

**DECEMBER 24. 2021** 

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Volume 11 Number 28

said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and ill be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end." Luke 1:30-33





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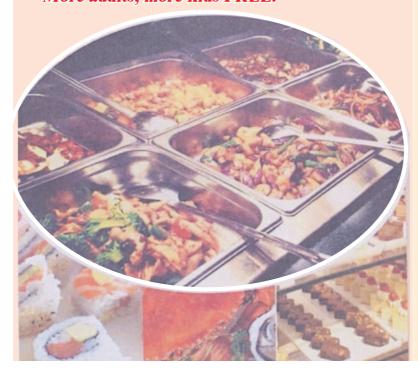
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#### AMVETS Post 2000 Christmas Stuff the Bus

AMVETS Post 2000 in Fort Plain held a "Christmas Stuff the Bus" from Oct. 23 - Dec. 11 with delivery date Dec. 12 to Albany Stratton VA Medical Center in Albany. While our veterans go for treatments, their children will receive gifts for Christmas from the toys that were donated. AMVETS Post 2000 received help from the following: Assemblyman Angelo Santabarbara, EJ Knapik AMVETS Post 35 of Guilderland, Walmart DC of Sharon Community Springs,





Sharon Springs Central School donated a big bus to stuff for delivery this Christmas

The "Christmas Stuff the Bus" campaign means that while veterans go for treatments their children received gifts for Christmas from the toys that were donated.

Center of Sharon Springs, Sharon Springs Central School staff and students of Sharon Springs, Mohawk Valley Earl Stock Memorial VFW Post 3275 Auxiliary of Fort Plain and individual donations of new toys. The gifts totaled almost \$6,000.

Sharon Springs Central School also donated a big bus to stuff for delivery. The schools of Canajoharie and Sharon Springs students made cards for the veterans for Christmas. AMVET Post 2000 Ladies Auxiliary put 20

boxes of cookies together for all of the nurses' stations. There were three boxes full of care packages donated for the veterans as well. This is an amazing way to give back to our veterans during the holiday season.



AMVETS Post 2000 in Fort Plain held a "Christmas Stuff the Bus" from Oct. 23 - Dec. 11, with delivery on Dec. 12 to Albany Stratton VA Medical Center.







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COMPAN

HERKIMER COUNTRY EDITOR

December 24, 2021 • 3

# Poland Drama Club's performance of 'A Christmas Carol' brings feeling of togetherness to new school theater

The Poland Central School District Drama Club's performances of "A Christmas Carol" on Dec. 18 had extra meaning for Drama Club members.

For the first time since before COVID-19 and before the new theater was completed as part of Capital Project 2020, the Drama Club put on a fully live performance for a full crowd.

"It's exciting – this stage has been kind of sitting here waiting for an audience," said Poland English teacher Michael Gagnon, who is advisor of the Drama Club and directed "A Christmas Carol." Students performed two shows of "A Christmas Carol" on Dec. 18. The play was written by James Hutchison.

To tie into the themes of "A Christmas Carol," the Drama Club also conducted a canned food drive to support the Utica Food Pantry. All attendees who brought a canned food item to the show received \$1 off their ticket.

#### 'Coming back'

The Drama Club was only a couple of weeks away from performing "The Wizard of Oz" in March 2020 when the show was postponed and eventually canceled due to COVID-19. Then in June 2021, the Drama Club put on a show the club members wrote themselves called "The Afterschool

Special." It combined live and recorded scenes in front of a limited, family-only audience.

Poland sophomore Megan March, who is the secretary for the Drama Club and played Mrs. Cratchit and Mrs. Dilber in "A Christmas Carol," said never getting to perform "The Wizard of Oz" was heartbreaking, and it has been a long wait to do a full show again.

"I think it's giving every-

one a little bit of hope that things will feel normal again," March said. "The world's never going to be the same again, but the fact that these little things that we all enjoy are coming back, it's exciting."

Poland eighth grader Grace Grems enjoyed performing in "A Christmas Carol." "It's definitely nice being in a show again because the last time I was

Poland 4



Poland Central School District senior Adam Nellis (L) (playing Ebenezer Scrooge) and Austin Mercer (R) (playing The Third Spirit/The Ghost of Christmas Future) practice on stage at school on Dec. 7.

Photos courtesy of Herkimer BOCES



Poland Central School District senior Adam Nellis (L) (playing Ebenezer Scrooge) practices on stage at school with fifth-grader Brielle Schrader (middle, playing Tiny Tim) and senior Logan Stein (playing Bob Cratchit).



