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*"The Little Green Paper"*

December 20, 2020

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## Christmas around the world: fun facts



Less than three weeks to go to Christmas and all the fun, jolly and great food that comes with it. Although Christmas is celebrated almost everywhere around the globe, each country has its own traditions that makes the season so special. Here are some of our favorites:

### **Eight Fun Facts You Probably Didn't Know...**

**UK:** People in Britain love their Christmas crackers. They look like giant sweet wrappers and make a bang when pulled open. They come with a paper crown, joke or little gift inside.

**Sweden:** On Christmas Eve, more than half of Sweden sits down to watch a Disney Christmas Special on TV, making it one of the most popular television programs ever.

**USA:** Americans love decorating their houses with Christmas lights and

spend a whopping \$6 Billion on them every year!

**China:** Only 1% of the population in China celebrates Christmas, even though the majority of Christmas decorations sold around the world are made there.

**Brazil:** It's summer during Christmas in Brazil, so Santa wears a lighter Suit and distribute presents using a ladder or a trampoline.

**Australia:** Australians celebrates Christmas at the Beach with a family barbeque or 'barbie', as the Aussies call it.

**Spain:** Spaniards love to play the Christmas Lottery. Partly because the jackpot is one of the biggest in the world. The winning numbers are sung by orphans on national TV.

**Germany:** Germans visit their neigh-

bors and friends before Christmas to have a look at their Christmas tree. In return, they receive a glass of strong liquor called 'Schnaps.'

And more Fun Facts around the world....

**France:** France is widely known for its food and delicacies. People in the Provence region even go so far as to serve a sumptuous feast of 7 main courses and 13 desserts at Christmas! Among the most popular festive dishes are: Fougasse (pancakes,) nougat with honey and pistachios, pumpkin pie and dried fruits.

**Italy:** In Italy many children get 2 sets of gifts: One on the 24th of December, and Larger gift on the 6th of January. On this day, Italians celebrate Epiphany Day and according to popular belief, a witch called La Befana arrives in the night to fill good children's stockings with sweets, with naughty ones get chunks of black coal.

**Japan:** In Japan, Christmas is considered the "Festival of Love." It is not uncommon to see couples spending a romantic evening together, while singles will be out partying and looking for the love of their life.

DATA MASTER: Nikki Hamilton



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# AIRPLANE PASSENGERS AS EXPLAINED BY THEIR PANTS

**Wool Suit Pants:** Will board before you.

**Wool Hunting Pants:** Will board after you.

**Pleated Dockers:** Will loudly talk on cell phone about ROIs and vertical markets.

**Pajama Bottoms:** Will be flying either to or from a city with a Señor Frog's.

**Sweatpants with Dallas Mavericks Logo:** Will clog one or more bathrooms.

**Stained Yoga Pants:** Will be carrying a screaming child.

**Stained Gymboree Pants:** Will be a screaming child.

**Leather Pants:** Did not pay for own flight.

**Pants with Underwear Sticking Out:** Did not pay for own flight.

**Jeans with Rhinestones:** Will get wasted on tequila and Sprite and graze flight attendant's boob.

**Tight Black Stretch Pants:** Will be a pharmaceutical sales rep named Morgan.

**Hemp Pants:** Will be flying either to or from a city with a yurt resort.

**Golf Pants:** Will "accidentally" click on a porn link on his laptop.

**Camouflage Cargos:** Carry-on is a styrofoam cooler sealed with duct tape.

**Blue Capris:** European on business.

**Red Capris:** European on holiday.

**Plaid Capris:** European on way to rehab.

**Pink Sweatpants:** Will laugh her ass off at the Adam Sandler in-flight movie.

**Beige Slacks:** Will nervously clutch book about how liberals are destroying America.

**Linen Trousers:** Will swallow a Xanax and mangle

your hand during take-off.

**Wide-waled Corduroys:** Traveling with a cat.

**Thin-waled Corduroys:** Traveling with a guitar.

**Patched Corduroys:** Traveling with a cat named Guitar.

**Orange Jumpsuit:** Did not pay for own flight.

**Skinny Jeans:** Will develop deep vein thrombosis.

**Swim Trunks:** Will be escorted off plane by federal air marshal for doing something gross to the beverage cart.

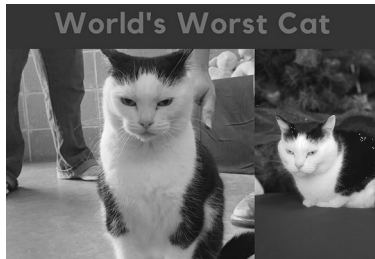
**Creased Jeans:** Federal air marshal.

DATA MASTER: Steven Burdick

## Rescue Writes Hilarious Description For The World's Worst Cat

"We thought she was sick, turns out she's just a jerk." That's what the Mitchell County Animal Rescue (MCAR) in North Carolina wrote about a cat that was brought to their shelter.

Perdita, a 4-year-old domestic shorthair, was brought to MCAR after the death of her owner. The staff quickly figured out her personality, and decided to go with an "honesty is the best policy" approach.



Here's the hilarious description the shelter wrote about Perdita:

"Meet Perdita, not for the faint of heart.

**LIKES:** staring into your soul until you feel as if you may never be cheerful again; the song Cat Scratch Fever, the movie Pet Cemetery (Church is her hero), jump scares (her specialty), lurking in dark corners, being queen of her domicile, fooling shelter staff into thinking she's sick (vet agrees...she's just a jerk)

**DISLIKES:** the color pink, kittens (yuk they are so chipper), dogs, children, the Dixie Chicks, Disney movies, Christmas and last but NOT least...HUGS. She's single and ready to be socially awkward with a socially awkward human who understands personal space.

## FREE ADOPTION"

But, as it turns out, the plan worked and Perdita went viral. The shelter received more than 50 applications for her adoption.

In a recent update, the shelter posted a photo of Perdita (now named Noel) and her new family.

MCAR said:

"Since being adopted, she has made a Grinch-worthy turn around, having her heart grow three times in size. She loves her new family and even bought MCAR a kitten condo with her allowance money. Joe and Betty have given Noel a wonderful home and life proving that every animal deserves love."



DATA MASTER: Doug WM Stone

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links@links.community-options.net**

# The Eternal Bond of Brother and Sister



I was born in a secluded village on a mountain. Day after day, my parents plowed the yellow dry soil with their backs towards the sky. One day, I wanted to buy a handkerchief, which all girls around me seemed to have. So, one day I stole 50 cents from my father's drawer. Father discovered about the stolen money right away.

"Who stole the money?" he asked my brother and me. I was stunned, too afraid to talk. Neither of us admitted to the fault, so he said, "Fine, if nobody wants to admit, you both should be punished!" Suddenly, my younger brother gripped Father's hand and said, "Dad, I was the one who did it!" He took the blame, and punishment, for me.

In the middle of the night, all of sudden, I cried out loudly. My brother covered my mouth with his little hand and said, "Sis, now don't cry anymore. Everything has happened." I will never forget my brother's expression when he protected me. That year, my brother was 8 years old and I was 11 years old. I still hate myself for not having enough courage to admit what I did. Years went by, but the incident still seemed like it just happened yesterday.

When my brother was in his last year of secondary school, he was accepted in an upper secondary school in the central part of town. At the same time, I was accepted into a university in the province. That night, Father squatted in the yard, smoking packet by packet. I could hear him ask my mother, "Both of our children, they have good results? Very good results?" Mother wiped off her tears and sighed, "What is the use? How can we possibly finance both of them?"

At that time, my brother walked out, he stood in front of Father and said, "Dad, I don't want to continue my study anymore, I have read enough books." Father became angry. "Why do you have a spirit so weak? Even if it means I have to beg for money on the streets, I will send you two to school until you have both finished your studies!" And then, he started to knock on every

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house in the village to borrow money.

I stuck out my hand as gently as I could to my brother's face, and told him, "A boy has to continue his study. If not, he will not be able to overcome this poverty we are experiencing." I, on the other hand, had decided not to further my study at the university.

Nobody knew that on the next day, before dawn, my brother left the house with a few pieces of worn-out clothes and a few dry beans. He sneaked to my side of the bed and left a note on my pillow, "Sis, getting into a university is not easy. I will go find a job and I will send money to you." I held the note while sitting on my bed, and cried until I lost my voice.

With the money father borrowed from the whole village, and the money my brother earned from carrying cement on his back at a construction site, finally, I managed to get to the third year of my study in the university. That year, my brother was 17 years old and I was 20 years old.

One day, while I was studying in my room, my roommate came in and told me, "There's a villager waiting for you outside!" Why would there be a villager looking for me? I walked out, and I saw my brother from afar. His whole body was covered with dirt, dust, cement and sand. I asked him, "Why did you not tell my roommate that you are my brother?"

He replied with a smile, "Look at my appearance. What will they think if they would know that I am your brother? Won't they laugh at you?" I felt so touched, and tears filled my eyes. I swept away dirt and dust from my brother's body. And told him with a lump in my throat, "I don't care what people would say! You are my brother no matter what your appearance."

From his pocket, he took out a butterfly hair clip. He put it on my hair and said, 'I saw all the girls in town are wearing it. I think you should also have one.' I could not hold back myself anymore. I pulled my brother into my arms and cried. That year, my brother was 20 years old and I was 23 years old.

After I got married, I lived in the city. Many times my husband invited my parents to come and live with us, but they didn't want. They said once they left the village, they wouldn't know what to do. My brother agreed with them. He said, "Sis, you just take care of your parents-in-law. I will take care of Mom and Dad here."

My husband became the directors of his factory. We asked my brother to accept the offer of being the man-

ager in the maintenance department. But my brother rejected the offer. He insisted on working as a repairman instead for a start.

One day, my brother was on the top of a ladder repairing a cable, when he got electrocuted, and was sent to the hospital. My husband and I visited him at the hospital. Looking at the plaster cast on his leg, I grumbled, "Why did you reject the offer of being a manager? Managers won't do something dangerous like that. Now look at you – you are suffering a serious injury. Why didn't you just listen to us?"

With a serious expression on his face, he defended his decision, "Think of your brother-in-law, he just became the director. If I, being uneducated, would become a manager, what kind of rumors would fly around?" My husband's eyes filled up with tears, and then I said, "But you lack in education only because of me!"

"Why do you talk about the past?" he said and then he held my hand. That year, he was 26 years old and I was 29 years old. My brother was 30 years old when he married a farmer girl from the village. During the wedding reception, the master of ceremonies asked him, "Who is the one person you respect and love the most?"

