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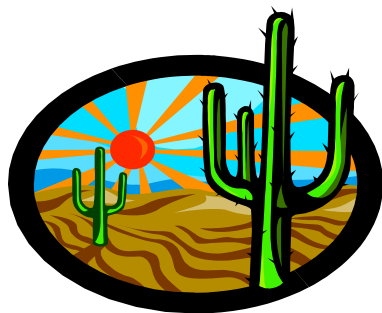
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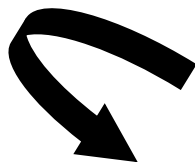
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A vibrant, cartoon-style illustration of Santa Claus. He is depicted from the waist up, wearing his traditional red suit with white fur trim and a large white beard. He has a joyful expression with rosy cheeks and a wide smile. He is carrying a large green sack over his shoulder, which is overflowing with gifts. A teddy bear is peeking out from the top of the sack, and a young girl with blonde hair, wearing a blue hat and a red dress, is peeking out from the side. The background is plain white, making the colorful characters stand out.

Information interesting, entertaining and useful.....

In Roman times, it became the celebrations honoring Saturnus (the harvest god) and Mithras (the ancient god of light), a form of sun worship that had come to Rome from Syria a century before with the cult of Sol Invictus. It announced that winter is not forever, that life continues, and an invitation to stay in good spirit.

**The early Christians-To avoid persecu-
tion during the Roman pagan festival, early
Christians decked their homes with Saturnalia**





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holly. As Christian numbers increased and their customs prevailed, the celebrations took on a Christian observance. But the early church actually did not celebrate the birth of Christ in December until Telesphorus, who was the second Bishop of Rome from 125 to 136AD, declared that Church services should be held during this time to celebrate "The Nativity of our Lord and Savior." However, since no-one was quite sure in which month Christ was born, Nativity was often held in September, which was during the Jewish Feast of Trumpets (modern-day Rosh Hashanah). In fact, for more than 300 years, people observed the birth of Jesus on various dates.

In the year 274AD, solstice fell on 25th December. Roman Emperor Aurelian proclaimed the date as "Natalis Solis Invicti," the festival of the birth of the invincible sun. In 320 AD, Pope Julius I specified the 25th of December as the official date of the birth of Jesus Christ.

Christmas official, but not generally observed In 325AD, Constantine the Great, the first Christian Roman emperor, introduced

Christmas as an immovable feast on 25 December. He also introduced Sunday as a holy day in a new 7-day week, and introduced movable feasts (Easter). In 354AD, Bishop Liberius of Rome officially ordered his members to celebrate the birth of Jesus on 25 December.

However, even though Constantine officiated 25 December as the birthday of Christ, Christians, recognizing the date as a pagan festival, did not share in the emperor's good meaning. Christmas failed to gain universal recognition among Christians until quite recently. In England, Oliver Cromwell banned Christmas festivities between 1649 and 1660 through the so-called Blue Laws, believing that Christmas should be a solemn day.

When many Protestants escaped persecution by fleeing to the colonies all over the world, interest in joyous Christmas celebrations was rekindled there. Still, Christmas was not even a legal holiday until the 1800s. And, keep in mind, there was no Fa-

(Continued from page 4)

ther Christmas (Santa Claus) figure at that time.

The popularity of Christmas was spurred on in 1820 by Washington Irving's book *The Keeping of Christmas at Bracebridge Hall*. In 1834, Britain's Queen Victoria brought her German husband, Prince Albert, into Windsor Castle, introducing the tradition of the Christmas tree and carols that were held in Europe to the British Empire. A week before Christmas in 1834, Charles Dickens published *A Christmas Carol* (in which he wrote that Scrooge required Cratchit to work, and that the US Congress met on Christmas Day). It was so popular that neither the churches nor the governments could not ignore the importance of Christmas celebrations. In 1836, Alabama became the first state in the US to declare Christmas a legal holiday. In 1837, T.H. Hervey's *The Book of Christmas* also became a best seller. In 1860, American illustrator Thomas Nast borrowed from the European stories about Saint Nicholas, the patron saint of children, to create Father Christmas (Santa Claus). In 1907, Oklahoma became the last US state to declare Christmas a legal holiday. Year by year, countries all over the world started to recognize Christmas as the day for celebrating the birth of Jesus.

Today, many of the pagan uses are reflected in Christmas. Jesus was born in March, yet his birth is celebrated on 25 December, the time of solstice. The Christmas celebrations end the 12th day of Christmas (6 January), the same amount of days that the return of the sun was celebrated by ancient and Roman pagans. It thus is no surprise that Christian puritans - or even conservative Christians - often are upset that Christmas "is not as religious as it was meant to be," forgetting that Christmas was not celebrated at all until fairly recently.

The 25th of December is celebrated as the birth date of Jesus Christ. The Bible does not mention Christmas, and early Christians did not observe the birthday of Christ. Christ-

(Continued on page 6)

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mas as we know it became widely popular only in the 19th Century.

Christmas starts on 25 December and ends 12 days later on 6 January with the Feast of Epiphany also called "The Adoration of the Magi" or "The Manifestation of God."

The concept of "Peace and Joy" over the Christmas season originates from the pagan believe in the magical powers of mistletoe. Enemies meeting under a mistletoe had to call truce until the following day.

In Finland and Sweden an old tradition prevails, where the twelve days of Christmas are declared to be time of civil peace by law. It used to be that a person committing crimes during this time would be liable to more stiff sentence than normal.

During the Middle Ages, many churches were built in honor of Saint Nicholas, the patron saint of children. Wearing his red and white bishop's robes, he would ride on a donkey to deliver gifts to children. In 1860, illustrator Thomas Nast introduced Santa Claus in the fashion we now know him.

The figure of Father Christmas (Santa Claus) is based on the patron saint of children, Saint Nicholas (270-310AD), who became one of the youngest bishops ever at age 17. At age 30 he became the Bishop of Myra, a port town on the Mediterranean Sea, that is part of modern-day Turkey. He hailed from a rich home and became well known for supporting the needy. He would often be seen, clad in red and white bishop's robes and riding on a donkey, handing out gifts to children.

During the Middle Ages, many churches were built in honor of Saint Nicholas. In the 11th century, his remains were enshrined in a church in the Italian city of Bari. It is told that

the first Crusaders visited Bari and carried stories about Nicholas to their homelands. The anniversary of his death, 6 December, became a day to exchange gifts.

During the Protestant Reformation of the 16th century, Martin Luther tried to stop the venerating of saints and the feast of Saint



(Continued on page 7)

Nicholas was abolished in some European countries. The gift giver took on other names: in Germany, he became Der Weihnachtsmann ("Christmas Man"), Pre Nol in France, Father Christmas in Britain and the colonies, and many other names.

