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Welcome back to Box Elder Magazine’s first Christmas edition! We would love to hear back from you about how we did.

December is a time for family and outings that don’t happen in just any part of the year. Christmas activities abound and we hope that you have a chance to find a few and participate in the warmth of the season—we know that might require a cup or two of hot chocolate!

You might enjoy our Snowville Adventures article and learn about some places in the county that you might not have ventured. We are lucky to have many of those places for you to explore. Who knows, you might find a camel or a zebra along the way. Who’d a thought!

We invite you to learn about a special resident, Ethan Kafton, of the county whose easy laughter and positive outlook will make your day. His Origami art is becoming more popular and we have found it everywhere. We also focus a bit on some of the stories behind the Big Red experience that comes around this time of year. A lot of helpers are out there and they have some special stories of their own.

So, on Dasher and Dancer, Prancer and Vixen, kick-back and enjoy this issue of Box Elder Magazine!
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Now - Dec 24  Shop Local Christmas Promotion (at Participating Businesses)

Now - Dec 31  Fantasy at the Bay Light Park, 5 - 10 p.m.
Willard Bay State Park (900 West 650 North Willard)

Dec 19  Christmas Craft Night  Box Elder Family Support Center, 5 - 6:30 p.m. (276 N. 200 E. Brigham)

Dec 25  Christmas Day

Dec 26  Land Use Authority Board Meeting (Tremonton)

Dec 31  New Year’s Eve/Make Up Your Mind Day

Jan 1  New Year’s

Jan 9  Land Use Authority Board Meeting (Tremonton)

Jan 18  Box Elder Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet

Jan 18  Brigham City’s Third Friday Live

Jan 18  Strawberry Fields, A Beatles Tribute Band 7:30pm
Music in the City Concert at the Fine Arts Center, 58 South 100 West, Brigham City, Utah. Reserve seats at www.bc-
fineartscenter.org. The Music in the City series will continue
the 3rd Friday of the Month. All concerts this season are
sponsored in large part by Excellence in the Community and
are free to the public. Come join the fun!

Jan 23  Land Use Authority Board Meeting (Tremonton)

Jan 26  Brigham City Winter Ball - Transcontinental
Celebration. Black Tie event, $20 per person. From
7-10pm at the Historic Academy Conference Center – 58
North Main Street. We are delighted to announce our
entertainment is City Jazz Big Band a 19 piece orchestra.

Feb 14  Dinner Concert at the Academy Center with
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A Christmas to remember.

Christmas can have magical effects and be a real motivator. That is good thing.

We grew up on a family farm back in Indiana. Though we never wanted, our parents were tight and focused with the funds. We didn’t spend it frivolously.

We didn’t make big deals of most holidays and we didn’t go on shopping sprees. Our daily lives were filled with farm chores.

Christmas though, was magical at our house. It was a time of feast and celebration. Our parents and Santa went all out. Family, food and presents were always very plentiful.

The year was 1969 (or so). The snow was falling, and it looked as if we were going to get our white Christmas, something we hoped for every year. The fire was crackling in the fireplace and of course our stockings were all hung in a row.

My sister and I were filled with the normal energies and anxieties of grade schoolers this time of year. We had been good, and we had worked hard to not be on Santa’s naughty list. This was hard work because my parents used it as a motivator for us to keep busy with chores, homework and keeping things tidy around the house. Of course, there was also the pressure to be kind to each other, even to do good deeds to keep oneself off the list. Treating anyone in a disrespectful manner would surely get one placed...
on the very top of the naughty list. This was a lengthy and carefully thought out process — that is, avoiding being placed on it. I was always operating under the threat of ‘making the list’. 

Christmas eve had finally arrived and my sister (Gracia Taylor) and I were busy wondering and imagining what we might get from Santa this year. Our bellies were being filled with nuts and hard candies. We were enjoying the moment.

When suddenly, who should appear? Santa, with jingle bells jingling, came right into our kitchen with a cheer and a Ho, Ho, Ho! He had a large bag filled with stuff.