Without even taking a time to think, he answered, "My sister." He continued by telling a story I could not even remember. "When I was in primary school, the school was in a different village. Everyday, my sister and I would walk for 2 hours to school and back home. One day, I lost one of my gloves. My sister gave me one of hers. She wore only one glove and she had to walk far. When we got home, her hands were trembling because of the cold weather. She could not even hold her chopsticks. From that day on, I swore that as long as I lived, I would take care of my sister and would always be good to her."

Applause filled up the room. All guests turned their attention to me. I found it hard to speak, "In my whole life, the one I would like to thank most is my brother," And in this happy occasion, in front of the crowd, tears were rolling down my face again.

**Moral:** Love and care for the one you love every single day of your life. You may think what you did is just a small deed, but to that someone, it may mean a lot. Some relations are made to be last longer but they still need to be nurtured with love and care.

DATA MASTER: Nikki Hamilton



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# IF FAMOUS LITERARY CHARACTERS WERE GIVEN VERY GOOD DOGGOS

“The Lottery”  
by Shirley Jackson

The morning of June 27th was clear and sunny, with the fresh warmth of a full-summer day; the flowers were blossoming profusely and the grass was richly green. The people of the village began to gather in the square to walk their dogs. They walked their dogs all morning and felt great. “Was there something else going on today?” Tessie wondered. “Oh, would you look at that little loaf wearing a tiny hat! It thinks it’s people!”

Great Expectations  
by Charles Dickens

“Love her, love her, love her! Hear me, Pip! I adopted her to be loved. I bred her and educated her to be loved. My fur baby helped me through a really tough relationship thing. I say there’s no problem you can’t solve with a dog. Here, hold this one.”  
Miss Havisham convinced me, and I went home with a puppy from her beagle rescue.

“The Raven”  
by Edgar Allen Poe

Back into the chamber turning, all my soul within me burning,  
Soon again I heard a tapping somewhat louder than before.  
“Surely,” said I, “Surely that is something — oh! Look, it’s my sweet boy!  
Hello! Aww, you’ve got your big toy!” And his nails clicked on the floor—  
“Someone needs the clippers!” said I, as he clicked across the floor;—  
Clickin’ doggo, nothing more.

King Lear  
by William Shakespeare

LEAR:  
Here I disclaim all my paternal care,  
Propinquity and property of blood,  
And as a stranger to my heart and me  
Hold thee, from this, for ever.  
CORDELIA:  
Alas, my good lord—  
Regard but first these pupperinos.  
LEAR:



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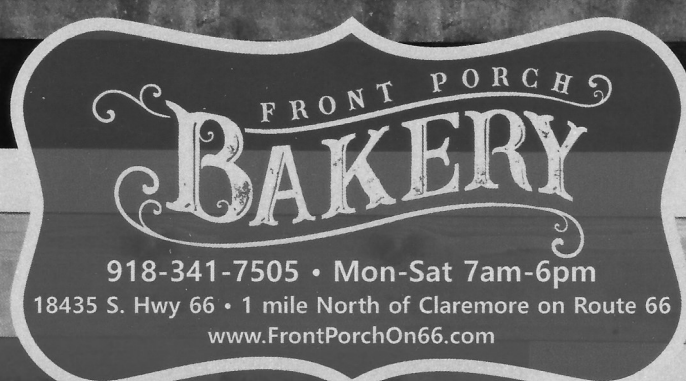
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How, how! Such little chonkers! Tray, Blanch, and Sweet-heart, 12/10 would boop all these round bois! [Exeunt, giggling gleefully]

**The Catcher in the Rye**  
by J. D. Salinger

If you sat around there long enough and heard all the phonies applauding and all, you got to hate everybody in the world. That's the way I used to think, anyway, before I found Pupcake here. Then I realized that dogs don't judge, so why should I? Now I just want to be the person my dog thinks I am. I saw that on a bumper sticker. Didn't I, girl? Yes! Yes, I did! Now, does Daddy's little angel want to go on the carousel?

**War and Peace**  
by Leo Tolstoy

"Well, Prince, I warn you, if you don't tell me that this means war, I will have nothing more to do with you," said Anna Pávlovna.  
"Oh, didn't you hear?" said Prince Vasíli. "Napoleon got a new dog, and now he's not interested in doing us a conquer. All he wants to do is sit around and watch his woofers' tiny blops."  
"What kind of dog?"  
"Corgi."  
"Shut up, I love corgis!"  
Everyone in Russia was fine. Some of them got corgis.

**"Good Country People"**  
by Flannery O'Connor

"Couldn't we go on a picnic tomorrow? Say yes, Hulga," the Bible salesman said and gave her a dying look as if he felt his insides about to drop out of him.  
"Mmm, I'm good," Hulga said as she ignored him and gave her little Chompers many good scratches. Both of Hulga's legs remained exactly where they belonged.

**Sense and Sensibility**  
by Jane Austen

Willoughby's manly beauty and more than common gracefulness were equal to what Marianne's fancy had ever drawn for the hero of a favourite story. However, her pocket Maltese, Lord Fancypaws, kept barking angrily at the gentleman. "Dogs are heckin' good judges of character," she told herself. "Perhaps I should keep my distance from Mr. Willoughby. He's cute, but he also seems like drama."

**Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf**  
by Edward Albee

MARTHA: C'mon in, kids... give your coats and stuff

to sour-puss.

NICK: Well, now, perhaps we shouldn't have come...

HONEY: Yes... it is late, and... oh my goodness, who is this precious?

GEORGE: Oh, that's our Jellybean.

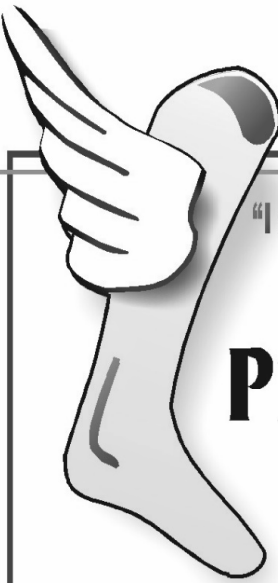
NICK: What is he, a Pomeranian?

MARTHA: Half Pom, half Shih Tzu. They're called Shiranians. He's pretty much our son.

HONEY: Aww, you can't even see his eyes through all that flooff!

[They have a normal evening.]

DATA MASTER: Steven Burdick



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# Genome Evolution: Shellfish Genes

Three new bivalve genomes are resources for comparative genomics over broad timescales, providing a glimpse into the evolution of understudied marine animals and their adaptations to extreme environments.

Mollusca is the second most species-rich animal phylum with over 100,000 recognized species, including many of importance to humans as food sources, disease vectors, damaging invasive species or aesthetic resources (for example, in jewellery manufacture). Despite their immense importance, only a few mollusc genomes are currently publicly available. Contributions by Sun et al.<sup>1</sup> and Wang et al.<sup>2</sup> in *Nature Ecology & Evolution* help rectify this problem by sequencing and analysing the genomes of three bivalve species. Both reports employ comparative and evolutionary genomic approaches to advance understanding of genomic evolution in bivalves. Sun et al. compare the mussel *Bathymodiolus platifrons*, which lives in deep-sea chemosynthetic environments, to its shallow-water relative *Modiolus philippinarum*. Wang et al. dig deeper by comparing the genome of the scallop *Patinopecten yessoensis* (also called *Mizuhopecten yessoensis*) to other lophotrochozoans as well as across animal diversity.

Free-spawning marine invertebrate genomes are typically challenging to assemble because of high levels of heterozygosity. Wang et al. mitigated this problem by sequencing a single male *P. yessoensis* sired from a self-fertilized hermaphrodite. Using Illumina short-insert paired-end and long-insert mate-pair libraries, they generated a reasonably high-quality assembly (Fig. 1). Using a 2b-RAD linkage map approach, they were able to assign most of the scaffolds to the 19 chromosomes of *P. yessoensis*. In addition to heterozygosity, marine invertebrate genomes are often as replete with repetitive elements as human genomes. Sun et al. also used a combined paired-end and mate-pair sequencing strategy to sequence two mussel genomes; the *B. platifrons* assembly totalled 1.64 Gb and *M. philippinarum* assembly totalled 2.38 Gb. Although the N50 value for *M. philippinarum*, for example, is lower than those routinely reported using similar approaches, for example bird genomes<sup>3</sup>, this assembly is commendable given the presence of over 700 Mb (~30%) of repetitive DNA in this genome.

Wang et al. compared the scallop genome to those of other animals to inform understanding of the ancestral bilaterian genome. They paid particular attention to

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identifying conserved macrosynteny regions. Given that the genomes in question probably diverged over 540 million years ago (Ma) and that recombination is known to significantly rearrange chromosomal content even between recently diverged lineages, the finding of 17 macrosynteny regions in scallops that are conserved across bilaterians<sup>4</sup> is remarkable. Moreover, the existence of these macrosynteny regions begs the question of why have some organisms undergone very little genomic rearrangement since they split off from the last common bilaterian ancestor (for example, scallop and lancelet) while others have relatively highly rearranged genomes (for example, *Drosophila*). Although the exact complement of genes in these conserved regions needs to be further investigated, one possible reason to maintain linked clusters of genes is regulation of gene pathways. Well-studied examples of transcriptional regulation of linked genes include the homeobox-containing gene clusters. Wang et al. show that in the scallop genome, the Hox and ParaHox clusters are intact, but colinear expression is restricted to subclusters of genes. Interestingly, oysters have similar subcluster expression patterns but their Hox cluster is no longer linked in a single unit<sup>5</sup>, suggesting the interplay between co-linear transcription and gene arrangement may be more nuanced than currently appreciated. The genome of a scallop will also be an important resource to the community of scientists studying the fascinating non-cephalic eyes<sup>6</sup> found along the mantle margin of these animals.

