

Hertford County Highlights

SPECIAL HOLIDAY EDITION: DECEMBER 2012



What about Santa's Reindeer?



*You know Dasher and Dancer
And Prancer and Vixen,
Comet and Cupid
And Donner and Blitzen.
But do you recall
The most famous reindeer of all?*

We have known and loved the eight or nine reindeer that pulls Santa's sleigh. However, have you ever wondered where they came from or maybe how they got their names? Turn to page 2 to read on about the history of Reindeer names.

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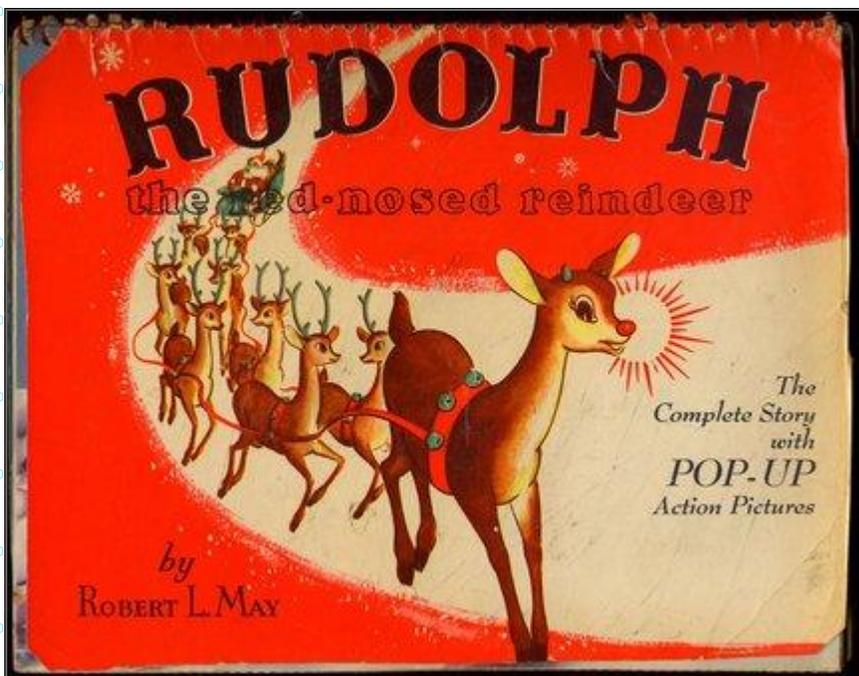
What about Santa's Reindeer?

There are about 3 million wild reindeer around today and 2 million that are domesticated. They are mainly found north in Russia, but they are also found in Greenland, Iceland and on some islands in Svalbard. They are known for their tolerance of extreme heat and cold. They can be in temperatures as low as -94F and +104F (-70C and +40C).

Where did the idea come from that reindeer fly? This story has been around for thousands of years now. There are drawings in caves found in Spain and France from the end of the Pleistocene of flying reindeer. In the North, there is actually a period of time called the "Age of the Reindeer," thousands of years ago.

Reindeer Associated With Christmas

In the poem written by Clement C. Moore, in 1823, 'Twas the Night Before Christmas, he wrote about the flying reindeer. In fact, in the original poem, he mentions eight reindeer. Their names are listed as Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner and Blitzen. The name Dasher means to be quick or a name of speed. Dancer and Prancer describe names that are graceful and elegant. Vixen is a female fox, which also symbolizes speed or swiftness. Comet is a large ball of fire that travels through space at a very high speed. Cupid also has to do with flying since he has wings. The last two reindeer names are Donner and Blitzen. Throughout the years, the names have been changed and no one seems to know why or exactly when. Dunder and Blixem were the original names, which mean Thunder and Lightning in Dutch. Of course, thunder and lightning means power and force. Dunder was later changed to Donner and Blixem was changed to Blitzen.



Then There Was Rudolph

Rudolph came along later than the other eight reindeer. Robert L. May created Rudolph in 1939. He did this as part of his job with Montgomery Ward. The Rudolph Co., L.P. owns the original story about Rudolph who was Santa's ninth reindeer. He was a misfit and not accepted by all the other reindeer. It wasn't until one night that Santa used Rudolph as the leader of the reindeer team since he had the glowing red nose to guide them through the snowstorm.

...Continued: What about Santa's Reindeer?



In 1944, Max Fleischer and Jam Handy created a short cartoon about Rudolph. Johnny Marks decided to make Rudolph into a song. In 1948, on New York radio, Harry Brannon was the first person to sing this song. This was the year before Gene Autry recorded it in 1949. In the song, the phrase "All of the other reindeer" has been misinterpreted as "Olive the other reindeer." Olive is another fictional character that was created afterward.

Golden Books published a storybook about Rudolph in 1958. It was adapted by Barbara Shook Hazen and illustrated by Richard Scarry. Rudolph made its television debut in 1964. Ranken/Bass produced this animated

television show. It airs several times throughout the Christmas holidays, it is on video and DVD and it also has a few sequels to the original TV show: Rudolph's Shiny New Year in 1976, Rudolph's and Frosty's Christmas in July in 1979 and Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer and the Island of Misfit Toys in 2001.