Our eyes were fixed in place. We gasped. We turned to each other upon the realization that he was real, and he was standing in our kitchen. He asked us “what are you doing up?” He even knew our names! We then had an exchange designed to ferret out any imposter as we quizzed him about the north pole, reindeer and where he had parked his sleigh. He told us that “It was parked down the road at Miller’s house, so the reindeer could rest for a moment.”

We asked why he didn’t come down the chimney? He told us that “It was difficult with a blazing fire, so he just came through the door, it’s just easier sometimes. Plus, there is no slipping off the roof.” We continued to interrogate him briefly. He seemed to have an answer for everything!

He told us that he had a tight schedule and had to hurry and leave. Unfortunately, he would not be able to leave us anything for Christmas. We were stunned, our mouths fell open and our hearts sank. No, though it was a favorite, we were not responding as the Whos did in Whoville. We were panicked. We hadn’t even “made the list”. Now it appeared as if we were getting nothing for Christmas.

He then told us that “Well, if there is anything left over after my route tonight, I’ll try to drop it off on my way home. You must be asleep, though, for me to stop back.” He then left. He placed great emphasis
on the if in that sentence.

My sister and I ran up the old farm-house stairs, missing half of them on the way up. We must have knocked ourselves on the head, as I am not sure how we fell asleep so fast.

The next morning, we arose in traditional style at 6 am or so. We were basking in the generosity of our parents and of course Santa Claus. I distinctly remember my sister and I were having a conversation. My dad was close enough to be able to reach out and touch us.

As we played with and examined our new loot, my sister remarked about the bounty and how fun and exciting it was. There was so much stuff! As she did so I remarked “Yeah, and just imagine what we might have had if we didn’t ‘just’ get the left-overs from Santa!”

I’m older now and have thankfully lived to this day. As a father of 5 and a grandfather of 15, I am uncertain how my father kept from knocking my block off, after my thoughtless comment so many years ago. I admire the fact that he didn’t even mutter a word to either of us.

Merry Christmas everyone! Go enjoy the season and may it be merry and bright.  

Paul Fowler
Mollie's Cafe
A Fun Snowville Adventure

Snowville Adventures

Mollie’s Cafe in Snowville is an unlikely spot to think of as the beginning of a grand adventure, but it definitely is perfect for those who love the unique! It is here in a delightful diner that we find one of the most amazing plate-sized cinnamon rolls that will melt in your mouth. One family drove 45 miles to obtain 15 of these golden gems! It was well worth the trip!!! These cinnamon rolls are their bestselling desserts followed closely by a whole array of homemade pies. Beware that once you have experienced one of their cinnamon rolls, you will want to return for more.

Comfort food is abundant at this oasis by the Utah & Idaho border. Weary travelers, long haul truckers, locals, and those in search of excellent home style food, gather here amid the Coca Cola knick-knacks and red vinyl booths. 1950’s style red round bar stools give a counter seat for those who wish to enjoy the time travel experience of a true diner. Portions were plentiful and delicious. I chose a breakfast of 2 pork chops, Homestyle hash browns, and eggs, which was yummy and filling. My husband tried the meat and cheese omelet with hash browns and toast. He was pleased with his selection.

The namesake of Mollie’s Diner passed away a few years ago. The current owner, Jackie Carter, has created a home-like atmosphere that welcomes all who enter their door. Anastasia, our waitress, has worked there for 4 years. She said that she enjoys the locals, Sundays are quite busy as the other cafe is closed, and that the sweet rolls are one of her favorites, as well. This eatery was once a garage for a local mechanic many years ago but now a fun place to gather for a family meal.

Adventure continues in an unexpected turn as we ventured around Snowville. Across the road from the Snowville Elementary School is Ocean Star International headquarters for Utah. Here I made Steve do an abrupt U-turn! Zebras! 2 zebras, llamas, and a camel, were gazing just beyond the fence! Not exactly the livestock that one is used to seeing in a small rural Utah town! On the fence is a sign warning that the zebras do bite. It was so incredible! After our safari adventure, we decided to explore further and found ourselves in the middle of a mini-stampepe of cattle. Yes. We did in fact sing the theme song of the old TV show “Rawhide” for just a minute. As cattle moved around our Saturn ION we chuckled and were glad that these bovine had no knowledge of the “cow that jumped over the moon!” The cowboys tipped their hats, waved, and herded their livestock forward to their new pasture. Off we went to loop around the bottom of Idaho through Malad then back to Brigham City discussing our adventure of cinnamon, safaris, stampede, and comfort foods. Have an adventure! Go to Mollie’s Cafe in Snowville for comfort food, cinnamon rolls, and zebras!

