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Season's Greetings

The holiday season has arrived, and millions of people across the globe will be celebrating Christmas with their families and friends. Christmas is a time of celebration, reflection on spirituality and kinship. As the festivities draw near, we urge you to think past the gifts and sweet treats to remember why you celebrate this sacred day. Now is the time for family and community to come together in peace to celebrate the birth of our savior Jesus Christ. Tangible things like trees and gifts may come and go, but the sweet joy and memories that we create with one another will last a lifetime.

From our family to yours, Merry Christmas.

The Pueblo Chieftain



Bet you didn't know this...

Need help breaking the ice with the in-laws this holiday season? Share some of these interesting Christmas tidbits to get the conversation started.

- Each year, more than three billion Christmas cards are sent in the United States alone.
- In 350 AD, Pope Julius I, bishop of Rome, proclaimed December 25 the official celebration date for the birth of Jesus Christ. Many historians and theologians have surmised that Christ really wasn't born this time of year, thanks to imagery and information from the Bible.
- Christmas carols began as an English custom called "wassailing." Individuals toasted neighbors to a long and healthy life.
- Despite the common tale that three wise men paid homage to baby Jesus, the Bible never specifically calls out a number. Similarly, there's no specific indication that they visited the infant Jesus. Their visit may have occurred when Jesus was older.
- Santa Claus' modern look was inspired by writings from The Knickerbockers of New York and imagery from Clement Clarke Moore's "A Visit from St. Nicholas." Moore denied authoring the famous poem for 15 years after it was published anonymously, feeling the poem was beneath his talents.
- Santa has his own official postal code. It's H0 H0 H0.
- The song "Jingle Bells" was originally written for Thanksgiving and not Christmas. People loved it so much that the lyrics were changed to fit Christmas.
- Christmas trees typically grow for 15 years before they're cut and sold. This means the trees sold today were likely planted in 1999.
- Christmas was not declared an official holiday in the United States until June 26, 1870.
- Before turkey, the traditional Christmas meal served in England was a pig's head and mustard.
- Male reindeer tend to shed their antlers in the winter. This means Santa's reindeer are likely female.
- Christ may have been born in a cave rather than a manger. According to the



gospel of Luke, the shepherds that helped find shelter for Mary to give birth kept their flock in a cave. The Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem is built over a cave called the Grotto of the Nativity, where Jesus is believed to have been born.

- Many people may be less inclined to stand under mistletoe waiting for a kiss if they knew what "mistletoe" means in the ancient Germanic language. It literally means "dung on a twig," for the bird who eats the berries and then leaves seeds in droppings to propagate new plants.
- Each holiday season, PNC Wealth Management calculates the costs of the gifts in the song, "The 12 Days of Christmas." The price index for the gifts went from \$12,673 in 1984 to more than \$24,000 in 2011. The most expensive gift is the swimming swans.



5 ways to make holiday guests comfortable

The time between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day marks one of the busiest periods of the year for long-distance travel. The United States Department of Transportation says that come Thanksgiving, the number of long-distance trips (50+ miles away) increases by 54 percent, and around Christmas that number rises by 23 percent over the remainder of the year. Those travelers ultimately need a place to rest their heads, and many stay with family and friends.

Entertaining during the holiday season involves accounting for guests' comfort, and that often means hosts must put their visitors' needs over their own. Although some sacrifices need to be made, there is a way to find a happy compromise that can help the holidays go smoothly and happily. Consider these ways to help guests feel welcome whether they stay for a few hours or a few days.

1. Cater to specific dietary needs. One of the ways to treat guests kindly is by being aware of any special dietary needs they may have when it comes to preparing holiday meals or other foods during their visits. Some guests may require low-sodium diets, while others may be monitoring their blood-sugar levels and must dine accordingly. Vegetarians and vegans limit the foods they eat, while others may avoid foods based on religious preferences. Offer a variety of foods and try to cater to guests' needs as much as possible. When in doubt, consult with the guest so he or she feels welcome and does not go hungry.

2. Make sleeping spaces as private as possible. Not everyone has a separate

guest room for overnight stays, but try to make sleeping areas as private as you can when visitors spend the night. Use privacy screens or set guests up in a family room that's away from the center of activity. Hosts may want to give up their own rooms for the comfort of guests.

3. Offer storage space. One way to make guests feel comfortable is to give them their own storage space. This can include space in a closet, a couple of drawers to stow their belongings, or hangers in the entryway for coats and other winter attire. Not only will this keep things more organized, it can provide guests with comfort.

4. Include guests when preparing for entertaining. Many guests like to feel involved, and by including them in meal preparation, decorating or shopping, you can help them feel included and appreciated.

5. Keep snacks and other creature comforts readily accessible. Guests may feel sheepish scavenging through cabinets or drawers looking for items. Make things easy to find by leaving items out on counters or indicating where items can be found. For example, if you know a guest enjoys an evening cup of tea and some cookies, leave out the cookies, tea bags and kettle so that he or she can indulge when the urge comes.

Guests are a large part of the holiday season. Help them feel comfortable whenever they visit your home.

Out-of-the-box themes for your holiday party

Parties are an integral part of the holiday season, when friends and family gather to celebrate and give thanks. For holiday hosts, parties are a great opportunity to make the season even more festive with an event that guests won't soon forget. The following are just a few themes to make your holiday party as memorable as it is merry.

Christmas sweater party: Christmas sweater parties have grown in popularity over the last decade, when revelers have tried to outdo one another with the most outrageous holiday-themed sweater. Give prizes for the most outlandish sweater and let guests know early on so they can begin their hunt for a holiday sweater that's so ugly or outrageous you can't help but love it.

Christmas costume party: Costume parties aren't just for Halloween. This holiday season, consider making your holiday bash a costume party, encouraging guests to dress up as their favorite characters from holiday tales like "Frosty the Snowman," "A Christmas Carol" or any of the host of beloved holiday legends.

Caribbean Christmas: The weather come the holiday season may be the one thing to put a damper on the festivities. To combat blue feelings from potentially inclement weather, consider a Caribbean theme for your holiday party this

season. Rather than wearing sweaters and long pants, wear beach attire and give the party a touch of the Caribbean. Outfit your home in beach decor and serve food and drinks reminiscent of the Caribbean instead of more traditional holiday fare like eggnog and gingerbread cookies.

Film festival: Holiday movies are another tradition of the season, so why not invite friends and family over for a holiday film marathon? Include classics like "It's a Wonderful Life" and "A Christmas Story" and encourage guests to submit their own favorites for consideration.

