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Community Links

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"The Little Green Paper"

December 20, 2021

10 Easy Ways Your Family Can Spread Christmas Cheer



Here are some simple ways your family can make a difference this Holiday season.

Volunteer for the Salvation Army

Kids are used to seeing the Salvation Army red kettles and people ringing bells at stores. Talk to them about how that money is used to help others and encourage them to set aside some of their money to donate. If possible, you may want to take a shift yourself and have your child help you collect donations.

Adopt a Family

We do this every Christmas and the kids love it. Beyond purchased items, I also ask the kids to donate items from their closet and toy chest (I select a family with girls the same age). The kids deliver the gifts with me and they are almost happier showing the kids their gifts than they are unwrapping their own. There are countless organizations that can help you adopt a family but also consider going to your place of worship and school as another option to find a family in need.

Make Christmas Treats and Visit House-Bound Neighbors

Do you have any neighbors, family members or friends who can't get around well? Bake some holiday treats for them and invite your children to help you deliver the goodies. Spend the afternoon or evening with them playing cards or games or just simply visiting with one another. Also see if they need help with anything that your kids can do for them.

Buy Presents to Donate to Toys for Tots

Not every child will receive a Christmas present this year, which is heartbreaking. My kids have so much, while I don't want them to feel guilty about it, I do want them to recognize and share their good fortune with those less fortunate. Whether it's family money, their own money or both, purchase some toys together to donate.

Send a Letter to a Solider

Our soldiers do so much to keep us safe, which typically means extended stays away from their loved ones. Write them a letter thanking them for their sacrifice and to let them know their service is appreciated. A Million Thanks is a great organization to send your letter to a soldier overseas or to grant the wish of an injured veteran.

Donate a Bedtime Story

One of my fondest memories is reading a bedtime story to the kids. Sadly, not every family has access to books. First Book gives children in need new books to keep and cherish. The simple act of reading a story together is such a powerful, bonding act that I want every child and parent to experience. This is one way to help make that happen.

Collect Food for Your Local Food Shelf

Food Shelves often have greater demand than product and Christmas is an especially busy time for them. Call your local Food Shelf and see what items are most needed. Consider hosting or arranging a food drive at your place of worship, workplace or neighborhood to help replenish their shelves in time for the holidays.

Support a Local Fundraiser

Do some online research and see which local charities or organizations are hosting fundraisers during December. Select one that means something to your family and support it — as a participant, volunteer or donating goods and/or cash.

Sing Christmas Carols at a Nursing Home

Get a group of your children's friends together and take them Christmas caroling at your local nursing home. Kids love to sing and the residents will appreciate the good cheer and chance to visit with children.

Shop with Purpose

Make a point to patronize stores that donate a portion of their profits to charities as another way to help those in need. It's a win-win to help people less fortunate while supporting businesses that helping your local community and beyond.

Making Sharing a Part of Your Christmas Traditions

These are just a few easy ways to incorporate sharing into your Christmas. They don't take much effort but they can make a world of difference to the recipient. Plus, it teaches your kids that Christmas is more than just receiving the latest and greatest toy, but also about sharing blessings with others and how good that can feel.

DATA MASTER: Nikki Hamilton

To share your story with us contact: Ashley Schwarz at 918-290-8224 or 918-789-2862 or email her at links@links.community-options.net

10 MUST SEE CHRISTMAS LIGHT DISPLAYS IN OKLAHOMA

Christmas is just around the corner and one of the best ways to get into the Christmas Spirit is to take your family or friends out to see some magical Christmas light displays! Below are what we believe to be the top 10 Christmas Light Displays in Oklahoma. Of course, there are many more around the state, but this list gives you a great start

1: Rhema Christmas Lights - Broken Arrow

The Rhema Christmas Lights in Broken Arrow have been an annual tradition since 1982. Each year the number of Christmas lights in their display grows and this year they have over 2 MILLION lights! Drive, walk or take a carriage through this amazing display. You will want to check out the ever so popular "Christmas Tree Forest" that features a 22-foot tree, including a five-foot star, surrounded by smaller, beautifully lit metal trees. Oh, and don't forget to take a photo at the vibrant Rhema Park bridge that is centered in this amazing lights display! Address: Rhema Bible Church: 1025 W Kenosha St., Broken Arrow, OK 74012.



2: Christmas in the Park - Yukon, OK

Get ready to enter a magical winter wonderland when you drive through Yukons Christmas in the Park! With over 4 million twinkling lights and over 425 one-of-a-kind lighted displays, you will feel like you have stepped into the North Pole. You can take your time driving through these lights or you can take a walk through their 2.2 miles of walking trails. Rides on the Santa Express Train are offered every night weather permitting. Tickets are available at the train depot located inside Chisholm Trail Park, 500 W Vandament. Children under three ride for FREE! The train loops through Chisholm Trail Park at 500 W Vandament. Address: Yukon City Park, 2200 S. Holly, Yukon, OK



3: Winter Wonderland Christmas Light Tour - Ketchum, OK

Go for a drive through the cutest Christmas Light Tour at Pine Lodge! With over 400,000 lights, you will see all kinds of unique and fun light displays. Get into the Christmas spirit along the shores of Grand Lake as you drive through the twinkling grounds of Pine Lodge Resort in Ketchum. Admission is free and visitors can drive through the grounds as many times as they like. You can also take a look inside their warm and cozy lodge! Address: Pine Lodge Resort is located 2 1/2 miles East of Ketchum, Oklahoma off Highway 85. Next to Arrowhead South Marina on Duck Creek.



4: Woolaroc Wonderland of Lights - Bartlesville, OK

This holiday tradition has grown to over 750,000 lights at a large wildlife reserve and cowboy-themed museum. In addition to the lights, we have wagon rides, live entertainment, Santa Claus in the Museum, hot cider/hot chocolate and cookies for sale in the Lodge; and, if you are lucky, you may catch a glimpse of the Holiday Horseman, covered in lights, riding across the grounds. For more information, call Woolaroc at 918-336-0307, extension 10 or 11.



5: Downtown in December - OKC, OK

Take boat ride or stroll down the Bricktown Canal to see the beautiful light display over the water! There are plenty of places to dine, shop, and stop in for a drink! This place is booming during the holiday season so you do not want to miss out! The lights display is free, and on certain weekends the water taxi is free too! Address: Bricktown OKC



6: Holiday Lights Spectacular - Midwest City, OK

When this holiday light display began in 1995, it was just a family tradition with 44 light displays. It has now grown to over 100 animated light displays and over 1 million lights in a 1.5 mile span! Check out the 118 foot Christmas tree illuminated with over 9,000 LED bulbs, the impressive tunnel of lights, Santa fly fishing in a 15 foot waterfall, elves baking in the candy factory and so much more! Address: 200 N Midwest Boulevard Midwest City, OK 73110.



7: Ardmore Festival of Lights - Ardmore, OK

This exciting festival of lights has 125 exciting displays. The lights cover a 1.5 mile drive in the Park and thrill over 80,000 locals and visitors each year during the holiday season. This is one of the largest light displays in southern Oklahoma so you don't want to miss out! Address: Ardmore Regional Park2704 N. Rockford Road Ardmore, OK 73401.