By Valerie Odenthal
“Wahoo!” It begins with a bit of a cheerful shout, a dance, followed by a modified Superman pose, and you have just encountered a human ray of sunshine in meeting Ethan Kafton. A smile. A sparkle. A whole bunch of energy seems to whirl around this young man as he travels throughout Brigham City selling his own origami creations. These artistic pieces are not only creative and beautiful, but represent a life of challenge turned into treasure.

“I am a man who faced a lot of challenges but pulled through them.” is the motto at the top of his Facebook page. Indeed, this young man has chosen to not become bitter due to his circumstances but instead embrace the opportunity to develop talents. His positive attitude shines from his face. Love radiates. He is a self-proclaimed “chick magnet.” Superman shirts are his fashion statement. His “can do” attitude shines through creations that range in style and design. Olaf was my recent purchase because its cheerful smile reminded me of Ethan. Flowers are the bulk of his business. He has designed and made a Brigham City Temple with a Box Elder Tabernacle which were displayed downtown for many months. When asked how many flowers he had created, his brother, Jonathon stated “a Gazillion.” His father, David’s estimate was “a bijillion,” and stated that only the paper industry knows for sure.

Ethan’s youthful demeanor hides his 28 years of life. His father, David Kafton calls him “an old soul” as he has learned much of life in a short span of years. The owner of “Ethan’s Origami flowers and gifts” began his journey into paper creations as a way of developing small motor skills after two surgeries for a brain tumor and brain cancer. Originally Ethan was right handed but after his surgery he had to relearn to speak, use his left hand to function, and take on a life filled with challenge.

When he was 10 years old it was thought that he had a brain aneurysm. For almost 6 months the medical staff responded to his medical condition on this assumption. Then a CAT scan revealed that he actually had a brain tumor and cancer on the left side of his brain. He and his father shaved their heads in preparation for the arduous surgery ahead. His father’s shorn locks were donated to “Locks of Love.” The new hairstyle was a show of solidarity with his young son. His mother, Sheila, still trying to manage home, other siblings, and staying with Ethan in the hospital through all this.
a surgery lasting over 17 hours Ethan was left unable to speak, left handed, and had to choose what attitude he would possess in the face of such obstacles. Chemotherapy and radiation has helped him as he has been in remission since the second surgery. Once speech returned and he was mobile, he could be found at Primary Children's Medical Center “making his rounds.” Daily visits to other patients on his floor to cheer them up became part of this focus on love.

A nurse taught him to make origami cranes in order to strengthen his motor skills. One handed paper folding became his artform. With each new creation there was a celebration of the new person Ethan was becoming. Instead of a “why me” attitude, he developed a “hey this is what I am. I am going to make the most of it” kind of focus. Choosing to turn to creative art for expression made sense. His family is abundant in skilled artists.

When you spot a cheerful young man with origami creations to sell please, introduce yourself. He loves to make new friends! Share ideas, hugs, or paper with this amazing artist. His path has not been easy. Mobility is added by his three wheel bike on days when walking is a challenge. The smile is a constant. No matter how difficult the task at hand is, he tries to go into it with a positive mindset. Ethan was able to achieve one of his goals through a service mission with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. His name tag was a badge of honor for him. When thinking of the human expression of love through service and attitude, it is truly Ethan Kafton!

• By Valerie Odenthal
A twinkle in the eye. Magical. Sparkling. Loving. An icon of hope. Service without expectation of reward beyond milk and cookies. Santa is the stuff of legends. Nearly every culture has a Santa Claus type figure as a part of their fabric of life. The names may be different but the spirit of love and giving remain the same.

