all this?” she asked, tears welling up.

“Not all of it,” Charlie said with a grin. “Santa helped a little.”

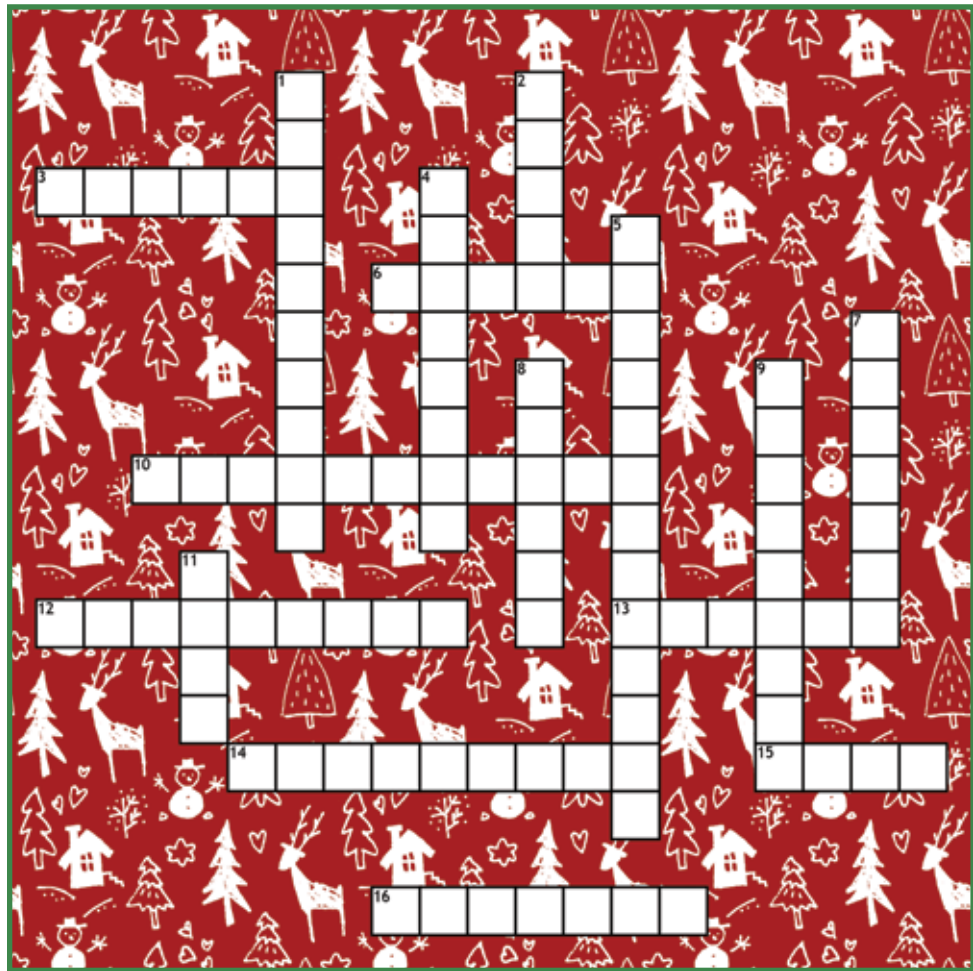
They laughed, and his mom hugged him tight. “You’ve made this the best Christmas ever.”

As Charlie lay in bed that night, he realized something important. By helping others, he hadn’t just brightened their Christmas—he’d also filled the lonely space in his heart. Kindness had connected him to the people around him, and his mom’s love had made it all complete.

For the first time in a long while, Charlie didn’t feel sad or lonely. He felt warm, loved, and ready to make every Christmas special—not just for himself, but for everyone.



HOLY JOLY CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD Solutions Page 28



Across

- 3. What type of calendar counts down to Christmas?
- 6. What popular Christmas decoration is made from a ring of evergreens?
- 10. What carol includes the lyrics “Silent night, holy night”?
- 12. What green plant is associated with Christmas kisses?
- 13. What is Santa’s primary mode of transportation?
- 14. What sweet treat is often shaped like a cane and popular during Christmas?
- 15. What white stuff falls from the sky in winter and is perfect for snowmen?
- 16. What do children leave out for Santa on Christmas Eve?

Down

- 1. Which famous Christmas ballet features the Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy?
- 2. Which jolly figure delivers presents to children on Christmas Eve?
- 4. What do you call the action of singing Christmas songs door to door?
- 5. What type of tree do people decorate for Christmas?
- 7. What red-nosed reindeer guides Santa’s sleigh?
- 8. What holiday beverage is also known as “milk punch”?
- 11. What do people traditionally put on top of a Christmas tree?
- 9. What do children hang by the fireplace for Santa to fill?



Hey kids! Get ready for a magical journey with the NORAD Santa Tracker! Every December, NORAD uses its super-cool technology to track Santa Claus as he travels around the world. Join us at www.noradsanta.org to see where Santa is and how close he is to your home!



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CHRISTMAS WORD SEARCH

Search up, down, forward, backward, diagonal to find the hidden words.

Answers page 34.

Bells
Candy
Carols
Chimney
Cookies
Elf
Frosty
Gift
Gingerbread
Lights
Mistletoe

Noel
Ornaments
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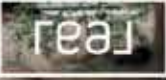
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THE IMPORTANCE OF STRONG VENDOR RELATIONSHIPS FOR BUSINESS SUCCESS

In business, relationships are everything. Whether you're a small startup or a well-established company, the partnerships you cultivate with your vendors can significantly impact your success. At Valentine Group and Wende's company, Boss Lady Red, we understand the value of strong vendor relationships and how they can contribute to your business's growth and sustainability.