8: Kingfisher Winter Nights - Kingfisher, OK

Your holidays aren't complete unless you take a journey through Kingfisher Winter Nights, one of Western Oklahoma's most beloved Yuletide attractions. Located in Kingfisher City Park, Kingfisher Winter Nights features lights on more than 200 lit trees and over 60 animated displays, a completely light-covered bridge, Christmas train, Santa, music, food trucks, ice skating rink and more! This winter wonderland will bring out the child in kids of all ages. Kingfisher City Park Highway 33 at South 1st Avenue Kingfisher, OK 73750.



9: Chickasha Festival of Light - Chickasha, OK

In 1992, what started out as a small group of local citizens with a dream to spark community spirit, became Festival of Light, Inc., a nationally recognized Christmas light display dedicated to long-term initiatives that enhance and improve quality each year. They also will have food trucks, carriage rides through the park, laser tag, camel rides, and live nativity scene. Address: Shannon Springs Park 2400 S 9th St Chickasha, OK 73018.



10: Crystal Christmas - Woodward, OK

Crystal Beach Park lights up the night with over two million Christmas lights and displays during Crystal Christmas in Woodward. The opening night celebration includes fireworks, singing, concessions and a countdown ceremony. Bring the family to Crystal Christmas on Thursdays or Fridays for the park's family nights, where family-oriented activities include lighted train rides, live nativity scene, and much more! Address: Crystal Beach Park, 2901 Williams Avenue Woodward, OK 73801



DATA MASTER: Becca Thornton



How They Forecast a Cold Winter

One day in early September the chief of a Native American tribe was asked by his tribal elders if the winter of 2011/12 was going to be cold or mild. The chief asked his medicine man, but he too had lost touch with the reading signs from the natural world around the Great Lakes. In truth, neither of them had idea about how to predict the coming winter. However, the chief decided to take a modern approach, and the chief rang the National Weather Service in Gaylord Michigan. 'Yes, it is going to be a cold winter,' the meteorological officer told the chief. Consequently, he went back to his tribe and told the men to collect plenty of firewood. A fortnight later the chief called the Weather Service and asked for an update. 'Are you still forecasting a cold winter?' he asked. 'Yes, very cold', the weather officer told him. As a result of this brief conversation the chief went back to the tribe and told his people to collect every bit of wood they could find. A month later the chief called the National Weather Service once more and asked about the coming winter. 'Yes,' he was told, 'it is going to be one of the coldest winters ever.' 'How can you

be so sure?' the chief asked. The weatherman replied: 'Because the Native Americans of the Great Lakes are collecting wood like crazy.

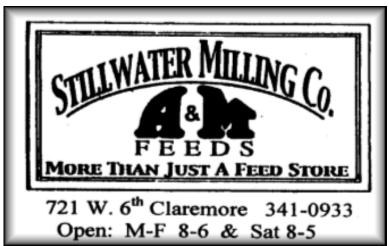


Amusing Christmas Turkey Story

Sarah new young bride calls her mother in tears. She sobs, 'Richard doesn't appreciate what I do for him.' 'Now, now,' her mother comforted, 'I am sure it was all just a misunderstanding.' 'No, mother, you don't understand. I bought a frozen turkey roll and he yelled and screamed at me about the price.' 'Well, the nerve of that lousy cheapskate,' says her mum. 'Those turkey rolls are only a few dollars.' 'No, mother it wasn't the price of the turkey. It was the aeroplane ticket.' "Aeroplane ticket...." What did you need an airplane ticket for?' 'Well mother, when I went to fix it, I

looked at the directions on the package and it said: "Prepare from a frozen state," so I flew to Alaska.'







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A List of Santa's Reindeer Names and Their Personalities



There are Santa's reindeer, and then there are Santa's reindeer. What are they like? Are they mischievous? Are they funny?

Dasher: The Speed Demon

Who hasn't heard of Dasher? He's one of the fastest reindeer in Santa's herd. He's always ready to dash out the door. For that reason, he excels at track and field during the off-season. After his yearly tenure at the North Pole, he might find himself at a high school track and field meet, trying to run the 800-yard dash. You can bet he's usually the first to finish. "Dasher" originally came from a German name, Dascher, meaning "purse-maker." Whoa! He can sew! One has to wonder if he is the Father of the Modern Hand Bag.



Dancer: The Salsa Phenom

Dancer is a reindeer with a unique personality. He's completely extroverted. When he's not helping Santa, he's having dance parties. His favorite genre is Latin music due to the strong rhythm. He would be happy to dance with Enrique Iglesias. Since dancing is his passion, he knows the tango, salsa, merengue, and even has ventured into contra- and square-dancing. Do -si-do-ing can be a little difficult, but he likes it. Plus, you'll never find him without a bell around his neck, as he never hesitates to indulge in pomp and circumstance.



Prancer: The Fairest of Them All

Prancer loves the other reindeer and would do anything for them. But he also loves to carry a mirror to gaze at himself on the sleigh every now and then. He has to look his best all the time because he never knows quite who he's going to meet. Mrs. Claus made him a special reindeer-harness that is red and green with extra attachments for his mirror, comb, and brush. He often is found in the elves' factory prancing around gracefully with all the other reindeer, elves, and helpers cheering him on.



Vixen: The Most Enchanting Reindeer

Vixen is the comedic reindeer known for lots of magic tricks. The other reindeer often get slightly annoyed with his ability to make things disappear and reappear. He's great at tricking the other reindeer out of their candy canes. He also has a weakness for yummy Santashaped chocolates. Santa loves Vixen's tricks because they really come in handy on Christmas Eve. That bag of toys is quite large, and that chimney is quite small . . .



Comet: An All-Around Wonderful Reindeer

Comet is out of this world—as his name implies. He's quite handsome and is always smiling. He's easy-going and loves to play ball with all the young fawns. All the children of the world seem to look up to him. Santa, of course, loves this about Comet. In the days before Christmas, Santa will head out with Comet to check his list and see how children all around the world are doing. When they see Comet, they flock to pet him because he's quite adorable and so laid-back. He just loves the attention the children shower upon him. Plus, he inspires little children to be on their best behavior.



Cupid: Loves Sharing Love

Cupid is an affectionate reindeer. She has Christmas reins decorated with red and green little heart-shaped bells. Her motto is "Spread the Love." She often carries mistletoe sprigs and mysteriously places them all around peoples' entryways at Christmastime. That way, people don't forget to hug and kiss during the season. She's always singing, too. The other reindeer roll their eyes when she begins singing "Joy to the World" for the thousandth time. She also makes appearances on Valentine's Day, showering people with red hearts.



Donner: Always a Party

Donner's name comes from "thunder" in German. This is for good reason. He's always noticed when entering a room because he's got a deep, booming baritone voice. He loves to sing those low notes. His joyous renditions of "Santa Baby" makes all the reindeerettes swoon. "Santa Claus is Comin' to Town" and "Here Comes Santa Claus" always receive high marks and rowdy applause from his fellow reindeer. He loves hanging out with Blitzen, too. Together, they can really belt out some dynamic duets.



Blitzen: Fast as Lightning

Blitzen's name comes from the German word for "lightning." He's fast, playful, and flies like a bolt when it comes to helping Santa deliver his Christmas goodies. When Santa yells, "Faster!", Blitzen has the ability to infuse an electric charge into the other reindeer to make them zap through the sky, fast as lightning. He's also best reindeer-buds with Donner, and they often hum duets to themselves while flying high in the skies.