The Dutch, under Peter Stuyvesant, founded New York - named New Amsterdam under the Dutch and renamed when the British took over the colony - and brought with them the celebrations of Sinterklaas, the Dutch name for Saint Nicholas. Santa Claus is the American pronunciation of Sinter Klaas.

As early as 1773 "St. A. Claus" was mentioned in the American press. In 1809, Washington Irving (the author of "Tales from Sleepy Hollow") wrote about Sinterklaas in his "A History of New York." Irving described Sinterklaas as a rotund little man in a typical Dutch costume, with knee breeches and a broad-brimmed hat, who traveled on horseback on the Eve of Saint Nicholas. In 1822, Clement Clark Moore, a poet and professor of theology, published the poem "A Visit From St. Nicholas" (also known as "The Night Before Christmas"). Moore's Santa is a jolly old elf who flies around in a miniature sleigh with eight tiny reindeer. Moore even named the reindeer by the names we know them today, and the method by which Santa returns up the chimney.

Thomas Nast, the illustrator and caricaturist who created the donkey and elephant images to depict the US Democratic and Republican parties, contributed his own vision of Santa for Harper's Weekly magazine from 1860 until the late 1880s. Nast depicted Santa in a red, fur-trimmed suit and a wide leather belt. Each year he added more details to his version of the Santa legend, including the home-workshop at the North Pole and the Naughty & Nice list.

In 1885, Nast sketched two children looking at a map of the world and tracing Santa's journey from the North Pole to the United States. The following year, the American writer, George P. Webster, took up this idea, explaining that Santa's toy factory and

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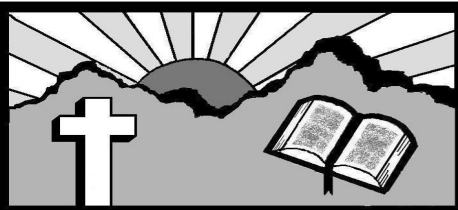
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Birthdays & Anniversaries **Dec 15-Dec 21**

BIRTHDAYS

ANNIVERSARY'S

AUTUMN CLINE	12/15
BEVERLY AZBILL	12/15
PETE RANDALL	12/15
SAMANTHA MASTERSON	
	12/16
SUZANE MASTERSON	12/16
TAYLOR JONES	12/16
DAVID RICHARDS	12/17
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KEITH KOVAR	12/18
MARK TAYLOR	12/19
JEAN ROBINSON	12/20
JOE LOGES	12/20
ANTHONY LATTANZI	12/21
CATHY JO HILL	12/21
JEFF NOTTINGHAM	12/21
KYLE CONWAY	12/21

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"his house, during the long summer months, was hidden in the ice and snow of the North Pole."

In 1931 Haddon Sundblom presented Santa as a plump human rather than an elf, with a jovial face and big beard in a Coca-Cola advertisement. (Coca-Cola was a client of Sundblom's advertising agency from 1924 to until his death in 1976.) Today, it is Sundblom's Santa that slips down chimneys around the world.

Santa's address discovered-In 1925, it was discovered that there are no reindeer at the North Pole. There are, however, lots of reindeer in Lapland, Finland. In 1927, the great secret of Santa's address was revealed by Markus Rautio ("Uncle Markus") who compered the popular "Children's hour" on Finnish public radio. He declared that Father Christmas lives on Lapland's Korvatunturi Mountain.

Korvatunturi - literally "Mount Ear" is in the Savukoski county, Lapland, Finland, on the Finnish-Russian border. At 500 m (1,640 ft) high, it actually is only a big hill. But its three summits points to the answer the children of the world had been asking for years: "Yes, there really is a Father Christmas (Santa Claus)." And his official Post Office is in the town of Napapiiri, near Rovaniemi, near the Korvatunturi mountain. The mountain itself is out of bounds to people.

There are more than 2,700 languages in the world, with more than 7,000 dialects. Santa speaks all of them fluently! In addition, he speaks a secret elf language.

The Reindeer-At one stage it was thought that Father Christmas (Santa Claus) lives in the North Pole. In 1925 it was discovered that there are no reindeer in the North Pole. But there are lots in Lapland, Finland. So today we know that the reindeer live around the secret village of Father Christmas and the elves somewhere on the Korvatunturi mountain in the Savukoski county of Lapland, Finland, which is on the Finnish-Russian border.

Long ago, Father Christmas and the elves discovered the special formula of

Magical Reindeer Dust which make them fly. This dust is sprinkled on each of the reindeer shortly before they leave on Christmas eve. It gives them enough magic to fly right around the world. They can fly very fast: at about the speed of a Christmas light.

Rudolph is the most famous reindeer. He is the leader of the other 8, whose names are **Blitzen, Comet, Cupid, Dancer, Dasher, Donder, Prancer, and Vixen.**

The names of the 8 reindeer were published by **Clement Clark Moore**, an American poet and professor of theology, in his 1822 poem "A Visit From St. Nicholas." Rudolph was first written about only in 1939 by **Robert May**, who included him in a story for the **Montgomery Ward Christmas catalogue.** (Of course, the elves knew their names long, long before Moore and May did.)

On Christmas eve the reindeer are sprinkled with the magic dust that gives them enough magic to fly right around the world. They can fly at the speed of a Christmas light.

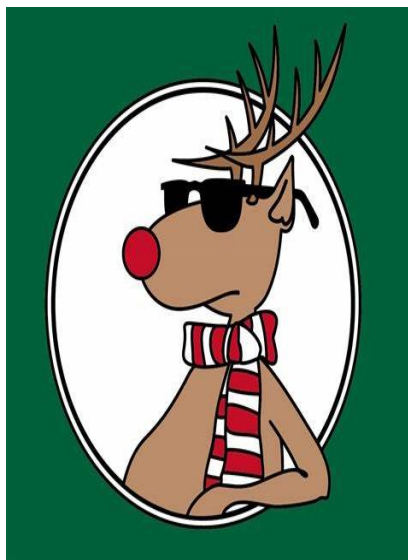
The reindeer are cared for by **Wunorse Openslae.** He also designed Father Christmas's sleigh and maintains it for top performance.

***Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer
Had a very shiny nose,
And if you ever saw him,
You would even say it glows.***

***All of the other reindeer
Used to laugh and call him names,
They never let poor Rudolph***

Join in any reindeer games.

***Then one foggy Christmas eve Santa came to say:
"Rudolph with your nose so bright,
Won't you guide my sleigh tonight?"***



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***Then all the reindeer loved him
As they shouted out with glee,
Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer,
You'll go down in history!***

Christmas In IRAQ

On Christmas Eve, Iraqi Christian families gather together and one of the children read about the birth of Jesus while other family members hold lighted candles. Afterward the reading, a bonfire of thorn bushes is let and everyone sings. If the thorns burn to ashes, good luck will be granted for the coming year. When the fire dies, each person jumps over the ashes three times and makes a wish.