Vendor relationships go beyond mere transactions; they are strategic partnerships that can provide your business with a competitive edge. Here's why fostering strong vendor relationships is crucial:

1. **Reliability and Consistency** - A solid relationship with your vendors ensures they deliver quality products and services consistently. This reliability helps your business operations run smoothly, reducing the risk of disruptions and delays that can affect your bottom line.
2. **Better Pricing and Terms** - Strong vendor relationships often lead to better pricing and more favorable terms. Vendors are more likely to offer discounts, flexible payment options, and other incentives to businesses they trust. This can result in significant cost savings and improved cash flow for your business.
3. **Access to Innovation** - Vendors who see you as a valued partner are more likely to share new products, services, and technologies with you before they become widely available. This early access can give your business a competitive advantage and help you stay ahead of industry trends.
4. **Enhanced Support and Service** - A strong vendor relationship means you can expect exceptional customer service and support. Vendors who value your partnership will go the extra mile to address your needs and provide personalized solutions.

5. **Collaborative Problem Solving** - When challenges arise, having a trusted vendor partner makes a difference. Strong relationships foster open communication and collaboration, allowing you to work together to find effective solutions.

At Valentine Group & BLR, we prioritize building and maintaining strong relationships with our vendors. We believe these partnerships are essential to delivering the best possible service to our clients and achieving long-term success. Here are a few tips for cultivating strong vendor relationships:

- **Communicate Regularly:** Keep the lines of communication open with your vendors. Regular check-ins help build trust and ensure both parties are aligned on expectations and goals.
- **Be Transparent:** Honesty and transparency are key to any successful partnership. Share your business needs, challenges, and feedback openly with your vendors.
- **Show Appreciation:** Recognize and appreciate your vendors' efforts. A simple thank you or acknowledgment can go a long way in strengthening your relationship.
- **Pay on Time:** Timely payments demonstrate your reliability and respect for your vendors' business, setting the foundation for negotiating better terms in the future.

By prioritizing strong vendor relationships, your business can enjoy the benefits of reliability, cost savings, innovation, and exceptional support. For reliable vendor recommendations, visit our website at www.valentinegroupaz.com/vendors. Let's work together to create a thriving business community built on trust and collaboration.

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DORD OF THE WAY

By Rocky Gallo

No, our editor didn't go on strike. Yes, the title is correct. Ladies and gentlemen of Punds Mark, please welcome our December Word of the Day – Spoonerism – one of the finest linguistic gems in the treasure chest of language bloopers. For those unfamiliar with this delightful little phenomenon, a spoonerism is when you accidentally (or sometimes not-so-accidentally) swap the first letters or sounds of two words in a sentence, creating a hilariously awkward phrase.

DEFINITION: spoon·er·ism /'spoonə,riz(ə)m/ *noun*

a verbal error in which a speaker accidentally transposes the initial sounds or letters of two or more words, often to humorous effect, as in the sentence you have hissed the mystery lectures, accidentally spoken instead of the intended sentence you have missed the history lectures.

Other fun examples include: "Belly jeans" for "jelly beans", "Bunny phone" for "funny bone", "Shake a tower" for "take a shower", "Snail tracks" for "trail snacks", "Plaster man" for "master plan", "Caking a bake" for "baking a cake", "Fighting a liar" for "lighting a fire"

The name spoonerism comes from the Reverend William Archibald Spooner, a 19th-century clergyman and New College of Oxford University dean and professor. He was known for his remarkable ability to scramble words on a regular basis. He frequently mispronounced phrases, switching parts of words during speeches and gatherings. Because he mispronounced words so frequently, people eventually started calling these verbal errors "spoonerisms." Whether it was his stuttering tendencies, his sharp wit, or just a love for creating verbal chaos, Spooner managed to gift the world with an entire category of linguistic humor. His best-known blunder? He once intended to say, "You have wasted the whole term," but accidentally said, "You have

tasted the whole worm." While it may have been an innocent mistake, it set the stage for centuries of silly little spoonerism nuggets. If he were around today, he'd be a TikTok sensation.

Spoonerisms can occur in any language, but they are especially common in English. They can happen when the brain's speech center is confused and switches a phrase's sounds as a person verbalizes them or when a person loses focus while speaking. They may also be more common when someone is tired, stressed, or distracted. A nervous tick, dyslexia, or speaking in a non-native tongue may also increase the frequency of their presence.

Oftentimes, spoonerisms are mistaken for other types of verbal errors, including eggcorns, malapropisms, Freudian slips, and mondegreens. But there are key differences between them, as well as interesting origin stories for each! Follow along for a few quick grammar/history fun facts...

An eggcorn is a word or phrase that sounds like another word or phrase and is sometimes mistakenly used in place of the latter in a way that seems logical or plausible. An example might be a writer describing an order to seize and desist rather than the proper term cease and desist, the occasional instance of mute point instead of moot point, cold slaw instead of coleslaw, or someone mishearing the word scapegoat as escape goat. The term eggcorn—itsself an alteration of acorn—is a recent invention, coined by the linguist Geoffrey Pullum to describe the phenomenon.