As the assistant director of “Miracle on 34th Street” currently playing at the Heritage Community Theatre in Perry, Utah, my love of Santa Claus has blossomed! Santa’s love is not just for the Christmas season but a lifetime focus. We see how life needs the magic that comes through love. Kris Kringle must defend his identity as Santa Claus. The musical was known as “Here is Love” for years. The theme of love is shared with the audience and cast as Kris sings of how we must love everyone. This is what Santa is all about. Love!

Our local Fraternal Order of Eagles Auxiliary share this love as they coordinate with the Utah Highway Patrol, Box Elder County Sheriff’s Department, Brigham City Police Department, Walmart, and others to create a Christmas service experience for local youth early on a Saturday morning in December. After breakfast at the Eagles’ lodge, the youth are given an opportunity to ride to Perry Walmart with emergency vehicle lights flashing as in a parade. This is only the beginning. Santa arrives by fire truck, rappelling from the side of Walmart, in a helicopter, or other unique fashion. Each officer assists their young friend in the purchase of gifts for family members, as well as, a few personal items. When escorted to meet Santa, the officers can help introduce their newly found friend to the jolly elf. Love is the constant.

While interviewing a few of Santa’s helpers, it was a story repeated over again that all people are hoping for greater love in their lives. “Utah Santa” shared an experience that changed many lives and was etched in his heart after 25 years of Santa service. While visiting a special needs school where most of the students were physically handicapped or severely autistic, Mr. & Mrs. Claus found themselves sharing stories, singing songs, and letting the students take turns sitting on Santa’s lap to share their holiday wish list. One young student held back. He intently
watched. He waited. Finally Santa asked if he would stand close to him so that he could learn of his holiday desires. Hesitantly the young man moved toward Santa. As Santa shared whispered conversation this student sat on Santa's lap followed by a big hug. “I love you” he said to Santa. Then he turned toward his mother and repeated, “I love you.” Tears were streaming down the faces of not only his mother but also the teaching staff as this young man had been non-verbal previous to this encounter. These were the first words that he had ever spoken!

At the mall, there was a young man who was an adult physically, but at a childlike functional level. Each encounter with Santa he would wait patiently for all the younger children to go about their holiday shopping then when no one was waiting he would sit on Santa’s lap. Sharing a few moments of love, his Christmas wish list, and a hug would have him leaving with a smile. Each visit would be the same routine of waiting, sharing, and an interaction of love. Santa is all about hope and love.

Many years ago, when our children were quite small, a dear friend who was well into her 80’s dressed up as Santa. She brought candy, fruit, and small toys to our children. While even the youngest recognized her, they were all so touched by this “Grandma Santa” who shared with them. We felt her love. They loved her back because of this act of service to them. It was quite comical to see her sporting chin whiskers and a red suit with tufts of gray hair sticking out here and there. She was magnificent!

Recently during the filming of “Jingle Belle” for Hallmark on the Lifetime Channel Robin and Floyd Westover were chosen to represent the icons of the North Pole. Mr. & Mrs. Santa for the entire world to share were from right here in Brigham City. They are both examples of service, love, and hope to all fortunate enough to cross paths with them!

While “Santas” come in all shapes, colors, sizes, costumes, languages, and traditions, they all represent hope and love. Here's to all of us becoming a bit of Santa and sharing as much Love with all around us as we can throughout this holiday season then on into the coming year! Santa is Love!  • By Valerie Odenthal
There are certain times of the year when I feel it is proper to give back to the community. The Christmas Season is one of those times for me. That’s not to say that the community as a whole is always aware of or for that matter grateful for the good deeds I try to deliver. In fact, I am most comfortable trying to fly under the radar in my efforts. That doesn’t always work for me, as many a local Highway Patrolman can attest. That is why what I chose to do this year is a little different. I chose to act in a delightful Christmas-themed musical, *Miracle on 34th Street*, at our local community Theatre. Heritage Community Theatre has a rich family tradition and the highlight of each year is usually their Christmas show. With those high standards, mysteriously, I somehow found myself named in the Cast.