On Christmas Day another bonfire is lit in the churchyard. The bishop, carrying a figure of the Baby Jesus leads the service. Afterwards he blesses one person with a touch. That person touches the person next to him or her and the touch is passed around until all present have felt the "touch of peace."



Christmas In ITALY

The popularity of the Nativity scene, one of the most beloved and enduring symbols of the holiday season, originated in Italy. St. Francis of Assisi asked a man named Giovanni Vellita of the village of Greccio to create a manger scene. St. Francis performed mass in front of this early Nativity scene, which inspired awe and devotion in all who saw it. The creation of the figures or pastori became an entire genre of folk art.

In Rome, cannon are fired from Castel St. Angelo of Christmas Eve to announce the beginning of the holiday season. A 24-hour fast ends with an elaborate Christmas feast.



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The main exchange of gifts takes place on January 6, the feast of the Epiphany, the celebration in remembrance of the Magi's visit to the Christ Child. Children anxiously await a visit from La Befana who brings gifts for the good and punishment for the bad. According to legend, the three wise men stopped during their journey and asked an old woman for food and shelter. She refused them and they continued on their way. Within a few hours the woman had a change of heart but the Magi were long gone. La Befana, which means Epiphany, still wonders the earth searching for the Christ Child. She is depicted in various ways: as a fairy queen, a crone, or a witch.

Christmas In MEXICO

Several weeks before Christmas, elaborately decorated market stalls or puestos are set up in the plazas of every town and city. Some people travel for days from remote



areas to get to these markets. The puestos offer crafts of every conceivable kind, foods such as cheese, bananas, nuts, and cookies, and flowers such as orchids and poinsettias.

The poinsettia is native to Mexico and is believed to have first been used in connection with Christmas in the 17th century when Mexican Franciscans included the flowers in their Christmas celebration. There is a legend connected with the flower. A little boy named Pablo was walking to the church in his village to visit the Nativity scene, when he realized he had nothing to offer the Christ Child. He saw some green branches growing along the roadside and gathered them up. Other children scoffed, but when he laid them

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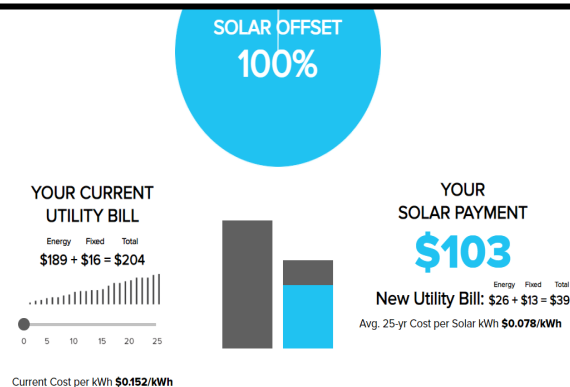
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by the manger, a brilliant red star-shaped flower appeared on each branch.

The main Christmas celebration in Mexico is called las posadas, which refers to processions reenacting Joseph and Mary's search for a place to stay in Bethlehem. The processions begin nine days before Christmas because the original journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem took nine days. Friends and family members divide themselves into two groups - pilgrims and innkeepers. The pilgrims travel from house to house asking for a shelter and are refused at each until they finally reach the house where an alter and Nativity scene have been set up. Here the pilgrims are admitted with great rejoicing, a traditional prayer is spoken, and the party begins. Food and drink are served and then children take turns trying to break open the pinata.

Christmas In NICARAGUA

Like many Latin American countries, Nicaragua retains many of the customs of

old Spain. In the weeks leading up to Christmas people stroll the streets where there are many things to buy: candles, Nativity pictures, toys and foods. Children carry fragrant bouquets to the alter of the Virgin and sing carols. On Christmas Eve, church bells beckon the people to Midnight Mass. On January 6, the feast of the Epiphany, it is the three wise men who brings gifts for the children. Often the Holiday season concludes with a brilliant display of fireworks.

Christmas In Poland

In Poland, an elaborate tradition called Wigilia is celebrated. Beginning on Christmas Eve, a strict 24-hour fast is observed which ends with a huge Christmas feast. In honor of the star of Bethlehem, the meal cannot begin until the first star of night appears. Though Christmas in Poland is officially known as Bozz Narodzenie, it is most often referred to as Gwiazdka, which means "little star." Once the star appears, a special rice wafer blessed by the parish priest called oplatek, is broken

into pieces and shared by all. Finally the meal can begin. The feast consists of twelve courses, one for each Apostle. The table is always set with one extra seat in case a stranger or the Holy Spirit should appear to share the meal.

Christmas In ROMANIA

The tradition in Romania is for children to travel from house to house singing carols and reciting poetry and legends throughout the Christmas season. The leader carries a large wooden star called a steaua, which is covered with shiny paper and decorated with bells and colored ribbon. A picture of the Holy Family is pasted in the star's center, and the entire creation is attached to a broomstick or stout pole.

Christmas In SCANDINAVIA

It is from Scandinavia that most of our yule log traditions derive. The dark cold winters inspired the development of traditions concerned with warmth and light.



Yuletide, meaning "the turning of the sun" or the winter solstice, has traditionally been a time of extreme importance in Scandinavia - a time when fortunes for the coming year were determined and when the dead were thought to walk the earth. For a long time, it was considered dangerous to sleep alone on Christmas Eve. The extended family, master and servant, alike would sleep together on a freshly spread bed of straw.

The Yule log was originally an entire tree, carefully chosen, and brought into the house with great ceremony. The butt end would be place into the hearth while the rest of the tree stuck out into the room. The tree would be slowly fed into the fire and the entire process was carefully timed to last the entire Yule season

Christmas In SOUTH AMERICA

Throughout South America Christmas is celebrated in a deeply religious way. The main focus of the season throughout the continent is the presepio ("the manger"). Often a whole room is devoted to the presepio display, com-

WORD 860

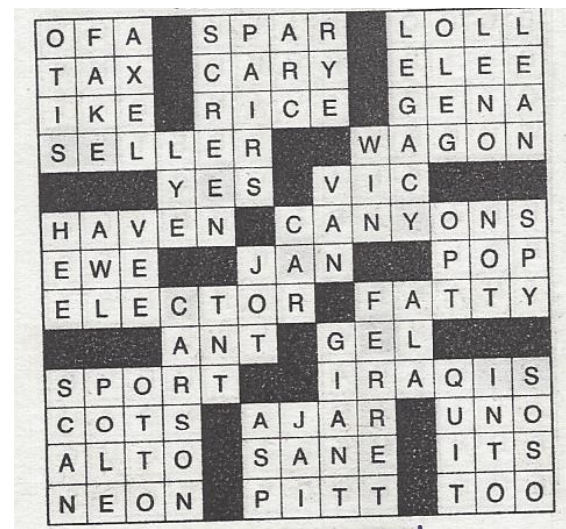
ACROSS										
1. Bridle piece	23. Fast	48. Persuade								
4. Door handle	25. Squeaking sound	49. "Hee ___"								
8. Rolling in dough	27. Chatter	52. Eternally								
12. Shad product	28. Strike lightly	53. Opposing								
13. Garcia of "Project Runway"	31. Male pilot	54. Lyric poem								
14. Sector	33. Mother ___	55. Office furniture								
15. Of us	35. Mothers	56. In case								
16. Treated a sprain	36. Toddler	57. Badminton divider								
17. Author Stephen	38. Briny									
18. Deserved	39. Certain sense									
20. Defeats	41. Stew ingredients									
21. Verbalized	42. Curtain									
	45. Scarlett's suitor									
	47. Davenport's state									