In contrast to spanning the diversity of bilaterian animals, Sun et al. sequenced and compared genomes of the relatively closely related shallow-water *M. philippinarum* and the deep-sea chemosynthetic *B. platifrons* to explore organismal adaption to different environments. Notably, they were inferred to have diverged around 110 Ma — around the same time placental mammals radiated. One significant difference between these species is that *B. platifrons* makes use of horizontally transmitted endosymbiotic bacteria to derive energy from chemosynthetic environments. Establishing such symbiosis is often linked to modified immune responses<sup>7</sup> as has been seen in the giant tube worms<sup>8</sup> and the bobtail squid<sup>9</sup>. Sun et al. document an expanded repertoire of genes involved in immunorecognition (important for recognizing potential endosymbiont partners), endocytosis (important for allowing the endosymbiont to become intracellular) and apoptosis (potentially a mechanism for regulating endosymbiont growth or utilization). Additionally, the genome of *B. platifrons* shows expanded families of genes that may aid survival in extreme environments by dealing with toxicity and stabilizing protein structure (for example, heat shock proteins). Thus, differences in genetic composition highlighted by Sun et al. fit expectations of how the genome of a vent- or seep-dwelling species may differ from a shallow water relative.

Findings in both manuscripts highlight the need for additional metazoan genome sequencing efforts outside of vertebrates, insects and nematodes. Although these bivalve genomes are welcome new resources, their annotations are still largely dependent on comparison to lineages that contain model organisms limiting our ability to understand, for example, the 474 protein domains apparently unique to *B. platifrons*. In particular, Lophotrochozoa, the bilaterian subclade with the greatest variation of animal body plans, is considerably undersampled and even within Mollusca only three of eight major lineages have available genomes. In order to draw firm conclusions about genome evolution, more comparisons, like those undertaken by Wang et al. and Sun et al. are needed, especially from marine representatives.

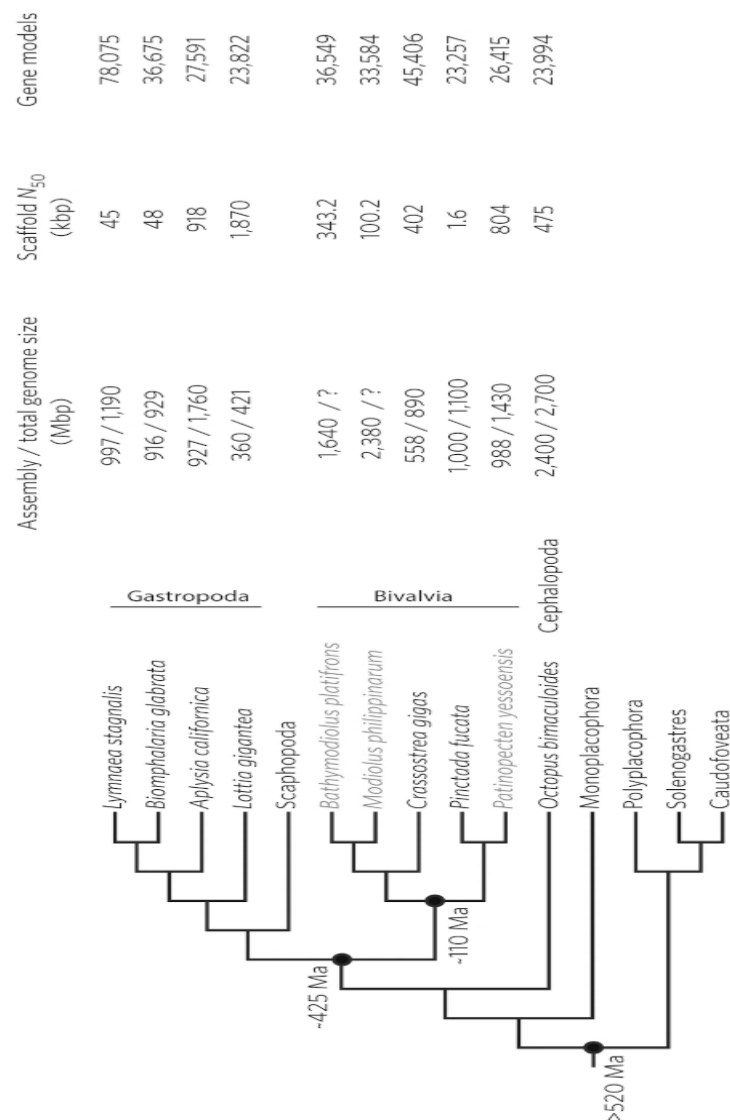


Figure 1. Cladogram showing relationships among molluscs with publicly available sequenced genomes and summary statistics for those data.

The species in lighter grey are those sampled by Sun et al. and Wang et al.

DATA MASTER: Nikki Hamilton

# Claremore Nursing Home - Employee of the Month



Susan Grimmatt was unanimously elected by Resident Council as February honoree. She has been part of the Housekeeping Department for 5 1/2 years.

Born on the East Coast, Susan has been married but says, "Never again." Her 2 girls and 1 boy have given her 4 grandchildren.

Even though she is a private kind of person with most, Susan loves the residents and takes good care of them. Her favorite thing is talking with them and listening to their interesting stories.

*"They may forget your name, but they will never forget how you made them feel."*

*Maya Angelou*

**If you would like to join, "Susan Grimmatt" as a Certified Nurse Aide, please apply in person. Now taking applications for Certified Nurse Aides both days and nights. Must pass a background check. New pay scale for CNA's.**

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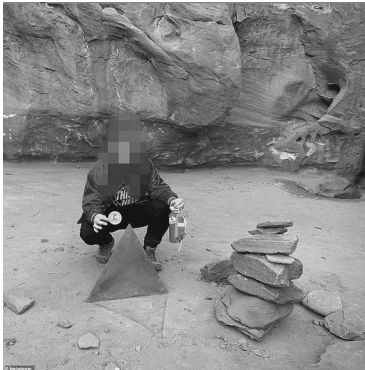
# Another Mysterious Metal Monolith Has Been Discovered In Romania

A mysterious metal monolith has been discovered in Romania a week after a similar structure was found in the remote Utah desert.

Romanian officials still do not know who is responsible for erecting the mysterious monolith.



"We have started looking into the strange appearance of the monolith," said Neamt Culture and Heritage official Rocsana Josanu. "It is on private property, but we still don't know who the monolith's owner is yet. It is in a protected area on an archaeological site."



"Before installing something there, they needed permission from our institution, one that must then be approved by the Ministry of Culture," she added.

In Utah, the monolith has since been removed by an "unknown party". A stack of rocks was left next to the triangular top.

DATA MASTER: Doug WM Stone

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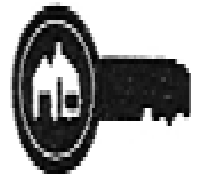
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# The Most Active Meteor Shower of the Year is About to Shine Like Christmas Lights in the Sky

From a rare ‘Christmas star’ on winter solstice to the Full Cold Moon just before new year, there are lots of stunning celestial events to look out for this December. One phenomenon that has astronomers extra excited? Peaking on the nights of December 13 and 14—from Sunday night until sunrise this Monday—the most active meteor shower of 2020 will take place in the form of the Geminids.

Farmers’ Almanac reports that, with a clear sky, “you can easily spot 50 or more meteors per hour. On an optimum night for the Geminids, it may even be possible to see up 100 meteors per hour.”



With a new moon happening on December 14, this year the skies will be extra dark, and meteor watching will be that bit better.

## What are the Geminids?

According to NASA, these shooting stars are “caused by a stream of debris left by the asteroid, 3200 Phaethon. When the Earth passes through the trails of dust every December left by 3200 Phaethon, we see the Geminid meteor shower as the dust (meteoroids) burn up in Earth’s atmosphere creating meteors.”

Visible all over the world, though best seen in the Northern Hemisphere, there’s no need to look in a particular direction to spot these burning specks of dust. Just find a dark spot, a large patch of open sky, and look up. The best time to view fireballs hurtling through the sky? At the darkest hour. That is, just before dawn.

Because the Geminids are so bright, many people say these meteors show color. Look out for shooting stars that appear yellow, green, and blue as you gaze—and let us know which hues you see.

DATA MASTER: Nikki Hamilton

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our website can be accessed at:  
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## How A Little White Envelope Changed The Spirit Of Christmas For This Family

This story was originally published in the December 14, 1982 issue of Woman's Day magazine.

It was the first place winner out of thousands of entries in the magazine's "My Most Moving Holiday Tradition" contest in which readers were asked to share their favorite holiday tradition and the story behind it.



### The Little White Envelope

It's just a small, white envelope stuck among the branches of our Christmas tree. No name, no identification, no inscription. It has peeked through the branches of our tree for the past ten years.

It all began because my husband Mike hated Christmas. Oh, not the true meaning of Christmas, but the commercial aspects of it – overspending and the frantic running around at the last minute to get a tie for Uncle Harry and the dusting powder for Grandma – the gifts given in desperation because you couldn't think of anything else.

Knowing he felt this way, I decided one year to bypass the usual shirts, sweaters, ties and so forth. I reached for something special just for Mike. The inspiration came in an unusual way.

Our son Kevin, who was 12 that year, was on the wrestling team at the school he attended. Shortly before Christmas, there was a non-league match against a team sponsored by an inner-city church. These youngsters, dressed in sneakers so ragged that shoestrings seemed to be the only thing holding them together, presented a sharp contrast to our boys in their spiffy blue and gold uniforms and sparkling new wrestling shoes.

As the match began, I was alarmed to see that the other team was wrestling without headgear, a kind of light helmet designed to protect a wrestler's ears. It was a luxury the ragtag team obviously could not afford.

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Well, we ended up walloping them. We took every weight class. Mike, seated beside me, shook his head sadly, "I wish just one of them could have won," he said. "They have a lot of potential, but losing like this could take the heart right out of them." Mike loved kids – all kids. He so enjoyed coaching little league football, baseball and lacrosse. That's when the idea for his present came.

That afternoon, I went to a local sporting goods store and bought an assortment of wrestling headgear and shoes, and sent them anonymously to the inner-city church. On Christmas Eve, I placed a small, white envelope on the tree, the note inside telling Mike what I had done, and that this was his gift from me.

Mike's smile was the brightest thing about Christmas that year. And that same bright smile lit up succeeding

To share your story with us contact:  
Zia Partovi at 918-244-0457 or 918-  
789-2862 or email him at  
[links@links.community-options.net](mailto:links@links.community-options.net)

years. For each Christmas, I followed the tradition – one year sending a group of mentally handicapped youngsters to a hockey game, another year a check to a pair of elderly brothers whose home had burned to the ground the week before Christmas, and on and on. The white envelope became the highlight of our Christmas. It was always the last thing opened on Christmas morning, and our children – ignoring their new toys – would stand with wide-eyed anticipation as their dad lifted the envelope from the tree to reveal its contents. As the children grew, the toys gave way to more practical presents, but the small, white envelope never lost its allure.