Rudolph: Santa's Guiding Light

Rudolph is Santa's famous ninth reindeer. He joined the herd a few years after the original eight. At first, he was terribly self-conscious. He suffered from low self-esteem because he had an odd red nose. It wasn't until Santa recognized his rosy bulb as a beacon of light that he was ushered into his role as leader of the herd. Because his nose glowed, he was able to lead Santa safely around the world, on the snowiest of nights . . . and the other reindeer agreed that Rudolph just had to stay with the herd. Now, when Rudolph isn't helping on the sleigh ride, he loves to play hide-and-seek with the other reindeer. He has an advantage, though. He can light up dark places effortlessly and find the other reindeer every time.



Olive: Not Just Another Reindeer

Olive is the tenth reindeer to join Santa's herd. She had a precarious start. You may recall the line from Rudolph's song, " . . . all of the other reindeer used to laugh and call him names . . . "Many people heard, "Olive, the other reindeer . . . "Well, it's true. Olive is the other reindeer. She did, in fact, laugh at Rudolph with his big red nose, but it was only because she thought Rudolph was an amazing asset to Santa's team, and she really wanted to be a part of it. So, she started out by mocking Rudolph, but then later realized that wasn't becoming for a reindeer. Besides, everyone knows that when you tease your friends, it's because you really like them. She shyly apologized to Rudolph, and they have been best friends ever since. She loves to play hide-and-seek and is especially good at finding the Abominable Snowman.



DATA MASTER: Steven Burdick

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Out & About with LINKS















Photo Catches the Moment a Squirrel Strikes 'Mr Universe' Pose on Their Windowsill



This funny picture shows a squirrel pulling a 'Mr Universe' pose on a windowsill.

65-year-old David Roberts snapped the tough-looking rodent in his garden in Glasgow.

Retired David said of his lucky moment with the critter, "It was on the window ledge running about and looking in." Basically, it was just acting like any other normal squirrel that makes its home in the gardens and parks around the Scottish city.

Then David looked again. He noticed the squirrel had stopped moving for a moment. In fact, it appeared to be cracking a pose.

Luckily, David had his camera ready to go—and got the perfect shot.

"I was pretty chuffed with it," David say. "I am always taking photos of birds at the feeders and try to get good shots with them in flight."



We're just happy serendipity lined up to let us see these photos for ourselves.

DATA MASTER: Karen Deffenbaugh

Funny Christmas Jokes & One-Liners

- 1) **Angels**: Bert, aged 25. 'My wife's an angel'. Don, aged 57. 'Your lucky, mine is still alive'.
- 2) **Christmas Kiss**: Romeo-What would it take to make you kiss me under the mistletoe? Juliette-An anaesthetic.
- 3) **Christmas Drink**: A woman walks into a bar and ask for a entendre...... So the barman gives her one.
- 4) Christmas Pudding Charms: Silver Christmas charms bring you good fortune. Packaging Notice: Potential choking hazard: do not use with food.
- 5) **How was your Christmas meal?** We had grandma for Christmas dinner. Really? We had turkey.
- 6) **Reindeer Joke**: What did the reindeer say before launching into his comedy routine? This will sleigh you!



Christmas Riddles

How many ears has Captain Kirk got? Three: the left ear, the right ear, and the final front ear.

What do lions sing at Christmas? Jungle Bells!!!!!

When is a boat like a pile of snow? When it's adrift.

How do snowmen get around? On their icicles.

What does Santa call reindeer that don't work? Dinner

What do you call the fear of getting stuck in a chimney? Santaclaustrophobia!

DATA MASTER: Steven Burdick

12

Why Do We Celebrate New Year?: Importance of New Year Celebration



New Year eve is considered as an important day by one and all and the main reason being tagged with the word 'new'. We always give special attention and importance to new things in life. The same formula applies here as well. The new things that take place in the New Year have a great impact on us. Though many of us not have this question in mind, few do have this question of 'Why Do We Celebrate New Year'. Even we have the same question and that is the reason why we are here today to discuss it with you. Let us get going.

Why Do We Celebrate New Year

Just one single strike of the clock will change the year to a whole new one. Though it can be considered as a usual tick, it is not because it not just changes the date and month, but also the year we have lived for 365 days. It is considered pretty important by many as it signifies the beginning. New Year is not just about celebrations and resolutions; it is more than what meets the eye. It symbolizes motivation for many new beginnings.

Another new 365-day journey begins with the New Year eve being the first day. Though we live the same life with just a set of new resolutions made to break later, we tend to believe that it is a new start. If you ask us why new year is celebrated, then our answer is that, the meaning behind celebrating New Year is not just about welcoming a brand new year successfully and making easily breakable resolutions or promises, there is a hidden meaning to it.

There is a great need for all of us to uncover the hidden truth behind the New Year celebration and live accordingly. The main purpose of making resolutions is larger than life as it aims at living healthy and longer and to be a better person, which is the best thing one can ever do in life. As the future cannot be predicted, the resolutions can make us resolute to make it predictable with the deeds we do at the very present. Though we knew that uncertain days are on the calendar for us, we commit to promises to make them certain, at least we try.

In reality, why we celebrate new year is a question for many. A study by British psychologist Richard Wiseman found that "Nothing changes on New Years Day." Also, new year resolutions are never new. They are the same old resolutions that are coming from ages like lose weight, stay fit, eat less, treat people better, make lots of friends, save money etc. At the end of the day, whatever we do is for our own survival. So, remember that and aim your resolutions accordingly.

Importance of New Year Celebration

The Importance of New Year Celebration is that, New Year celebrations hold a greater significance. Not just in this modern era, but from decades and decades back it holds its significances tight. Whatever tradition or culture we follow on the New Year day, let that be fireworks, dining, rituals, resolutions etc, the only intention is that the gained good through that will help them have a prosperous year ahead. The only big belief here is that the things we do and the emotions we go through on the New Year will have a great impact on the days to follow in the year. So, the first day of the year is always celebrated with much pomp by everyone.

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The Employee Of The Month



If you would like to join, "Rachel Dewitt" 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.

Rachel Dewitt was born on a July 15th in Claremore. She is an Evening Charge Nurse. This September she will celebrate her 20th Anniversary with this Facility. In August she will start RN School. She has been married for 30 years and has 2 fur babies. Her hobbies are reading, crossstitch, candle making, soap making and is now learning to knit. We all know how much she loves Christmas but did not know she has to have her M&Ms separated by color before she can eat them. Says she loves the residents the most and how much love that they show the staff.

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

Maya Angelou

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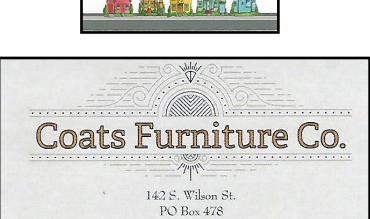
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NEWSRELEASE October 4, 2021

CONTACT PERSON: Lahona Young

Ombudsman Supervisor

October Residents Rights Month

Across the country, residents of nursing homes and other long-term care facilities along with family members, Ombudsman program representatives, citizen advocates, facility staff, and others will honor the individual rights of long-term care residents by celebrating Residents' Rights Month. Residents' Rights Month is an annual event held in October by the National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care to celebrate and focus on awareness of dignity, respect, and the value of long-term care residents.