In 1998 there was an animated feature film made of Rudolph. This popular reindeer was even in several old comic books. Within the past several years, Rudolph was given some relatives. Rudolph has a son named Robbie in Robbie the Reindeer. Rudolph has a brother, Rusty in The Christmas that almost didn't Happen. Rudolph was given another brother in "Over the Hedge" comic strips named Ralph. Rudolph even has a cousin Leroy in the 1995 song Leroy the Redneck Reindeer written by Joe Diffie.

- Article written by Sherri Stanczak

Lump of Coal ?

The tradition of receiving a lump of coal in your stocking started in Holland. When a child was bad they got a lump of coal, but if they were good they got a small toy, cookies or candy.

There was a pervasive belief in the mid 19th century that if you were poor it was because you or your ancestors did bad things. They were poor because God was punishing them.

In that time period, most of England and Europe was powered by coal. Most household furnaces were coal burning. They would take coal and put it in pans under the bed to stay warm at night. So coal had value. If you were a poor kid, you were lucky to get coal that you could use to keep yourself warm on cold winter nights. The rich had nice warm houses and lots of goodies in their stockings but the poor, who were so as punishment from God for being bad were lucky to get coal.

MAKES 66 BITES | PREP: 15 MINUTES | TOTAL TIME: 1 HOUR 10 MINUTES



FROSTED PEPPERMINT MINI BITES



Made With Ghirardelli® Premium Baking Cocoa

INGREDIENTS

For Bites 3/4 cup Ghirardelli® Premium Baking Cocoa, unsweetened 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour 1 1/2 cups sugar 1 1/2 teaspoons baking soda 3/4 teaspoon baking powder 3/4 teaspoon salt 2 large eggs 3/4 cup warm water 3/4 cup buttermilk	For Frosting 3 sticks (12 ounces) unsalted butter, softened 1 pound confectioners sugar, sifted 1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract 1 teaspoon pure peppermint extract Peppermint candies coarsely chopped, for garnish	3 tablespoons sunflower oil 1 teaspoon pure peppermint extract Peppermint candies coarsely chopped, for garnish
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INSTRUCTIONS

1. For Bites: Line mini-muffin tins with mini-paper liners. Mix all ingredients to create a chocolate batter. Divide batter among muffin cups, filling each 2/3 full. Bake until a toothpick inserted into centers comes out clean, about 10 minutes. Let cool in tins on wire racks.
2. For Frosting: Beat butter with a mixer on medium-high speed until pale and creamy, about 2 minutes. Reduce speed to medium. Add sugar, 1/2 cup at a time, beating after each addition, about 5 minutes. Add vanilla, and beat until buttercream is smooth.
3. Frost each mini bite with buttercream frosting and garnish with peppermint candy.



How to Decorate a Christmas Tree

Seven Simple Tips For Your Elegant Evergreen



There's nothing quite like decorating the Christmas tree to mark the start of the festive season. Whether you've decided to have a real tree or an artificial one, everyone can enjoy the ritual of hanging the lights, draping the garlands and swags and trimming the tree with your favorite Christmas ornaments.

So as the moment approaches to bring out your favorite ornaments from their year-long storage, it's time to decide what sort of tree decoration you want. For some people, trimming the tree involves a carefully thought out design. Perhaps your theme will be a single color this year -- maybe all white, silver or gold. On the other hand, your decorations and ornaments may represent an eclectic mixture of shapes, patterns and styles to create an effect that's uniquely you.

One rule about choosing Christmas tree decorations is that there are no rules! Don't let the style police dictate the way you deck your holiday evergreen: this is one time, at least, when you're free to let your personal taste and style reign supreme.

Whatever your choice, there are some basic principles to help you decorate your tree with pizzazz. Once it's safely set up on its stand, have your ornaments, lights and accessories ready to one side. Here's an order of steps to make the task easier: Whether you're young in years or simply young at heart, the magic of dressing a Christmas tree never ceases to bring joy and wonder to mark the start of the holiday season.

1. Put the lights on first. Don't try to wrap a cord of lights around a tree that already has ornaments hanging on it. Placing some of the lights further back on the branches will emphasize depth and leave more room for other items.
2. Make sure you have enough lights to create the effect you want. You can go with all one color or have a contrasting multicolored effect. Your other decorations will reflect the lights to create a dazzling display.
3. Try to distribute the lights evenly across the tree to avoid a 'bunching' effect. You can find lighting sets that are arranged as a net that can be draped over the tree. These can produce a very regular distribution, although this kind of wiring can be harder to disguise within the branches.
4. If you like to use garlands, beads or tinsel, work from the top of the tree downwards. Once again, try to space them evenly and avoid a 'layered' effect.
5. Hang your ornaments last. That way, you'll be less likely to knock delicate items from their branches.
6. Think about the effect that different arrangements would create: for example, you could distribute your larger pieces evenly across the tree and then fill the spaces in between with smaller items -- or perhaps create clusters of shapes and sizes in areas that will be more prominent.
7. Don't forget to crown your tree with your favorite topper; An angel, a star or some other special ornament. Then stand back and admire your handiwork!

Cupcake Christmas Tree Recipe Directions



Prep: 45 min.