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#### Poland from 3

in a show, it was in fourth grade, and it was 'The Little Mermaid," she said.

Grems had a very small role in "The Little Mermaid" and only sang. She joined Drama Club in sixth grade, but the show she planned to be in got canceled due to COVID-19, and the June 2021 show was only for high school students. Grace had speaking roles in "A Christmas Carol," and her family was able to visit the school for the show.

"It's definitely exciting because my family hasn't been here in a long time," she said.

Poland sophomore Emma Taylor was happy about getting back on the stage as well. "It's really exciting because we weren't able to do a full show in like two years, so I'm really happy we are doing it in front of an audience this year," Taylor said.

Poland senior Gabby Ross, president of the Drama Club, said it was good to go back to a full, live show. "It's really nice for it to be an actual performance and getting to act for an actual show and have people here," Ross said. "It's a miracle – a Christmas miracle, if you will."

Poland senior Hunter Gilman, vice president of the Drama Club, agreed. "I did miss it," Gilman said, adding that she is glad the show was in the new theater. "I'm happy that I get to be in here for one of my last big shows in my senior year."

#### 'Really good sign for the future'

Because of the changes and delays for the Drama Club in response to COVID-19, students have less experience acting and performing in front of a live audience than in previous years, Gagnon said.

"It's probably the youngest, most inexperienced group of kids we've had," Gagnon said.

On the other hand, younger students starting in

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fifth grade are stepping into the cast, and high school underclassmen are taking on bigger roles, so new experience is being built, Gagnon said.

"It's a really good sign for the future," he said.

Poland fifth grader Brielle Schrader played Tiny Tim, as well as the characters labeled as Ignorance and Girl Two. She said she was both nervous and excited about performing in front of an audience.

"That's what the lights are for - because you can't really see the audience with the lights," she said.

Schrader has been enjoying her first year in Drama Club. "I plan on doing it for the rest of my time in school," she said.

Tiny Tim has been an interesting character to play, she said. "I like the fact that he's kind of sick and dying at the same time, but he also gets along with everyone," she said.

Poland fifth grader Emma Muller is playing Abby, Georgie and Greed. She was inspired to join Drama Club by her older sister. She is enjoying her characters and being part of a Drama Club production for the first time.

"I get to interact with all of the different people all the high schoolers and seniors," she said. "They're helpful and very nice."

As for the performance, she had a part of the play

USDA INSPECTED CUSTOM SLAUGHTER

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when she interacts directly with the audience, and she had a mix of feelings when looking ahead to it.

"Nervous but really excited," she said.

#### 'Am I in this scene?'

Poland senior Adam Nellis played Ebenezer Scrooge and was in every scene. Doing that and having no downtime between scenes can be stressful and difficult. Gagnon said.

"He stepped up to the challenge," Gagnon said.

When setting up scenes to practice, a running joke has developed - with Nellis saying "Am I in this scene?" despite knowing the obvious answer is "Yes," Gagnon said.

As Scrooge, Nellis played "a very grumpy old man" for much of the play, Nellis said. He usually plays happier characters, but he was excited to take on the task, and Gagnon pushed him to access Scrooge's emotions.



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HERKIMER COUNTRY EDITOR

#### Utica Zoo recognized as Business of the Year

The Utica Zoo was named 2021 Business of the Year by the Greater Utica Chamber of Commerce in an awards ceremony held Dec. 9. The zoo received the recognition in the category of Not-for-Profit Business with 50 employees or fewer.

"I'm confident I speak for the Utica Zoo staff when I say we do this work because we love it," Utica Zoo Executive Director Andria Heath expressed. "To be recognized for this prestigious honor amongst our peers is extra rewarding."

The zoo was founded in 1914 as the Utica Zoological Society and is located in the city's historic Roscoe-Conkling Park. The Society was chartered as an educational institution by the NYS Department of Education in 1968. In 2018, it obtained accreditation by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, a distinction that demonstrates a facility is committed to exceptional animal care and welfare, community education and engaging visitor experiences.

The Utica Zoo creates unique experiences and promotes public appreciation of wildlife through education, conservation, and recreation and is home to over 200 exotic and domestic animals, welcoming over 100.000 visitors annually.

For more information on this and all things Utica Zoo visit UticaZoo.org or follow on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter at @uticazoo.