The theme for Residents' Rights Month 2021, "Reclaiming My Rights, My Home, My Life," acknowledges the impact of this past year on residents, and highlights the need for residents' rights to be recognized, recovered, and reasserted. It emphasizes the recognition of the long-term care facility as the residents' home, and the importance of residents reclaiming their own lives.

The Nursing Home Reform Law, passed in 1987, guarantees nursing home residents their individual rights, including but not limited: individualized care, respect, dignity, the right to visitation, the right to privacy, the right to complain, and the right to make independent choices.

The Grand Gateway Area Agency on Aging Ombudsman Program Supervisors continue to advocate for residents who live in nursing homes, assisted living and residential care to maintain their rights as U.S. Citizens. Residents' Rights Month raises awareness about these rights and pays tribute to the unique contributions of long-term residents.

To learn more about Residents' Rights or to voice a concern speak to an area long-term care Ombudsman contact: Lahona Young ext. 220 or Shelly Ferris, 226 at 1-800-482-4594 you can also send an e-mail lyoung@grandgateway.org, sferris@grandgateway.org.

For those residents who want to transition back out in the community there is possibly a resource available for them called Living Choice. If you want further information about this program you can call 888-287-24443 or e-mail: Oklahoma.livingchoice@okhca.org or contact your Ombudsman.

Funding for this is provided in part by state and Older Americans Act funds from Grand Gateway AAA and DHS Aging Services. Grand Gateway AAA serves all individuals who are eligible for its programs without regard to race, national origin, ancestry, color, religion, sex, age or disability.

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 #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 Cindy (918) 676-3228.

Every 3rd Saturday of the month, 10am—12pm, Big Cabin Baptist Church Clothes Closet. Contact Marie McKee for any questions at: 918-323-2664 or Gary Coppedge 918-244-5632.

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 12, 2021 - Jan 3, 2022 BA Ice Rink - The BA Ice Rink returns for its sixth season at the Rose District in downtown Broken Arrow. Join in for another great winter of outdoor ice skating on 4,100 square feet of real ice. In addition to ice skating, grab some warm drinks from Rise Grind & Ride Espresso Cafe. Hours: Monday—Thursday 3:00 pm - 9:00 pm, Friday: 3:00

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.

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

Hardship level: Moderate

					Model			
4			2					
3		6				7		
8				9	3	6	2	
		2	8				4	
	9		4	2	5		6	
	3				9	8		
	8	1	3	4				5
		3				2		1
					2			6
I /								

By Nikki Hamilton

Solutions on page 36

pm - 10:00 pm, Saturday: 12:00 pm - 10:00 pm, Sunday: 12:00 pm - 9:00 pm Extended Hours: Dec 19 - Jan 3: Open daily from 12-10 pm. Special Hours: Nov 21 - 26: 12-10pm, Christmas Eve: 12-5pm, Christmas: 12-10pm New Year's Eve: 12-10pm & New Year's Day: 12-10pm. 418 S Main St, Broken Arrow, OK 74012.

Nov 19, 2021 - Jan 3, 2022 Winterfest - Downtown Tulsa is transformed into a festive wonderland during Winterfest, an annual holiday tradition. Bring friends and family together for holiday festivities and share the joyful spirit of the season. Experience the thrill of outdoor ice skating, see Oklahoma's tallest outdoor Christmas tree, take a ride in a horse-drawn carriage, listen to live entertainment and browse beautiful holiday light displays. Downtown, Tulsa, OK 74103. Phone: 918-894-4520.

Nov 20, 2021 - Dec 30, 2021 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 that Fantasy Land of Lights is open. Johnstone Park, Bartlesville, OK 74003. Phone: 918-914-1530.

Nov 24, 2021 - Jan 2, 2022 Rhema Christmas Lights - Join thousands of annual visitors at the Rhema Christmas Lights and witness over two million shimmering lights synchronized to Christmas music. This muchloved lights display in Broken Arrow began in 1982 and has been attracting visitors ever since. Hours: Wednesday, November 24: 6-11:30pm. Thursday, November 25 -Sunday, November 2: 5:30-11:30pm. Rhema Bible Church, 1025 W Kenosha St. Broken Arrow, OK 74012. Phone: 918-258-1588.

Nov 25, 2021 - Jan 1, 2022 Garden of Lights - Experience animated displays and over 1.2 million shimmering lights at Muskogee's annual Garden of Lights. Drive through Honor Heights Park and view 130 acres of trees, bushes and water areas decorated for the holiday season. Rose and azalea bushes will be illuminated with color, imitating their natural state during the blooming of spring. Hours: Monday—Thursday & Sunday 5:30 pm - 10:00 pm, Friday & Saturday: 5:30 pm - 11:00 pm, Honor Heights Park. 1400 Honor Heights Dr. Muskogee, OK 74401. Phone: 918-684-6302.

Nov 25, 2021 - Dec 30, 2021 Twin Bridges Park of Lights - Dress warmly for the brisk winter chill and bring the family out for a drive through this annual Christmas lights display, set up in beautiful Twin Bridges State Park near Fairland. Park of Lights features a dazzling collection of over 40 brightly lit holiday displays in Grand Lake State Park. Hours: 6-9pm nightly. Twin Bridges Park, 14801 S Hwy 137, Fairland, OK 74343. Phone: 918-542-6969.

Nov 25, 2021 - Jan 1, 2022 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 500,000 lights Winter Wonderland Christmas Light Tour. Step into a festive world of illuminated log cabins, antique cars and woodland animals all aglow. Hours 5-10pm nightly. Pine Lodge Resort, Ketchum, OK 74349. Phone: 918-782-1400.

Nov 26, 2021 - Jan 2, 2022 Garden of Lights - Visit a magical garden aglow with festive lights during the Garden of Lights at Tulsa Botanic Garden. 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. Hours: November 26-December 12: Open Thursday-Sunday from 5-9pm. December 16-January 2: Open nightly from 5-9pm. Closed on Dec 24 and 25. Tulsa Botanic Garden, 3900 Tulsa Botanic Dr. Tulsa, OK 74127. Phone: 918-289-0330.

Dec 3, 2021 - Jan 2, 2022 Christmas in the Ville - Bring the whole family to Bartlesville for the Christmas in the Ville celebration. Guests can bundle up and ice skate at the Historic Train Depot and take advantage of photo backdrops like the 12-foot lighted ornament, a 28-foot Christmas tree and a sleigh. Santa and Mrs. Claus will even be available every Saturday from 1-3pm for visits while sitting in the big red sleigh. 201 Keeler Ave. Bartlesville, OK 74006. Phone: 918-336-8708.

Dec 3, 2021 - Jan 13, 2022 Snowflake Winter Festival - Lace up your ice skates and head to Snowflake Winter Festival Ice Skating in downtown Tahlequah. The Snowflake Ice Rink is a professional-sized ice rink offering everything you need to experience all the joys of gliding and sliding on the ice. Hours: Friday-Sunday 2:00 pm - 9:00 pm, Downtown Tahlequah, Tahlequah, OK 74464. Phone: 918-822-1098.

Dec 3, 2021 - Jan 2, 2022 Glow on the Green - See Tulsa's Guthrie Green light up for the holiday season during Glow on the Green. This festive event features thousands of lights and holiday festivities for all ages. On December 3, kick off the season during Lights On, hosted by News on 6 Chief Meteorologist Travis Meyer. The evening also includes live entertainment, free photos with Santa and a holiday market featuring more than 30 local vendors. The Glow on the Green holiday lights will be on every night through January 2. Guthrie Green, 111 E Reconciliation Way. Tulsa, OK 74103. Phone: 918-574-2421.