Malapropisms have a lot in common with eggcorns—they involve one word being improperly used in place of another. In contrast to an eggcorn, however, there isn't much logic behind a malapropism; it usually results in nothing more than a ridiculous or nonsensical expression. The term

Continued on page 24

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DORD OF THE WAY

Continued from page 23

derives from Mrs. Malaprop, the name of a character in Richard Brinsley Sheridan’s play The Rivals. The character is noted for using words ineptly for humorous effect, as when she calls a gentleman “the very pineapple”—rather than pinnacle—“of politeness,” and apologizes for having little “affluence”—rather than influence—over her niece. Frequently, malapropisms involve words of elevated vocabulary.

A Freudian slip is an instance of misspeaking that is believed to be motivated by information lurking in the speaker’s unconscious mind that is often revealed by the utterance. Sigmund Freud identified the concept of the slip (which Freud himself referred to as “Fehlleistungen,” —German for “faulty actions) and argued that such involuntary actions can be attributed to an unconscious mental process, such as from knowledge or impulse that has been repressed. One of the most famous Freudian slips occurred during a speech by President George H.W. Bush. He intended to say, “We’ve had triumphs, we’ve made some mistakes, we’ve had some setbacks,” but he said something else. A quick google search will tell you what he said instead.

Mondegreens are very much like eggcorns but are more likely to come from a written source, such as lyrics from songs or poems, as in “There’s the bathroom on the right” instead of “There’s a bad moon on the rise” from Creedence Clearwater Revival’s “Bad Moon Rising,” or “And there’s a wino down the road” in place of “And as we wind on down the road” in Led Zeppelin’s “Stairway to Heaven.” In the same meta-way as eggcorn, mondegreen originated as a mondegreen itself. The term comes from a Scottish ballad, “The Bonny Earl o’ Moray.” The first verse of the song ends with the line, “They have slain the Earl o’ Moray / And layd him on the green,” but the last line was often misheard as “Lady Mondegreen.” After mishearing the line herself, American journalist Sylvia Wright coined the term in Harper’s Magazine in 1954.

We’ve all experienced that moment when we open our mouths, and the words just sort of... tumble out in a way we didn’t expect. While these verbal slip-ups can make you sound like a babbling fool, they also carry a certain charm that makes us love them. After all, they can either provide us with moments of pure, unintentional comedy or they can serve as a comedic shortcut that makes your bloopers seem intentional, like you’ve entered a higher plane of linguistic humor.

The next time you find yourself saying something that didn’t quite come out right, just embrace it. Maybe you meant to say... “I have a lot of chores to do,” but hey, “I have a lot of doors to chew” can be the start to an interesting discussion. After all, lignophagia is a significantly more interesting topic of conversation than that of domestic household duties.

Spoonerisms remind us that language is a playground. It doesn’t always have to be serious or perfect. Sometimes, little mix-ups can offer us our most hilarious and memorable moments.

Remember: Fanguage is lun, fistakes are munny, and in the end de all wie anyway.



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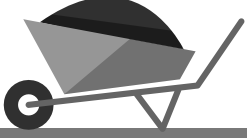


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TAILS FROM THE PINES

THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO HOMEMADE PET FOOD

By Sandee Caviness

It all started when my daughter began feeding her dog Fresh Pet. Watching our granddog eagerly devour her meals got me thinking—could a fresh, whole-food diet give our Elsee an extra spring in her step? I know how much better I feel without processed food, so why wouldn't it be the same for her?

We gave Fresh Pet a try, and sure enough, Elsee seemed livelier and more energetic. But as much as I appreciated the results, the price tag made me wonder: could I create a fresh, nutritious diet for her right here at home?

Wanting to give Elsee the very best, I turned to our friends at Midtown Animal Clinic for advice on creating meals at home. Their guidance, along with their recommendation to use the recipe tools from Balance It, set me on a rewarding journey of making homemade dog food that's both balanced and delicious. Here's what I learned—and how you can try it too.

The Importance of a Balanced Diet

The team at Midtown Animal Clinic was encouraging yet clear: "You can certainly give a home-cooked diet a shot! However, when issues arise with our patients who eat home-cooked meals, it's usually due to the diet being either nutritionally incomplete or improperly cooked, handled, or stored (salmonella isn't fun!)."

Their advice? Use Balance It, a trusted resource for creating healthy, custom recipes.

Founded in 2003 by Dr. Sean Delaney, Balance It provides personalized solutions for dogs and cats, ensuring their meals are not only tasty but also nutritionally complete. Their recipes are designed with love, science, and the well-being of your pet in mind.

Getting Started: Tools & Ingredients

Balance It is a website (balance.it) and is user-friendly, making it simple to create tailored recipes. I initially tried to avoid purchasing suggested supplements by tweaking the recipes as much as possible. However, I quickly realized that supplements are essential for providing the right nutrients. Fortunately, ordering a nutritional pack through Balance It was quick and hassle-free—it arrived in just a few days.

With vitamins in hand, I was ready to cook. Following Midtown Animal Clinic's advice, I carefully planned and prepared her meal.

I began with chicken as the main protein source, incorporating Sara Bowyer's bone broth recipe to maximize nutrition and minimize waste. Not only did I make a hearty chicken broth for the family, but Elsee got her own batch of homemade goodness too. (If you're curious about Sara's bone broth recipe, you can read it at www.ThePinewoodNews.com).

For Elsee's meal, I created a mix of: chicken, egg, banana, pumpkin, peas, rice, oatmeal, and coconut oil.

I boiled each ingredient in the same pot, skipping the hassle of washing between steps. (Let's face it—dogs aren't fussy about cross-ingredient



cooking! After all, they lick their butts!) The result? A nutritious dish that Elsee absolutely loved. Watching her enjoy it made me happy.