Bake: 20 min. + cooling

Yield: 24 Servings

- 1 package devil's food cake mix (regular size)
 - 1-1/2 cups mint chocolate chips
 - 6 tablespoons butter, softened
 - 2-2/3 cups confectioners' sugar
 - 4 to 5 tablespoons milk
 - 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
 - 1/4 teaspoon peppermint extract
 - 1 teaspoon baking cocoa
 - 1/4 teaspoon green paste food coloring
 - Candy-coated milk chocolate miniature kisses
 - 2 chocolate stars
 - 12 Starburst candies
- ◆ Prepare cake batter mix according to package directions for cupcakes; fold in chips. Fill foil-lined muffin cups two-thirds full.
 - ◆ Bake at 350° for 18-24 minutes or until a toothpick inserted near the center comes out clean. Cool for 5 minutes before removing from pans to wire racks to cool completely.
 - ◆ For frosting, in a large bowl, cream butter and confectioners' sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in milk and extracts until blended. Transfer 2 tablespoons to a small bowl; stir in cocoa. Stir green food coloring into remaining frosting.
 - ◆ Frost 21 cupcakes with green frosting; arrange in a pyramid to form a tree. Decorate all but the top cupcake with miniature kisses for lights. Frost two cupcakes with chocolate frosting and place at base of tree for trunk; top each with a chocolate star. Save remaining cupcake for another use.
 - ◆ With a rolling pin, roll two yellow Starburst candies flat; cut with 2-in. and 1-1/2-in. star-shaped cookie cutters. Press smaller star onto larger star; place on cupcake at top of tree.
 - ◆ For presents, roll five Starburst candies into 3-in. x 3/4-in. rectangles; cut each rectangle into four 3-in.-long strips. Place two strips widthwise on one whole Starburst candy; press together at base to attach.
 - ◆ For bow, form two strips into figure eights; press together in center and press onto wrapped candy. Repeat with remaining strips and remaining four whole Starburst candies. Place presents beneath cupcake tree. Yield: 24 servings.



Top 5 Tips to Save Time, Money, Stress and Calories for the Holiday Dinner



Are you having guests over for Holiday dinner? Dreading the extra stress, expense and calories? Here are some helpful ideas.

Do not go overboard with variety. You do not have to have everyone's favorite holiday food at one meal. Do you serve mashed potatoes, stuffing, and sweet potatoes? Do you serve two meats? Think about eliminating some of the options. With more variety, the more ingredients you will have to buy and store, the more serving and leftover dishes there will be and the more everyone will eat.

Take guests up on their offer to bring something. Be ready with a list of dishes you can have guests bring. Some of your guests would love to show off their cooking skills with a salad or dessert. Others with less time or ability could be asked to bring a dozen rolls from the bakery, a purchased dessert, or some type of beverage.

Simplify your recipes. Every dish does not have to be fancy. I love fresh or frozen green beans with a touch of olive oil more than green bean casserole. I would rather have our Holiday Fruit Salad than a salad with a little fruit and lots of whipped topping or sweetened condensed milk. I also love our Guiltless Pumpkin Pie.

Use some convenience foods. Homemade stuffing will cost less, especially if you save bread crusts or buy your bread at the day old store. However, boxed stuffing is often on sale around the holidays and adding sautéed onions, celery and peppers is always a good substitute.

Know how many people are attending dinner. This is important so you do not end up making too much food and spending extra money. Make only as much as you need for the people that are attending unless you are deliberately planning for leftovers. Contact North Carolina Cooperative Extension, 252-358-7822 for a planning guide to get you started. Also contact us for planning guide and tips for Healthy Holiday Dinner for 8, including the recipes and shopping list. The cost might be a little more than \$35 now, but this holiday meal will NOT break your budget, make you fat or stressed out.

SPECIAL THANKS

To my fellow employees who graciously donated their leave time on my behalf, thank you from the bottom of my heart. Because of you, I was able to continue to financially take care of my family while I was recovering. Your act of kindness did not go unnoticed. God bless each and every one of you!

Forever Grateful,

Jaime Ambrose

Hanukkah, the "Festival of Lights," starts on the 25th day of the Jewish calendar month of Kislev and lasts for eight days and nights. In 2012, Hanukkah begins on December 8th at sundown.



5

WAYS TO KEEP *Christmas Gift*



SPENDING
\$250 FOR A
FAMILY
OF FOUR

* From Parents.com & The Thrifty Frugal Mom Blog

1 Set a budget ahead of time

Limit spending to a max \$\$ amount for each person on your list and stick to it!



2 Shop all year long

Watch online deals, clearance racks, and sales flyers all year for that perfect gift.

3 Exchange names instead of buying for everyone

Instead of buying gifts for everyone, draw names so each party-goer is only buying for one person.



4 Get creative

Search sites like Pinterest for gift ideas you can make. Homemade gifts will be truly cherished.

5 Find inexpensive gift wrap options

This cost adds up! Start with brown craft paper and embellish with craft items from around the house.



CRANBERRIES

JUST DURING THE HOLIDAYS?