Dec 10, 2021 - Dec 23, 2021 Creepy Christmas Light Tour - Haunted history and Christmas lights combine at Tulsa Spirit Tours' Creepy Christmas Light Tour. Learn 18all about the disturbing legends, traditions, folklore and traditions surrounding Christmas across the world. Hours: All 2021 tours start at 6:30pm. Woodward Park, 2435 S Peoria Dr. Tulsa, OK 74114. Phone: 918-694-7488.

Dec 31, 2021 Race Into the New Year - Start 2021 off on the right foot during the Race Into the New Year event at Tulsa's River West Festival Park. This is a fun, safe and family-oriented way to ring in the new decade. Participants can choose from a one-mile fun run or a more challenging 5K. Hours: Fun Run starts at 11pm. 5K starts at 11:45pm. River West Festival Park, 2100 S Jackson Ave. Tulsa, OK 74107. Phone: 918-749-7557.

Dec 31, 2021 New Year's Eve Ball Drop on the Square - Head to Pawnee for the Courthouse Square Ball Drop this December 31. Bring out your family and friends to start the New Year with a huge party complete with live music and fireworks. Sip on steamy hot chocolate around the bonfire, or eat some black-eyed peas for luck. Courthouse Square 500 Harrison, Pawnee, OK 74058. Phone: 918-762 -2108.

Jan 1, 2022 First Day Hike at Osage Hills State Park - Join the Osage Hills State Park staff at midnight on January 1 for an easy 1-mile hike on the Creek Loop Trail. A second hike at 10am along the same trail is also offered. Bring your leashed pets (leashes no longer than 10 feet), a camera, binoculars, water and appropriate dress for cold weather. Hours: Starts at 12am and 1pm. 2131 Osage Hills State Park Rd. Pawhuska, OK 74056. Phone: 918-336-5635.

Jan 4, 2022 - Jan 9, 2022 Celebrity Attractions presents: Mean Girls - Direct from Broadway, "Mean Girls" is the hilarious hit musical from Tina Fey ("30 Rock"), composer Jeff Richmond ("Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt"), lyricist Nell Benjamin ("Legally Blonde") and director Casey Nicholaw ("The Book of Mormon"). The story of a naïve newbie who falls prey to a trio of lionized frenemies, "Mean Girls" is full of inside jokes from the film. Hours January 4, 5, 6: 7:30pm, January 7: 8pm, January 8: 2pm & 8pm, January 9: 1pm & 6:30pm. Tulsa Performing Arts Center, 110 E 2nd St. Tulsa, OK 74103. Phone: 918-596-7111.

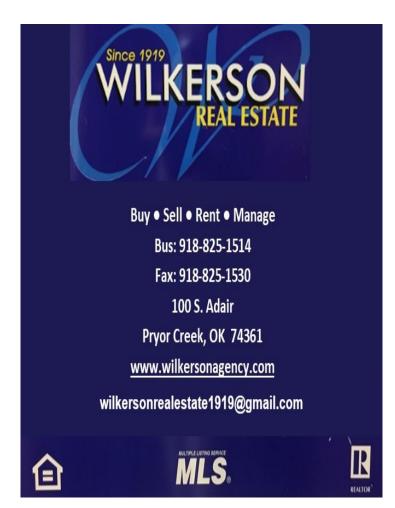
Do You have an event that you would like to share?

Community Links of Chelsea
1100 Walnut/PO Box 85

Chelsea, OK. 74016
Ph: 918-789-2862

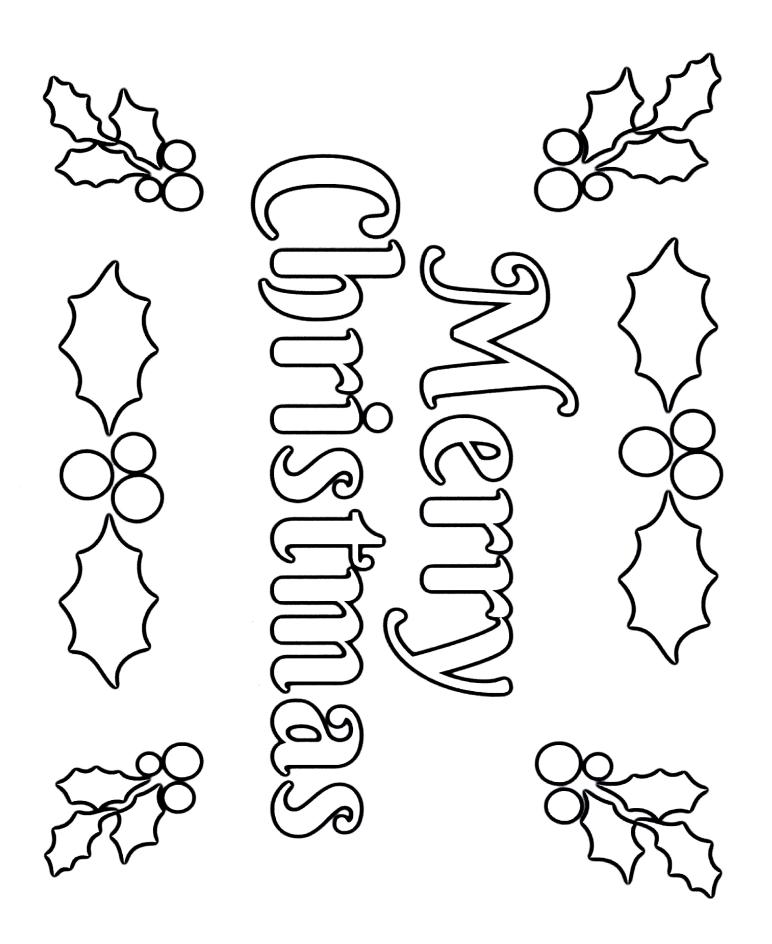
Fax: 918-789-5296 Email: links@links.community-options.net

DATA MASTER: Nikki Hamilton



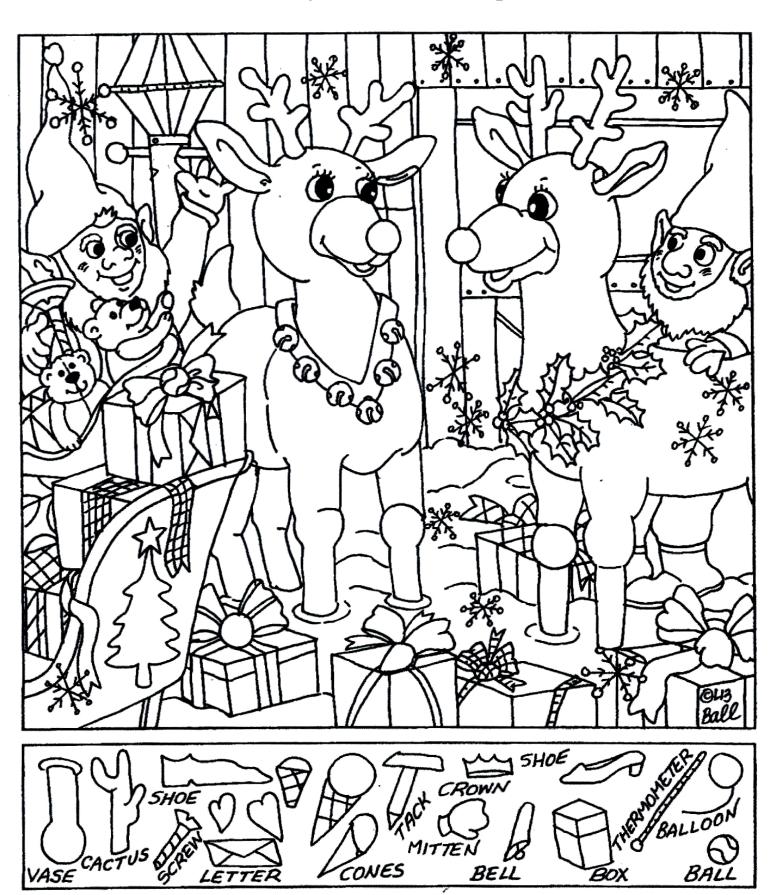






Hidden Object

Find the objects below, in the picture.