The story doesn't end there. You see, we lost Mike last year due to dreaded cancer. When Christmas rolled around, I was still so wrapped in grief that I barely got the tree up. But Christmas Eve found me placing an envelope on the tree. And the next morning, I found it was magically joined by three more.

Unbeknownst to the others, each of our three children had for the first time placed a white envelope on the tree for their dad. The tradition has grown and someday will expand even further with our grandchildren standing in to take down that special envelope.

Mike's spirit, like the Christmas spirit will always be with us.

Nancy W. Gavin

DATA MASTER: Doug WM Stone



## Magnification of Secondary Production by Kelp Detritus in Coastal Marine Ecosystems



Kelps are highly productive seaweeds found along most temperate latitude coastlines, but the fate and importance of kelp production to nearshore ecosystems are largely unknown. The trophic role of kelp-derived carbon in a wide range of marine organisms was assessed by a natural experiment. Growth rates of benthic suspension feeders were greatly increased in the presence of organic detritus (particulate and dissolved) originating from large benthic seaweeds (kelps). Stable carbon isotope analysis confirmed that kelp-derived carbon is found throughout the nearshore food web.

DATA MASTER: Nikki Hamilton



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# AN OPEN LETTER TO SANTA CLAUS REGARDING HIS TRAVEL PLANS

Dear Santa Claus,

While I understand that your home is melting and you do not have many Christmases left, it is most imperative that you stay in the North Pole this year. Until the COVID-19 vaccine is released to the public, unnecessary travel for anyone is gravely irresponsible. Entering the home of every Christmas-celebrating child in the entire world in one night is a superspreader event waiting to happen. While you may be concerned that all Christmas joy will be lost, please do not worry. All joy, spirit, and celebration have already been canceled for 2020.

You may believe you're being COVID-safe; however, those of us in the south cannot ensure you are enforcing social-distancing protocols in your workshop. Your workers are so embedded in the Christmas-capitalist complex that they live in the same place they work, making quarantine and contact tracing nearly impossible. If Glitzy McJingles contracts COVID-19 and acts like a cotton-headed ninny muggin, exposing the entire Barbie Career Doll Department to the virus, will you provide the facilities to self-isolate? Do you have a robust enough healthcare system to support them? Or will they be left in the dainty hands of EMT Barbie? Mr. Claus, your flying reindeer carry you around the world in 24 hours, but can your research reindeer return COVID test results that quickly?

We have learned so much about coronavirus and preventing its spread among humans, but we do not know how these findings apply to elves. Their small, compact bodies and minuscule lungs may be more severely impacted by the virus, and, given their pea-like eardrums, they will have to scream to hear each other from six feet away. Even with burlap sacks-turned-masks, this will lead to a dangerous increase in airborne droplets. There have also been reports of pets carrying COVID-19, and I do not trust your ability to stop community spread among your reindeer. You blatantly overlooked the possible illnesses causing Rudolph's bright red nose and profited from a lack of treatment. It is clear that public health and safety is not your priority.

Mr. Claus, this is about your risk level, too. The virus affects the elderly most severely and you are 1,749 years old. Your diet consists mainly of baked goods. I don't even want to think about how low your Vitamin D levels are by December, what with the lack of sunlight in the North Pole. And handling all that coal cannot be good for your lungs. Frankly, your odds don't look great.

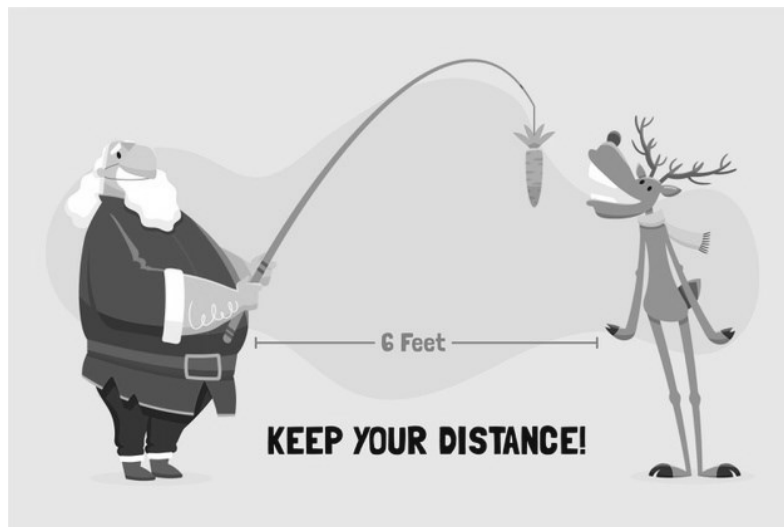
And even if your case is mild, think of those you might infect. Forgive me if this is insensitive, but I must ask how you plan to fit a face mask over your thick,

ungroomed, monstrous beard. Virus particles will get trapped in the untamed mess and shake loose as you shimmy down an innocent family's chimney. You will remove your mask to eat the milk and cookies left for you by a child. You will choke on a crumb. You will cough. You will spray dozens of contaminated droplets around the house. The child will get one pair of Circle Society JoJo Siwa Roller Skates for a lifetime of respiratory damage. I ask you, is it worth it?

The greatest gift anyone could receive this Christmas is not having coronavirus. While some may believe those on the naughty list deserve infection, that would endanger those on the nice list. So, I must ask that you abstain from your duties this year. To keep you accountable, the Grinch has agreed to monitor your activity in the North Pole. He has been socially distancing on top of Mount Crumpit since long before the start of the pandemic and will stay a thirty-nine-and-a-half foot pole length away from others at all times. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Warmly,  
Sila Puhl

DATA MASTER: Steven Burdick



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# Family Returns Home And Finds Koala Clinging To Christmas Tree

A koala desperate to get in the Christmas spirit had found a way into someone's home and climbed their Christmas tree.

In Adelaide, Australia, Amanda McCormick was surprised to find a koala in her Christmas Tree.



McCormick recounted the moment she noticed a koala hanging onto her artificial tree to The Guardian, with daughter Taylah, 16, saying the animal was "pretty tangled up in the lights" at first.

"It was a fake tree and very old but she still tried eating the leaves off it. I saw her munch down on some but she stopped when she realized it was plastic," she told the outlet.

"I thought one of my kids may have put like a soft toy in there, but no, it was a live one," she added.

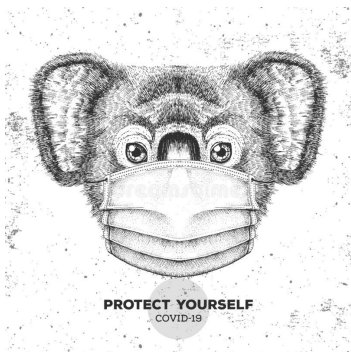


McCormick called the animal rescue center who initially thought it was a prank call.

"This evening our hotline operator took a call. At first she thought she was the victim of a prank call," 1300 Koalaz wrote on Facebook.

"But no, a koala desperate to get in the Christmas spirit had wandered into Amanda McCormick's house and decided it wanted to be the fairy on the Christmas tree."

DATA MASTER: Doug WM Stone



# Nursing Home Residents Are Going 'Deer Hunting' This Christmas Season

Nursing homes are finding fun and creative ways to bring joy to residents this holiday season.

Nursing home staff are dressing up as deer and running around Christmas trees as residents hunt them down with toy guns.

"I got the idea to turn our dining room in to a forest and bring out all of the Christmas trees before we decorated them," Continental Manor's activity director Lisa Beach said. "It was such a blast."



DATA MASTER: Doug WM Stone

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# Up-coming Events

TOPS #570 We meet 9am to 11am Monday morning at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church in Miami 2337 N. Main St. "Taking off pounds sensibly!"

TOPS #567 meet every Thursday at 10am 433 N Mississippi in Nowata.

TOPS #506 in Miami Heavenly Winds Worship Center meet every 6pm Thursday evening. For more info call Susan Walls at 918-540-0570

Every 4th Saturday of the month Veteran's Support Group: Veterans for Veterans. Have you served in the military? Are you struggling with readjustment? Anxious about the future? Struggling to connect with friends and family? Struggling with school? WE CAN HELP! Free veterans support group at 10am every 4th Saturday of the month. The Landing 502 West Corner Fairland, Ok. For more information call Larry Boyd (918) 541-7592 or Cindy (918) 676-3228.

Food Truck Wednesdays —Every Wednesday, grab some tasty eats and gather on the grounds of Guthrie Green. During Food Truck Wednesdays, lunchtime transforms into a community-wide affair, with roaming food trucks posting up at this Tulsa park. While you dine on delicious food, be sure to enjoy the live music and fresh air. Guthrie Green 111 E Brady St Tulsa, OK 74103 Phone: 918-574-2421

Big Cabin Senior Exercise Program—Fitness program for seniors held at the Big Cabin Baptist Church gym three times a week, Monday, Wednesday and Friday, from 10 to 11 a.m.

American Legion Post 178 in Grove, OK – Bingo every Saturday evening at 6pm. Family atmosphere. Contact Lee Cathy for any questions at: 901-487-9060

PRYOR DANCE—Every 1st. and 3rd. Thursday of the month. 6:15 pm—9 pm—Cost is \$5.00 per person, Double H Band will be playing. Cookies and Coffee will be serving. It's for seniors but all ages are welcome. Mayes County Nutrition Center 851 SE 9th Pryor (just east of 9th and Elliott intersection)

Nov 19, 2020- Dec 31, 2020 West Bend Winterland - Claremore's West Bend Winterland is reminiscent of traditional holiday festivities, and invites your family to create your own with plenty of activities for all ages. Enjoy an ice skating rink, hot cocoa, caroling, pictures with Santa and real reindeer. Guests with holiday shopping lists can browse through goods by local artisans. Be sure to take photos in front of the beautiful 50-foot live Christmas tree, a highlight of this cheerful winter

# SUDOKU PUZZLES

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1-9, without repeating any.