Next time, I plan to try one of Balance It's one-pot recipes. These streamlined options make cooking even easier.

Why It's Worth It

Making homemade meals for Elsee has been a labor of love, but seeing her excitement and energy has made it all worthwhile. Midtown Animal Clinic's support gave me the confidence to make our pet food, knowing it's safe and nutritionally sound.

If you have questions or concerns about your pet's diet, Midtown Animal Clinic is always there to provide expert advice. With their guidance and Balance It's tools, you can feel confident in giving your furry friend the very best. If you want to learn more about Midtown, check their ad out on page two.

Happy cooking!

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SUDOKU

Created by Paul Mason • Solution Page 34

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PAGES *In The* PINES

HEART OF NIGHT & FIRE

- Night Will Find You by Julia Heaberlin
- Flatiron Books 2023
- 352 pages

By Sandy Wright

When she was ten, Vivvy Bouchet made a prediction and saved a boy's life. The boy she saved, now a Fort Worth cop, has always believed she is psychic. Vivvy doesn't disagree. She guesses her talent is possibly inherited from her mother, who hung her shingle as a psychic and was infamous for discovering a dead body buried in the yard of their house when Vivvy was just a girl.

Today Vivvy's a brilliant astrophysicist who just wants to be left in peace to scan the dark desert sky with her telescopes. Known for her intelligent, analytical mind, she has trained her telescopes to identify a mysterious, unknown light source that she recently glimpsed. Her colleagues are hopeful about what this potential discovery could mean for the future of science and space exploration.

But the detective, Mike, her former teen crush and now her brother-in-law, is begging for her help on a cold case, and she can't turn him down.

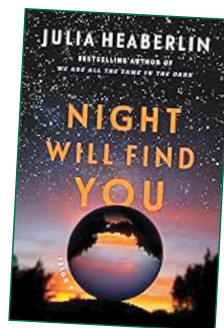
In the past decade, Lizzie Solomon and the Victorian mansion where she disappeared have taken on an almost mythic status. Conspiracy theorists say Lizzie is still buried in the walls, while her mother protests her innocence while sitting in prison convicted of killing her.

Vivvy reluctantly agrees to work with Mike's skeptical colleague, Jesse Sharp. Sharp is the stereotypical tough, brooding Texas cop that she must try to decipher.

When a vicious podcaster, Bubba Guns, sets his sights on Vivvy and her own secrets, as well as those of the vanished girl, Vivvy's life starts to unravel as he zeroes in on discrediting her professional reputation as well as her psychic claims.

I enjoyed the juxtaposition of science and mystical, the known and the unknown. In fact, it was fun to watch Vivvy doubt herself even as she tracks down suspects and puts herself in increasingly dangerous situations, as she tries to solve the decade-long mystery of Lizzie Solomon's disappearance. To make things worse, Jesse Sharp follows her all over town, hoping to intimidate her into 'confessing' that she's a con artist while protecting her from the raving Bubba Guns and his followers. I'm sure we all can name a barking mad Bubba Guns style character whose views defy logic and fact while he's bullying his slavish followers to adopt his opinions and conspiracy theories. The dialogue is especially good when Bubba's around (real-life excluded).

In truth, the insidious nature of conspiracy theories and our urge to believe them, especially when it comes to sensationalized cases, was an intriguing subplot of the book for me. Vivvy's journey is one that enthralled me from the beginning. Her nerdy yet brilliant mind, her passion for scientific facts coupled with her eccentric tactics, blurred the lines between science and the supernatural. If, like me, you are an avid fan of supernatural thrillers and twisty crime mysteries, I wholeheartedly recommend Night Will Find You.



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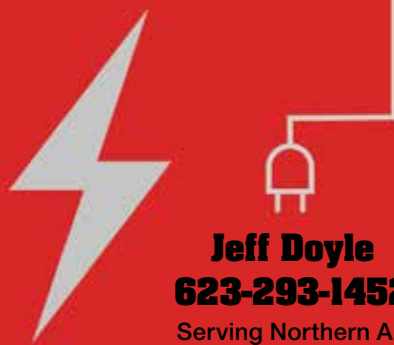
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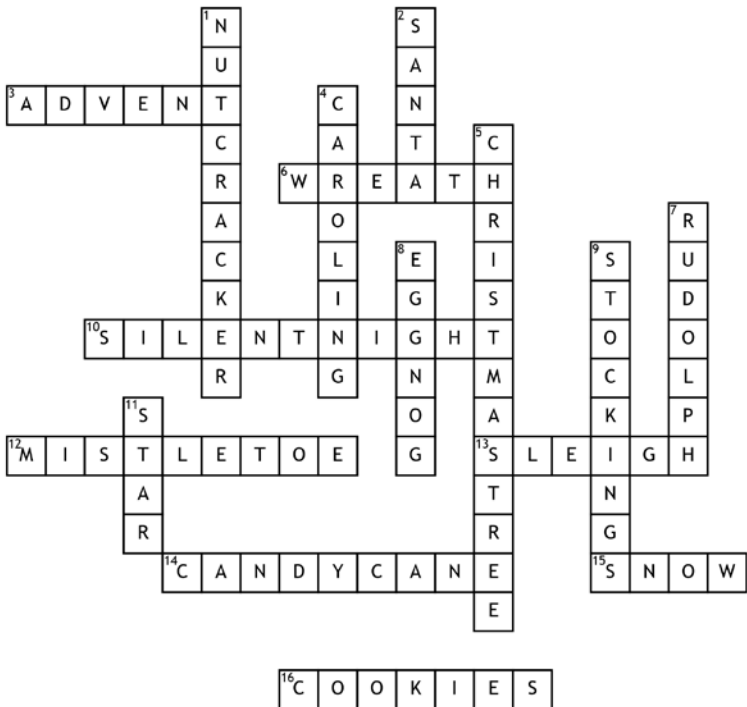
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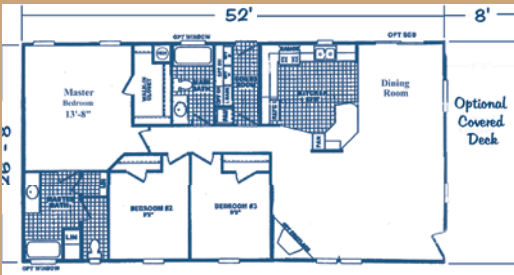
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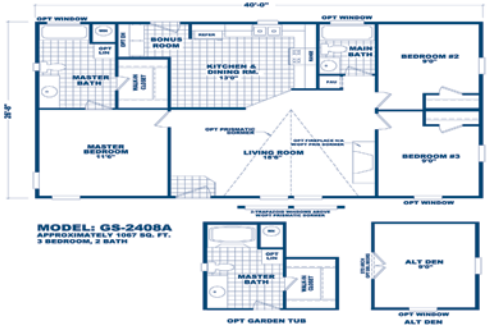