DOWN										
1. JFK, to RFK										
2. Gambler's marker										
3. Fox and Kerry blue										
4. Heal, as a bone										

ACROSS										
5. More pleasant										
6. "___ at a Time" (2 wds.)										
7. Disobedient										
8. Did a fall job										
9. Spring flower										
10. Mint product										
11. Witches										
19. Eve's spouse										
20. Two-wheelers, e.g.										
21. Fraudulent scheme										
22. Diva's solo										
24. Caress										
26. Couric of CBS news										
28. Fund-raising TV program										
29. Nick and Nora's pooch										
30. Remunerates										
32. Egg drink										
34. Wholly engrossed										
37. Royal seat										
39. ___ plug										
40. "___ Amore"										
42. Expired										
43. Ramble										
44. Impresses										
46. Doorway sign										
48. Coolidge's nickname										
50. Fruity refresher										
51. Dripping										

Answer on page 117

WORD 859



plete with landscape and tiny figures made to scale. Though the central feature is the manger at Bethlehem, elaborate scens will include hills full of shepherds gazing upon the heavenly host, the Wise Men crossing the desert on their camels, water mills, grottos, electric trains, and even sailboats on the sea.

Christmas In SWEDEN

A thousand years ago in Sweden, King Canute declared that Christmas would last a month, from December 13, the feast of St. Lucia until January 13, or Tjugondag Knut (St. Canute's Day). No one is quite sure why Lucia, a 4th century Sicilian saint, came to be so revered in Sweden. Some say she once visited the country, and others believe missionaries brought stories of her life which entranced the Swedish people. Her story is that in the days of early Christian persecution, Lucia carried food to Christians hiding in dark underground tunnels. To light the way she wore a wreath of candles on her head. Eventually Lucia was arrested and martyred.

On her feast day the eldest daughter in each family dresses in a white dress with a red sash, and wears an evergreen wreath with seven lighted candles on her head. She (very carefully) carries coffee and buns to each family member in his or her room. Many schools, offices, and communities sponsor Lucia processions in which carol are sung and everyone thanks the Queen of Light for bringing hope during the darkest time of the year.

On Christmas Eve a certain Christmas gnome, known as the tomte, emerges from his home under the floor of the house or the barn. He carries a sack over his shoulder and leaves gifts for all.

Christmas In WALES

Caroling is particularly popular in Wales where it is called eisteddfodde and is often accompanied by a harp. In some rural areas a villager is chosen to be the Mari llwyd. This person travels around the town draped in white and carrying a horse's skull on a long pole. Anyone given the "bite" by the horse's jaws must pay a fine.

Christmas In BETHLEHEM

The little town where Jesus is said to have been born is the site of the Church of the Nativity, which is ablaze with flags and decorations every Christmas. On Christmas Eve natives and visitors alike crowd the church's doorways and stand on the roof to watch for the dramatic annual procession. Galloping horsemen and police mounted on Arabian horses lead the parade. They are followed by solitary horseman carrying a cross and sitting astride a coal-black steed. Then come the churchmen and government officials. The procession solemnly enters the doors and places an ancient effigy of the Holy Child in the church. Deep winding stairs lead to a grotto where visitors find a silver star marking the site of the birth of Jesus.

Christian homes in Bethlehem are marked by a cross painted over the door and each home displays a homemade manger scene. A star is set up on a pole in the village square. .

Christmas In BRITISH ISLES

Many of our current American ideals about the way Christmas ought to be derive from the English Victorian Christmas, such as that described in Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol. The caroling, the gifts, the feast, and the wishing of good cheer to all - these ingredients came together to create that special Christmas atmosphere.

The custom of gift-giving on Christmas dates only to Victorian times. Before then it was more common to exchange gifts on New Year's Day or Twelfth Night. Santa Claus is known by British children as Father Christmas. Father Christmas, these days, is quite similar to the American Santa, but his direct ancestor is a certain pagan spirit who regularly appeared in medieval mummer's plays. The old-fashioned Father Christmas was depicted wearing long robes with sprigs of holly in his long white hair. Children write letters to Father Christmas detailing their requests, but instead of dropping them in the mailbox, the letters are tossed into the fireplace. The draft carries

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the letters up the chimney, and theoretically, Father Christmas reads the smoke. Gifts are opened Christmas afternoon.

From the English we get a story to explain the custom of hanging stockings from the mantelpiece. Father Christmas once dropped some gold coins while coming down the chimney. The coins would have fallen through the ash grate and been lost if they hadn't landed in a stocking that had been hung out to dry. Since that time children have continued to hang out stockings in hopes of finding them filled with gifts.

The custom of singing carols at Christmas is also of English origin. During the middle ages, groups of serenades called "waits" would travel around from house to house singing ancient carols and spreading the holiday spirit. The word "carol" means "song of joy." Most of the popular old carols we sing today were written in the nineteenth century.

The hanging of greens, such as holly and ivy, is a British winter tradition with origins far before the Christian era. Greenery

was probably used to lift sagging winter spirits and remind the people that spring was not far away. The custom of kissing under the mistletoe is descended from ancient Druid rites. The decorating of Christmas trees, though primarily a German custom, has been widely popular in England since 1841 when Prince Albert had a Christmas tree set up in Windsor Castle for his wife Queen Victoria, and their children.

The word "wassail" is derived from the Anglo-Saxon phrase *waes hael*, which means "good health." Originally, wassail was a beverage made of mulled ale, curdled cream, roasted apples, nuts, eggs, and spices. It was served for the purpose of enhancing the general merriment of the season. Like many of the ancient customs, "wassailing" has a legend to explain its origin. It seems that a beautiful Saxon maiden named Rowena presented Prince Vortigen with a bowl of wine while toasting him with the words "Waes hael." Over the centuries a great deal of ceremony had developed around the custom of drinking wassail. The bowl is carried into a room with great fanfare, a traditional carol about the drink is sung, and finally, the steaming hot beverage is served.

For many years in England, a roasted boar's head has been associated with Holiday feasting. The custom probably goes back to the Norse practice of sacrificing a boar at Yuletide in honor of the god Freyr. One story tells of a student at Oxford's Queen College who was attacked on Christmas Day by a wild boar. All he had in his hand to use as a weapon was his copy of Aristotle, so he shoved the book down the boar's throat. Wanting to retrieve his book, the student cut off the animal's head and brought it back to the college where it was served for Christmas dinner with much pomp and ceremony.