Here are 10 reasons why you should think about adding cranberries to your daily diet:

1) Cranberries are at their peak during the Christmas season. This means that the holidays are a perfect time to start adding cranberries to your everyday meals and keep up with that healthy habit all year round.

2) North Americans are lucky to get access to these fruits because people in Europe have a tougher time getting them. We should enjoy our accessibility to these tart fruits.

3) For those of you with urinary tract infections, cranberries are the way to go! The reason why they're effective against urinary tract infections is because eating cranberries or drinking cranberry juice can acidify your urine that stops E. coli bacteria (a main component that leads to an urinary tract infection) from getting to your cell walls.

4) Cranberries are filled with many vitamins.

5) These fruits are rich in antioxidants, which is all the rage in terms of popularity in foods these days, and this means that they can help reduce the amount of any oxidation damage to your cells.

6) Concerned about keeping your pearly teeth white? Cranberries actually help prevent plaque from building up on your teeth.

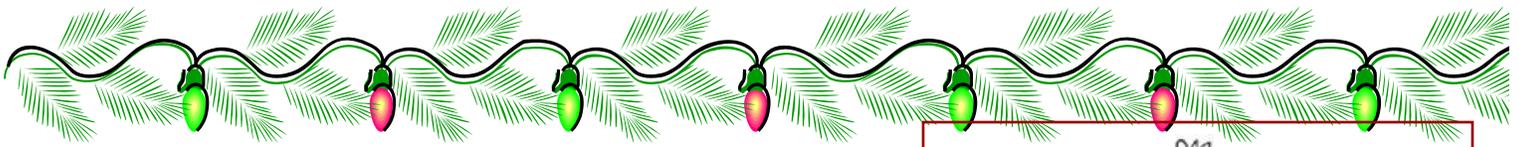
7) There has also been some research that suggests that drinking cranberry juice can help prevent stomach cancer and ulcers because it can kill H. pylori bacteria that is a main component of those diseases.

#8) Another reason why cranberries are good for you is that eating them can help prevent kidney stones from forming.

9) Cranberries can help people who get asthma attacks. Drinking cranberry juice especially helps because it can widen your bronchial tubes.

10) They're more than just a snack (aka dried cranberries). Spas turn to cranberries to use in treatments to improve the quality of your skin. The antioxidants in cranberries can help cleanse your skin and improve its quality.

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Holiday and Christmas Tree

Fire Safety

Decorating homes and businesses is a long-standing tradition around the holiday season. Unfortunately, these same decorations may increase your chances of fire. Based on data from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA), an estimated 240 home fires involving Christmas trees and another 150 home fires involving holiday lights and other decorative lighting occur each year. Together, these fires result in 21 deaths and \$25.2 million in direct property damage.

Following a few simple fire safety tips can keep electric lights, candles, and the ever popular Christmas tree from creating a tragedy. Learn how to prevent a fire and what to do in case a fire starts in your home. Make sure all exits are accessible and not blocked by decorations or trees. Help ensure that you have a fire safe holiday season.

Christmas Trees

What's a traditional Christmas morning scene without a beautifully decorated tree? If your household includes a natural tree in its festivities, take to heart the sales person's suggestion - "Keep the tree watered."

Christmas trees account for hundreds of fires annually. Typically, shorts in electrical lights or open flames from candles, lighters or matches start tree fires. Well-watered trees are not a problem. A dry and neglected tree can be.

Selecting a Tree for the Holidays

Needles on fresh trees should be green and hard to pull back from the branches, and the needles should not break if the tree has been freshly cut. The trunk should be sticky to the touch. Old trees can be identified by bouncing the tree trunk on the ground. If many needles fall off, the tree has been cut too long and, has probably dried out, and is a fire hazard.

Caring for Your Tree

Do not place your tree close to a heat source, including a fireplace or heat vent. The heat will dry out the tree, causing it to be more easily ignited by heat, flame or sparks. Be careful not to drop or flick cigarette ashes near a tree. Do not put your live tree up too early or leave it up for longer than two weeks. Keep the tree stand filled with water at all times.

Disposing of Your Tree

Never put tree branches or needles in a fireplace or wood-burning stove. When the tree becomes dry, discard it promptly. The best way to dispose of your tree is by taking it to a recycling center or having it hauled away by a community pick-up service. -

www.usfa.fema.gov



Holiday Lights

Maintain Your Holiday Lights

Inspect holiday lights each year for frayed wires, bare spots, gaps in the insulation, broken or cracked sockets, and excessive kinking or wear before putting them up. Use only lighting listed by an approved testing laboratory.

Do Not Overload Electrical Outlets

Do not link more than three light strands, unless the directions indicate it is safe. Connect strings of lights to an extension cord before plugging the cord into the outlet. Make sure to periodically check the wires, they should not be warm to the touch.

Do not leave holiday lights on unattended!

Holiday Decorations

Use Only Nonflammable Decorations

All decorations should be nonflammable or flame-retardant and placed away from heat vents. If you are using a metallic or artificial tree, make sure it is flame retardant.

Don't Block Exits

Ensure that trees and other holiday decorations do not block an exit way. In the event of a fire, time is of the essence. A blocked entry/exit way puts you and your family at risk.