Christmas karaoke: For those who love to belt out their favorite holiday tunes, consider throwing a Christmas karaoke party that allows guests to perform their own renditions of their favorite Christmas carols. Purchase a home karaoke set and ask guests in advance of the party if there are any particular songs they'd like to perform.



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Did you know?

According to the Bureau of Transportation Statistics, 91 percent of long-distance holiday travel is by personal vehicle. And while many people may associate holiday travel with long lines at airport check-in counters and security checkpoints, the BTS notes that just 5 to 6 percent of holiday trips are taken by air. The remaining 2 to 3 percent are taken by bus, train, ship, or another mode of transportation. The average long-distance holiday trip for the Christmas/New Year's holiday is 275 miles, which is slightly longer than the average long-distance trip during the rest of the year, indicating that many travelers are willing to travel farther for the holiday season than they might be during the rest of the year. In addition, when traveling long distances for the Christmas/New Year's holiday, travelers spend roughly four nights away from home on average.

Does Santa really call the North Pole home?

While it might be synonymous with Santa Claus and cold weather, the North Pole is actually much warmer than the South Pole. That's because the North Pole sits at a lower elevation than the South Pole, and it is located in the middle of an ocean. The South Pole, on the other hand, is located on the continent of Antarctica, which is covered in ice. But Santa fans mulling a trip to the North Pole to visit jolly old St. Nick might want to think otherwise, as temperatures at the North Pole are less than welcoming. Summertime temperatures at the North Pole, for example, hover right at the freezing point. In addition, because of the way Earth rotates, the North Pole experiences just one sunrise

and one sunset each year. However, because the sun is always above the horizon in the summer and below the horizon in the winter, the North Pole actually experiences 24 hours of sunlight in summer and zero hours of sunlight in the winter. While children in North America know the North Pole as home to Santa Claus, that's a relatively recent addition to the legend of Santa Claus, a story that some historians suggest traces its origins all the way back to the third century.

Historians credit famed 19th century caricaturist and editorial cartoonist Thomas Nast with being the first to link Santa Claus and his workshop to the North Pole. However, many Nordic countries continue to say Santa Claus lives in their territories.



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Local Holiday Events

Holiday Lighting Extravaganza

November 25th, 2016, 5pm

Holidays officially arrive in Pueblo with the Holiday lighting extravaganza. On November 25, 2016 starting at 5:00 pm, come down to the Welcome Center for hot chocolate, boat rides and SANTA!!! Fireworks will light up the sky around 7:30 pm.

Small Business Saturday Holiday Expo

November 26th, 2016, 10am

Join us at the American Legion Post 2 @ 709 W. 9th, Pueblo to get a start on your holiday shopping, support local small business owners, and support the work that the American Legion does for our veterans. Enter to win our grand prize basket, with hundreds of dollars in gifts from our vendors.

ElectriCrittters Holiday Light Extravaganza

November 23rd, 25-27th, 2016

December 2-4th, 9-11th, 16-24th, 2016, 5:30pm

Throughout the holiday season, ElectriCrittters at the Pueblo Zoo glows with more than 250,000 dancing lights and hundreds of festive installations making for a perfect holiday outing for local and visiting family and friends. Santa will be on hand December 16, 17 & 23rd.

Guests enjoy holiday music and warming up with a cup of hot chocolate at the Candy Cane Café, while watching the penguins swim and play.

For more information please call (719) 561-1452 ext. 116

Parade of Lights

November 26th, 2016, 5:30pm

For 27 years, Pueblo's Parade of Lights has been one of the largest Christmas parades in Colorado. On the Saturday after Thanksgiving, festive, colorful and clever floats, school marching bands, drill teams, decorated saddle club horses and car club vehicles festooned with lights thrill many thousands of spectators as the parade passes from the Mesa Junction down Union Avenue to Main Street then west on 6th Street ending at the Downtown location of signature sponsor Pueblo Bank & Trust.

For more information on how to get involved in this year's Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree themed parade, call (719) 543-7155.

Holiday in Lights Parade

December 3rd, 2016, 5:30pm

The Pueblo West 15th Annual Holiday in Lights Parade will be held on Saturday, December 3. All are welcomed to come and see the floats start their travel at 5:30 p.m. from Joe Martinez Boulevard/ Palmer Lake Drive down to Civic Center Drive. Side events accompanying the parade this year include a bonfire, community tree lighting, fireworks and refreshments.

For more information on how to get involved in this year's Holiday In Lights parade, please call (719) 547-5075

17th Annual Nutcracker, The Ballet

December 1st, 2nd & 3rd, 2016 @ 7:30pm

December 3rd & 4th, 2016 @ 2pm

Experience Pueblo's holiday tradition, the Nutcracker Ballet, performed by the

Sangre de Cristo Ballet at the Sangre de Cristo Arts Center Theater. Based on the original 1816 E. T. A. Hoffmann story, The Nutcracker and the Mouse King, with a bit of a twist and set to the famous score by P. I. Tchaikovsky. This holiday treat features the stunning battle scene in which Clara and the Nutcracker Prince make their way through a mystical land, and encounter enchanting characters along the way.

Holiday Fashion Preview & Gourmet Luncheon

December 3rd, 2016, 12pm

The Assistance League of Pueblo's fundraising event for Operation School Bell returns this year at the Pueblo Convention Center. This annual event will feature a fashion show from Dillard's as well as a lunch prepared by the Pueblo Convention Center chefs. Guest emcee this year will be Craig Eliot. For more information or to make reservations to attend, please call (719) 214-9586.

Pueblo Bikers United annual Toy Run

December 3rd, 2016, 11am

The Toy Run will leave from South High School at 11am. This events helps raise funds and provide toys to Pueblo area children that are in need. For more information on the event, please contact J.T. Trujillo at (719) 543-1360.

Pueblo Symphony Orchestra's Joy to the World

December 4th, 2:30pm

Join the Pueblo Symphony Orchestra for Joy to the World, with Poperazzi. This festive concert at Hoag Recital Hall at CSU-Pueblo will include joyful music for the holidays. For more information please call (719) 545-7967.

Air Force Academy Band's Holly & Ivy Concert

December 8th, 2016, 7pm

This annual holiday favorite is sure to delight! Held again this year at the Southwest Motors Events Center at the Colorado State Fairgrounds, this Chieftain presented concert is truly a Pueblo tradition. For more information please call (719) 404-2780.

Ice Skate with Santa at the Pueblo Ice Arena

December 10th, 2016, 12pm

Enjoy a jolly time with Santa himself. Have a cookie and cocoa, then skate with Santa and tell him what you want for Christmas! For more information please call (719) 553-2730.

Santa Claus is Coming to the Buell Children's Museum!