The celebration of Boxing Day, which takes place on December 26 - the feast of St. Stephen, is a part of the holiday season unique to Great Britain. Traditionally, it is on this day that the alms box at every English church is opened and the contents are distributed to the poor. Also, this is the day that

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servants traditionally got the day off to celebrate with their families. It became traditional for working people to break open their tip boxes on this day. Boxing Day began in the mid-nineteenth century when the custom of tipping by rich persons to persons in service positions had apparently gotten out of hand. Children and others pretended to be in the trades and solicited tips. The custom was expanded to giving to anyone and everyone who had less money than you did, and soon the streets at Christmastime were full of aggressive soliciting of tips. To contain the nuisance "Boxing Day" was designated as the one day for giving to the less fortunate.

Christmas In IRAN

Iran, formerly Persia, is the land where the Three Wise men are believed to have lived when Jesus was born. Today Christians in Iran begin fasting from animal products on December 1. This is called "Little Fast." "Big Fast" occurs during Lent, the six weeks preceding Easter. After Church service of De-

cember 25 they enjoy Christmas dinner which they call "Little Feast." A traditional dish is a chicken stew called harasa. Gifts are generally not exchanged but children get new clothes which they wear proudly on Christmas Day.

Christmas In IRELAND

St. Stephen's Day is celebrated in Ireland in a different way, but is similar to Boxing Day in that it also has to do with the solicitation of money. Young men in extravagant dress, sometimes wearing masks, parade noisily through the streets in the Wren Boys' Procession. They carry long pole on top of which is attached a holly bush. The bush supposedly contains a captured wren, and for whose sake the young men beg for money.

Christmas In JAPAN

Christmas was introduced in Japan by the Christian missionaries, and for many years the only people who celebrated it were



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those who had turned to the Christian faith. But now the Christmas season in Japan is full of meaning and is almost universally observed. The idea of exchanging gifts seems to appeal strongly to the Japanese people. The tradesmen have commercialized Christmas just as our western shops have done. For several weeks before the day, the stores shout Christmas. There are decorations and wonderful displays of appropriate gifts for men, women, and children – especially children.

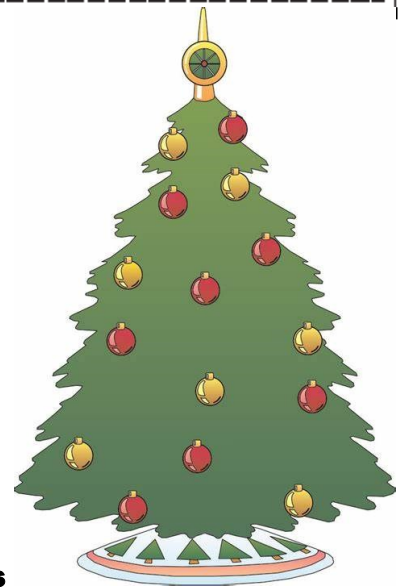
The story of the Child Jesus born in a manger is fascinating to the little girls of Japan, for they love anything having to do with babies. In the scene of the Nativity they become familiar for the first time with a cradle, for Japanese babies never sleep in cradles.

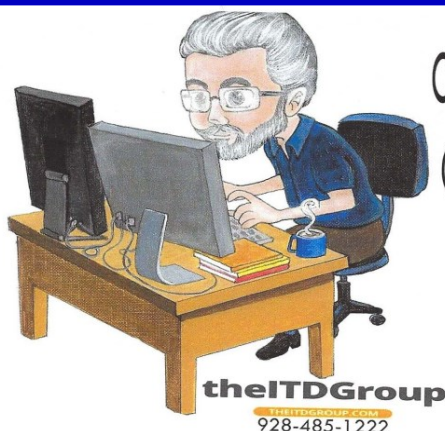
Many western customs in observing Christmas have been adopted by the Japanese. Besides exchanging gifts they eat turkey on Christmas Day, and in some places there are even community Christmas trees. They decorate their houses with evergreens

and mistletoe, and in some homes Christmas carols are sung gaily.

In Japan there is a god or priest known as Hoteiosho, who closely resembles our Santa Claus. He is always pictured as a kind old man carrying a huge pack. He is thought to have eyes in the back of his head. It is well for the children to be good when this all-seeing gentleman is abroad.

New Year's Day is the most important day of the whole calendar in Japan. On New Year's Eve the houses are cleaned thoroughly from top to bottom, and are decorated for the morrow. when everything has been made clean and neat the people of the house dress themselves in their finest





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clothes. Then the father of the household marches through the house, followed by all the family, and drives the evil spirits out. He throws dried beans into every corner bidding the evil spirits withdraw and good luck enter.

Christmas In NETHERLANDS

In the Netherlands St. Nicholas is known as Sinterklaas. Dutch children are told that he sails from Spain on his feast day, December 5. They fill their shoes with hay and sugar for his horse and awake to find them filled with gifts such as nuts and candy.

Sometimes Sinterklaas appears in person in the children's homes, bearing a striking resemblance to the children's father or an uncle. He questions the children about their behavior during the past year. In the past he carried a birch rod, but these days he is more kindly.

The people of Twente in east Holland hold a special Advent ceremony in which special horns are blown to chase away evil spirits and to announce the birth of Christ. Horns are homemade out of one-year-old saplings

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and are three or four feet long. Blown over wells, they sound a deep tone, similar to a fog-horn.

Christmas In NORWAY

Like the other Scandinavian countries, Norway has its gift-bearing little gnome or elf. Known as Julebuk or "Christmas buck," he appears as a goat-like creature. Julebuk harkens back to Viking times when pagans worshipped Thor and his goat. During pagan celebrations a person dressed in a goatskin, carrying a goat head, would burst in upon the party and during the course of evening would "die" and return to life.

During the early Christian era, the goat began to take the form of the devil, and would appear during times of wild merry-making and jubilation. By the end of the Middle Ages, the game was forbidden by the Church and the state. In more recent times the goat has emerged in the tamer form of Julebuk.

Christmas In PORTUGAL

Christmas is celebrated in much the same way in Portugal as it is in Spain. The Portugese enjoy an additional feast, called consoada, in the early morning hours of Christmas Day. They set extra places at the table for alminhas a penar ("the souls of the dead"). In some areas crumbs are left on the hearth for these souls, a custom that derives from the ancient practice of entrusting seeds to the



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dead in hopes that they will provide a bountiful harvest.