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Hardship level: Moderate

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	1	8	6			5		

event. Claremore Expo Center 400 Veterans Pkwy Claremore, OK 74017. Phone: 918-342-5357

Nov 19, 2020- Dec 30, 2020 Fantasy Land of Lights - Bring the family out for this drive-through Christmas light show at Johnstone Park in Bartlesville. Enjoy the music, synchronized lighted tunnel, animated displays and thousands of lights decorating the park each night the display is open. You'll be dazzled by the different colors and shapes coming together for a park full of Christmas cheer. This year's event also includes a one-night only Fantasy Land on Foot event, where guests can enjoy walking through the displays. Mon-Sun: 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm Johnstone Park Bartlesville, OK 74003 Phone: 918-914-1530

Nov 25, 2020 - Jan 1, 2021 Rhema Christmas Lights - Join over 200,000 annual visitors at the Rhema Christmas Lights display and witness over two million shimmering lights synchronized to Christmas music. This much-loved lights display in Broken Arrow began in 1982 and has been attracting thousands of visitors ever since. Visitors to the Rhema Christmas Lights event can drive through the lights in their own vehicle, get out of the car and walk around the park, or view the spectacular displays from a carriage. Horse-drawn carriage rides will be available on select evenings. Mon - Sun: 5:30 pm - 11:30 pm Rhema Bible Church 1025 W Kenosha St Broken Arrow, OK 74012. Phone: 918-289-1607, 918-258-1588

Nov. 26, 2020 - Jan 1, 2021 Winter Wonderland Christmas Light Tour - Celebrate the beauty of winter at Pine Lodge Resort in Ketchum. Enjoy a spectacular old-fashioned Christmas light display featuring over 400,000 lights Winter Wonderland Christmas Light Tour. Step into a festive world of illuminated log cabins, antique cars and woodland animals all aglow. Get into the Christmas spirit along the shores of Grand Lake as you drive through the twinkling grounds. Admission is free and visitors can drive through the grounds as many times as they like from Thanksgiving night to New Year's Day. Mon-Sun: 5:00 pm - 10:00 pm Pine Lodge Resort Ketchum, OK 74349. Phone: 918-782-1400, 918-782-7062

Nov 27, 2020 - Jan 3, 2021 Garden of Lights - Visit to a magical garden aglow with festive lights during the Garden of Lights at Tulsa Botanic Gardens. Add your wish to the Wishing Tree, take photos at the holiday selfie photo booth, grab a warm drink from the holiday bar and roast marshmallows over fire pits to make s'mores. Warm drinks, beer and wine and s'more kits are available every night for purchase. A food truck will be onsite each night. Safety Precautions: - Advance tickets with timed entry are required. There will be no sales at the door. - Capacity is limited each night.- Masks are required inside buildings and any time physical distancing is not possible outside including when in line for food,

drinks, train rides, etc. All Garden staff/volunteers will be wearing masks. - Hand sanitizing stations will be located near buildings and in Garden areas. Open 5-9pm each festival night. Closed on Dec 24 and 25. Tulsa Botanic Garden 3900 Tulsa Botanic Dr Tulsa, OK 74127 Phone: 918-289-0330

Nov 27, 2020 - Dec 26, 2020 Philbrook Festival - The Philbrook Museum of Art hosts the Philbrook Festival each winter, an annual holiday tradition in Tulsa. Enjoy thousands of holiday lights, music, and fun for the whole family at Festival Nights. Re-imagined as a fully outdoor experience, the Philbrook has added more lights and music this year to bring you and your loved ones together to celebrate the holidays in a spectacular and safe setting. Sip cocoa by the fire, say hello to Santa (from afar!), take home a one-of-kind art project and marvel at the sights and sounds of Philbrook Festival Nights. Festival Nights are special ticketed event nights and require advance, timed tickets. \*New COVID-19 Safety Precautions: -Fully outdoor experience from parking and admissions through exit -No-contact check-in -Timed entry (advance tickets required) with 50% capacity of previous Festival Nights -Social distancing of 6 ft. required-Approved masks required for staff and visitors ages 5 & older except in designated seated eating areas 2020 Festival Nights: Nov 27, 28 Dec 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 12, 17, 18, 19, 24, 26 Pricing Members: \$5 Member Youth: Free Adults: \$15 Youth: \$3 Take & Make Activity: \$5 While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the pricing listed above, prices are subject to change without notice. Amenities FACILITY AMENITIES HIGHWAY CORRIDORS (WITHIN 5 MI.) Nov 27, 28 Dec 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 12, 17, 18, 19, 24, 26: 5:30-9:30pm Philbrook Museum of Art 2727 S Rockford Rd Tulsa, OK 74114. Phone: 918-749-7941, 918-743-4230

DATA MASTER: Nikki Hamilton

**Do You have an event that you would like to share ?**

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Fax: 918-789-5296**

**Email: [links@links.community-options.net](mailto:links@links.community-options.net)**







1. Mushroom, 2. Cup, 3. Sock, 4. Umbrella, 5. Candy cane, 6. Bell,  
7. Pencil, 8. Ruler, 9. Wishbone, 10. Whale, 11. Worm, 12. Heart, 13. Watch.



# Getting to know the Lutherans

*And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. Luke 1:14*

## Engaged in Communication

We live in a communication age. From cell phones to social media sites, electronic billboards to blogs – all around us are signs that people want to, need to, and will communicate. Why do we communicate so incessantly? We have been created by a communicating God.

“In the beginning was the Word” (John 1:1). A word communicates. God has communicated His love from all eternity. He loves to communicate His love and His forgiveness to people. God has made us in His image, able to communicate. You will hear and speak a lot of words this Christmas. How will those words reflect your origins as one created by a love-communicating God?

Jesus, the Word, also communicated by showing up (“became flesh”) and by hanging around hateful people (“dwelt among us”). We can show up where people are in need, hang around with people who need God’s love, and point them to the Christmas miracle: God in flesh.

Have a blessed Christmas – and a joyous forever! For in eternity, we will have the joy of communicating our God’s forgiving love.

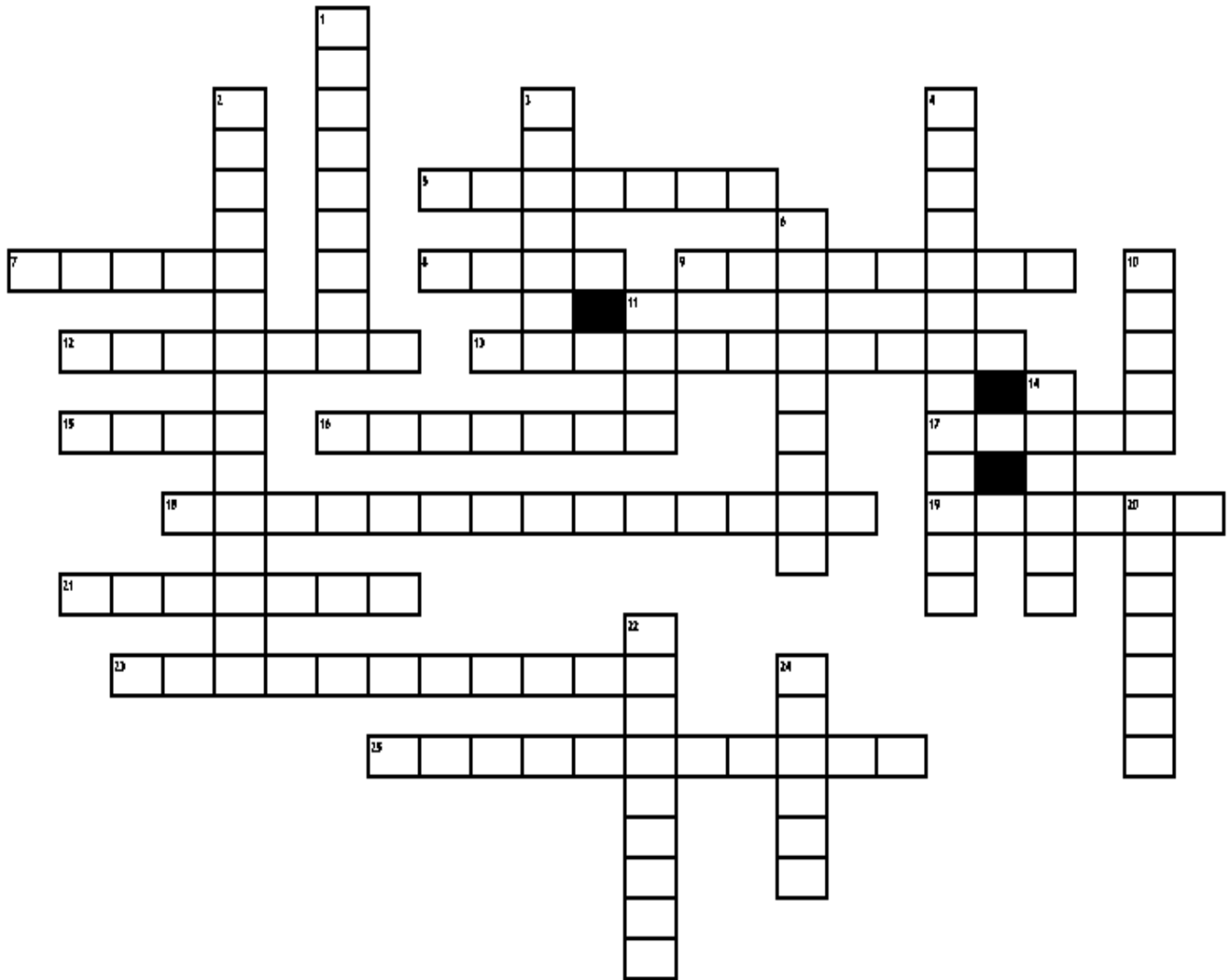
DATA MASTER: Doug WM Stone

<p><b>Messiah Lutheran Church</b>  460 N. Wilson, Vinita, OK.  Sunday School and Bible Class 9:00 a.m.  Worship 10:00 a.m. 918-256-3223  Email: messiahvinita@aol.com</p>	<p><b>St. Paul Lutheran Church</b>  Washington and Pine, Fairland, OK.  Sunday School and Bible Class 9:15 a.m.  Worship 10:30 a.m. 918-676-3059  Email: stpaulluthch@aol.com</p>
<p><b>Bethlehem Lutheran Church</b>  6911 West 380 Road, Adair, OK 74330  Worship 9:00 a.m. 918-785-2994  Sunday School and Bible Class 10:15 a.m.</p>	<p><b>Immanuel Lutheran Church</b>  706 Rockwood Drive, Grove, OK.  Worship 9:30 a.m. 918-786-4585  Website: <a href="http://www.lutheransonline.com/lo/Groveok">www.lutheransonline.com/lo/Groveok</a></p>
<p><b>Mt. Olive Lutheran Church</b>  2337 North Main, Miami, OK 74354  Worship 2:00 p.m. (918) 542-4681  Sunday School and Bible Class 3:00 p.m.  Email: mtolive@cablone.net</p>	<p><b>Redeemer Lutheran Church</b>  220 N. Seminole, Claremore, OK.  Sunday School and Bible Class 9:00 a.m.  Worship 10:30 a.m. 918-341-1429  Email: rluther@sbcglobal.net – Website <a href="http://www.rlcok.org">www.rlcok.org</a></p>