December 17th & 18th, 2016, 12pm

Join Mr. and Mrs. Claus for a merry time of caroling in the Buell Children's Museum

Pueblo Municipal Band Holiday Concert

December 18th, 2016, 2pm

Sing along to holiday favorites with Pueblo's professional-level concert band. Led by award -winning conductor Mark Emery, the Pueblo Municipal Band is a community staple, and has been performing locally since 1913. Performance will be at the Sangre de Cristo Arts Center and will be free and open to the public.



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for Soft Ginger bread cookies

Dough

3 3/4 cups all-purpose flour
1 tablespoon cocoa powder
4 teaspoons ground ginger
1 1/2 teaspoons cloves
2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
1/2 teaspoons baking soda
1 teaspoon salt
1 1/4 teaspoon black pepper
1 cup butter (room temperature)
4 cups granulated sugar
1 large egg
1/2 Dark Molasses
2 tablespoons light corn syrup

Glaze

1 cup confectioners' sugar
2 tablespoons water

To make the dough, stir together the flour, cocoa powder, ginger, cloves, cinnamon, baking soda, salt, and pepper in a mixing bowl. Set aside. Using a stand mixer fitted with the paddle attachment, beat the butter on medium-high speed until creamy. Slowly add the granulated sugar and mix on medium speed until the mixture is completely smooth and soft. Stop the mixer and scrape down the sides of the bowl with a rubber spatula as needed. Add the egg and mix well.

Add the molasses and corn syrup and beat until incorporated. Stop the mixer again and scrape down the sides of the bowl. Add the flour mixture and beat on low speed until a dough forms that pulls away from the sides of the



bowl and all the ingredients are well incorporated. Remove the dough from the bowl, flatten it on a large piece of plastic wrap into a rectangle about 1 inch thick, cover the dough with the plastic wrap, and refrigerate overnight. Preheat the oven to 350 F. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper on a nonstick liner.

Unwrap the dough and place on a floured work surface. If using a plaque with a design, roll out the dough 1/3-inch thick, lightly dust the top with flour, press your cookie molds over the dough, and then cut out the shapes with a small knife and place on the prepared baking sheet, spacing them about 1 inch apart. Alternatively, using the mold as a guide, cut around it with a small knife, flip the mold over so the design is facing you, and place the dough over it, pressing it into the design. Unmold the shapes onto the prepared baking sheet, leaving about 1 inch between them.

If using a patterned rolling pin,

lightly dust the lined baking sheet with flour and transfer the dough to the pan. Lightly dust the top of the dough with flour and roll it into a rectangle about 1/3-inch thick with a plain pin. Then, using the patterned pin, roll over the dough with enough pressure to ensure a clear impression of the design. Trim the sides with a small knife. Bake the cookies until lightly golden along the sides but still soft to the touch in the centers, 7 to 15 minutes. While the cookies are baking, prepare the glaze. In a small bowl, whisk together the confectioners' sugar and water until smooth.

When the cookies are ready, remove from the oven and let cool in the pan on a wire rack for about 10 minutes. Then, while the cookies are still warm, using even strokes, brush a light coat of glaze on the top of each cookie, evenly covering it. Let the cookies cool completely. When the glaze dries, it should leave a shiny, opaque finish.

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The history of holiday lights

Holiday celebrants employ holiday lights in various ways. Certain individuals may be content to hang lights on their Christmas trees and call their decorating complete. Others may get their holiday jollies by making sure each square inch of their home is covered in twinkling lights. Still, other people prefer the more subdued effect of lights framing one picture window of the house.

The tradition of Christmas lights stretches back to early modern Germany when people used candles to decorate Christmas trees in Christian homes. Those candles were harbingers of what would come when electric lights replaced gas and other open flame illuminating devices that were commonplace prior to the 20th century.

Thomas Edison, the inventor of the first successful practical light bulb, also created the first strand of electric lights that would be used in holiday decorating. By 1880, Edison had standard incandescent light bulbs well sorted out and desired a way to better advertise his invention, so he decided to make the most of the holiday season and put his light bulbs on display. According to a 2003 article in American Heritage magazine titled "The Wizard of Your Christmas Tree," Edison strung incandescent bulbs all around the compound of his Menlo Park, NJ, laboratory. Edison constructed an eight-mile underground wiring system in order

to power this grand light display. Because the laboratory was situated along the railroad that passed between Manhattan and Philadelphia, thousands of people were able to see the display.

The concept of electric holiday lights took a bit of time to catch on. Edison's friend and associate Edward Johnson was tasked with stringing together colored lights in 1882 and placing them on an evergreen tree. Johnson hand-wired 80 red, white and blue light bulbs. In 1895, President Grover Cleveland requested the White House family Christmas tree be illuminated by multi-colored electric light bulbs.

In 1903, when General Electric began to offer pre-assembled kits of holiday lights, strung lights were reserved for the wealthy and electrically savvy. For example, in 1903 a single string of electric lights cost \$12, or around \$300 today.

It would take several more years before holiday lights became a national tradition. On Christmas Eve 1923, President Calvin Coolidge began the country's celebration of Christmas by lighting the National Christmas Tree on the Ellipse located south of the White House with 3,000 electric lights.

Today, illuminated strands of lights have become a large part of holiday celebrations and have even been adopted for use during various year-round events. Such lights can be a beautiful and festive addition to many celebrations.



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Did You Know?



Christmas songs provide the soundtrack for holiday magic. Such songs evoke strong feelings in people, and various songs have become staples at holiday celebrations. Some interesting facts and history surround many popular Christmas songs. "White Christmas," for example, is the best-selling Christmas song of all time. However, "Silent Night" is the most recorded Christmas song in history, says TIME. "Santa Claus Is Coming to Town" is considered a jolly song, but songwriter James Gillespie was unemployed and had just lost his brother prior to writing the song. Still, he was able to look past his grief to pen the classic. Many are unaware that "Jingle Bells" originally was supposed to be a Thanksgiving song. While many beloved Christmas songs have been around for decades, one artist managed to tap into the success of classic Christmas music. Mariah Carey's "All I Want for Christmas Is You" is a popular modern-day Christmas song.

How to travel stress free this holiday

Roadways, railways and skies tend to get busy come the holiday season, when millions of people across the globe travel to visit family and friends.

Wherever travelers are headed, be it across the country or across the world, they should realize that many other people are traveling as well. That can lead to traffic, long lines and other side effects associated with large crowds. But before travelers let the idea of challenging travel conditions deter them, they can consider certain ways to make the process of getting from point A to point B a bit more manageable.