The cast list for this show overflows with Triple-threat performers of all ages. I have admired some of these actors for years; others are recent discoveries that have promising theatrical futures. For those of you who do not know the term, a Triple-threat is an actor who can sing, dance, and act with ease and skill in their performance. I am not one of these. I don’t have these talents. At least, I cannot combine them and deliver as flawlessly as the others do. That did not seem to concern the Director, Choreographer, or Musical Director at the audition. I am not sure what their level of desperation was at the time, nor what beverage they had on the table to sustain them, but they did seem level-headed and certainly professional. Later,
when rehearsals began in earnest in October, and I had to explain that I neither read music, sang well, nor danced, these same people were kind and considerate. This is remarkable and a tribute to their intestinal fortitude as I don’t think that any of them had actually worked with someone who was asked to leave a Ward Choir for what was termed “Octave-blindness”, or had a Ballroom Dance instructor burst into tears as he clapped loudly and repeatedly yelled at me, “No! The Other Beat! The Other Beat!”

No, I am most definitely not one of the Triple-threats in our cast, but it was explained to me that not everyone would evolve to that level of performance. In every show, there is a need for actors who are mastering one of the three skills. These would be your single-threat performers. In our gifted cast, I may be the only one still at that level. I have heard it mentioned a few times that I may be the single most threat to the production. So there is that.

This particular musical, *Miracle on 34th Street*, is not one that is out there a lot. The popular movie of the 1940s and was a Christmas Tradition at my home as a child. It has a sweet and simple message that rings true to me at this time of year. Little did I know that to bring that message to the community, my October, November, and December would become dedicated to preparation, memorization, and aching muscles. I have danced in this production far more miles than I have run in the last 20 years. I have sung and harmonized tunes that I never knew and now love. (I have also hated them upon occasion.) I have found great joy in the hard work with people who love the gift that they are giving for the Season. I have been lucky to be engaged like this. I’m pretty sure that working with me has not too adversely affected the Production Staff and a tremendous cast of 40 actors who devoted so much time to this special show. (I understand that some hair may have to be grown back in place, but the Directors know that I try my best.) I know that I have made at least a few of them smile along the way.

It is appropriate to wish all of our readers a Merry Christmas, and I do that now. I invite all of you to join us at the Heritage Community Theatre in Perry, Utah to see this marvelous show. It is a good one—even with me in it.

Merry Christmas!

*from Steve Odenthal*
"For unto us a child is born..."
Isaiah 9:6

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Papai Noel - Brazil  
Hoteiosho - Japan (eyes in back of head to see naughty & nice)  
Julenisse - Norway  
Pere Noel - France (sidekick Pre Fouettard keeps track of naughty & nice)  
Noel Baba - Turkey  
Sinterklass- Dutch (brought to NY in 17th Century)  
Joulupukki - Finland (“Yule Buck” evil, goat-like have winter festivals keep him away)  
Aba Chaghhaloo - Afghanistan  
Babdimri - Albania  
Gaghant Baba - Armenia  
Christkind - Austria  
Pere Noel - Belgium  
Deda Mraz - Bosnia  
Dyado Koleda - Bulgaria

Queen Mab - Canada  
Viejo Pascuero - Chile  
Dun Che Lao Ren - China  
Papa Noel - Egypt  
Weihnachtsmann - Germany  
Kanakaloka - Hawaii  
Baba Noel - Iraq  
Daidina Nollag - Ireland  
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Recent studies show honey helps with coughs, especially buckwheat honey.

Remember No honey for infants!

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Bob Ross Wisdom:

“Sometimes you learn more from your mistakes than you do from your masterpieces.”

“The secret to doing anything is believing that you can do it. Anything that you believe you can do strong enough, you can do. Anything. As long as you believe.”

“If what you’re doing doesn’t make you happy, you’re doing the wrong thing.”

“There’s an artist hidden at the bottom of every single one of us.”

“It’s the imperfections that make something beautiful. That’s what makes it different and unique from everything else.”