Utica Zoo has been named 2021 Business of the Year. Photo courtesy of Utica Zoo









#### **Seafood Salad Cucumber Cups**

Nestle sweet shrimp and crabmeat salad in a refreshing cucumber shell and top with tart, jewel-like pomegranate seeds for an elegant holiday appetizer.

- 6 sprigs fresh dill
- 2 lemons
- 2 teaspoons Dijon mustard
- 1 pinch cayenne (ground red) pepper Salt
- 3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 8 ounces (approximately 16-20) shrimp, shelled and deveined
  - 2 large (1 pound each) seedless (English) cucumbers
  - 8 ounces refrigerated lump crabmeat, picked over
  - 2 tablespoons snipped chives

Country Chuckles by Jonny Hawkins

#### **Good Housekeeping**

1/4 cup pomegranate seeds

- 1. Separate dill leaves from stems; reserve separately. From lemons, finely grate 1/2 teaspoon peel and squeeze 1/4 cup juice into large bowl. Reserve rinds.
- 2. To peel and juice, whisk in mustard, cayenne and 1/2 teaspoon salt. Whisk in oil in slow, steady stream, until blended. Dressing can be refrigerated up to 3 days.
- 3. In 4-quart saucepan, combine dill stems, lemon rinds and 8 cups water. Heat to boiling. Reduce heat to maintain gentle simmer. Add shrimp; cook 3 minutes or until just opaque, stirring. Drain. Rinse under cold water until cold; drain. Discard dill and lemon. Coarsely chop shrimp. Shrimp can be refrigerated overnight.
  - 4. Trim cucumbers; cut into 1/2-inch-thick slices.

With melon baller, scoop out centers of slices without cutting through bottoms.

- 5. Finely chop 1 tablespoon dill leaves. Gently fold into dressing along with shrimp, crabmeat and chives.
- 6. Fill each cucumber cup with 1 tablespoon salad mixture. Garnish with pomegranate and dill. Makes about 36 pieces; serves 12.
- \* Each serving: About 75 calories, 4g total fat (1g saturated), 42mg cholesterol, 300mg sodium, 3g carbohydrate, 1g dietary fiber, 7g protein.

For thousands of triple-tested recipes, visit our website at www.goodhousekeeping.com/food-recipes/.

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#### **Strange But True**

by Lucie Winborne

- In Germany, you are allowed to drive your car naked, but not get out of it naked.
- A high-school principal once disciplined a student by making him sit in the basement while reading the U.S. Constitution. The punishment must have taken effect, because said student (who also memorized parts of the document) was Thurgood Marshall, who grew up to become the first Black Supreme Court justice.
- Male orb-weaver spiders give back rubs to their mates so they don't get eaten.
- "Mbuki-mvuki" is a Bantu word for the irresistible urge to strip off your clothes while dancing.
- In 2002, Saddam Hussein's campaign theme song for re-election was Whitney Houston's "I Will Always Love You.'
- For a single day in August 1998 and another in October 2018, Topeka, Kansas, renamed itself "ToPikachu" to mark the release of different Pokemon games.
  - · Pule, the world's rarest cheese, is made from

- donkey milk, something that was widely believed impossible since the liquid doesn't coagulate. However, Serbian cheesemaker Slobodan Simic discovered a solution and now sells his cheese for over \$500 per pound.
- The Saturday falling closest to April 1 is International Tom Hanks Day.
- MLB pitcher Turk Wendell, "baseball's favorite oddball," would not only brush his teeth every inning, but at the start of same, would turn and wave to the center fielder and wait for him to wave back before proceeding.
- There are more English speakers in China than in the United States.
- In 1994, a man was arrested for dressing as the Grim Reaper and standing and staring into the windows of a home for the elderly.

Thought for the Day: "The best teacher in the world is someone who loves what he or she does, and just loves it in front of you." -- Fred Rogers

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### Calendar of events

NOTE: Calendar items must be submitted by Tuesday prior to the publication date to be included in the Calendar of Events. Entries may be emailed to cfeditor@leepub.com

#### December 24

Christmas Eve Candelight Service 4 p.m. at Newport United Methodist Church, 7488 Main Street Newport, St. Rt. 28.