Travel by car

Those traveling by automobile will have a few extra steps to take to ensure their trips go off with minimal disturbances. One of the more important steps is to ensure the vehicle is properly maintained prior to departing. Have the car checked by a mechanic and take care of any service appointments, such as oil changes or tire rotations. Map out the route in advance and have an alternative plan if the route chosen proves to be too congested. One idea is to choose a scenic drive that may be a little longer but has less traffic. In addition, account for rest stops or points of interest that can break up the trip. Apps such as GasBuddy can help drivers find the cheapest gas or the cleanest bathrooms along their routes. Bring along plenty of snacks so you



can eat healthy and aren't forced to rely on foods you otherwise would not eat. This is particularly helpful with keeping kids satiated. Plan for a few treats along the way so that everyone traveling has an end goal, such as an ice cream or a souvenir.

Traveling by plane

One of the key things air travelers can do to make holiday traveling easier is to avoid peak travel dates. Whenever possible, avoid traveling the day right before the holiday, which tends to be the busiest and most expensive. Remember, weekends tend to be more harried and expensive as well, particularly when the holidays fall in close proximity to a weekend. Weather is a gamble in many regions of the world during the holiday season. Develop a contingency plan just in case foul weather delays or cancels

flights. It's much less stressful to put plan B into motion than it can be to rush around trying to make new, last-minute plans.

Always shop around for the best rates, but also the best atmosphere. It may be wiser to fly out of a smaller airport where crowds will be thinner and delays less frequent, or you may prefer a larger airport that's closer to home and offers more amenities.

Another way to avoid delays is to pack minimally. Ship gifts and even travel essentials ahead to your destination, and only bring carry-on bags aboard the plane. This helps travelers sail through security checks and avoid the crowds at the luggage carousels.

Holiday travel requires planning, patience and having alternative plans in place so that everyone can make it home for the holidays.

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Roasted turkey is the centerpiece of many holiday feasts. That glistening, golden skin and moist meat beneath is the perfect companion to potatoes, string beans and any number of side dishes.

Many holiday chefs have received compliments on the appearance of a freshly prepared turkey sitting on the holiday serving platter. But those same chefs may not know how to properly carve up their masterpieces after the grand presentation has been made.

1. Place the turkey on a large, sturdy cutting board. Do not cut the turkey in the pan you used to cook it. Remove the string that may be tying the legs together. Turn the board so that the back of the turkey is facing you.

2. Choose a sharp knife to carve the turkey. A long, narrow knife may work best. Serrated knives may tear the turkey meat, so it may be better to use a flat knife. Some people prefer the ease of an electric knife. This is entirely your choice.

3. Cut through the skin on a leg and gently bend the leg as you slice through to expose the joint. Cut through and remove the entire leg. Then separate the drumstick from the thigh. Repeat on the other side.

4. Cut the thigh meat parallel to the thigh bone and place on your serving platter.

5. To slice the breast meat, insert your knife in the center of the breast bone and cut down until you reach the ribs. Then slice the breast meat in toward your initial cut so you are cutting



across the grain of the meat, this will keep the meat tender. Another idea is to remove one side of the breast and slice across it to produce smaller pieces for serving.

6. Find the wish bone and place it on the side to dry. Children typically like to break the wish bone.

7. Find the joint of the wings and remove them in a similar fashion as

you did for the legs. They are small enough that they should not require extra slicing and can be placed whole on the serving platter.

8. Drizzle the sliced meat with any reserved cooking juices to keep the turkey moist and flavorful. Since turkey is usually the star of many holiday meals, it pays to know the correct way to carve turkey for celebrations.



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Gifts no food fanatic should go without



Food plays a big role come the holiday season, when friends and family tend to gather around the dinner table to share good meals and catch up on the year's happenings. But while food plays an integral role at holiday gatherings, food also makes a great gift for that friend or family member on your holiday list who loves to savor a good meal no matter the time of year.

Thanks in part to celebrity chefs and television shows that teach viewers how to make gourmet meals at home, it's now easier than ever before for food lovers to expand their culinary horizons. Gifting such food fanatics can be fun and may even inspire a love of unique cuisine in holiday shoppers, especially those who consider the

following gift ideas.

- **Cooking kit:** Ingredients and other essential elements of good meals were once taken for granted. But more and more foodies are now creating their own foods from scratch. Bacon fans may fall in love with a kit that helps them cure and smoke their own bacon, while those who love fresh, homemade bread may appreciate a bread-making kit that includes flour, a pan, some recipes, and other items necessary to make the perfect homemade loaf of bread. Cooking kit options are vast, so find a food your loved one can't go without and purchase the appropriate kit.
- **Gardening tools:** While the holiday season might not seem like the ideal time to buy your favorite foodie some gardening tools, such items make the perfect gift for your loved one who wants to grow his or her own fruits and vegetables. Locally grown produce has become increasingly popular among foodies focused on eco-conscious cooking practices, and it does not get much more local than home cooks' own backyards.
- **Cutlery set:** Though it's easy to overlook, cutlery goes a long way toward making home cooks' jobs easier. The right cutlery set,

which may include one or two chef's knives, a vegetable knife, a santoku knife, a bread knife, and other knives home cooks will appreciate, can make preparing a meal easier and more efficient than cooking without a set. High-end cutlery sets can cost several hundred dollars, but shoppers on more limited budgets can still find quality cutlery sets for less money.

- **Food getaway:** Many foodies love to travel so they can experience cuisines popular overseas or in different regions of the country. Men and women whose spouses love food can plan a food-themed getaway weekend to a locale that specializes in a type of food their significant others enjoy or have always wanted to try. For example, men and women who love lobster may enjoy a trip to Maine's annual Lobster Festival, while those who can't get enough barbecue may appreciate a trip to one of the country's more notable barbecue spots, such as Memphis, Kansas City, North Carolina or Texas.

Food-themed gifts make the perfect holiday present for food fanatics, and shoppers have an endless array of options to satisfy their favorite foodies' appetites.

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Delicious desserts for holiday celebrations:



Cinnamon Caramel Cheesecake Squares

Lavish meals are a large part of holiday celebrations, with many people indulging in dinners and desserts throughout the holiday season. This is a time when many families display their best recipes, and these may include certain desserts that can be labor-intensive to make or something more fitting for a special occasion.

Cheesecake is an example of a dessert that, due to the time it takes to create and the richness of the dessert itself, is not something many people eat on a regular basis. However, with a time-saving recipe, cheesecake can become a dessert prepared in little time for holiday festivities. Try "Cinnamon Caramel Cheesecake Squares" from "Pampered Chef Season's Best, Fast, Fun & Fabulous" by Pampered Chef® Test Kitchens.