Getting to know the Lutherans

With Us . . . Forever

Now that Christmas is over – the lights, decorations and artificial trees have been returned to storage; gifts have been opened, returned or exchanged; the last of the Christmas "goodies" and leftovers have been consumed — our homes, and maybe even our lives, seem to be rather empty.

Perhaps we make the resolution to never go to that much trouble again. The holiday season has been so busy and hectic that we are going to need several weeks to rest and to recover. Then maybe life can get back to some regular routine again.

Is there anything that lasts—anything so that we don't have to have this feeling of "emptiness" anymore? The "Good News" of Christmas is that life is not the same anymore, because life is filled with some ONE.

Another aspect of the "perfect gift" from God is that not only is Jesus our "Savior . . . who is Christ the Lord." He is also called "Immanuel (Emmanuel) . . . God with us."

We have unending strength and comfort when we believe that we have been forgiven of all our sins. We have courage and joy in knowing that the love of God will never leave us throughout the coming year nor forsake us throughout our entire lifetime because "God is with us."

Messiah Lutheran Church 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 St. Paul Lutheran Church 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

Bethlehem Lutheran Church 6911 West 380 Road, Adair, OK 74330 Worship 9:00 a.m. 918-785-2994 Sunday School and Bible Class 10:15 a.m.

Immanuel Lutheran Church
706 Rockwood Drive, Grove, OK.
Worship 9:30 a.m.https://lutheransonline.com/lo/
Groveok 918-786-4585
Website: www.lutheransonline.com/lo/Groveok

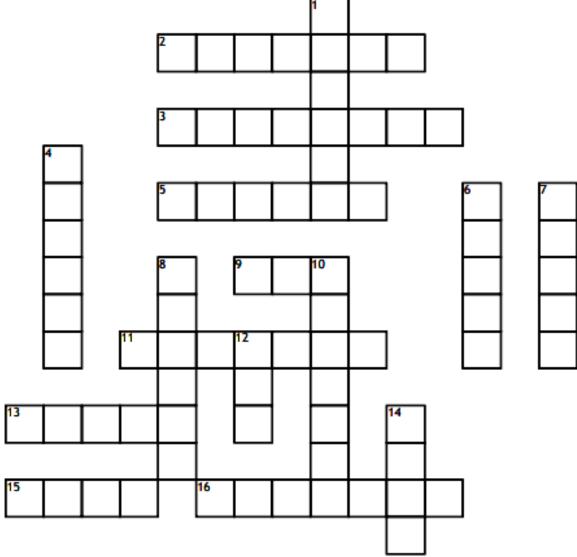
Mt. Olive Lutheran Church 2337 North Main, Miami, OK 74354 Worship 2:00 p.m. (918) 542-4681 Sunday School and Bible Class 3:00 p.m. Email: mtolive@cableone.net Redeemer Lutheran Church 220 N. Seminole, Claremore, OK. Sunday School and Bible Class 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. 918-341-1429 Email: rluther@sbcglobal.net—Website www.rlccok.org

St. John Lutheran Church
607 South East 9th st.
Pryor, OK 74361
Sunday School and Bible Class 9:00 am
Worship 10:30 am
(918) 825-1926
Email: stjohnpryor@yahoo.com

Guests are always welcome. See you Sunday at worship.

Crossword Puzzle

Animals



Across

- Lives in the cold and waddles
- 3. animal they call Sea Cow
- animal that has eight-legs
- 9. Man's Best Friend
- 11. Animal that has one horn
- This animal likes to eat carrots and sugar cubes
- 15. King of the jungle
- 16. animal with spots

Down

- Slow moving and has a shell
- 4. Has big ears and likes to hop
- **6.** This animal is grey with one big horn

- 7. Striped animal that looks like a horse
- 8. This animal loves bananas
- 10. This animal has a very long neck
- 12. Some say this animal has nine lives
- 14. You can find them with the sheep and it has horns

Word Search Puzzle

Community Helpers

Z U G G 5 5 0 F E Y Х Q Y J N A R A R В L Z В G U Ε U E P Z J 5 В Z Z P Z Y м E 5 R K 0 0 T w A X Z C A Ν G Q D Н X R G C Q D 0 х 5 5 E 5 U R 0 Q Υ В L A D 0 R Ε U м Κ C Q P A R A М Ε D C κ P T Ε 5 O C A w О D N F E U R E н E T 0 T T Z D E T R R 0 Т Q R В C G K C Y L C E G Z S 0 R Y X Y Н Н A N Ε D E Ν Ε В В 5 C В В T C E Х 5 A G C U E D 0 P C В М G 0 A X R Н D Н Н Н 0 Κ A G S ς R О Z В Y U U Н U Н U G В C G F O X E 5 S K C E C D М Z G L Z w C W 5 F D Z м Q Z X М X S C G М Ν L Н Z Ε E R E R N R R G Z D E N 5 T C R R м 0 U E F E E S D M Ν Н 5 N T М A Z J S K A A В A Κ E R Κ w R X D \mathbf{Q} Z G 5 C S R В E T T Υ R М R Z C G G Ν Н Q R В

Veterinarian
School Bus Driver
Paramedic
Librarian
Firefighter
Construction Worker
Baker

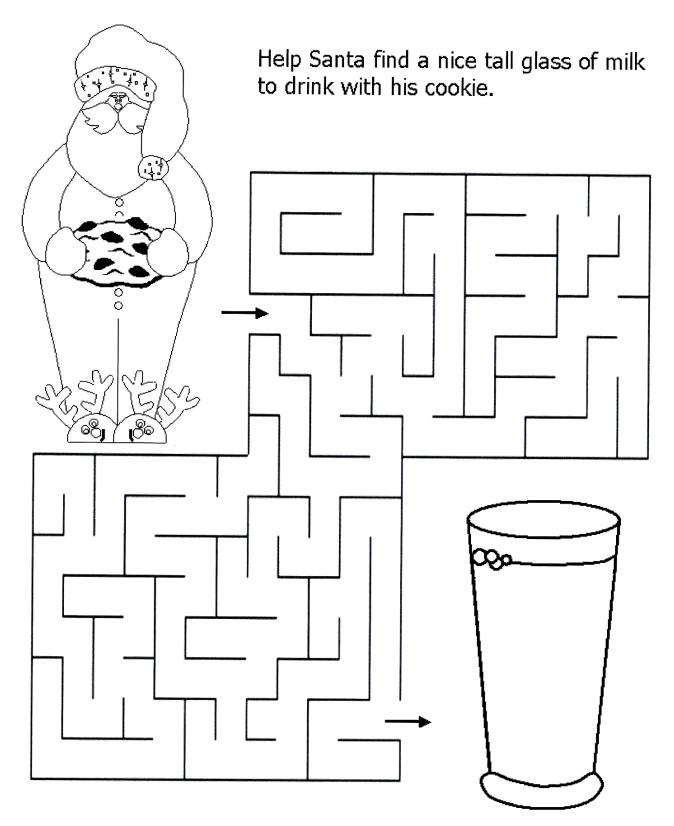
Teacher
Sanitation Worker
Nurse
Mail Carrier
Farmer
Dentist