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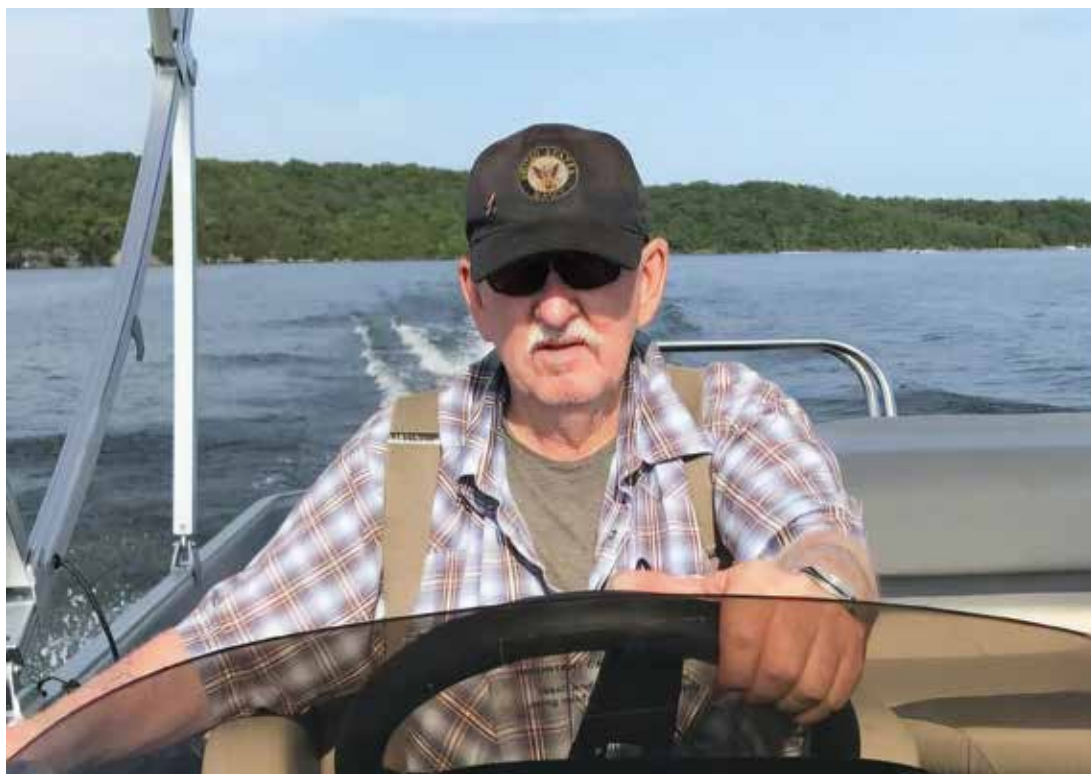
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IN LOVING MEMORY

Donald Lee Newton



Donald Lee Newton, a man of deep kindness and generosity, left this world on October 23, 2024, in the quiet charm of Munds Park, AZ, at the age of 78. Born on September 21, 1946, in the beautiful town of Jerome, AZ, Don was a beloved husband, proud father, Navy veteran, friend and the most skillful backhoe operator the county has ever known.

Don spent years carving out a notable military career in the United States Navy, which he loved. His commitment and service sailed him through journeys on the USS Ticonderoga. He carried the Navy's values of honor, courage, and commitment throughout his life, values that perhaps shone brightest in his dedication to his family.

He was a devoted husband to Kathy, a partnership that blossomed into a love story. Together, they tackled life's challenges and shared countless joys until her passing. As a father, Don embraced his three children—Donald Newton Jr., Michele Kennedy, and Dorothy Spendlove—with an unwavering love. He guided them with wisdom and instilled in them the same integrity and work ethic he was known for.

Don was more than just a hard worker; he was a man who understood the land's quiet dialogue and shaped it with an unmatched skill. His work left not just physical impressions but personal ones, helping many in the Munds park community build their dreams from the ground up.