Christmas In RUSSIA

St. Nicholas is especially popular in Russia. The legend is that the 11th-century Prince Vladimir traveled to Constantinople to be baptized, and returned with stories of miracles performed by St. Nicholas of Myra. Since then many Eastern Orthodox Churches have been named for the saint, and to this day, Nicholas is one of the most common names for Russian boys. The feast of St. Nicholas (December 6) was observed for many centuries, but after the communist revolution, the celebration of the feast was suppressed. During the communist years St. Nicholas was transformed into Grandfather Frost.

Other religious traditions were suppressed during the communist era. Before the revolution, a figure called Babouschka would bring gifts for the children. Like Italy's La Befana, the story is that Babouschka failed to give food and shelter to the three wise men during their journey to visit the Christ Child. According to tradition, she still roams the countryside searching for the Christ Child and visiting the homes of children during the Christmas season. Babouschka never completely disappeared, and now in the post-communist era, has returned openly. Christmas trees were also banned by the Communist regime, but people continued to trim their "New Year's" trees.

Most Christian Russians belong to the Eastern Orthodox Church, and it is customary to fast until after the first church service on Christmas Eve. Christmas Eve dinner is meatless but festive. The most important ingredient is a special porridge called kutya. It is made of wheat berries or other grains which symbolize hope and immortality, and honey and poppy seeds which ensure happiness, success, and untroubled rest. A ceremony involving the blessing of the home is frequently observed. A priest visits the home accompanied by boys carrying vessels of holy water, and a little water is sprinkled

in each room. The kutya is eaten from a common dish to symbolize unity.

Christmas In SCOTLAND

The Scots celebrate Christmas rather somberly and reserve their merriment for New Year's Eve which is called Hogmanay. This word may derive from a kind of oat cake that was traditionally given to children on New Year's Eve. The first person to set foot in a residence in a New Year is thought to profoundly affect the fortunes of the inhabitants. Generally strangers are thought to bring good luck. Depending on the area, it may be better to have a dark-haired or fair-haired stranger set foot in the house. This tradition is widely known as "first footing."

Christmas In SPAIN

Christmas is a deeply religious holiday in Spain. The country's patron saint is the Virgin Mary and the Christmas season officially begins December 8, the feast of the Immaculate Conception. It is celebrated each year in front of the great Gothic cathedral in Seville with a ceremony called los Seises or the "dance of six." Oddly, the elaborate ritual dance is now performed by not six but ten elaborately costumed boys. It is a series of precise movements and gestures and is said to be quite moving and beautiful.

Christmas Eve is known as Nochebuena or "the Good Night." It is a time for family members to gather together to rejoice and feast around the Nativity scenes that are present in nearly every home. A traditional Christmas treat is turrón, a kind of almond candy.

December 28 is the feast of the Holy Innocents. Young boys of a town or village light bonfires and one of them acts as the mayor who orders townspeople to perform civic chores such as sweeping the streets. Refusal to comply results in fines which are used to pay for the celebration.

As in many European countries, the children of Spain receive gifts on the feast of the Epiphany. The Magi are particularly revered in Spain. It is believed that they travel through the countryside reenacting their

Sudoku 860

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

Sudoku 859

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



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journey to Bethlehem every year at this time. Children leave their shoes on the windowsills and fill them with straw, carrots, and barley or the horses of the Wise Men. Their favorite is Balthazar who rides a donkey and is the one believed to leave the gifts.

Christmas In VENEZUELA

Venezuelans attend a daily early morning church service between December 16th and 24th called Misa de Aguinaldo ("Early Morning Mass.") In Caracas, the capital city, it is customary to roller-skate to this service and many neighborhoods close the streets to cars until 8 a.m. Before bedtime children tie one end of a piece of string to their big toe and hang the other out the window. The next morning, roller skaters give a tug to any string they see hanging. After Mass everyone enjoys tostados and coffee.

Here are some Christmas related facts that will arouse your interest : In the Ukraine, if you find a spider web in the house on Christmas morning, it is believed to be a harbinger of good luck! There once lived a wom-

an so poor, says a Ukrainian folk tale, that she could not afford Christmas decorations for her family. One Christmas morning, she awoke to find that spiders had trimmed her children's tree with their webs. When the morning sun shone on them, the webs turned to silver and gold. An artificial spider and web are often included in the decorations on Ukrainian Christmas trees.

At Christmas, it is traditional to exchange kisses beneath the mistletoe tree. In ancient Scandinavia, mistletoe was associated with peace and friendship. That may account for the custom of "kissing beneath the mistletoe".

'Klaxon' is a name that does not belong to one of Santa's reindeer. A klaxon is actually a powerful electric horn. Its name comes from a German word meaning "shriek".

In many households, part of the fun of eating Christmas pudding is finding a trinket that predicts your fortune for the coming year.



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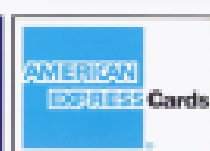
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For instance, finding a coin means you will become wealthy. A ring means you will get married; while a button predicts bachelorhood. The idea of hiding something in the pudding comes from the tradition in the Middle Ages of hiding a bean in a cake that was served on Twelfth Night. Whoever found the bean became "king" for the rest of the night.

Frumenty was a spiced porridge, enjoyed by both rich and poor. It was a forerunner of modern Christmas puddings. It is linked in legend to the Celtic god Dagda, who stirred a porridge made up of all the good things of the earth.

In Greek legend, malicious creatures called Kallikantzaroi sometimes play troublesome pranks at Christmas time. In order to get rid of them, salt or an old shoe is burnt. The pungent burning stench drives off, or at least helps discourage, the Kallikantzaroi. Other techniques include hanging a pig's jawbone by the door and keeping a large fire so they can't sneak down the chimney.

The poinsettia is a traditional Christmas flower. In Mexico (its original birthplace), the poinsettia is known as the "Flower of the Holy Night".

Louis Prang, a Bavarian-born lithographer who came to the USA from Germany in the 19th century, popularized the sending of

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Sept.	V.J. Day	Sept. 2
	<i>(Formal Surrender)</i>	
Sept.	POW-MIA Day	3rd Friday
Nov.	Veterans Day	Nov. 11th
Dec.	Pearl Harbor Day	Dec. 7th

printed Christmas cards. He invented a way of reproducing color oil paintings, the "chromolithograph technique", and created a card with the message "Merry Christmas" as a way of showing it off.

The "Urn of Fate" is part of the Christmas celebrations in many Italian households.

The Urn of Fate is brought out on Christmas Eve. It holds a wrapped present for everyone. The mother tries her luck first, then the others in turn. If you get a present with your name on it, you keep it; otherwise, you put it back and try again.

In Sweden, a common Christmas decoration is the Julbukk, a small figurine of a goat. It is usually made of straw. Scandinavian Christmas festivities feature a variety of straw decorations in the form of stars, angels, hearts and other shapes, as well as the Julbukk.

One of oldest Christmas symbols is the Candy Cane. It represents the Shepherd's Crook, as for the Shepherds were one of first to experience the birth of Jesus.