1. Preheat oven to 350 F. Unroll one package of crescent dough into a shallow baking pan. Roll out the dough to edges.
2. Heat the cream cheese in a microwave-safe bowl, uncovered, on high for 30 to 40 seconds, or until softened. Whisk until almost smooth.
3. Add the egg, vanilla and 1/2 cup of the sugar to the bowl. Whisk until smooth. Spread over the crescent dough.
4. Lightly sprinkle the flat side of a cutting board with flour. Unroll the second package of crescent dough and roll it into a 13- by 12-inch rectangle.
5. Fold the dough in half from the short end; gently lift and place in the pan. Unfold and gently stretch the dough over the cream cheese layer; press the edges to seal. Cut off corners of dough hanging over and discard.
6. Bake 22 to 24 minutes, until golden brown.
7. Combine the remaining 1/4 cup sugar and cinnamon in a small bowl. Place the caramel topping in a 1-cup measuring cup.
8. Remove the pan from the oven. Immediately pour the caramel topping over the cheesecake and spread to the edges of the crust. Sprinkle with the cinnamon-sugar mixture; let stand for 10 minutes.
9. Using a utility knife, cut into 4 x 6 rows to make 24 squares.

Ingredients

- 2 8-ounce packages seamless crescent dough
- 2 8-ounce packages cream cheese
- 1 egg
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 3/4 cup sugar, divided
- flour for dusting
- 1 tablespoon cinnamon
- 1/2 cup caramel topping

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Mini pies take center stage as holiday dessert option

By: Elizabeth Karmel
Associated Press

When I have a lot of people coming over, I love to make mini pies, or "pie cups." I coined the name "pie cup" when I created a "pie program" for one of my restaurants and vowed to make pie the new cupcake in NYC.

Since then, the mini, hand-held pie has exploded in popularity. The beauty of the mini pies is that they are portable, easy to make and the perfect proportion size.

Most people I know don't make their own pie because they are afraid to make the pie dough from scratch. There is so much pressure on the cook for Thanksgiving that the holiday is not the time to learn how to make pie dough. This recipe offers the option of using pre-made graham-cracker crusts. If you already make your own pie dough, you can make this pie in mini pie shells or a muffin pan.

Once you the pie crust is taken care of, you will understand the meaning of "easy as pie": Assembling the filling requires just a bowl and a fork.

I add dark chocolate to a traditional pecan pie for all those chocolate lovers out there. I also add a touch of Kahlua to deepen the flavor of the chocolate, but you could stick with the traditional bourbon if you prefer. If you don't like pecans, this pie is also delicious made with walnuts.

MINI CHOCOLATE PECAN PIE CUPS

Start to finish: 30 minutes

Servings: 12

- 12 individual Keebler graham cracker pie shells or homemade 3-inch pie shells
- 1 cup pecan halves plus more for decorating the tops (substitute walnuts if you prefer)
- 4 tablespoons butter, melted
- 2/3 cup granulated white sugar
- 1/2 cup dark corn syrup
- 2 large eggs, beaten
- 1/8 teaspoon sea salt
- 4 ounces 70 percent bittersweet chocolate, melted
- 1 heaping teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 tablespoons of Kahlua

Whipped Cream or vanilla ice cream, for serving (optional)

Preheat the oven to 350 F.



Put two tablespoons of nuts into each unbaked pie shell. Set aside. Combine butter, granulated sugar, corn syrup, eggs, salt, chocolate, vanilla and Kahlua and stir until well mixed. Place the mini pie crusts on a half sheet pan. Pour the pie mixture on top of nuts just until the first line of the crust (if you made your own crust, this is about 1/4 inch from the top). Do not overfill as they

will puff up as they bake. Decorate the tops of the pies with a few nuts. Place the sheet pan in the center rack of the oven. Bake about 20 minutes or until cooked through, a little puffy and crusty on top. Let cool on a rack for at least 3 hours. Refrigerate leftover pie. Serve warm with whipped cream or a small scoop of vanilla ice cream if you choose. The pies are also good cold the next day.

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How to manage credit this holiday season

By: Metro Creative Connection

Holiday shopping takes up a considerable amount of time between Thanksgiving and Christmas Day. Shoppers who scour in-store and online retailers in the hunt for the perfect gift annually spend hundreds of billions of dollars during such pursuits, and what they swipe when making purchases could go a long way toward how their new years begin.

Over-reliance on credit cards to make holiday purchases can prove crippling once the calendar turns to January. According to an analysis of statistics from the Federal Reserve, the average household consumer debt in the United States was more than \$15,700 as of June of 2015. That's roughly one-tenth the average mortgage debt, suggesting that many consumers are relying too heavily on credit cards when making their purchases.

This holiday season, consumers concerned about swiping their credit cards too often can take the following steps to more effectively manage their credit.

- Know what you can afford. Swiping now and dealing with the consequences in January is a recipe for a rocky new year. In some cases, it can benefit consumers to make purchases with their credit cards as opposed to their debit cards. For instance, when making purchases online, it's often safer to use a credit card rather than a debit card linked to your checking and savings accounts, as using the latter can make your life's savings vulnerable to hackers. But don't start swiping your credit cards until you know what you can afford. Examine your finances and only use your credit card if you know you can repay the balance before it incurs any interest. If you can't pay the balance in full at the time the payment is due, use a debit card so you are only spending money you already have and not taking out what amounts to a high-interest loan on your holiday purchases.
- Resist retailer cards. When making in-store purchases, chances are the cashier will invite you to sign up for a retailer credit card, even offering an immediate discount if you do so at the registers. While this discount may seem too tempting to ignore, keep in mind that many retailer credit cards come with considerably higher interest fees on balances that are not paid



off in full. So that discount at the register may end up costing you more money if you get to January and can't pay the balance in its entirety.

- Try not to juggle cards. Many shoppers juggle multiple cards to avoid building up too big a balance on one particular card during the holiday season. But that's an easy way to lose track of how much you have spent. Rather than juggling cards, use only the one with the lowest interest rate.
- Monitor your balances. Swiping a credit card is easy and hassle-free, and many retailers both big and small now accept various types of cards. Keep a close eye on your balances, checking them online after each shopping trip. This can help you control your spending and also can alert you to any fraudulent activity.

Shoppers who must use their credit cards this holiday season can employ several strategies to ensure they don't dig themselves into a financial hole by the end of December.