Kind-hearted and genuinely thoughtful, Don was always willing to lend a hand. As anyone who knew him could attest, he had a unique way of making others feel valued and loved. It wasn't uncommon for Don to quite literally give you the shirt off his back when he felt you deserved it. His generosity was boundless and stemmed from a deep well of compassion.

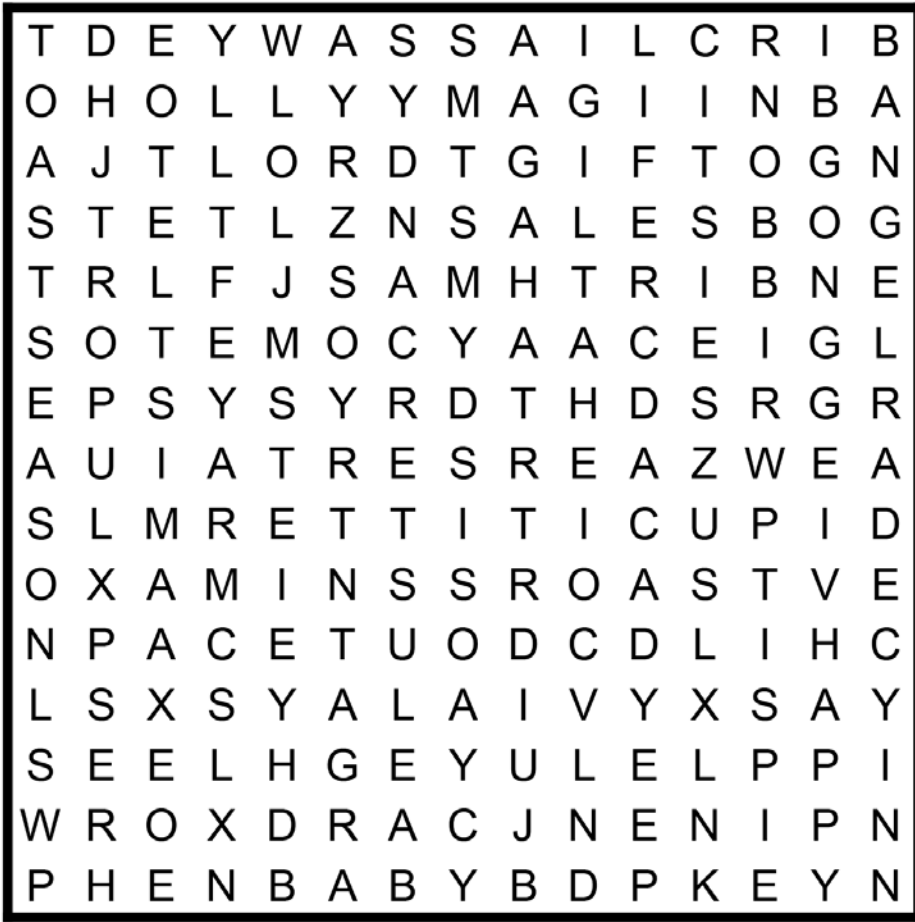
He joins in eternal rest his parents, Dorothy and Jesse Ray Newton Sr., his sister Edith Daymude, and his brother Jesse Ray Newton Jr and his beloved wife Kathy. Please join us at the Munds Park Community Church on December 13th at 9am to honor and celebrate his life, his spirit will undoubtedly fill the room, just as his love has filled our hearts.

In lieu of flowers please Donate to one of the animal shelters/rescues in Flagstaff under his name.

We little knew the day that God was going to call his name. In life, we loved Don dearly; in death, we do the same. It broke our hearts to lose him, but he didn't go alone, for part of us went with him the day God called him home. Though he's left us with peaceful memories, his love is still our guide, and though we cannot see him, we're sure he stands beside our side. Our family chain is broken, and nothing feels the same, but as God calls us one by one, we trust the chain will link again. We will see you again, Daddy. Rest in Peace.

WORD SEARCH

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Birth	Exhausted	Magi	Sales
Bread	Fir	Mass	Season
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Card	Gloria	Mistletoe	Sled
Cedar	Ham	Noel	Spirit
Child	Happy	Party	Star
Christ	Holly	Pie	Toast
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Astrology vibes with the cosmos, connecting us to the energy of the stars and planets swirling above. It's like tuning in to the universe's rhythm—a reminder that we're all part of this cosmic dance. Each shift in the sky reflects a shift within us, lighting up our paths, moods, and growth. The stars aren't just far-off lights; they're guides, sending us little nudges and whispers, helping us find our way. It's the universe's way of saying, "We're all connected."



ARIES, MARCH 21 - APRIL 20

Aries, this holiday season, make your family and friends your priority. You're always on the go, but December calls for slowing down and cherishing these special connections. Gatherings, small or big, bring warmth and joy that

will fuel you for the new year. Let the festive spirit remind you that loved ones are the best gift of all. Enjoy these moments together, and make memories you'll carry into the year ahead.



LEO, JULY 23 - AUGUST 22

Leo, the holiday season is filled with different perspectives and traditions. Respecting these differences enriches your experience and deepens your relationships. Approach holiday gatherings with openness and a willingness to embrace unique celebrations. You have a generous spirit, and showing appreciation for others' views brings a special warmth to the season. Enjoy the blend of traditions and perspectives; they'll add color and meaning to your own festivities this December.