*Guests are always welcome.  
See you Sunday at worship.*

# Crossword Puzzle

## Christmas Traditions 12-20-20



### Across

- 5. Across the Tree
- 7. Santa's helpers
- 8. Flakes of white stuff
- 9. Pulling Sleigh
- 12. Opening on the roof
- 13. Trimming Christmas Tree
- 15. Baking
- 16. Celebrations
- 17. Ringing
- 18. Making Toys
- 19. Whoville
- 21. Famous Reindeer
- 23. Savior of the World
- 25. Man in Red and white suit

### Down

- 1. where does Santa live?
- 2. Singing
- 3. Don't like Christmas
- 4. Riding In
- 6. Kissing
- 10. packages
- 11. Building a fire
- 14. Travel
- 20. Desserts
- 22. Over the fireplace
- 24. Christmas Mas

# Word Search Puzzle

## New Year's 12-20

L O E U Y C J N U F E S T I V I T I E S A S X W  
 Z D F M I Z P P S R G I A Z N A G A V A R T X E  
 P N D M C A L E N D A R Y W B E L G Z A O Q H C  
 D D E C O R A T I O N S O S N Z K E R R Z O M K  
 E B G I Q G T E L B O G L L F Z S A M H L K F T  
 C W S B A L L O O N S F R L V G Z F C I L I D S  
 E E B K S N R O H W Q V U C C E T K G D E A T E R  
 M Y D N Y E U Y B J V T N T C Y T A K C P T N I  
 B E W A N X V Q K N E T A W P I Y D L L T E G F  
 E M E Y Y I W F J E S R F P B J P S U D L F A X  
 R R Y W O W U A V A B I G D A N C I N G L N P Y  
 E H M J B C T T V E R A Q C T O U B C E A O M R  
 I Q L L A P B H L E M G N D D Q S N X U V B C A A  
 C G H W V G T E C E G W L P S X W D K L D O H U  
 E U A K T G G C R S V W Z S A N B G A W R J X C N  
 L N G T B Q A T O M K J L B S T R E A M E R S A  
 E H L S H C R I J H P G C E L S W B A B Y N A J  
 B N L I K E Z M W E R E I U D N E H C E L S W Q  
 R E W E R F R E D U J T H Y O Y K S V D X V F D  
 A D R H L A Q I O K R F Z I H D A E Z H Q M M O  
 T S D X F Z W H N A C M Z Z A Q Y H C S Q F E K  
 I K B F S I T S P G X N Y H T A X P U V M I G P  
 O Z B Q T M X N X D S O B U B L Y N I A J N T  
 N V S M P I M O Q C O U N T D O W N C L O C K H

Holiday Gown Goblet Games Streamers Hourglass Decorations Glasses Flute Hat  
 Horns First Gatherings Firecrackers Festivities Father Time Day Dancing  
 Extravaganza December Eve Parties January Clock Countdown Celebrate  
 Celebration Balloons Champagne Ball Confetti Calendar Baby Bubbly



# CryptoQuote Puzzles

**Title:** When Angry **From:** Thomas Jefferson

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
N	F						K							U				T							

**H**                    **A**                    ,                    **O**                    ,                    **B**                    **O**  
 H K S B    N B L C D    M U W B Z    Z S B    F S R U C S  
**O**                    **S**                    **A**                    ,                    **A**                                       **O**  
 D U W    T J S N A    E R Y S C D    N B L C D    M U W B Z  
                   **O**    **O**                    **H**  
                   Z U    U B S    K W B O C S O

**Title:** Associate Yourself **From:** George Washington

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
U		B				R						M				E									

**A**                    **C**                    **A**                                       **M**  
 U S S Q B N U A D    F Q Z W S D X V    T N A O    M D H  
                   **G**                    **Q**                    **A**                                       **M**  
 Q V    R Q Q G    E Z U X N A F    N V    D S A D D M  
                                      **A**  
 F Q Z W    Q T H    W D P Z A U A N Q H    V Q W    A N S  
                                      **A**                                       **A**  
 L D A A D W    A Q L D U X Q H D    A O U H    N H  
                   **A**                    **C**                    **M**                    **A**  
                   L U G    B Q M P U H F

**Title:** American Dream **From:** Richard Nixon

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
1			15																9						

**T**                    **A**                    **A**                    **D**                    **A**                    **D**                    **T**  
 9 20 12    1 16 12 26 5 2 1 21    15 26 12 1 16    15 25 12 11    21 25 9  
                   **T**                    **T**                                       **A**                    **A**  
 2 25 16 12    9 25    9 20 25 11 12    3 20 25    6 1 13 13    1 11 13 12 12 24

# The Molecule of the Year

Historians tend to personalize history. They use political leaders to symbolize war or peace, freedom or slavery, abundance or starvation. Political systems represented by these individuals may be essential, but political leaders cannot cure disease without medicine, cannot improve crops without fertilizer, and cannot encourage the literacy on which democracy depends without communications technology. The great advances of the past have been profoundly influenced by science and technology, and our present standard of living depends on them. Political systems can be designed to encourage advances in science and are essential to the fair distribution of its products. Wealth must be created before it can be distributed.

Sometimes, in the rush of daily events and the ease of describing personalities instead of analyzing issues, the fundamental causes of progress can be obscured. To symbolize that scientific progress and to honor the structure that creates it, Science has decided to name a Molecule of the Year. The molecule will symbolize a discovery or technique that may actually involve many molecules, but the award will be singular to force us to choose one such discovery each year that is likely to have the greatest influence on history. We will not require that the initial discovery has to be made in the year of the award because many discoveries are not recognized immediately or require refinement for optimum value. The award will, however, reflect the fact that the particular discovery has reached in the year of the award a stage of development and understanding sufficient to establish its long-term significance.

This year's award goes to the DNA polymerase molecule and to the technique called polymerase chain reaction. PCR, as it is called, has developed into one of the most powerful tools of modern biology since its discovery several years ago, and its applications are burgeoning. One of its first applications allowed an Indian mother to establish the identity of her son for immigration purposes. It has this year served as the basis for making human antibodies in a bacterium. It is revolutionizing the approaches researchers are taking to many problems in biology. Other properties and potentials of PCR are discussed in the section that follows, as are many other discoveries that could easily have been chosen in a year that has seen major advances of science in almost every discipline.

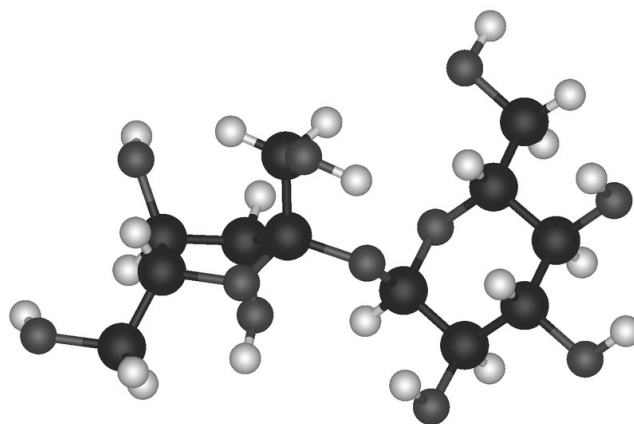
Some who look into the mirror darkly see the waste disposal problem and forget the great numbers of people alive today, see the pesticide problem and forget the availability of food to many, or see the acid rain problem and forget the popularity of the automobile. Each widely adopted technical advance generates new

problems that themselves cry out for technical solutions. The problems are real. So, is this progress?

To answer that question I propose a simple objective test: the era swap experiment. Each person could choose to be transported back to some previous time but only on condition that he or she adopt all the features and restrictions of that era. In the 1800s, for example, the globe was less crowded, the air was clearer, the water cleaner, and there were no plastics. However, life expectancy was half of what it is today, transportation was by horseback or on foot, and medical operations were performed without anesthetics. Even a few years ago a high proportion of women died in childbirth, and pneumonia was one of the major causes of death for middle-aged people. Faced with such realities, who would choose to live even a few years in the past?

Our Molecule of the Year is a symbol that we are honoring the process of progress rather than a personality. Most of the discoveries of science (and probably much of political history) result from the actions of many individuals, one of whom may contribute slightly more than others. Each person who moves the discovery one step further contributes to the benefit of all. Science is an international enterprise; its practitioners and those who benefit from the knowledge it creates are located throughout the world. The new knowledge which translates into living standards—can be used for good or evil, can be distributed fairly or unfairly. The challenge to science is to generate the new discoveries. The challenge to society is to use those discoveries for the betterment of all.—DANIEL E. KOSHLAND, JR.

DATA MASTER: Nikki Hamilton



## Scientists Discover 'Weird' New Species, Looks Like A Floating Party Balloon

A "weird" creature shaped like a party balloon has been discovered in waters off Puerto Rico.



The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) announced the discovery in a Nov. 20 press release that included video of the creature pulsating "a prism kind of light effect" as it moved.

"A NOAA Fisheries research team discovered *Duobrachium sparksae*, a new species of ctenophore, or comb jelly," the organization said. "The discovery was made during an underwater expedition led by the NOAA Office of Ocean Exploration and Research."

The ctenophore was seen 2.5 miles down in a sea floor canyon. A team from NOAA was working 24 miles off Puerto Rico when a remote control camera recorded the comb jelly's pulsating light.

"I thought: that is so weird looking," NOAA zoologist Allen Collins said. "It's like a party balloon, only instead of sort of having one string hanging down, it's got two little dangly bits."

"It moved like a hot air balloon attached to the seafloor on two lines, maintaining a specific altitude above the seafloor," NOAA Fisheries scientist Mike Ford said.

DATA MASTER: Nikki Hamilton

## 'I Started Tearing Up': Store Manager Buys Giant Teddy Bear For Little Boy

The manager of a department store in British Columbia surprised a mother and her son with a giant teddy bear after he overheard Mom tell her son she couldn't buy the bear.