The wide red stripe represents the sacrifice of Christ -- "For by the stripes we are healed". As for the red narrow stripes, it represents our own sacrifices -- "in giving", and the white stripe is a symbol of purity.

In the Old Testament, the peppermint plant is a member of the hyssop family, a medicine herb which is used for cleansing. The ritual of breaking bread is still a custom in many countries, as Christ's body was bro-

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ken for you. The same custom goes for the candy cane, brake the candy cane and share it with somebody, thus sharing in the sweetness of the true meaning of Christmas.

The Story of Gingerbread

Most early immigrants to North America came from Europe, therefore most customs are from European origin.

Gingerbread is traced to Europe back to the 11th century. Crusader returning from the Middle East and brought back among other items a spice – ginger. Soon after, different varieties of gingerbread appeared throughout western Europe. The variations varied widely from sweet, dark, spicy, soft or crusty, the only common characteristic was the ginger spice.



Gingerbread, the name comes from the Latin word "Zingebär", and was not used until the 15th century. By that time, gingerbread gained great popularity, especially in Germany and France. Bakers in both countries

formed their own guilds, which gave them exclusive rights to make and sell the bread. However, a law was formed which prohibits them to produce gingerbread at Eastern and Christmas ("Government Red Tape" was well established). This law was eliminated in the 16th century, because of the popularity and favorite attraction of Gingerbread Bakers at market places, were gingerbread was freshly baked. Gingerbread gained such popularity at the already famous "Christ kindles market", in Nuremberg, Germany, that it was called the "Gingerbread Capital of the World".

The first gingerbread houses were made in Germany. Children story writer, Brothers Grimm, made them famous in the very popular fairy tale "Hansel and Gretel". The story featured a gingerbread house, which was called "Hexenhäuschen", (Witch House. The story goes, ...in which two lost children came upon and nibbled on the sweet gingerbread house, the evil witch caught and imprisoned them).

Continued next week

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928-978-9117
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NEW LISTING 297 S Wade
Schandley: Motivated Seller. This 2008 custom Fleetwood home features 1620 sq. ft., 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, custom kitchen cabinets, island breakfast bar, walk-in pantry, split floor plan with walk-in closets in each bedroom.

New appliances, newly remodeled bathrooms, new wood laminate flooring. Detached oversized garage (needs work) w/bathroom. Private well & storage tank. Views of Four Peaks and surrounding mountains. Property borders open ranch land, horses OK. MLS 87733 \$265,000



NEW LISTING 205 S Rio Salado Ln: Fixer-upper, or tear down this 12x50 mobile home w/Add-ons and move in your new manufactured home, or build your new home. Nice views of all surrounding mountains.

Only 10 miles to the Indian Point boat launch at Roosevelt Lake for great fishing and water-sports. MLS 87610 \$72,000



NEW LISTING 170 W Boulder Ave: This beautiful site-built home features open floor plan, 3 bedrooms (2 Master Suites) and two bathrooms, 10' ceilings, 18" ceramic tile floors except in bedrooms, and panoramic views. Master suite has french doors that open up to a

covered patio, jetted tub, double bathroom sinks, and walk in shower. Living room features large picture window and French door out to rear patio. Stainless steel appliances, walk-in pantry, large island, and lots of cabinet space in the kitchen. 609 sq ft oversized garage with built-in shelves, and rear access door. MLS 87778 \$330,000



NEW LISTING 255 E Rainbow Lane: Perfect Lake House Retreat, all set up and ready for all your toys. This singlewide has been completely remodeled on the inside; sheetrock walls, dual pane windows with wood blinds,

laminate flooring, kitchen cabinets, refrigerator, dishwasher, built in microwave, & stove, custom bathroom tile floors, showers & vanities, 4 AC window units & wired for mini split system, electric wall heater units, recessed lighting in kitchen and master bathroom, Covered front deck with swamp cooler, back covered deck & paver patio. Covered RV parking (12x45x13.3'/15'at peak), tons of uncovered concrete parking, fully fenced with chain-link fencing with RV gates, and large storage shed. MLS 87509 \$172,000

SOLD- 100 A-B N Mining Company Road: Secluded 3.20-acre parcel with large pecan trees, capped well, partially fenced. Borders Tonto National Forest on the east. Great RV lot with lots of shade, creek access on the northeast corner.



MEETINGS & EVENTS PLUS IMPORTANT NUMBERS FOR TONTO BASIN,

For Situation updates & Non-Emergency
messaging, call the Gila County HOTLINE
(928) 402-8888 or toll free 800-304-4452.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:

emsdept@co.gila.az.us

Emergency: 9-1-1

Road Conditions: 5-1-1

APS

Ashley Bunch

602-448-2482

ashley.bunch@aps.com

TONTO BASIN POST OFFICE

(928) 479-2210

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Jeremy Plain

602-225-5395 work

928-595-0865 mobile

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Mark Cline

928-978-4209

GILA COUNTY ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

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apuskaric@gilacountyaz.gov

ADOT, HWY MAINT SUPERINTENDENT

George W. Collaco

928-402-5619 work

928-200-6452 Mobile

gcollaco@azdot.gov

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE meet the 3rd Thursday of every month at 9:30 A.M. at the Chamber building. www.tontobasinchamber.org

FORT RENO VFW POST 8807 meets 4th Saturday of the month 9 AM

FORT RENO POST 8807 TONTO BASIN AZ
CHARTERED JUNE 1983, SERVING OUR COMMUNITY & SURROUNDING AREA FOR 39 YEARS, IS HONORED TO HAVE THE VFW AUXILIARY AS PART OF POST 8807 TONTO BASIN CHARTERED AUGUST 13, 2022. ANYONE INTERESTED IN JOINING OUR GREAT ORGANIZATION CALL KANDIE 928-514-8532 OR VICKY 623-337-3039 FOR MORE INFORMATION. MEETINGS AT POST 8807 THE 4TH SATURDAY OF THE MONTH 11AM

MENS CARD CLUB Every Monday Noon—5PM held at the Tonto Basin Chamber bldg. Call Ron 928-970-0148 for information

SIERRA ANCHO LADY CARD PLAYERS: come join us to play/learn CRAZY CANASTA Wednesday 9AM-3PM at the Chamber of Commerce Building - Break for lunch @ 11:30AM

TONTO BASIN LIBRARY

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HOURS: MON. - FRI. 8:00A.M.- 4 P.M.

ALSO OFFERS OTHER SERVICES: FAX, COPIES, & PUBLIC COMPUTER/PRINTER FOR NOMINAL FEE.

PUNKIN CENTER BAR'S FLEA MARKET IS HELD every other week on SATURDAY Stop by Punkin Center to sign up for your "FREE" Space.