SAGITTARIUS, NOV 23 - DEC 21

Sagittarius, you're naturally independent, but this December, sharing responsibilities will bring more joy. Embrace teamwork in holiday planning, and let others lend a hand. By collaborating, you'll have more time to savor the season's delights. Sharing tasks isn't just practical—it also strengthens connections and brings a sense of togetherness that will make your celebrations feel fuller. This month, enjoy the support of loved ones and create memories together.



TAURUS, APRIL 21 - MAY 20

This December, Taurus, practice gratitude by embracing a minimalist approach to the holidays. Focus on meaningful moments rather than material things. By keeping the season simple, you'll find joy in

little expressions of love and thoughtfulness. Let go of the excess and celebrate what truly matters. A smaller, more mindful Christmas brings you closer to the people and experiences that enrich your life, allowing you to savor the season's genuine beauty.



VIRGO, AUGUST 23 - SEPTEMBER 22

Virgo, as December unfolds, remember to take time for yourself. The season is bustling, but stepping into nature will help you recharge. A winter walk or quiet moment outdoors can reconnect you to yourself and ease any holiday stress. Nature's calm offers perspective and peace, helping you to feel grounded amidst the season's chaos. Take this time to nourish your spirit, so you can truly enjoy all the celebrations to come.



CAPRICORN, DEC 22 - JAN 20

Capricorn, this December invites you to let go of rigid plans and try going with the flow. Holiday gatherings and unexpected changes may test your flexibility, but embracing spontaneity will bring you joy. Trying something new this season, whether it's a new tradition or recipe, can add excitement and lightheartedness. Allow yourself to relax into the moment without controlling every detail—magic happens when you open yourself up to the unexpected.



GEMINI, MAY 21 - JUNE 21

Gemini, resist the urge to overbook yourself this December. Holiday gatherings will keep you busy, but leave room for unexpected connections. You may meet a new friend in the most unexpected of places, adding a

fresh energy to your life. Take your time, be present, and stay open to chance encounters. By not over-scheduling, you'll have the space to enjoy these moments fully, giving you a holiday season to remember.



LIBRA, SEPTEMBER 23 - OCTOBER 22

December invites you to reflect on all you've experienced this year, Libra. Honor the growth and changes by creating something meaningful—a new tradition, a holiday project, or even just a cozy space at home. Channeling your reflections into something tangible will help you wrap up the year with gratitude and peace. Embrace the holiday season by celebrating how far you've come, and prepare to enter the new year with a renewed heart.



AQUARIUS, JAN 21 - FEB 18

Aquarius, December is about movement—not just physical, but emotional as well. Get up, get active, and open yourself to new experiences and connections. This energy will keep you grounded, even during a busy season. Physical movement will also help you connect with others on a deeper level. By embracing both physical activity and social connection, you'll enter the new year with energy, clarity, and a refreshed spirit.



CANCER, JUNE 22 - JULY 22

This December, Cancer, travel and celebration are calling your name, but balance is key. Enjoy the rich food and festive drinks that come your way, yet remember to savor everything mindfully. With a light, responsible touch, you'll find

even more joy in every gathering and journey. Make the most of your travels and gatherings, knowing that you're creating beautiful memories that will carry you into the new year feeling vibrant and fulfilled.



SCORPIO, OCT 23 - NOV 22

Scorpio, unplug from work this December to immerse yourself in a good book or two. The season calls for rest and renewal, and a little reading will inspire you as the year winds down. Take time to escape into a story or learn something new—it's a perfect way to unwind. When you disconnect from work, you'll reconnect with what fuels you, leaving you refreshed and ready to approach the new year with fresh energy.



PISCES, FEB 19 - MARCH 20

Pisces, December reminds you to hold close what truly counts. In the midst of holiday festivities, don't lose sight of what brings real joy—love, gratitude, and meaningful connections. Practicing gratitude will help you stay grounded, savoring moments with friends and family. Let your focus be on the people and experiences that warm your heart. Remember, it's these precious connections that make the holiday season meaningful.

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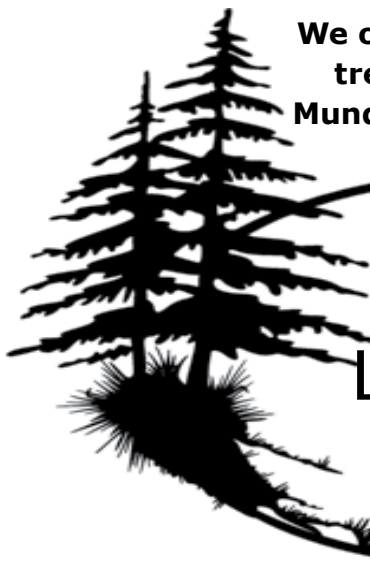
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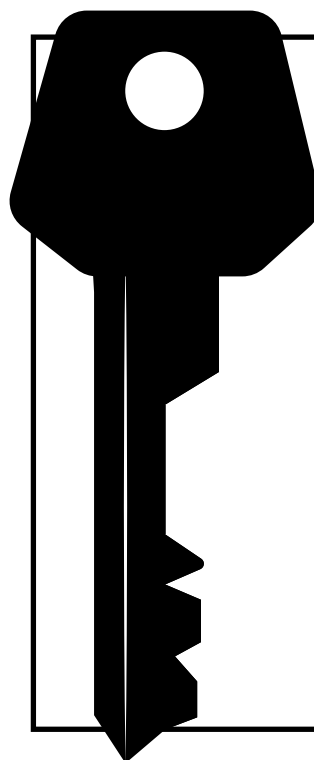
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WHAT DO YOU WANT FOR CHRISTMAS?