Kamalee and her 4-year-old son Quinn were shopping for Christmas lights at the Canadian Tire in North Saanich when Quinn noticed the teddy bear on display.

"He was like, 'Wow! Look at that! I need that bear!'" Karmalee told CTV News.

Quinn was bouncing up and down in excitement which caught the attention of the store's manager, Dave.

"(His mom) said, 'We can't (get the bear) right now'. And the boy said, 'Okay. I understand, mom'," Dave recalled, noting that the boy didn't whine or complain.

"That just blew me away. He's four years old."

Dave returned to work, but he couldn't stop thinking about them. It prompted him to consider his young granddaughter in Ontario, who he's been missing during the pandemic, and remember those past Christmas times when he was a single dad.

"I raised my son from the time he was six days old," Dave explained. "I know what I went through and people gave me help."

So, he tracked-down Karmalee and quietly asked her if he could buy the bear for Quinn.

"I started tearing up," KarmaLee said.

"Christmas is going to look a lot different this year and you just try to make it as magical as you can for your kids," she added. "And this guy did that. It's pure magic."

Dave's co-workers say it's just pure Dave; that he often acts on his impulse to be kind.

"You don't know what's going to happen tomorrow to any of us. If you can do something good for somebody, do it," Dave said. "You'd be surprised how it makes you feel."

Quinn has since thanked Dave for the gift by giving him a card with a drawing of the bear.



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our website can be accessed at:  
<https://community-options.net>

# Man, 43, Dresses Up As Buddy The Elf To Meet His Biological Dad For The First Time

A man in Maine met his biological dad for the first time at 43 years old -- and decided to recreate the scene from Elf.



In *Elf*, Buddy (Will Ferrell) meets his biological father (James Caan), who doesn't know about him, and sings a song to him when they see each other the first time. In March, Doug Henning discovered who his biological father was on Ancestry.com. His father did not know he had a son.

The two connected and have communicated electronically for the past 8 months. They had not met in person until last week.

"So, it finally happened. Since we started this journey with Doug's first Father's Day card to his biological dad being one that said 'congratulations, it's a boy!', we figured we'd keep the humor going. It's been such an amazing journey for these two men, one who never knew of the other, and one who never knew how much meeting his biological father would teach him about himself," Rebecca Henning wrote on Instagram. Doug dressed up and jumped up and down when he met his dad at a Logan Airport in Boston saying, "I am going to meet my dad that didn't even know I was born!"

DATA MASTER: Doug WM Stone



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**You can also place ads on the website.** Of course, ADs on the website can be in color and animated and they are live and attract more attention.

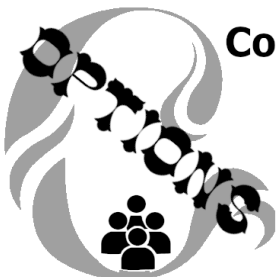
**For any inquiry you can reach us at:**

**(918) 789-2862 or (918) 244-0457**

**ask for Debbie or Zia**

**our website can be accessed at:**

**<https://links.community-options.net>**



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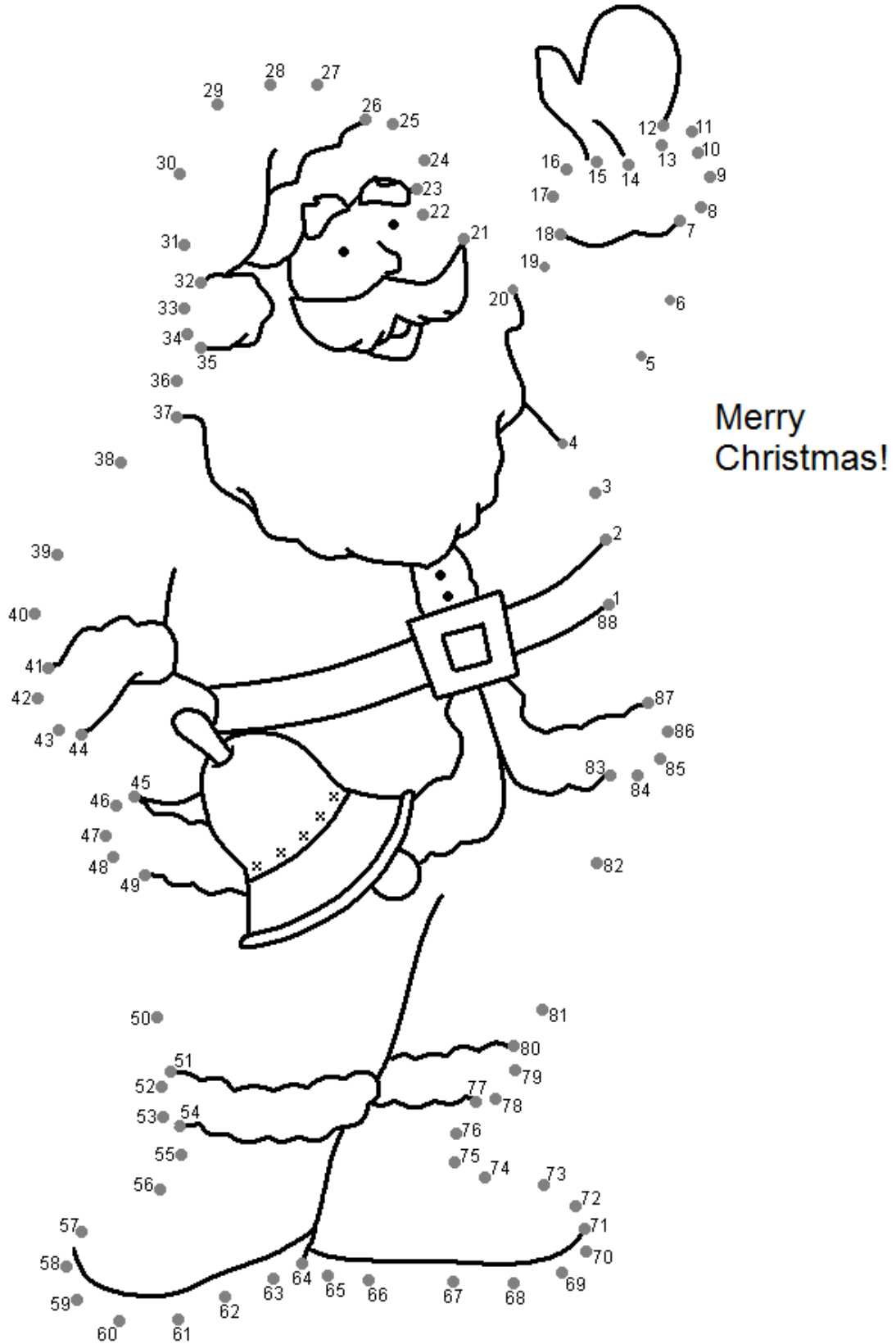
If you are seeking employment you can apply for your desired position with us online.

our website can be accessed at:  
<https://community-options.net>

To share your story with us contact:  
Zia Partovi at 918-244-0457 or 918-789-2862 or email him at  
[links@links.community-options.net](mailto:links@links.community-options.net)

# Dot To Dot Picture Puzzle (Connect dots to complete the picture)

## Christmas Connect-the-Dots #21



courtesy of [www.noelladesigns.com](http://www.noelladesigns.com)



# Library News

## CATOOSA PUBLIC LIBRARY

105 E. Oak (918) 266-1684

### Hours:

Monday thru Thursday: 9am to 7pm  
Friday: 9am to 12pm & 1pm to 3pm  
Saturday: 10am to 2pm  
Closed Sunday

## CHELSEA PUBLIC LIBRARY

618 Pine (918) 789-3364

### Hours:

Tuesday: 10:00am to 7:00pm  
Wednesday, Thursday & Friday: 10:00am to 4:00pm  
Saturday: 9:00am to Noon Closed Sunday & Monday

## CHOUTEAU PUBLIC LIBRARY

307 W Main Phone: 918-476-4445

### Hours:

Mon - Fri - 10AM to 5PM  
Closed Saturday & Sunday

## DELAWARE COUNTY LIBRARY

429 S. 9th St. Jay, Oklahoma (918) 253-8521

Web: [www.eodls.lib.ok.us/jay.html](http://www.eodls.lib.ok.us/jay.html)

### Hours:

Mon., Wed., & Fri. 9:00am to 6:00pm  
Tues. & Thurs 9:00am to 8:00pm  
Sat. 9:00am to 1:00pm  
Closed Sundays and Holidays

## GROVE PUBLIC LIBRARY

1140 NEO Loop (918) 786-2945

Toll free in the 918 area code: 1-888-291-8150

Fax: (918) 786-5233

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Mon., Wed., & Fri.: 8:30am-5:00pm  
Tues. & Thurs.: 8:30am-9:00pm  
Sat. 8:00am-12:00pm  
Closed Sunday

## LANGLEY PUBLIC LIBRARY

325 W Osage Ave. (918) 782-4461

### Hours:

Mon.-. 1:00pm to 7:00pm  
Tue.-Fri. 9:00am to 12:00pm  
And 1:00pm to 5:00pm  
Closed Sat. & Sun.