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Random facts about Christmas

By: Jon Pompia

Source: Random Facts

- The Germans made the first artificial Christmas trees from dyed goose feathers.
- Each year more than 3 billion Christmas cards are sent in the U.S. alone.
- All the gifts in the Twelve Days of Christmas would equal 364 gifts.
- The "true love" mentioned in the song "Twelve Days of Christmas" does not refer to a romantic couple, but the Catholic Church's code for God. The person who receives the gifts represents someone who has accepted that code. For example, the "partridge in a pear tree" represents Christ. The "two turtledoves" represent the Old and New Testaments.
- Most of Santa's reindeer have male-sounding names, such as Blitzen, Comet, and Cupid. However, male reindeers shed their antlers around Christmas, so the reindeer pulling Santa's sleigh are likely not male, but female.
- In A.D. 350, Pope Julius I, bishop of Rome, proclaimed December 25 the official celebration date for the birthday of Christ.
- According to the Guinness, the tallest Christmas tree ever cut was a 221-foot Douglas fir that was displayed in 1950 at the Northgate Shopping Center in Seattle, Washington.
- The traditional three colors of Christmas are green, red, and gold. Green has long been a symbol of life and rebirth; red symbolizes the blood of Christ, and gold represents light as well as wealth and royalty.
- According to data analyzed from Facebook posts, two weeks before Christmas is one of the two most popular times for couples to break up. However, Christmas Day is the least favorite day for breakups.
- Contrary to popular belief, suicide rates during the Christmas holiday are low. The highest rates are during the spring.
- The world's largest Christmas stocking measured 106 feet and 9 inches long and 49 feet and 1 inch wide. It weighed as much as five reindeer and held almost 1,000 presents. It was made by the Children's Society in London on December 14, 2007.
- Christmas trees have been sold in the U.S. since 1850.
- Christmas trees usually grow for about 15 years before they are sold.
- Many European countries believed that spirits, both good and evil, were active during the Twelve Days of Christmas. These spirits eventually evolved into Santa's elves, especially under the influence of Clement C. Moore's *The Night Before Christmas* (1779-1863) illustrated by Thomas Nast (1840-1902).
- Each year there are approximately 20,000 "rent-a-Santas" across the United States. "Rent-a-Santas" usually undergo seasonal training on how to maintain a jolly attitude under pressure from the public. They also receive practical advice, such as not accepting money from parents while children are looking and avoiding garlic, onions, or beans for lunch.
- Bolivians celebrate Misa del Gallo or "Mass of the Rooster" on Christmas Eve. Some people bring roosters to the midnight mass, a gesture that symbolizes the belief that a rooster was the first animal to announce the birth of Jesus.
- The British wear paper crowns while they eat Christmas dinner. The crowns are stored in a tube called a "Christmas cracker."
- In Poland, spiders or spider webs are common Christmas trees decorations because according to legend, a spider wove a blanket for Baby Jesus. In fact, Polish people consider spiders to be symbols of goodness and prosperity at Christmas.
- Alabama was the first state in the United States to officially recognize Christmas in 1836.
- Christmas wasn't declared an official holiday in the United States until June 26, 1870.
- Oklahoma was the last U.S. state to declare Christmas a legal holiday, in 1907.
- Mistletoe (*Viscum album*) is from the Anglo-Saxon word *misteltan*, which means "little dung twig" because the plant spreads through bird droppings.
- Ancient peoples, such as the Druids, considered mistletoe sacred because it remains green and bears fruit during the winter when all other plants appear to die. Druids would cut the plant with golden sickles and never let it touch the ground. They thought it had the power to cure infertility and nervous diseases and to ward off evil.
- Evergreens (from the Old English word *aefie* meaning "always" and *gowan* meaning "to grow") have been symbols of eternal life and rebirth since ancient times.



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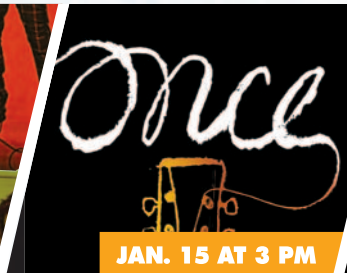


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- cient times. The pagan use and worship of evergreen boughs and trees has evolved into the Christianized Christmas tree
- Because they viewed Christmas as a decadent Catholic holiday, the Puritans in America banned all Christmas celebrations from 1659-1681 with a penalty of five shillings for each offense. Some Puritan leaders condemned those who favored Christmas as enemies of the Christian religion.
- A Yule log is an enormous log that is typically burned during the Twelve Days of Christmas (December 25-January 6). Some scholars suggest that the word yule means "revolution" or "wheel," which symbolizes the cyclical return of the sun. A burning log or its charred remains is said to offer health, fertility, and luck as well as the ability to ward off evil spirits.
- Because of their pagan associations, both the holly (associated with the masculine principle) and the ivy (the feminine) and other green boughs in home decoration were banned by the sixth-century Christian Council of Braga.
- The poinsettia is native to Mexico and was cultivated by the Aztecs, who called the plant Cuetlaxochitl ("flower which wilts"). For the Aztecs, the plant's brilliant red color symbolized purity, and they often used it medicinally to reduce fever. Contrary to popular belief, the poinsettia is not poisonous, but holly berries are.
- Christmas has its roots in pagan festivals such as Saturnalia (December 17-December 23), the Kalends (January 1 -5, the precursor to the Twelve Days of Christmas), and Deus Sol Invictus or Birthday of the Unconquerable Sun (December 25). The Christian church heartily disapproved of such celebrations and co-opted the pagans by declaring December 25 as Christ's day of birth, though there is no evidence Christ was born on that day.
- Santa Claus is based on a real person, St. Nikolas of Myra (also known as Nikolaos the Wonderworker, Bishop Saint Nicholas of Smyrna, and Nikolaos of Bari), who lived during the fourth century. Born in Patara (in modern-day Turkey), he is the world's most popular non-Biblical saint, and artists have portrayed him more often than any other saint except Mary. He is the patron saint of banking, pawnbroking, pirating, butchery, sailing, thievery,

orphans, royalty, and New York City.

- Early illustrations of St. Nicholas depict him as stern, commanding, and holding a birch rod. He was more a symbol of discipline and punishment than the jolly, overweight elf children know today.
- Puritan Oliver Cromwell outlawed Christmas celebrations and carols in England from 1649-1660. The only celebrations allowed were sermons and prayers.
- Wassail is from the Old Norse ves heill, meaning "good health."
- Christmas stockings allegedly evolved from three sisters who were too poor to afford a marriage dowry and were, therefore, doomed to a life of prostitution. They were saved, however, when the wealthy Bishop Saint Nicholas of Smyrna (the precursor to Santa Claus) crept down their chimney and generously filled their stockings with gold coins.
- It is estimated that the single "White Christmas" by Irving Berlin is the best selling single of all time, with over 100 million sales worldwide.
- The first person to decorate a Christmas tree was reportedly the Protestant reformer Martin Luther (1483-1546).