Take yourself on a local art trip in Tremonton! **Tremonton Public Art Tour:**
(Best of State: Public Art 2016-2017)

- Space Shuttle Launch- 200 East Main
- Driving the Golden Spike- 125 East Main
- 1920’s Downtown Welcome Mural- 25 E Main
- Midland Hotel Mural-41 West Main
- Midland Square Veterans Memorial- 31 S 100 W
- Tremonton City Vol. Fire Dept- 51 S 100 W
- 1st Golden Spike Rodeo Mural- 140 W Main
- Jeppsen Family Collage Mural- 60 N 100 W
- Home Mural- 100 North 25 West
- Library Statue- 200 North Tremont St.
- Shuman Park Bell- 300 North 48 East
- Bear River Sports Mural- 600 North 100 West
- Mountain Mural 2- 160 North 300 West

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Give Unique Gifts

Each holiday season we all scramble to find the perfect gifts for those we love, our neighbors, co-workers, friends, and family. Busy schedules add stress to this process. Perhaps some of these ideas might ease a bit of the holiday frantics from your world:

1- **Give service.** Babysitting or helping where there is need.

2- **Share photos** of activities that you have participated in together.

3- Give the gift of **experiences & adventures** such as dinosaur museum pass, children’s museum pass, movie tickets, flex pass for local theater (Heritage Community Theatre), bowling passes, trampoline bounce gym passes, city passes for SLC or other cities, zoo passes, or any memory making adventures.

4- **Neighbor gifts** could include things that are easy and fast:
   a. 2 liter soda pop with a tag that states: “Popped over to wish you a Merry Christmas!”
   b. Candy with tag that says “Sweet Wishes for your Christmas!”
   c. We gave 2 salad utensils, a bag of cotton balls, a festive paper plate, and instructions to place plate on head, close eyes, and see who can get most cotton balls onto the plate in 30 seconds. It was an inexpensive gift but a hit!
   d. Our friends share home bottled grape juice for the holidays! (Thanks Cardons!)
   e. Cookies, bread, candy, popcorn, or other treats are always welcome. Even if someone is not a big fan of sweets, they can share these with their holiday visitors.

5- **Take a friend to lunch.**

6- **Go caroling** with your family or friends.

7- **Share a letter** of your own thoughts, memories, and experiences of why this person is a gem in your life.

8- **Spend time** with your family and friends. Time is a gift!

9- **Books** about any subject that you think might be of interest to that receiver.

10- **Photograph** something that person loves and frame it for them.

11- **Crafts** can be fun to share with others. The making of them is a great memory maker for children and adults if they enjoy artistic endeavors.

12- **Share a Christmas Album** of music that you think they would enjoy. (We love the CD one of our friends make every year of his favorite songs for the year.)

13- **Give a hug!**

14- **Smile. Be happy.** Being positive & pleasant goes far in a frantic season. Show love!

By Valerie Odenthal
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Tremonton
When exactly does the Christmas Season start? If we allow ourselves to be swallowed up by the consumerism and commercialization so rampant at this time of year it is easy to be swept up even as early as late summer. But is that truly a Christmas Season prompting that urges you to buy a certain gift for a special someone, or is that action more a response to the beyond ample marketing of a campaign designed to tug at your heart-strings?

The idea of gifting one another at this special time of year is a nice tradition, but it hardly embraces the true spirit of what Christmas time is all about. The Christmas story is handed down to us from Scriptures written in a time long ago, telling of Jesus Christ’s earthly family and about his birth in a lowly stable where his parents Mary and Joseph were able to find lodging for the night. Yes, there were gifts brought from afar to honor the birth of the Savior to the world from men and, yes, women, both high in stature and of lowly appointment by the world’s standards. Those who came to pay their respects offered gifts both material and loving. Many who knew of the signs of a star in the East were not able to journey to pay a solemn tribute to the newborn King, but still they rejoiced in this gift to the world. If they knew, they observed, reflected, rejoiced, and were touched; turning their hearts from the drudgery of everyday life’s tasks and toils to a higher motive, even if just briefly, and I am sure served their fellow man with a bit more compassion.