## MIAMI PUBLIC LIBRARY

200 N. Main (918) 541-2292

### Hours:

Sun. 1:00pm  
Mon., Wed., Thurs., 9:00am to 8:00pm  
Tues., Fri., Sat., 9:00am to 5:00pm

## NOWATA CITY-COUNTY LIBRARY

224 S. Pine (918)273-3363 Fax: (918)273-1818

Hours: Mon-Fri 10<sup>am</sup> -5:30<sup>pm</sup>; Sat-Sun Closed

## PRYOR PUBLIC LIBRARY

505 E. Graham, Pryor 918-825-0777

### Hours:

Monday & Thursday: 1:00 PM-9:00 PM  
Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday:9:00 AM-5:00 PM  
Saturday:9:00 AM-12:00 PM (Noon)

## SALINA PUBLIC LIBRARY

420 E. Ferry St. (918) 434-8001

Hours: Tue. 12pm-7pm, Wed. 12pm-5pm,  
Thurs. & Fri. 10am-5pm  
Closed Saturday, Sunday & Monday

## TALALA AREA PUBLIC LIBRARY

106 W Watova St. (918) 275-4540

### Hours:

Monday - Friday 2pm to 5pm  
Monday and Thursday evening 6pm to 9pm  
Saturday 11am to 2pm

## VINITA PUBLIC LIBRARY

215 W. Illinois (918) 256-2115

### Hours:

Mon., Tues., Wed., & Fri. 11:00am to 6:00pm  
Thurs. 11:00am to 7:00pm  
Sat. 11:00am to 3:00pm  
Closed Sunday

## WILL ROGERS LIBRARY

1515 N. Florence, Claremore OK (918) 341-1564

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# CryptoQuote Puzzles Solution

**Title:** When Angry **From:** Thomas Jefferson

**When angry, count ten, before you speak, if very angry count to one hundred**

**Title:** Associate Yourself **From:** George Washington

**Associate yourself with men of good Quality if esteem your own reputation, for tis better to be alone than in bad company.**

**Title:** American Dream **From:** Richard Nixon

**The American Dream does not come to those who fall asleep**

**By Steven Burdick**

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# Word Search Puzzle Solution

## New Year's 12-20

A 20x20 grid of letters with various words highlighted in black boxes. The words are:

- Across:
  - 1: F E S T I V I T I E S
  - 2: A Z N A G A V A R T X E
  - 3: C A L E N D A R
  - 4: D E C O R A T I O N S
  - 5: T E L L B O G
  - 6: S N R O H
  - 7: B A L L O O N S
  - 8: F R L V
  - 9: G Z S A M H L
  - 10: I T T E N G A P
  - 11: E N G A P M A
  - 12: Y R I F
  - 13: Y R A N C I N G
  - 14: L L A O C
  - 15: L L A P M A C
  - 16: J A N U A R Y
  - 17: C L O C K
- Down:
  - 1: L O E U Y C J N U
  - 2: D F M I Z P P S R G I
  - 3: N D M C A L E N D A R
  - 4: D E C O R A T I O N S
  - 5: B G I Q G T E L L B O G
  - 6: W S B A L L O O N S
  - 7: E B K S N R O H
  - 8: Y E W A N Y E U V Q
  - 9: M E W A N Y E U V Q
  - 10: R Y W A N Y E U V Q
  - 11: H M J W O W U W
  - 12: Q L L A P B T A F
  - 13: H L L A P B T A F
  - 14: U N G T B O A T
  - 15: N H L S H C R I M E
  - 16: N G T B O A T
  - 17: H L L A P B T A F
  - 18: U N G T B O A T
  - 19: N H L S H C R I M E
  - 20: Q L L A P B T A F

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**Sudoku Puzzle Easy Solution**

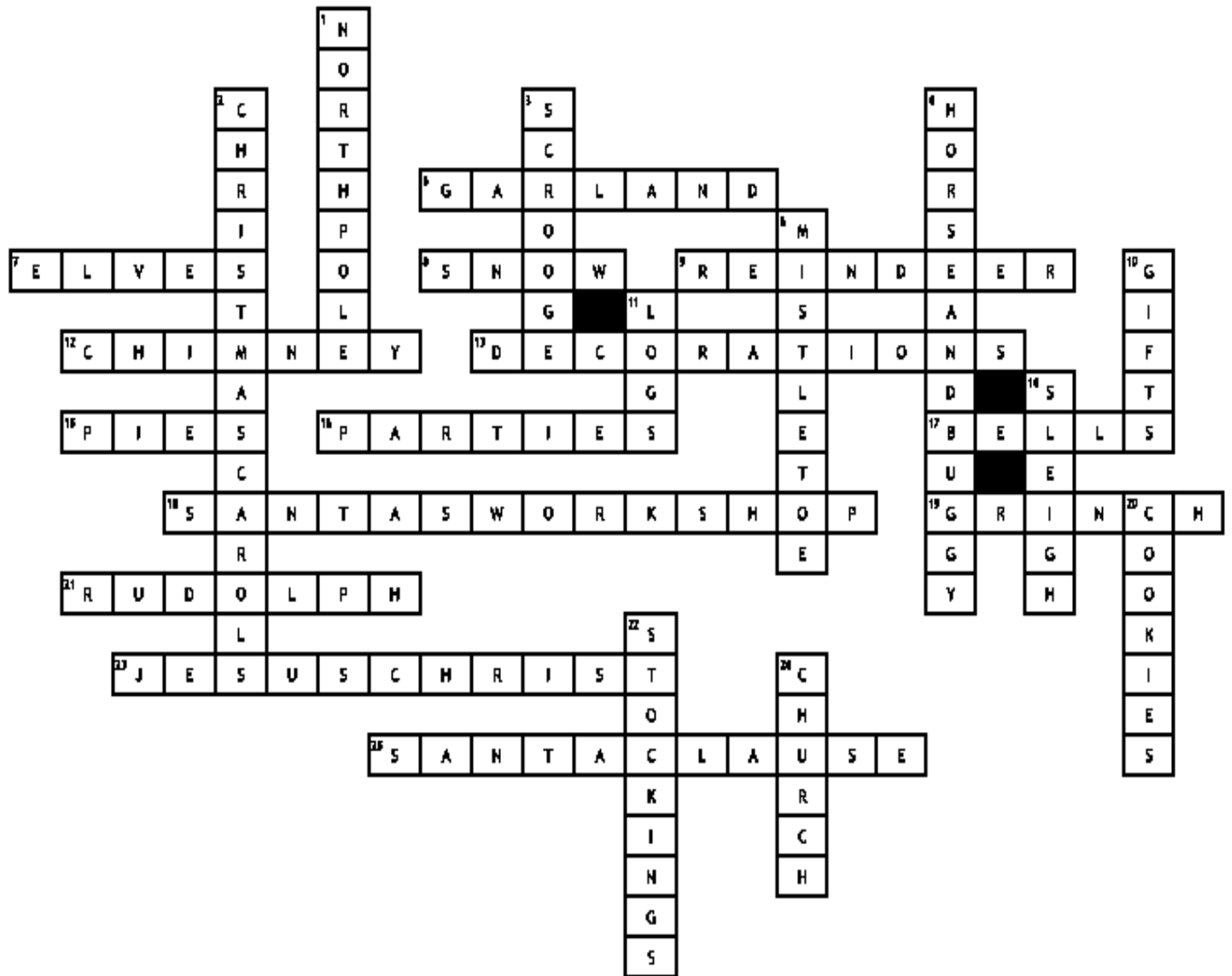
5	1	9	4	2	8	3	7	6
6	7	8	9	1	3	5	4	2
4	3	2	6	5	7	8	9	1
1	8	5	3	9	2	7	6	4
3	9	4	8	7	6	2	1	5
7	2	6	1	4	5	9	8	3
9	5	3	7	6	4	1	2	8
2	6	1	5	8	9	4	3	7
8	4	7	2	3	1	6	5	9

**Sudoku Puzzle Moderate Solution**

6	8	7	2	1	5	4	9	3
1	3	5	4	9	8	7	6	2
4	9	2	3	6	7	8	5	1
2	5	4	1	3	9	6	8	7
8	6	3	7	2	4	9	1	5
9	7	1	5	8	6	3	2	4
7	4	9	8	5	1	2	3	6
5	2	6	9	4	3	1	7	8
3	1	8	6	7	2	5	4	9

# Crossword Puzzle Solution

## Christmas Traditions 12-20-20



### Across

- 5. Across the Tree
- 7. Santa's helpers
- 8. Flakes of white stuff
- 9. Pulling Sleigh
- 12. Opening on the roof
- 13. Trimming Christmas Tree
- 15. Baking
- 16. Celebrations
- 17. Ringing
- 18. Making Toys
- 19. Whoville
- 21. Famous Reindeer
- 23. Savior of the World
- 25. Man in Red and white suit

### Down

- 1. where does Santa live?
- 2. Singing
- 3. Don't like Christmas
- 4. Riding in
- 6. Kissing
- 10. packages
- 11. Building a fire
- 14. Travel
- 20. Desserts
- 22. Over the fireplace
- 24. Christmas Mas

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Chelsea Library  
Chelsea Post Office  
Chelsea Sr. Citizens  
Community Links  
Dollar General  
Harp's Grocery  
Jiffy Mart  
Lakeside State Bank  
Little Green Shop  
Main Street Diner

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Chouteau Public Library &  
Senior Citizens Center  
Dutch Pantry  
Marvin's Grocery  
Pizza Corral  
Creekside General Store

**Claremore**

Bill's Sporting Goods  
Brook Field Nursing Home  
Casey's  
Claremore DHS  
Claremore Nursing Home  
Claremore Senior Citizen's  
Claremore Veteran's Center  
Classy Cuts and Wigs  
Kum N Go (W Will Rogers)  
Kum N Go E Hwy 20  
Midco Clothes & More  
Stillwater Milling  
Emerald Care Center

**Commerce**

Eastwood Manor  
Lil' Cafe

**Fairland**

Fairland Sr. Citizen's

**Grove**

Eagles Landing  
Drakes  
Grand Prosthetics & Artificial  
Limbs  
Grandwood  
Mr. M's Convenience Store  
Grove Sr. Citizens  
Harps Grocery  
Tom Cat Corner

**Jay**

Sinclair Station  
Delaware County Library  
Jay Senior Citizen's

**Ketchum**

Buddy's Foods  
Woodshed

**Langley**

4 State Insurance  
Langley Drug  
Reasor's Grocery Store  
Langley Western Store

**Miami**

Marvin's Grocery  
Windridge  
Wal-Mart Supercenter  
Mt. Olive Lutheran Church  
Tint'N More  
Larry's Barber Shop

**Nowata**

D&L's  
Homeland  
Nowata Depot Café  
Nowata Senior Citizens Cen-  
ter  
Ranch Supply  
Reid's Discount Pharmacy

**Oologah**

Pump - N - Petes #15  
Tacora Mart (Conoco)

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Mayes Co. Nutritional Center  
Wilkerson Real Estate  
Pryor Library  
Shady Rest Nursing Home  
Paulie's Donuts  
The Book Exchange

**Spavinaw**

T-General Store

**Vinita**

Burrough Manor  
Carter's IGA  
Grand Lake Mental Health  
Heartsworth House  
Midco Clothes & More  
Sam's Tire  
Veterans Clinic  
Vinita Sr. Center  
Vinita DHS  
Vinita Post Office  
Wood Shed  
Young's Tire

**Welch**

Welch State Bank

**Winganon**

Winganon Bait Shop

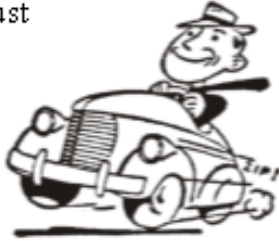
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