December 25

All welcome. For shut-in delivery call 315.867.1204 by Dec. 21. Deliveries are made primarily in Herkimer, Mohawk and downtown Ilion. Volunteers needed. To volunteer, call Toby at 315.868.5560.

ganizational meeting follows the Executive Session beginning at 6

#### January 3

Town Board of the Town of Stratford 2022 Reorganizational Meeting 6:30 pm at Town Hall, 120 Piseco Road Stratford. ReorJanuary 20

Chicken and Biscuit Dinner 4-7 p.m. (or sold out) at Emmanuel Episcopal Church, The Parish Hall, 594 Albany St., Little Falls. \$12. Free delivery to Herkimer and Little Falls. Call 315.741.4672 to reserve dinner. To go only.

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# Area Church Services

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Sunday Worship 10:30 AM

NEW LIFE CHAPEL OF THE AEA

3447 St. Rt. 8 Pastors: Rev. Gail & Rev. Mike Jay 315-826-7115 Sunday Worship 10:30am ercessory Prayers Tuesday 7pm (please call to confirm)

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Pastor Peter Spiak 32 Spencer St. Sunday School 9:30 AM Sunday Worship 10:30 AM Tuesday Bible Study 7 PM

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH OF DOLGEVILLE

Pastor Len Byerly 12 Van Buren St. Morning Worship 11-12:30 PM Lunch 12:30-2 PM Afternoon Worship 2-3 PM

> DOLGEVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Anthony Bradset 21 N. Helmer Ave. Church Phone 429-7381 Sunday Church Service Oppenheim @ 9:30 AM Dolaeville @ 11 AM

**DOLGEVILLE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP**Pastor Marvin Isum 3 Elm St. Phone 429-8390 Sunday Worship 10:30 AM Mid-week Service Tuesday 7 PM

> UNITED I UTHERAN PRESBYTERIAN PARISH 26 E. Faville Ave. Worship 11 AM

ST. JOSEPH'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Father Brian Slezak, Pastor 31 N. Helmer Ave. Phone 315-823-3410 Mass 9 AM Sunday

EAST SCHUYLER Christian assembly of Schuyler

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414 Frankfort St., Frankfort, NY Pastor: Father Paul Catena Deacon: Micheal Carbone Mass Schedule: Saturday 5:30 PM; Sunday 9 AM; Tuesday & Thursday 9 AM

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229 S Main St Phone 866-6373 Sunday Mass 10 AM No Saturday Vigil

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8 Second Street Reverend John Partise Wednesday Mid Week Service 7 PM Sunday Morning 11 AM

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Rev. Gary L. Busch, Pastor Sunday Worship Service 10 AM 443 Inghams Mills Rd Little Falls, NY 13365 Pastor's Phone (315) 717-9936

> MIDDLEVILLE MIDDLEVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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pastormarkh@aol.com Sunday Worship 8 AM

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Phone 866-4292 I mohawkpastor@verizon.net Follow us on Facebook Morning Worship: 10:30 AM Sept. - June • 9:30 AM July-Aug. Youth Sunday School (Pre-K - Sr. High) 9 AM Adult Sunday School (Men, Women & Couples) 9:30 AM September - June

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Pastor Gary Wilcox 54 W. Main St. • Phone 717-3011 Worship and Word: Sunday 10:30 AM Fellowship Lunch: 12:30 PM Discipleship Hour: Sunday 1:30 PM Bible Study & Prayer: Wednesday 6 PM

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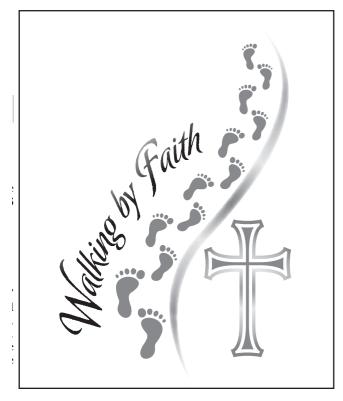
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#### 'Tis the season for food waste

#### by Alexandra McLaughlin

As food prices soar and many people struggle with food insecurity how can consumers avoid wasting food this holiday season?

"Start planning now," said Martin Bucknavage, senior food safety Extension associate in Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences. "How much food are you going to need to feed your group? How are you going to best utilize any leftovers?"

Research conducted at Penn State suggests that U.S. households waste, on average, nearly a third of the food they acquire, costing more than \$1,800 annually per household. This waste has implications for health, food security, food marketing and climate change, according to researchers.

Bucknavage acknowledged that the holidays put pressure on the home cook. Instead of cooking for three or four, the host may be cooking for 20. People want to have a lot of food available for guests, and it can be difficult to know how much people will eat. Cooking too much often leads to food waste if there is not a plan for using it.