Never Put Wrapping Paper in the Fireplace

Wrapping paper in the fireplace can result in a very large fire, throwing off dangerous sparks and embers that may result in a chimney fire.

Candle Care

Avoid Using Lit Candles

Consider using battery-operated flameless candles, which can look, smell and feel like real candles.

If You Do Use Lit Candles

Make sure candles are in stable holders and place them where they cannot be easily knocked down. Keep candles at least 12 inches from anything that can burn. Never leave a room or go to bed with candles burning.

Never Put Lit Candles on a Tree

Do not go near a Christmas tree with an open flame. Not with candles, lighters or matches.



Dear Santa...



Dear Santa Letter sent 100 years ago found up chimney

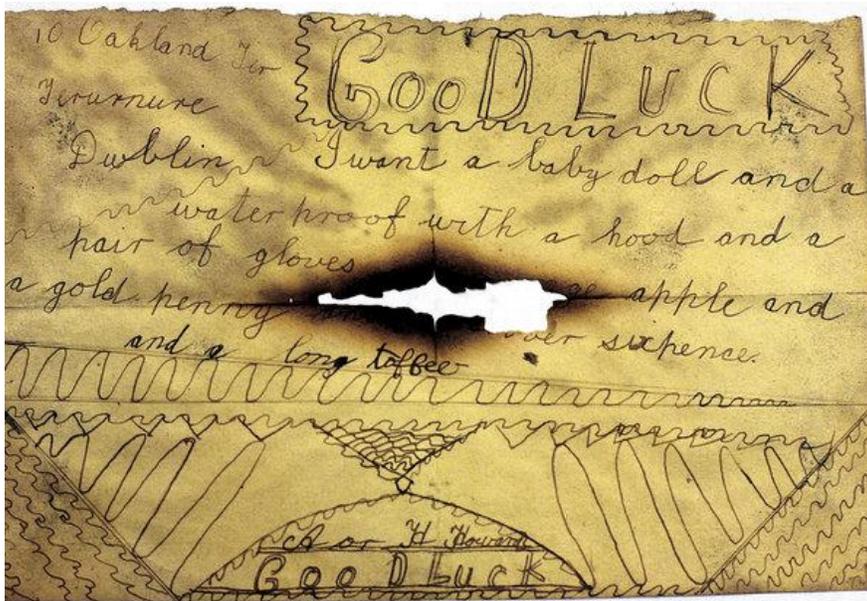
It may have been slightly scorched over the years but a letter to Santa written 100 years ago, which was later discovered in a Dublin fireplace, has the magic of Christmas written all over it.

On Christmas Eve 1911, a brother and sister, who signed their names, "A or H Howard", penned their personally designed letter to Santa with their requests for gifts and a good luck message at their home in Oaklands Terrace, Terenure (or Terurnure, as the children spelled it) in Dublin. They placed it in the chimney of the fireplace in the front bedroom so that Santa would see it as he made his way into the Howard household in the early hours of the morning.

The letter was discovered by the house's current occupant, John Byrne, when he was installing central heating in 1992. Since then, he has retained it as a souvenir of another time and place but with the stamp of childhood innocence which still exists today. The message to Santa was warm but explicit.

"I want a baby doll and a waterproof with a hood and a pair of gloves and a toffee apple and a gold penny and a silver sixpence and a long toffee."

Ownership of the house changed over the decades, with the Byrne family moving there in 1961, but the letter survived. "At that time, the fireplaces were made of brick with a shelf on either side," said John Byrne who works in the building industry. "The letter was found on one of the shelves."



The letter remained remarkably intact given the passage of time and was only slightly burned from fires set in the house over the years. As well as the requests for gifts from Santa the letter also contains drawings and a message of "Good Luck" to Santa from the children. According to the 1911 census there were three children living at the address in the year in which the letter was written. The youngest of them, Hannah, who was 10 at the time, and Fred (presumably short for Alfred) who was seven, fit in with the initials on the letter. A third child, a 13-year-old called Lily, is also listed. The Howard family were all born in England, including parents Fred Hamer Howard, an "under manager" in a plumber merchants, and his wife Mary Elizabeth. They listed their religion as Church of Ireland.

-MICHAEL O'REGAN and PAMELA DUNCAN,
www.irishtimes.com

Operation Santa Celebrates 100 Years!

Operation Santa, now in its 100th year, matches the Dear Santa letters from needy children and families with the anonymous donors willing to adopt the letters and fulfill the holiday wishes. Around the country, 26 post offices field the letters and offer them to the public for adoption. For almost as long as it's been in existence, the postal service has received letters to Santa Claus. In 1912, Postmaster General Frank Hitchcock authorized local postmasters to allow postal employees and the public to respond to the letters, officially ushering in Operation Santa. To commemorate the 100th anniversary, the postal service issued a special Santa stamp and is selling memorabilia, including a holiday ornament and a children's book.





The Ghost of Holidays Past

When the holidays are over, some people find themselves being constantly haunted by the ghost of over-spending. To avoid that from happening this year, begin planning for the season now. Consider the following tips:

Plan a holiday budget. The best way to stay out of trouble during the holiday season is to figure out how much you can spend without going into debt—before hitting the shops. Begin by looking over old checking and credit card statements to see how much you spent last year. To this amount, don't forget to add in expenditures for things like holiday meals, travel and parties. This is your budget. Stick to it by shopping smart—and early. It's often those last-minute impulse purchases that wind up blowing your budget.