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12 days of holiday entertaining

By: Erin Davis, Tribune News Service

On the first day of Christmas my true love gave to me ... 12 holiday entertaining ideas. If another holiday season has you feeling more like fa la la la blah, than jolly, it's time to switch things up. Here are 12 holiday decor, theme and feasting ideas to keep your tinsel twinkling and your spirits merry and bright.

1. HOLIDAY CHILI COOKOFF

Don't wait for the Super Bowl to allow friends an opportunity to showcase their chops at chili cooking. Chef Marlene Moore of Pechanga Resort & Casino suggests spicing up the holidays with her Temptation Hearty Southern Style Chili (recipe below). As host, instead of serving a traditional chili accompaniment like cornbread, treat guest to a holiday-inspired bread like Delish's Chai-Spiced Tea Loaves.

2. FROSTY MIRRORS HAVE A VERY SHINY GLOW

Caroline Bailly, owner of L'Atelier Rouge, specializing in floral events and design, explains that using mirrors is a great way to bring out and accentuate festive colors. "Use a mirror as a table runner or tray. Make sure that it has a frame, and you should have lots of light — candles — or other reflective surfaces, iridescent materials and small pieces like collections of small vases," Bailly says. For an added touch that creates a wintry feeling, Bailly recommends using frost spray around the edges of a mirror to give it the effect of a frozen pond.

3. SMALL PAPER PACKAGES (AND HORS D'OEUVRES)

Why spend back-breaking hours preparing a traditional holiday meal when you can make a big impact by serving small tidings of joy? "I like to set out a couple appetizers," says celebrity event and wedding planner Andrea Freeman, "Such as ham with rosemary-Manchego scones, so people can create their own sandwiches." Also check out trending 2016 holiday minis like Smoked Gouda and Herb Puffs and Salmon Tartare in Wonton Cups (HGTV.com).

4. WINE-DING UP FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Party host Audra Quinn says why simply delight guests with wine when you can have them Read Between The Wines? "I invented this wine-tasting game to inspire players to write their own creative tasting notes while sampling new wines," Quinn explains. "To play, each guest brings a bottle of wine. Every round introduces a new wine and a new theme card, such as 'Compare this wine to a celebrity,' or 'if this wine had a job, what would it do?'" Responses will evoke easy and celebratory conversation to liven an already festive environment.

5. OH WHAT FUN ... COCKTAILS ALL THE WAY

A big trend in entertaining this holiday season is going big on preparation so more time can be spent on enjoying time with guests. Trisha Antonsen, chief cocktail officer at Drizly, encourages large-batch cocktails to help achieve this goal. "You can prep most ingredients ahead of time and then mix them right before company arrives," she says. Try Antonsen's personal Jingle Juice Punch (Drizly.com) or Bourbon Ginger Cider (recipe below), which can both be made in advance and are sure to bring the desired tidings of joy to all partygoers.

6. MISMATCHING AND MISTLETOE

Another ongoing decor preference we've witnessed in 2016 for entertaining: eclectic stylization. For this holiday season, Danny Seo, host of NBC's "Naturally" and author of the new cookbook "Naturally, Delicious: 100 Recipes for Healthy Eats That Make You Happy," recommends using what you already have. "It's not only resourceful, it's also a bit unexpected and unique," Seo says. "If you have a collection of mismatched glasses, use them as votive holders or vases. If you want

to create a more cohesive look, spray paint them the same color." And don't forget to look outside your own backyard. Branches, berries, leaves, pinecones and moss can go a long way in adding a natural ambiance to your holiday repertoire, according to Seo.

7. HANUKKAH DELIGHTS

Move over latkes, this holiday season is offering some delicious sweet sensations. Serve guests twists on traditional Hanukkah treats like tangy-sweet Cranberry Rugelach (TasteofHome.com), Tyler Florence's Blueberry Blintzes with a lemon ricotta filling (FoodNetwork.com) and Molly Yeh's Mini Pumpkin Sufganiyot made with cranberry or raspberry filling (Forward.com).

8. DON'T FORGET THE LITTLE DRUMMER BOY

If a drummer boy is over the top, you can always consider other forms of live music to entertain your guests. "A harpist, acoustic guitar player or violinist are quite elegant," Freeman says, "and can add an ere of unexpected entertainment." If, however, a live musician is out of your budget, turn to SiriusXM's holiday music lineup featuring throwback favorites such as Bing Crosby, Nat King Cole and The Four Tops, or contemporaries like Josh Groban, Brian Setzer and Kelly Clarkson.

9. DIY IS COMIN' DOWN THE CHIMNEY TONIGHT

If DIY is your jam, there is no shortage of ideas. In term of decor, paper is powerful. Wrap boxes of all shapes and sizes in natural, metallic and retro patterns — if you have the talent, even think about sketching your own. Since the holidays inspire an attitude of giving, take a virtual stroll on Pinterest for host gift ideas and you'll strike a goldmine of DIY ideas — check out an easy pin like DIY Sharpie gift mugs, allowing you and/or your guests to make customized coffee cups to take home.

10. UGLY SWEATERS ROASTING IN THE FIRE

Maybe you don't have to burn them, but word has it that the novelty of ugly-sweater parties is waning. Instead, classic entertaining is making a comeback. Rather than encouraging guests to whip out their most atrocious sweaters, encourage them to come in formal attire. Take black tie to the next step and dust off chinaware and crystal, adding hints of metallic gold and silver for serving friends. A cocktail service cart or bar will add a nostalgic touch as will taking guests' coats and purses as they arrive.

11. THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Another top trend for holiday entertaining leans toward rustic. Old crates, muted beiges, grays and whites for linen, sticks and pinecones are simplistic accents to promote a festive yet comfortable backdrop for a kickback holiday party. Toss in a faux-fur throw rug and pillows for a cabinesque feel. Serve guests smoked turkey and craft beer from the tap in frosty mugs. Play up a fireplace mantel with stacks of fragrant wood. A seasonal berry pie and s'mores station for dessert will do nicely accompanied with a cozy fire and classic holiday movie.

12. TWELFTH NIGHT OF CHRISTMAS

Get out of the box this holiday and into Rebecca Klemm's interactive DVD titled "The 12 Notes of Christmas," featuring a mashup of Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night" and the song "The Twelve Days of Christmas" (NumbersAlive.org). During each of the connected videos, guests of all ages will learn about instruments, holiday celebrations and food from around the world. Each episode opens and closes with a curtain to remind all of Shakespeare as a master playwright.



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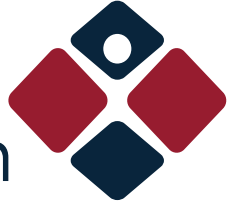
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Tips to prolong the life of your Christmas tree

Christmas trees are symbols of the holiday season and the spirit of giving that the season champions. Choosing and decorating a Christmas tree is a tradition for many families, and depending on the trees they choose, families may have some work to do to keep their trees glowing all season long.