As is human nature this season, this turning of the heart, may have only lasted a short number of days or even hours, dependent upon the individual but I am sure it did occur within each community that this little family passed through or that heard of and were touched by the tidings of great joy which spread rapidly throughout the land. Still, this first Christmas Season was experienced by many who were in the middle of, not necessarily hard times but times that caused them to “trudge” through their lives. Normal for them as well as us today may have been less than ideal or their status in the world may not have been what they were striving for, but most continued to reach and stretch and work toward a better tomorrow just like we do today. Mary and Joseph, themselves, were not privileged to an easy existence, but as they journeyed to pay their share of the tax upon the land ordered by the government they knew of what precious cargo they carried and that the time of delivery was near at hand. Still, they trudged forward to pay their obligation and obey the laws and traditions of their land.

It was not an easy journey for them. Mary, with child, was more than uncomfortable and along the way I am sure this family met with setbacks they did not expect, hardships that they had to rise above, delays that impeded their progress, and challenges that the terrain and climate brought to bear. I am sure that along the way they encountered opportunities to serve their fellow man, whether it be a morsel of food or a strong arm to help someone who had inadvertently found a ditch. I am equally sure that their fellow travelers, probably on their own way to their own cities to pay a tax, at times took a moment to
lend them a hand in times of need—not because of any celebrity that Mary and Joseph might have had, rather because of the event which had been foretold of was sure to happen soon.

That first Christmas Season had no extraordinary decorations; it had no great fan-fare. That season was a celebration of the great event—the earthly birth of Jesus Christ. Sometimes, we lose that in the bright colors and lights today. Sometimes we let the world in a bit too much to our own celebration of this event. We make outward expressions of gifts and confuse it with love. There is a place for gifting; there is a bigger place for love in this Christmas Season.

For me, the Christmas Season begins when my heart turns back to this simple story of a baby in a manger and the knowledge and comfort that I believe in this special gift to the world which opens so many doors of understanding. It also begins as I see a fellow traveler along the way who needs a hand, and, importantly, I offer that hand without hesitation or expectation. The Season opens for me especially when I see that someone along the way is doing the same for another. That is special. Striving for others as well as ourselves is a special gift that all of us can give the world all year round, but it comes to mind easily in December.

Box Elder Magazine wishes the very best to our readers and all the people of Box Elder County. We have enjoyed serving you and look forward to this Christmas Season with our loved ones. We hope that you will find your hearts turning to the kindnesses that each of us can share this year.

Merry Christmas!

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Paul Fowler:
Paul Fowler is an Entrepreneur, Editor, Beekeeper and Scoutmaster. Paul grew up on a farm back in Indiana, in a time when family farms were still viable. He was operating farm equipment by the time he was five years old. He developed his work ethic back on this family farm where he learned what corn cobs are really used for. He was very talkative and love to use big words such that his mother said that he was so full it, that he would grow up to become an attorney someday. Well, editor will have to do for now.

As the creator of the Box Elder Magazine, Paul wanted to highlight the goodness that exists in life and to reflect the positive attributes of our county. He believes that the good far out weighs the bad. He is proud to be one of the few NRA training counselors in Northern Utah, though by some this merits him being labeled a terrorist. He is a recipient of the District award of Merit and the Silver Beaver (BSA).

He feels that one of his greatest accomplishments was winning the rib cook off. He and his wife Pam happily reside in Tremonton, where he is currently the organizer and sponsor of a new scout troop for the community. He is a passionate husband, grandfather, beekeeper and scoutmaster!

Casey Hall:
My wife, Cherece, and I moved to Brigham City in July 2017 with our five kids. We love the area’s down-home people and its peaceful and homely feeling. We recently added one more to our family, making a full half-dozen of fun! Four pretty girls and two handsome boys.

I grew up in the little town of Muleshoe, Texas where we all learned to grass-ski (a fun sport my family created in our fields), make music, and print. That’s what brought me to Fowler Service. I love design and print and am here to make Brigham a special place through print media.