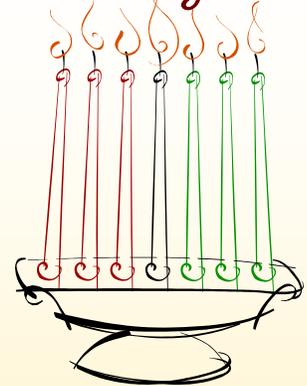
Get personal. You don't always have to spend a lot of money to communicate the essence of giving. Gifts such as baked goods, handmade ornaments or pictures give holidays a personal touch without breaking your budget.

Plan holiday spending for next year now! That's right, go ahead and begin planning for the upcoming holiday season by opening a Holiday Cash Club Account at Local Government Federal Credit Union, which you are eligible to join if you are a local government employee. This is a special savings account where you can set aside money for holiday spending year-round. You can open this account today and the money will be available for use on the last business day of October. There is no minimum deposit, no service charge.

Hopefully by following these tips, the only ghosts you'll see from now on are on Halloween!

Happy

Kwanzaa!



Kwanzaa is traditionally celebrated from December 26 through January 1, with each day focused on Nguzo Saba, or the seven principles. Derived from the Swahili phrase "matunda ya kwanza" which means "first fruits", Kwanzaa is rooted in the first harvest celebrations practiced in various cultures in Africa.



MAKES 32 ICE CREAM SANDWICHES | PREP: 30 MINUTES | BAKE: 40 MINUTES | FREEZE: OVERNIGHT

PEPPERMINT DREAM ICE CREAM SANDWICHES



Made With Ghirardelli®
60% Cacao Bittersweet
Chocolate Baking Chips

INGREDIENTS

1 quart vanilla ice cream	1/2 teaspoon baking soda
1-1/2 3.5 ounce Ghirardelli® Peppermint Bark Baking Bars, finely chopped	1/2 teaspoon salt
1 1/4 cups Ghirardelli 60% Cacao Bittersweet Chocolate Baking Chips	1 large egg
1/2 cup unsalted butter, softened	1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1 cup packed brown sugar	1 8-ounce carton sour cream
	2 cups all-purpose flour
	1/3 cup whipping cream

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Line a 7x3x2-inch loaf pan with plastic wrap. Spoon ice cream into a large bowl. Let stand for 10 minutes to soften slightly. Stir in chopped Ghirardelli® Peppermint Bark Baking Bars. Transfer ice cream to the prepared loaf pan. Cover and return to the freezer about 2 hours or until firm. When firm, remove from pan and wrap in plastic wrap. Freeze overnight.
2. Preheat oven to 350°F. Grease bottom and 1/2 inch up sides of two 7x3x2-inch loaf pans; set aside. In a food processor or blender, process or blend the 1/2 cup Ghirardelli 60% Cacao Bittersweet Chocolate Baking Chips until very finely chopped (do not overprocess or the chocolate will begin to melt); set aside.
3. In a large bowl, beat butter with an electric mixer on medium to high speed for 30 seconds. Add brown sugar, baking soda, and salt; beat until combined, scraping bowl occasionally. Beat in egg and vanilla until combined. Beat in the finely chopped bittersweet chocolate. Beat in as much of the flour as you can with the mixer. Stir in any remaining flour with a spatula or wooden spoon.
4. Divide batter among the prepared loaf pans. Bake for 40 minutes or until tops spring back when lightly touched. Cool for 10 minutes; remove from pan. Cool completely on wire rack. For easier slicing, wrap in plastic wrap and let stand overnight at room temperature.
5. Chill two small trays. Slice each cookie loaf into 16 thin slices. Remove ice cream from the freezer and quickly cut into 16 slices. Place a slice of ice cream between two slices of cookie. Place sandwiches on chilled trays. Freeze at least 30 minutes. Working with half at a time, trim crusts from each sandwich. Cut each sandwich in half. Place mini sandwiches in a plastic freezer container. Cover and freeze for up to 3 days.
6. Just before serving, prepare topping. In a small saucepan, bring whipping cream just to a boil over medium heat. Remove from heat. Add 3/4 cup Ghirardelli 60% Cacao Bittersweet Chocolate Baking Chips; do not stir. Let stand for 5 minutes; stir until smooth. Cool for 15 minutes. Remove ice cream sandwiches from freezer. Top each sandwich with 1 of teaspoon topping. Enjoy immediately.