PILOT
Police Officer
Military Career
Lawyer
Engineer
Crossing Guard

Scientist Pilot Mechanic Judge Doctor Chef

Maze Puzzle

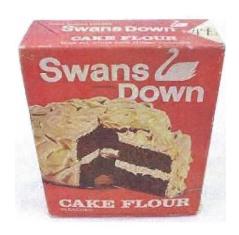
Christmas Maze



Remember When...







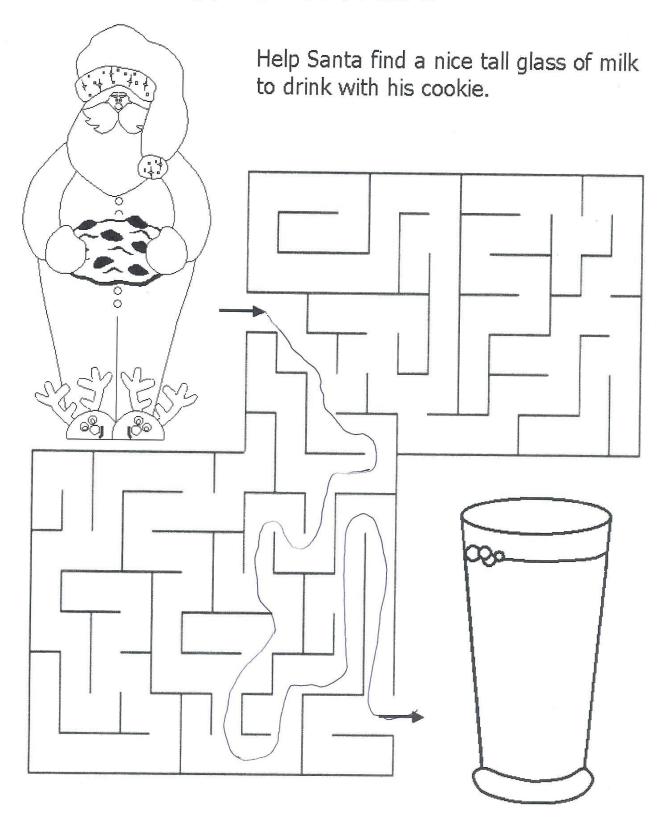






Maze Puzzle Solution

Christmas Maze



Candied Yams



This is a simple and quick way to enjoy a Thanksgiving favorite! Canned yams or sweet potatoes may be used.

Prep Time: 15 minutes Cook Time: 25 minutes Total Time: 40 minutes Yield: 6 servings

Ingredients

1 (29 ounce) can sweet potatoes 1/4 cup butter, cut into pieces 1/2 cup brown sugar 1 1/2 cups miniature marshmallows

Directions

Step 1

Preheat oven to 400 degrees F (200 degrees C).

Step 2

Drain sweet potatoes and place in a medium baking dish. Distribute butter pieces evenly over the sweet potatoes. Sprinkle with brown sugar. Layer with miniature marshmallows.

Step 3

Bake in the preheated oven 25 minutes, or until sweet potatoes are tender and marshmallows have melted.

DATA MASTER: Becca Thornton

We can mail current or past issues to you. The cost of shipping and handling is \$2.00 per issue. If you would like to receive every issue without delay you may pay \$24.00 shipping and handling cost for 6 months or \$48.00 shipping and handling cost for full year.



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Here Are 13 Creative Ways to Wrap Your Presents Without Wrapping Paper

A big part of the holiday season is gift giving and, of course, gift wrapping. Typically, using wrapping paper is the classic way to get this tedious job done, but it doesn't have to be! There is a whole wide world of gift wrapping options, some that are extremely creative and out-of-the-box. (Literally.) Here are 13 brilliant ways to up your gift wrapping game and blow away your friends and family.

Paper Gift Bag

For those hard-to-wrap gifts, regular wrapping paper isn't going to cut it. You can make these bags out of any paper, including tissue paper, which means that you have a wide variety of colors to chose from! We especially love the accents of the little wings on the sides.



Wrap Homemade Cookies

Made your famous thumbprint cookies but don't know how to send them out? A quick and classy trick is to empty out an aluminum foil container, paint it a festive colors, and fill it with parchment paper. Line up your cookies inside for a great way to preserve and present your baked goodies.



Map Wrapping

Don't get lost in your wrapping, use a map for a creative alternative to wrapping paper! Personalize the gift even further by creating a customized map online.



Magazine Bow

Bows are a classic touch for a gift, but we don't always have them lying around the house. Something we almost always DO have around is old magazines. Cut out the text of a magazine page and make your very own DIY bow for a chic gift topper.



Use Doilies as Gift Tags

Gift tags are not a requirement but definitely a suggestion for a classy gift. If you don't have any gift tags on hand, doilies are a great replacement for a name tag. They look very elegant when written on and definitely pull any gift together.



Old T-Shirt Material

If you have an old t-shirt with a cool pattern (we love plaid for holiday gifts) use this for your gift wrapping instead. All you have to do is measure and cut the material to the right size!



Cereal Gift Box

If you need to wrap something but you're really scraping the bottom of the barrel, empty cereal boxes actually work very well! Turn them inside out, dismantle them, and use this as a gift box! The blank slate is perfect for writing or drawing on!



Uninflated Balloon Ribbon

A really creative alternative for ribbons is a bundle of uninflated balloons! This is perfect for a kids gift or just for some with an extra quirky sensibility.



Potato Painting

How did they pull off those awesome dots? You might be surprised; using a halved potato dipped in paint, you can make a very trendy design on plain butcher's paper.



Measuring Tape Wrapping

Old measuring tapes are actually easy to pull apart! Once you remove the measuring portion inside, wrap this around your plain present for a cool touch. This is a especially great for the handy person in your life!



Cupcake Toppers

Bakers will love this gift topper! Take a few colored cupcake liners and stack them on top of one another for an alternative type of bow.



Word Search Wrapping Paper

This wrapping paper is actually made online as a general word search, which is very fun for any friend or family member to receive! But you can customize this gift further and make a personalized crossword puzzle for your gift recipient.



Gift Wrap with a Gift

This trick really only works with one particular kind of gift; a scarf. If you're gifting a fun patterned scarf, wrap your present inside and tie the top in a knot or bow. This is a really good use of your gift and a great way to save wrapping paper.