But with careful thought and planning, the home cook can serve guests a wonderful meal and avoid wasting food.

urged Bucknavage those preparing meals to store leftover food soon after the meal is done. It can be tempting to relax with guests instead of tending to the leftovers. After all, the hard work of cooking is over. But leftovers that linger on the counter or kitchen table create food safety concerns.

that bacteria can grow quickly at temperatures between 40° and 140° F.

Food safety guidelines advise discarding perishable foods, such as meat, poultry, eggs and casserole, left at room temperature longer than two hours. Quickly chilling food after a meal reduces the risk of foodborne illness.

Proteins, especially meat, are high-cost items with a limited shelf life, Bucknavage noted. Unfortunately, these items often get wasted when not handled in a timely manner. Cooked turkey lasts only three to four days in the refrigerator.

To utilize leftovers, Bucknavage encourages people to get creative. Make other products, such as a tasty soup or casserole, from that leftover ham or turkey, he suggested. Another option is to freeze leftovers promptly.

"It'll last for only so long in the fridge, but getting leftovers into the freezer gives the cook more time to utilize them," Bucknavage said. Use freezer-safe ziplock bags and remove the air before storing leftovers in

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the freezer.

Leftovers often are forgotten or buried in the freezer. Bucknavage recommended that people devise a plan to use these items.

"Once it goes in the freezer, the quality will not be maintained forever," he said. "You can store it for three months or so. The sooner you use it, the better it's going to

He suggested labeling

the container with the item name and date, so people easily can track what they have in the freezer and when they should use it.

Giving food away is another possibility, Bucknavage said. Taking food to someone in need is both kind and sustainable because the food will be enjoyed instead of discarded.

Bucknavage said he often receives calls from people asking, "Can I still use [these leftovers]?" Unfortunately, at the point when someone asks that question, the food may be unsafe or (more likely) not as good as it could have been if utilized in a better

He encouraged people to think proactively. "Instead of asking, 'How long can I use my food?' ask 'How can I use my food sooner?" he said.

Having a solid plan is most important, according to Bucknavage. "A plan could prevent you from buying and cooking too much food, and it also could help you utilize the food you do make," he

To avoid finding slimy turkey in the fridge, visit the Penn State Extension website for an abundance of resources and advice on food safety.



Planning, creativity and proper storage of leftovers can help reduce the amount of wasted food during the holidays, said Martin Bucknavage, senior food safety extension specialist in the Department of Food Science. Credit: Gareth Willey via Pexels. All Rights Reserved.





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#### Central Valley CSD Foundation names students and employees of the quarter

The Central Valley Central School District Foundation, based in Ilion, recently named the district's students and employees of the first quarter.

"We are very proud of this group of students who are all around good school citizens," said JoAnn Duga, foundation president. "We are also happy to shine a light on a small group of the many employees who make a positive impact on our school community."

The recognition program acknowledges students and employees each quarter with the hope that there will be recipients from each school building: Fisher and Barringer elementary schools, Jarvis Middle School and CVA High School, as well as at the district level and CVCSD bus garage. If no nominations are received for a

Central 10







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building, an additional student or employee from another building may be recognized.

First quarter student recipients include Axl Lebert, a first grade student at Fisher; Richard Nagle, a senior at CVA; Caison Reed, a third grader at Barringer Road; and Aubryana Wentworth, a seventh grade student at

The employee recipients include Colleen Bunce, English teacher at Jarvis; Kim Catalina, attendance aide at Barringer Road; Huguette Henzel, teacher assistant at Barringer Road; Tammy Morgan, a clerical staff member in the superintendent's office; and Robert Paul, teacher assistant at CVA.

No nominations were received for Fisher.

Community members who would like to nominate a faculty or staff member for the quarterly recognition can find the nomination form at cvalleyesdfoundation.org or on the Central Valley Central School District Foundation Facebook page. Selected employees and students will be announced near the end of each marking period.

For more information about the foundation, contact JoAnn Duga at 315.894.3116 or joanndugaCVAFoundation@yahoo.com.