TONTO BASIN KIWANIS CLUB

KIWANISTONTOBASIN@GMAIL.COM

NOTICE

◆ **KIWANIS MEETINGS ARE HELD EVERY FRIDAY AT 8AM AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER, NEXT TO THE THRIFT STORE.**



◆ **KIWANIS THRIFT STORE IS OPEN EVERY THURSDAY, FRIDAY, AND SATURDAY 9:00AM TO 2:00PM. DONATIONS ACCEPTED 9:00AM TO 1:30 PM. WE NO LONGER ACCEPT COUCHES, OR MATTRESSES.**

◆ **BINGO STARTS SEPT. 8TH. DOORS OPEN AT 5:30, CARD SALES BY 6:15, GAME STARTS 6:30 PROMPTLY. DOOR PRIZES TWICE EVERY NIGHT! GAMES START AT \$10.**

◆ **VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED AT THE THRIFT STORE, IF YOU ARE INTERESTED, PLEASE FILL OUT A VOLUNTEER FORM AT THE THRIFT STORE, OR FEEL FREE TO ATTEND A MEETING. YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE A MEMBER TO VOLUNTEER IN THE PROCESSING ROOM. ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT US AT: KIWANISTONTOBASIN@GMAIL.COM**

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Buckhead Mesa Landfill, Payson, AZ:

North from Payson on Highway 87, across from the Natural Bridge, mile post 263. One mile east to site. 1321 E. Buckhead Mesa Landfill Rd.

Summer and Winter Hours - Monday through Saturday 8:00am to 4:00pm. Closed Sundays and Holidays (928) 476-3350

Russell Gulch Landfill, Globe, AZ:

Between Globe and Miami, close to Little Acres. West on US-60 on Russell Road, 1.6 Mile to site 5891 E. Hope Lane

Winter Hours - Monday through Saturday 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. Closed Sundays and Holidays

Summer Hours - Monday through Saturday 6:00 am to 4:00 pm. Closed Sundays and Holidays



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Margaret Rambo, Broker 928-978-0260
email: margaret@ramborealty.com
Curt Rambo, JR, 623-570-6221 Kari Rambo,
602-565-5701



Go to: www.ramborealty.com for ALL Local MLS LISTING Or just Google the property address for all details!

LOTS-ACREAGE

NEW TO MARKET- RR131 E Freedom Ln Great Investment! .67 ac lot has septic installed & water meter. Permit for electric ready for your RV, Manufactured home or site built. West boundary is 231 ft of HWY 188 frontage **\$99,500 MLS87449**

NEW TO MARKET RR63 Four Peaks Rd Fantastic Views .29 ac Lot R1. County maintained paved road, util to lot line. Manufactured or site built 1034 sq ft. Call for more information **\$44,900 MLS87488**

RR84C W Ocotillo Prime 1/2 acre lot in "site built homes only" area. Water & elec to lot line. GU zoning w/deed restrictions for 1500 sq ft site built home w/matching gar. Close to TNF trails! **\$48,900. MLS87068**

RR#1 N Bethel Ln. First time offer for sale! Beautiful .75 acre parcel Zoned GU. Access from Bethel Ln. 119.47 ft HWY frontage. Water & power available from Bethel Ln Close to Roosevelt Lake & TNF trails. **\$74,900 MLS86768**

RR A. 5531 S. Burton Ln Beautiful View! 1.29 ac level parcel. GU zoning, water lines at lot line, APS elec avail. RV use OK **\$129,000 MLS87020**

RR105 J S Bobcat Trl Fantastic views in area of nice homes. GU zoning 1.61 acres surveyed into two parcels, No restrictions! **\$195,000 MLS87008**

RR E 5531 S Burton Dr South Panoramic views! This 5 acres has it all. Level w/ desert vegetation Plus canyon views overlooking Tonto Creek. Water, Phone & Elec avail. **\$259,000 MLS87016**

RR #5 N. Bethel Ln. Beautiful .75 acre parcel Zoned GU. Access from Bethel Ln. 119.47 Hwy frontage. Water & power available **\$74,900 MLS86771**

RR #4 N. Bethel Ln. Ideal central location! .75 acres 283 ft of HWY frontage w/access & utilities from Bethel Ln **\$74,900 MLS86770**

MANUFACTURED-SITE BUILT HOMES

RR517 W Desert Breeze Lane Prime location for any use. GU zonng. White vinyl fencing along 156' Hwy 188 frontage, wood privacy fencing across back. Currently an RV lot w/septic, power & water on lot. Tall RV-port, two RV hook ups. Drive in and plug into utilities! **\$109,900 MLS#**

RR172 N Cordova St. 3bd/3ba 2772 sq ft double carport, RV Parking, partially fenced 1.37 ac

2022 Dec 14

Spacious mn'd home w/split floor plan, island kit., garden tub in master, cov'd patio & lush landscaping. \$399,900 MLS87773

REDUCED-RR225 E Rainbow Ln Great Price! Totally remodeled in 1995 full Trusse roof w/add on Living, laundry & 1/2 bath. Drywall & upgraded kitchen dining, living rm. Enjoy oversized 432 sq ft screened patio outdoor family/game rm. Fenced back yard. Storage bldg., steel carport. RV hook-ups. Garden plot & BBQ area. **\$169,900 MLS87718**

RR169 W Ironwood. You'll LOVE the View and quiet location of this 2020 Fleetwood MH 1,056 sq ft., 3bd/2ba. On .33 oversized lot w/plenty of room for lg garage Fenced back yard, open paver patio, all ppl including w/d Must See! **\$349,900. MLS87545**

REDUCED RR359 W Raven Cliff. You'll love all the upgrades to this site Built home! .50 Ac. 1,520 sq ft 3bd/2ba., spacious living rm & island breakfast bar. Concrete counters, stained concrete flooring. Oversized laundry & pantry. Fenced Back yard, full RV hook ups, storage att to dble car garage, extra parking in rear. **\$409,000 MLS87540**

RR183 W Forest PL Peaceful quiet setting! .54 acres fenced garden area, fruit trees, she trees, private well. Two story garage w/finished full upstairs living quarters. 1 1/2 bath. Home has open great room. 2/bd/1ba, covered front porch & rear patios. 2 stor bldgs. Much more. A Must see! **\$419,000 MLS87571**

RR171 N Greenback Dr. .83 acres 1,795 sq ft 2005 Fleetwood MH. Beautifully updated home in nice neighborhood. Large fam. Rm w/space for office, split floor plan, 3bd/2ba., pantry & all appliances. DBL gar+parking for RV & extra toys. Lg shop & rear cov'd patio **\$345,000 MLS87333**

RR176 E Shelby Ln. Private setting on 1.36 ac 1,896 sq ft 3bd/2ba 1996 Redman MH., w/metal roof. Front cov'd patio w/hot tub, storage w, elec., ATV carport. Shared well, Backyard fenced, stone insulated garden shed, Chicken coop. Quiet living 10 min from Roosevelt Lake. **\$350,000. MLS86300**