During this significant time, the gathering of family and reminiscing over special memories is what makes it special. Thank you, Box Elder, for all being a special part of my life.
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Brent and Staff,
We just wanted to thank you for all of
your kindness and generosity to our family
during this difficult time. We appreciate
the concern in attention that was given to
make sure Bob’s services were exactly what
they needed to be. Thank you again.
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**Ingredients:**
- ½ cup olive oil
- Large onion, sliced
- 2 med yellow potatoes
- And a third variety (as desired)
- 1 large sweet potato sliced thinly
- 2 large polish sausages, sliced
- 1 teaspoon of salt
- ½ tsp pepper
- ½ stick of butter
- 2 teaspoons of sugar (honey alt)

**Preparation:**
Add the oil to the Dutch oven and begin to heat. Layer in the potatoes and onion (I line the bottom with some onion to prevent the sweet potatoes from sticking).
Add the polish sausage and seasoning. Cook until potatoes and ready. Add/stir in the butter and sugar, leave cook for a minute or two.

Serve!... and prepare to make more

---

**Scoutmaster Biscuits**

Caramalized Dutch Oven Goodness!

**Ingredients:**
- Dutch oven
- 1 can extra large Pillsbury biscuit
- 1 pint heavy cream
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1/4 cup sugar in the raw
- Option: favorite topping, ice cream, cool whip or?

**Preparation:**
Place biscuits evenly inside a 12 to 4 inch dutch oven, Pour cream over top of biscuits
Sprinkler brown sugar on the top. I usually add some Sugar in the raw as well
Cook 350 for 30 minutes or until nicely brown – caramelize.
Don’t over cook and try to get the heat even on top and bottom for best results.

For best results, make multiple batches... they go quick!

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**Contributing Writers for the Magazine:** We appreciate you and encourage our local talent!

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**Favorite Christmas Traditions**

**Steve Odenthal:**
The quiet flutter of snow as it muffles the unhurried sound of a neighborhood at peace. The warmth of a fire crackling its radiant warmth to the backsides of those brave souls who dared with an inner-tube those antics that Mothers have forever warned their young ones about. A quiet visit with a Son who confides, listens, and contemplates or a daughter with whom you haven’t had a heartfelt conversation for far too long. The stockings hung or on display after the Big Red Experience has come and gone, showing their thoughtful pleasantry—and a solemn contemplation of hosiery not quite so festive and full in childhood years gone by. Cookies and Milk in a simple setting for sustenance during a long night of spreading joy. Observing the twinkling of a single star and revisiting the story of a similar start to a wonderful story and gift.

**Valerie Odenthal:**
Christmas time is magical, sparkling, and exhausting. Taking the family to see Christmas lights around town, at Temple Square, by the BE Courthouse, Fantasy at the Bay, and anywhere that a twinkling light can be shown, is one of my favorite traditions. Richard & Linda Felt’s Disney extravaganza just off 600 East and 200 South in Brigham City is my favorite!!! Oranges, peanuts, & candy in stockings remind me of childhood. Musical plays, carols, concerts, putting puzzles together, making treats, board games, movies such as “Charlie Brown’s Christmas” or “Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer,” and gathering the family to look at old photos and talk about memories, are traditions held dear. My favorite traditions are those of “doing” more than the “getting” variety. It is a time of love, service, and family memory making.

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Have a question about our He Said She Said column? Let us hear from you on our facebook site!
The Most Interesting Scout In The World

When he was a Webelos, he made an actual arrow out of nothing but light.

He once tied a clove hitch out of a rusty tent stake.

At summer camp, he gets letters from your family.

He finished his first 10-mile hike in 6 miles.

Mosquitoes do not bite him out of a mixture of fear and respect.

When he starts a fire, he doesn’t need tinder or kindling, the firewood knows what to do.

There are 22 merit badges that only he has earned.

Bears make sure to stay down wind of him.

If you can see him, you are inside of his blood circle.

Stay prepared, my friends and Scout on.
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6 4 7 2  
3 5 2 9  
7 1 5 2  
4 6 9 8  
7 1 5 4  
2 8 3 7  
5 4 3 2

Easy! Casey finished in under 4 minutes! How do you compare?

Find the answers to Fun Page on BoxElderMagazine.com

![Christmas Word Search](image)

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Sudoku Skills

Easy... Casey finished in under 4 minutes! How do you compare?

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