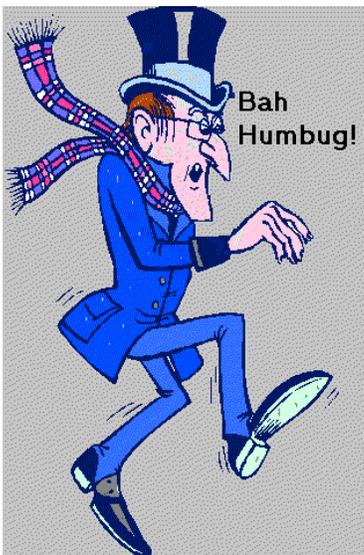
Christmas Trivia

FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

1. What is Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer's Son's Name?
2. What was Donners' original reindeer name?
3. What is the last recommended step in decorating a Christmas Tree?
4. Hanukah begins on what day in 2012?
5. Eating these can prevent plaque buildup on your teeth.
6. How many years has "Operation Santa Claus" been around?
7. Who created Rudolph?
8. Being poor was considered _____ from God in the 19th Century.
9. Cranberries are at their peak during the _____ season.
10. Whose parade is the "odd ball out" this year?



(Here's a little hint.... All the trivia answers can be found in this edition of Hertford County Highlights!)



DON'T BE LIKE SCROOGE! WIN A PRIZE INSTEAD! BE THE FIRST TO ANSWER THE CHRISTMAS TRIVIA QUESTIONS CORRECTLY! EMAIL YOUR ANSWERS TO:

JOSEPHINEGREEN@HERTFORDCOUNTYNC.GOV



Christmas Word Search

- | | | |
|-----------|--------------|-----------|
| advent | dancer | rudolph |
| baubles | dasher | santa |
| blitzen | december | sing |
| cake | donner | sleigh |
| carols | eggnog | snow |
| chimney | elves | snowflake |
| christmas | gifts | snowman |
| cold | holly | star |
| comet | ivy | stocking |
| cupid | jingle bells | tinsel |
| | joy | toys |
| | lights | tree |
| | merry | turkey |
| | | vixen |
| | | wreath |



mistletoe s g o c o d t j e i s d e e r t r e h s a d i
north pole t n r a g s a l i l n g d k a s a n t a m e r
peace h a e r r i v y e n g y s c a h r i j o y s t
pine g d c o m e a i e n g i s t c c o y o u y q j
prancer i v n l s y g n o k n l c h f o r v p e d x
pudding l e a s l h y g x g a d e o t r m a f k k r m
red nose y n d l e s n i t d x l e b l a n e t v r n w
reindeer e t o p d y f n r r r m f c e d e z t s u a b
rudolph n h c s d k k e e g s u q w e l r r t r t m y
santa m j u n l k d n n a k t d z o m l e w e n w r
sing i b p o r n n i m m h q x o r n b s c i f o r
sleigh h l i w o o k t s y o t j v l h s e n n x n e
snow c i d s d c s v i x e n m y m p c s r d a s m
snowflake v t e r o i n o r t h p o l e a h t x e y r e
snowman g z y t r m k g n i d d u p e z l f g e k n p
star q e s h n f s e l b u a b p l k p i n r i f t
stocking r n c p m i s t l e t o e q k w q g p p w n v

Hertford County Highlights Committee: Crystal Askew, Crystal Smith, Ivy Boyce, Jackie White, Josephine Green, Sandy Brock, Sara Turner and Tonya Freeman. If you would be interested in joining our committee please contact Sara Turner at sara.powell.turner@hertfordcountync.gov

SOLDIER CARE PACKAGES

Throughout the month of December, Hertford County 4-H will be collecting holiday cards and other items to be sent to our active duty Servicemen and Service Women. Please drop items off at the Extension Office. Thanks for supporting our troops!



Following is a short list of the items most often requested

CARDS & LETTERS: The troops love to hear from all of us and mail brightens their days! These are the **MOST IMPORTANT** items we can send the troops & we can never have too many, so please keep writing!

Beef Jerky / Slim Jims

Coffee (Ground or whole; instant or drip),

Instant Drink Mixes (Gatorade, Kool-Aid, Crystal Light)

Pumpkin Seeds / Sunflower Seeds

Tuna in foil pouches (no cans)

Protein Powders / Protein Bars / Cliff Bars

Baby wipes (travel size)

Liquid Hand Sanitizer (travel size)

Batteries: (AA, AAA, C & 9 Volt are the most requested)

DVD Movies (new or used - recent releases only, please!)

Xbox Games (new or used)

PSP, PS2 & PS3 Games (new or used)

Portable CD players / head phones

Linens: Pillow cases, twin sheets, towels (green & tan)

T-Shirts: Cotton green & tan under shirts (Sizes: M, L & XL)

Small Flashlights (battery operated, Surefire preferred)

Air Fresheners (standalone or car types preferred. Not plug-ins)

Socks: Black, Olive Green & White (cotton or wool)

4-H Upcoming Events, Activities & Programs



Volunteer Leader's Meeting:

Want to be a 4-H Volunteer? Want to start a 4-H Club in your community, at your church, or at your school? Come on down to our Volunteer Leader's Meeting on Wednesday, December 12th at 5:30PM at the Extension Office. Learn how to make the best better!

Day Trip to Merchant's Mill Pond State Park:

Come spend the day with Mother Nature! Hertford County 4-H will be going on a day trip Merchant's Mill Pond State Park in Gates County on Thursday, December 20th. Be ready to hike, bird watch, identify trees, and look for signs of wildlife. Open to kids ages 9-13. Bring bag lunch. Bundle up! Registration deadline is **Thursday, December 13th**. Cost \$5.