Artificial Christmas trees require little, if any, maintenance. But live Christmas trees, which some people feel are more authentic and welcoming than their artificial counterparts, require daily maintenance. In addition to supplying the tree with water at least once per day, live Christmas tree owners can take these steps to prolong the life of their trees.

Protect the tree on the way home. Your tree might be vulnerable to damage as you transport it from the farm to your living room. Unwrapped trees placed atop vehicles can be dried out by the wind. Prevent wind damage by wrapping the tree if you plan to place it atop your vehicle. If possible, lay the tree in the bed of a pickup truck and close the cover over the bed. If you don't have access to a pickup truck but can use a minivan or SUV to transport your tree, see if the tree fits inside your vehicle. If it doesn't, wrap it tightly in a blanket or another form of cover, making sure the cover won't blow off in the wind when you hit the open road.

Have the tree cut before you take it off the lot. If you typically purchase your tree from a florist or tree lot instead of a tree farm, then remember to ask the seller to recut the stem of the tree before you take it home. Tree farm trees



are freshly cut, but trees sold away from the farm might have been chopped down weeks before they are ultimately sold. During the interval between being cut down and sold, trees' vascular systems can clog and prevent the tree from getting the water it needs to survive the season. A fresh cut of the stem unclogs the system and ensures the tree will be able to consume water.

Avoid placing the tree near heaters or drafty windows. Many people know that placing a live tree near a potentially hot heating vent poses a fire hazard. But doing so also can dry out the tree, decreasing the chances it will make it through the season. Placing the tree near drafty windows also can dry out the tree, so try to find a spot in your home with a consistent temperature.

Water the tree often. Christmas trees need lots of water to make it through the season. You may notice the water in the tree stand disappears quickly when you first bring the tree home. That's because freshly cut trees will consume more water than trees that were cut several weeks ago. As the season goes on and the tree's vascular system begins to clog, you might not need to water the tree as much as you did when you first brought it home. But check the tree's water stand twice per day when you first bring it home, refilling the stand with water whenever necessary.

A few tricks of the trade can help holiday celebrants maintain lush, awe-inspiring Christmas trees throughout the holiday season.

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A decorative graphic for Domega Homes featuring several large, dark blue Christmas ornaments with gold patterns and gold stars on a dark blue background.

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"Taffy's"

Homemade Candy

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A colorful advertisement for Taffy's Homemade Candy. It features a list of candy types on the left, the brand name 'Taffy's' in a large, stylized font in the center, and a list of locations and phone numbers on the right. There is also a small illustration of a Christmas tree with gifts and a popcorn bucket.

Reduce waste this holiday season

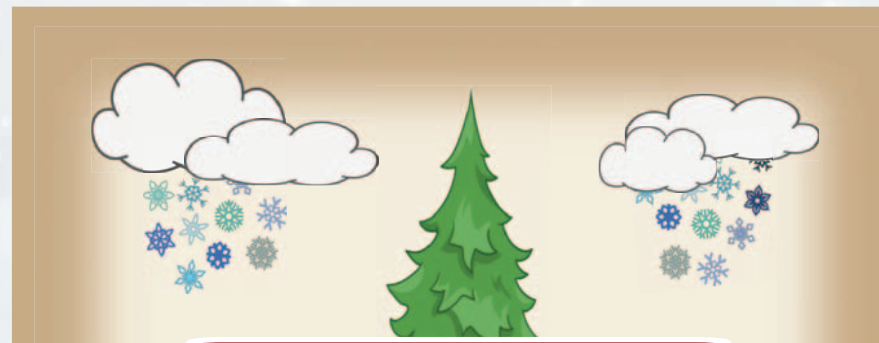
The holiday season is a time for families to gather and express their love and appreciation for one another. Exchanging gifts has become a big part of the holiday season, and while such a tradition is well-intentioned, gift-giving annually produces substantial amounts of waste.

Food plays a big role at many holiday celebrations, and uneaten food contributes heavily to the excess waste during the holiday season. Time magazine reports that an estimated 1.3 billion tons of food, or about one-third of global production, is lost or wasted each year. The United States alone wastes 34 million tons of food annually, and a considerable amount of that waste is produced during the holiday season.

Food is not the only thing wasted during the holiday season. Everything from packaging to gift wrap to the number of gifts purchased can contribute to excess holiday waste.

As big a problem as holiday waste has become, there are several simple ways to reducing holiday waste.

- Make a list and stick to it. Retailers are very good at upselling and getting people to purchase items they do not need during the holiday season. Stick to a shopping list for food or other supplies for the holiday season and beyond. Do not be tempted to buy more than is necessary.
- Scale back the menu. If you typically have lots of leftovers after the holiday, you're likely overestimating just how much people will eat. Learn from past experience and cook less this year. If you have a lot of leftovers, send guests home with their own plates instead of letting them pile up in the refrigerator and spoiling. And keep in mind that leftover food can always be donated to nearby food banks and homeless shelters.
- Reuse whatever you can. Diligently collect and store holiday wrappings and trimmings that are in good condition and put them to use again and again. Gift bags and boxes are easily reused. Once materials have passed their prime, attempt to repurpose and recycle them before discarding them.
- Compost food scraps. Eggshells, coffee grounds and vegetable peels can be put to use in the garden when composted.
- Give an experience rather than "stuff." When gifting, think about giving experiences rather than traditional gifts. Experiences may include trips to a museum or tickets to a concert or a play. Such gifts will make for memorable experiences and, because experiences are not packaged, will help cut back on holiday waste.



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Holiday Word Search



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U	M	H	S	S	N	O	I	T	A	R	O	C	E	D	H	S	Y	S	F

Appreciation
Atmosphere
Boxing Day
Candles
Celebration
Chanukah

Cheer
Children
Christmas
Cocktails
Cooking
Dancing

December
Decorations
Dessert
Family
Feast
Friends

Gathering
Gift
Guest
Invitation
January
Kitchen

Kwanzaa
Music
New Years Day
Party
Presents
Sharing

Socialize
Songs
Surprise
Thankful
Tree
Wintertime

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businesses.

It is the responsibility of home
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sanitary sewer.

DON'T LET THE GREASE MONSTER JAM YOUR DRAIN WITH GREASE!

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City Wastewater Department at
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(after business hours)

NEVER:



**Do not pour grease
down the drain**

**or put scraps down the
garbage disposal**



ALWAYS:



**Cool grease and pour into a can
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Wipe grease off with paper towel



**Scrape food off plates or compost
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