Kim Catalina



Colleen Bunce Photos courtesy of Central Valley Central School District

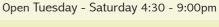












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HERKIMER COUNTRY EDITOR

December 24, 2021 • 11

#### **Bible Trivia**

#### by Wilson Casey

- 1. The main Christmas story about the birth of Jesus is paraphrased from what two New Testament books? Mark/John, Acts/Romans, Matthew/Luke, Jude/Revelation
- 2. Approximately how old was Jesus when the wise men (Magi) arrived with their gifts? 1 day, 2 weeks, 2 months, 2 years
- 3. Where did the angel Gabriel appear to Mary, saying, "Blessed art thou among women"? Nazareth, Tyre, Ninevah, Gazi
- 4. How many times does the word "Christmas" appear in the Bible (KJV)? Zero, 1, 2, 7
- 5. In what city of Judaea was Jesus born? Damascus, Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Gezer
- 6. Who plotted to kill the baby Jesus? Archelaus, Herod, Pontius Pilot, Caesar Augustus
- Answers: 1) Matthew/Luke; 2) 2 years; 3) Nazareth; 4) Zero; 5) Bethlehem; 6) Herod
- "Test Your Bible Knowledge," a book with 1,206 multiple-choice questions by columnist Wilson Casey, is available in stores and online.

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#### **Good Housekeeping**

#### **Baked Chocolate Pudding**

This easy, yet impressive, dessert can be made in advance and heated when you're ready to serve it, making it the perfect choice when you're hosting a large group. The splash of framboise in the pudding adds an elegant touch.

- 1 cup (2 sticks) unsalted butter, melted and cooled, plus more for greasing
  - 3/4 cup good-quality cocoa powder
  - 1/2 cup all-purpose flour
  - 4 extra-large eggs, at room temperature
  - 2 cups sugar
  - 1 vanilla bean, split, seeds scraped
- 1 tablespoon framboise liqueur (optional)

Vanilla ice cream, for serving

- 1. Preheat oven to 325 F. Lightly butter 2-quart shallow oval baking dish.
- 2. Into medium bowl, sift together cocoa powder and flour. In large bowl, with mixer on medium-high speed, beat eggs and sugar 5 to 10 minutes or until very thick and light yellow.

Hours: Monday-Friday 7am-5pm & Saturday 8am-1pm

- 3. Reduce speed to low; add vanilla seeds, framboise (if using) and cocoa mixture. Mix just until combined. Slowly pour in butter; mix just until combined.
- 4. Pour mixture into prepared dish set in larger baking pan. Add hot tap water to pan to come halfway up side of dish.
- 5. Bake exactly 1 hour. A toothpick inserted 2 inches from side will come out clean. Center will appear very underbaked. Cool completely.
  - 6. Serve with ice cream. Serves 12.

Tip: To make ahead, wrap; refrigerate up to 3 days. To serve, bring to room temperature.

• Each serving: About 335 calories, 18g total fat (11g saturated), 110mg cholesterol, 30mg sodium, 40g carbohydrate, 1g dietary fiber, 4g protein.

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#### **Home Country**

#### by Slim Randles

abel Adams was sitting in the day room at the Rest of Your Life retirement home when the children came in. She smiled and so did all the others in the room except for two who didn't know what was going on.

The old-timers in the home knew the kids were coming and had put up Christmas decorations around in the day room and on the doors of their own small apart-

ments and on themselves. Mabel had been reminded several times by the staff that morning that the kids were coming over, this being necessary as Mabel's memory isn't what it used to be. And she put a sprig of imitation holly in her hair and tied a red ribbon on the other side.

The little girl smiled and walked over to Mabel.

"Are you a grandma?" she asked.

"Why, yes dear, I am."

"I brought you a present, Grandma," she said, handing a box to Mabel. Mabel opened it and was delighted at the sandalwood-scented hankies inside.

"Why thank you so much, Honey!" she said. "And what is your name?"

"I'm Candice. I'm four."

"Well, Candice, merry Christmas to

you. Have you been here before?"

"Well ... no, I guess. Mom said this is where the grandmas are and we can have fun bringing presents to the grandmas."

"I see," Mabel said. "Well, Candice, come over here, dear and let me give you a hug. There!"

Sometimes, it isn't the cost of the

hankies, or the fun wrapping them up. Sometimes it's just a child's smile and a small taste of love that makes us treasure Christmas.

Visiting residents of a rest home this time of year sounds like a worthwhile project. Tell them hi for me, okay?

#### What's the romance with mistletoe?

#### by Nadie VanZandt, Extension Master Gardener, UVM

H ung in doorways to spread holiday cheer, mistletoe is rich in mythology and tradi-

Mistletoe comes from the Old English word "mistiltan," in which "mistil"

means "dung" and "tan" means "twig." This reference to bird droppings is certainly counter-intuitive to mistletoe's romantic symbolism.