By Pastor Steve Bowyer

What do you want? Do you know what you want? Maybe you haven't written your letter to Santa, yet. But do you at least have an idea in your mind?

It seems, the older we get the less 'what' we want. When we are younger, the list is longer. But there always seems to be something that we feel like we are lacking that if we had it, then our life would be much better, even perfect and complete.

Here are a few thoughts. We want our way. We have a plan for the family during the holidays, and if everyone would just stick to our plan, then everything would go great. Except, it usually does not because everyone comes in with their own plan. Nobody gets their way. Too often, when we get our way, we only get in our own way and nothing works out the way we planned it.

We want to always feel comfortable, pleasure. But pleasure is addictive. If we always get what makes us feel good, then eventually it no longer makes us feel that way but it controls it because we are afraid we will lose the good feeling.

We want to do what we want to do. And we want everyone around us to do it, too. But they want what they want to do. And if we always do what we want to do we will end up where we do not want to be. No one else will be there with us because they did what they wanted to do.

We may not know what we want, but we know when we want it. We want it now. But the problem with this is, what we want now may not be what we want later. And later is longer. Now that I have what I wanted, I wish I had something else.

Regret always begins with, "I want." I regret I ever got it. I wish life had a rewind button and I could go back and not say, "I do." Not sign that contract. Not take that job, make that move.

I have what I wanted but as result I do not have what I want because I got what I wanted which is not really what I want.

The holidays also always seem to be a period of conflict. Conflict with family and friends. We are together during this season more than the rest of the year and the air always seems to be thick with tension

James, the brother of Jesus, wrote one of the letters toward the back of your New Testament and he had something to say about getting what we really want and why we fight during the holidays.

"What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures." (James 4:1-3)

Why do we fight during the holidays? Because of the things we want. There is a battle being waged within each one of us for control of getting what we want. Everyone in your house, around your table, will be waging the same internal battle.

When we do not get what we want, we fight. We put expectations on relationships, jobs, experiences that are too heavy for them to bear so they collapse, and we lose them. If we do not rein in our desires, we have the potential to destroy everything important in our lives.

We covet things. We pursue them, hotly. But we cannot get them, so we argue. Or we get what we wanted only to discover it is not what we want any more because it does not satisfy us the way it did. Regret.

Getting what we want causes problems. But then, not getting what we want causes problems. So, now what?

Maybe asking Santa Claus is the wrong approach. James wrote that we do not get what we want, because when we ask, we ask with badly. The English translation is 'wrong motives.' But the Greek language literally means we ask for the wrong things. We ask for things that only satisfy temporarily.

So, when we ask for the wrong things, God is very unlikely to give them to us. So, we blame God for our lack of comfort and the conflict around our table. But God wants so much more for us.

This Christmas, rather than asking Santa for what you want, ask God for what you truly value. And the most valuable things in our lives are the relationships we have with the people we love. They are lasting, satisfying, deeply gratifying, never going out of style, and never fail to provide the comfort and security we really want.

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CHRISTMAS CHEER & GAMES

NAME THAT CAROL!

Can you guess the Christmas carol based on these lyrics? Write your answers in the blanks below and see how many you can name!

1. “Oh, the weather outside is frightful, but the fire is so delightful...”
2. “holy night, all is calm, all is bright...”
3. “the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King...”
4. “let nothing you dismay...”
5. “fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la...”
6. “Glory to the newborn King...”
7. “had a very shiny nose...”
8. “my true love gave to me...”
9. “was a jolly happy soul...”
10. “joyful and triumphant...”

Answers 1. Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Let It Snow! 2. Silent Night 3. Joy to the World 4. God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen 5. Deck the Halls 6. Hark! The Herald Angels Sing 7. Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer 8. The Twelve Days of Christmas 9. Frosty the Snowman 10. O Come, All Ye Faithful

CHRISTMAS TRIVIA QUIZ

1. In the song “The Twelve Days of Christmas,” what gift is given on the seventh day?
2. What country is credited with starting the tradition of putting up a Christmas tree?
3. What gifts did the three wise men bring to baby Jesus?
4. What does the star on top of the Christmas tree symbolize?
5. Which U.S. President was the first to place a Christmas tree in the White House?
6. What was the original purpose of candy canes?
7. What is the traditional significance of holly in Christmas decorations?
8. What Christmas decoration was originally made from strands of silver?
9. What famous American poem helped create the modern image of Santa Claus?
10. Which First Lady is credited with starting the tradition of themed Christmas trees in the White House?
11. What American company popularized the image of Santa wearing a red suit?
12. What is the name of the iconic Christmas ballet performed across the U.S. during the holiday season?
13. What historic Christmas Eve event did Apollo 8 astronauts share with the world as they orbited the moon in 1968?

Answers: 1. Seven Swans-a-Swimming 2. Germany 3. Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh 4. The Star of Bethlehem that guided the wise men 5. Franklin Pierce (in the 1850s) 6. To keep children quiet during church services 7. It represents the crown of thorns worn by Jesus, with the red berries symbolizing His blood. 8. Tinsel 9. A Visit from St. Nicholas (“Twas the Night Before Christmas) by Clement Clarke Moore 10. Jacqueline Kennedy 11. Coca-Cola 12. The Nutcracker 13. They read the opening verses of Genesis while transmitting the first-ever Earthrise image, sharing a message of peace and hope to people on Earth.



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