DATA MASTER: Becca Thornton

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





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 Sunday: Closed

CHELSEA PUBLIC LIBRARY

618 Pine (918) 789-3364

Hours:

Tuesday: 10am to 7pm

Wednesday, Thursday & Friday: 10am to 4pm

Saturday: 9am to 12pm Sunday & Monday: Closed

CHOUTEAU PUBLIC LIBRARY

307 W Main Phone: 918-476-4445

Hours:

Monday thru Friday: 10am to 5pm Saturday & Sunday: Closed

DELAWARE COUNTY LIBRARY

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

Web: www.eodls.lib.ok.us/jay.html

Hours

Monday, Wednesday, & Friday: 9am to 6pm

Tuesday & Thursday 9am to 8pm

Saturday: 9am to 1pm Sunday: Closed Holidays: Closed

GROVE PUBLIC LIBRARY

1140 NEO Loop (918) 786-2945

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

Fax: (918) 786-5233

Hours:

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Tuesday & Thursday: 8:30am to 9pm

Saturday: 8am to 12pm Sunday: Closed

LANGLEY PUBLIC LIBRARY

325 W Osage Ave. (918) 782-4461

Hours:

Monday: 1pm to 7pm

Tuesday thru Friday: 9am to 12pm and 1pm to 5pm

Saturday & Sunday: Closed

Library News

MIAMI PUBLIC LIBRARY

200 N. Main (918) 541-2292

Hours:

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday: 9am to 8pm

Tuesday, Friday: 9am to 5pm Saturday: 9am to 1pm Sunday: Closed

NOWATA CITY-COUNTY LIBRARY

224 S. Pine (918)273-3363 Fax: (918)273-1818 **Hours:** Monday thru Friday: 10am to 5:30pm

Saturday & Sunday: Closed

PRYOR PUBLIC LIBRARY

505 E. Graham, Pryor 918-825-0777

Hours:

Monday & Thursday: 1pm to 9pm

Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday:9am—5pm

Saturday: 9am to 12pm

Sunday: Closed

SALINA PUBLIC LIBRARY

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

Hours: Tuesday: 12pm to 7pm Wednesday: 12pm to 5pm Thursday & Friday: 10am to 5pm Saturday, Sunday & Monday: Closed

TALALA AREA PUBLIC LIBRARY

106 W Watova St. (918) 275-4540

Hours:

Monday thru Friday: 2pm to 5pm Monday & Thursday: 6pm to 9pm

Saturday: 11am to 2pm

Sunday: Closed

VINITA PUBLIC LIBRARY

215 W. Illinois (918) 256-2115

Hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, & Friday: 11am to 6pm

Thursday: 11am to 7pm Saturday: 11am to 3pm

Sunday: Closed

WILL ROGERS LIBRARY

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

Hours:

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Sunday: Closed

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> Ph: (918) 789-2862 Fax (918) 789-5296

Email:

links@links.community-options.net https://links.community-options.net

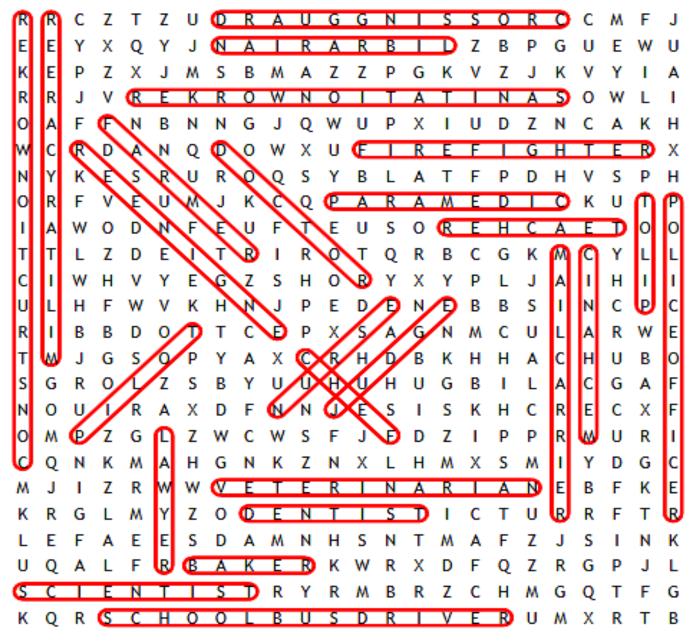
Printing: Business Cards, Letterheads – Flat or raised print available. Brochures, Business Forms, and Personalized greeting cards.

Advertising: Links Newsletter, Bi-Monthly distributed by persons with developmental disabilities, Connecting Communities at an affordable rate.

Office Supplies: Self Inking Stamps, Paper products, Toner Cartridges, Printer Cartridges. If we don't have it in stock we will order for you. Most orders complete in 3 days

Vinyl Creations: Customized Hats, T-Shirts, Hoodies, Sweats and more. Stake Signs, Metal Signs, Banners, License Plate, Stickers.

Word Search Puzzle Solution Community Helpers



Veterinarian Teacher PILOT Scientist School Bus Driver Sanitation Worker Police Officer Pilot Military Career Paramedic Nurse Mechanic Librarian Judge Mail Carrier Lawyer Firefighter Engineer Farmer Doctor Construction Worker Dentist Crossing Guard Chef Baker

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Sudoku Puzzle Easy Solution

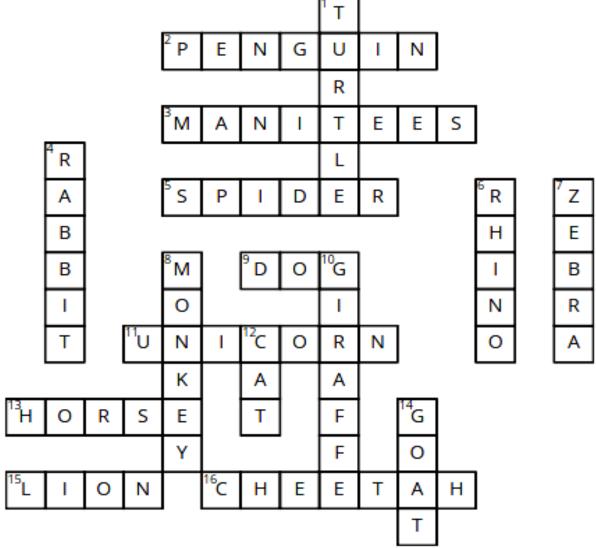
3	2	1	4	6	7	5	8	9
6	7	9	2	8	5	3	1	4
5	8	4	9	3	1	2	7	6
8	3	6	7	5	2	4	9	1
2	9	7	8	1	4	6	5	3
1	4	5	6	9	3	8	2	7
7	5	2	3	4	9	1	6	8
4	1	8	5	7	6	9	3	2
9	6	3	1	2	8	7	4	5

Sudoku Puzzle Moderate Solution

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

Crossword Puzzle Solution

Animals



Across

- Lives in the cold and waddles
- animal they call Sea Cow
- animal that has eight-legs
- Man's Best Friend
 Animal that has one horn
- This animal likes to eat carrots and sugar cubes
- 15. King of the jungle
- 16. animal with spots

Down

- Slow moving and has a shell
- Has big ears and likes to hop
- This animal is grey with one big horn

- Striped animal that looks like a horse
- This animal loves bananas
- 10. This animal has a very long neck
- 12. Some say this animal has nine lives
- You can find them with the sheep and it has horns

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To share your story with us contact: Ashley Schwarz at 918-290-8224 or 918-789-2862 or email her at links@links.community-options.net



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LINKS

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