For the complete story, make sure to check out countryculture.co.

#### Extend the life of your leftover eggnog

ggnog has a limited shelf life, but consumers can still indulge post-Christmas cravings, and do so safely, with a few kitchen hacks.

Mary Rapoport, consumer affairs and educational director for the Virginia Egg Council, shared some tips in a January 2021 episode of Virginia This Morning on CBS 6 News Richmond.

"It's a wonderful time of year, because I love eggnog," she said on the broadcast. "But if you make homemade eggnog, it doesn't keep a long time. It will turn in about a week. And even with store-bought eggnog, you can't keep it forever."

Rapoport added that with inflation the way it is, consumers can't afford to waste anything.

Her solution—an eggnog-infused quick bread. Rapoport demonstrated how she mixes flour with a box of vanilla instant pudding, baking powder, salt and nutmeg. In a separate bowl, she whipped butter, sugar and eggs.

"And if you have a situation where there's a cup and a half of eggnog left, use it!" Rapoport said, finishing the whipped mixture with a splash of spiced rum and a few handfuls of leftover cranberries.

She combined the mixtures and baked it

in a parchment paper-line pan, resulting in a decadent-looking quick bread studded with bright cranberries.

"The pudding makes it almost cakelike!"

Rapoport also recommended making popsicles with the leftovers, for an off-season eggnog fix. Thoroughly wash an egg carton and pour leftover eggnog into the cups. Freeze the carton for about an hour and insert halved popsicle sticks into the partially frozen eggnog to make freezer-ready eggnog pops.

"I was eating those this summer," she said. "They were still good!"

Because homemade eggnog typically consists of milk, sugar, spices and raw eggs, food safety mindfulness is key, Rapaport shared with Virginia Farm Bureau Federation.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend refrigerating foods containing eggs promptly after cooking.

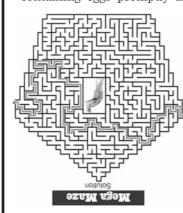
Symptoms of bacterial salmonella exposure usually appear within six hours to six days, causing digestive distress or worse for those with compromised health.

Eggnog made with cooked custard can eliminate those concerns.

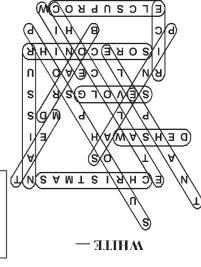
"Years ago, when folks weren't concerned about salmonella, they just used raw eggs in eggnog," Rapoport said.

Today, most recipes call for a cooked custard. To make one, simply stir the eggnog mixture over medium heat until the eggs thicken, heated to 160° or higher, Rapaport explained. Cover, and refrigerate to chill eggnog thoroughly.

Eggnog and other recipes are listed at virginiaeggcouncil.org/recipes. See the quick bread recipe at bit.ly/3s8DU2Z.



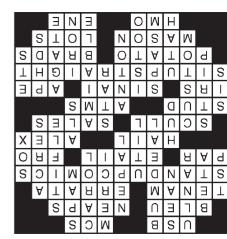
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Answer

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— King Crossword — Answers
Solution time: 24 mins.





#### King Crossword

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- 10 Coffee-break
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#### MAGIC MAZE ● WHITE —

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Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally Unlisted clue hint: THE STAFF OF LIFE

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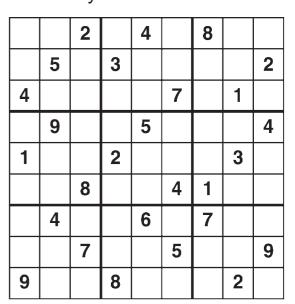
Elephant Gloves Meat Phosphorus Pine Rhinoceros Rice Russian

Sale Washed Wine

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## Weekly **SUDOKU**

#### by Linda Thistle



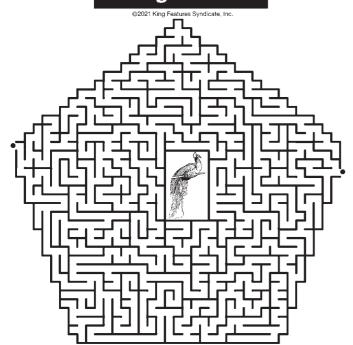
Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

#### **DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:** ◆ ◆ ◆



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