ASPIRE 2 ACT Test Prep:

This is an ACT Test Prep program for rural high school sophomores and juniors with a 3.2 unweighted GPA or higher and interest in earning a degree in agriculture or life sciences. For more info or to sign up, please call Wendy Drake at 358-7822 or visit <http://harvest.cals.ncsu.edu/aspire/>

Registration deadline is **Saturday, December 15th**.

Teen Leadership Meeting:

Our next Teen Leadership Meeting will be held on **Monday, December 17th** at 5:30PM at the Hertford County Cooperative Extension Center, 301 W. Tryon Street, Winton, NC. Come on down and hear the latest about the best 4-H program around!

Presentations for District Activity Day:

A presentation is a way to share information with others, to teach what you know or have learned. While there are many types of presentations, 4-H materials concentrate on these four: demonstrations, illustrated talks, public speeches, and impromptu speeches. List of topics is available upon request. There are cash prizes for the winners! Topics due into county office by **Monday, December 17th**.

Summer Camp at 4-H Eastern Center:

Interested in learning lifelong skills and creating lifelong friendships? Join Hertford County 4-H at the 4-H Eastern Center in Columbia, NC from June 16th through June 21st. Kids aged 8 - 12 will never forget this incredible camping experience. For more info, please call Caroline at 358-7822. Non-refundable deposit due **December 28th, 2012**.

To register or for more information about any of the programs listed above, please call Caroline Stephenson at 358-7822 or email at caroline_stephenson@ncsu.edu

Thanks for supporting Hertford County 4-H!

Calendar of Holiday Events

Hertford County Highlights
Special Holiday Edition 2012

Parades

December 1st – Cofield Christmas Parade starting at 2:00 pm

December 1st – Murfreesboro Christmas Parade starting at 10:00 am

December 1st – Winton Christmas Parade starting at 5:00 pm

December 8th – Ahoskie Christmas Parade starting at 10:00 am

Christmas Events

December 1st – Christmas Tree Lighting and Caroling from 6:30-7:30 pm at No Man's Land Park on Main St. in Ahoskie.

December 1st – Union Baptist Church will be having a Christmas Gift Galore at the church from 9:00 am – 2:00 pm. Cost - \$3.00, Kids 12 and under are free.

December 2nd – The Gallery Theater will present "A Gallery Christmas Showcase". The production will feature dancers from Hope's School of Dance performing excerpts from Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker Suite and other fun holiday dances. There will be special musical guests, and specially produced holiday themed scenes "I'm Dreaming of a..." and "Casting Call: The Angel" directed by Chowan University's Steve Harders. Ralph Hewitt will also be reading the timeless O. Henry story of love and sacrifice, "The Gift of the Magi". Doors open at 2:00 p.m. for "Nutcracker 'Sweets'" and photo opportunities with your favorite characters from Hope's School of Dance "Nutcracker Suite". General admission tickets are: \$5.00 for ages 3-15 and \$10.00 for ages 16 and up. Call the Gallery Theatre at 252-332-2976 or Hope Miller at 252-287-6961 for tickets and additional information. Tickets are limited, so make your reservations soon.

December 2nd – Christmas Tree Lighting and Caroling from 1:30-6:00 pm on Main Street in Harrellsville. There will be Horse and Carriage rides starting at 1:30. Santa will come in on the fire truck.

December 6th & 7th - "*The Magic of Christmas*" is the theme for the 27th Anniversary of the [Candlelight Christmas Tour](#). The tour will run from 4:00 – 8:30pm and tickets are \$30.00 per adult and \$10.00 for children under 12. **Tour Features** - 12 Stops in historically significant structures, Traditional holiday food in each venue, Complete sit down Christmas dinner, Horse-drawn carriage and tram rides in the Historic District, Beautiful seasonal decorations representing Christmas through the years, Musical entertainment at each site.

Musicals

December 2nd - **Music Event** - Christmas at Chowan at 3:30 pm in the Turner Auditorium

December 3rd - **Music Event** – Masterworks Concert, Handel's *Messiah* at 7:30 pm in the Turner Auditorium

December 4th @7:30pm - The Chowan University Masterworks Chorus and Orchestra will perform "Handel's Messiah" at the Suffolk Center for Cultural Arts. The Masterworks Chorus is comprised of Chowan University students and area residents who are accepted by audition. It is augmented by the Masterworks Orchestra, which is made up of students, area residents, and professional players from the Virginia Symphony. Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased by calling the Box Office at 757.923.2900.

December 16th – The Gospel Ensemble's Anniversary at 4:00 at First Baptist Murfreesboro

Santa Sightings

December 24th @ 3:00 – Come have a conversation with Santa and a ride on the fire trucks in Winton. Sponsored by the Winton Fire Department.



Elizabeth City State University

CONCERT CHOIR

PRESENTS

Bach

Magnificat



Johann Sebastian Bach

Saturday, December 1, 2012

4:00 p.m.

Admission - Free

(BRING A CANNED GOOD)

Mickey L. Burnim Fine Arts Center

1704 Weeksville Rd
Elizabeth City, NC 27909

For more information, contact: Dr. Walter R. Swan, Director of Choral Activities @
252.335.3364 or wrswan@mail.ecsu.edu