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DECEMBER 2023 - JANUARY 2024

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# **Pikes Peak**

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# Tinseltown Talks:

## Eddie Muller's case of the missing marshmallow monkey

By Nick Thomas

If reading bedtime stories to the grandkids is a cherished family tradition, Eddie Muller has an unusual tale to share this holiday season: a gritty feline sleuth searches for a stolen artifact while encountering a host of seedy underground characters prowling through a shadowy urban setting.

If that sounds like the plot from 1940s film noir cinema, you're no dope. In his first published children's book, "Kitty Feral and the Case of the Marshmallow Monkey," the Turner Classic Movies (TCM) host has channeled his film noir expertise onto the pages of a new book for kids aged 4 and up.

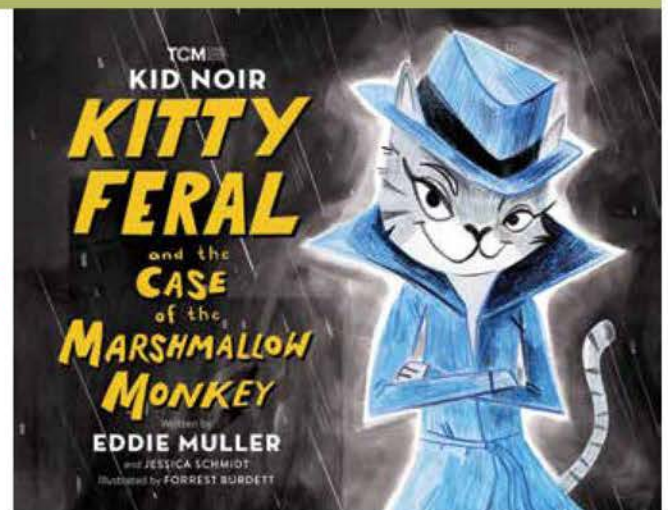


Toning down the traditionally dark stylized themes from early crime fiction thrillers was a no-brainer for Muller ([www.eddiemuller.com](http://www.eddiemuller.com)) and Running Press Kids publishers ([www.runningpress.com](http://www.runningpress.com)). The result is a cute mystery tale with animal characters that cleverly reference popular classic noir films, including one of the best from 1941.

"'The Maltese Falcon' seemed a perfect template," said Muller from his home in the San Francisco Bay Area. "Film noir themes revolve around the most diabolical and dastardly motivations that are not suitable for a children's book. But many are detective stories, so the idea of a simple quest, like a treasure hunt, seemed adaptable for kids."

Just like private detective Sam Spade's search for the precious 'Falcon' statuette, Kitty Feral pursues a stolen artifact (a Marshmallow Monkey) and along the way, interacts with some interesting characters, driving the plot. (Kitty is also on a mission to locate kidnapped crime-fighting partner Mitch the Mutt).

When originally approached by (co-author) Jessica Schmidt with the idea, Muller says he jumped at the opportunity provided the artwork would emulate the style of classic noir film. Drawn by Forrest Burdett in glorious noir-ish black-and-white and



distinctively skewed viewer angles, the Oregon-based artist added a splash of vivid blue highlights to Kitty who roams the dark alleys, deserted city rooftops, and an eerie waterfront in search of a missing Marshmallow Monkey - a stolen sweet treat.

While obviously aimed at children, adults familiar with classic movies will enjoy the subtle references to noir films. For instance, Kitty begins the search at the Acme Book Shop - similar (but naturally less risqué) to a Humphrey Bogart scene right out of 1946's "The Big Sleep."

A dockside warehouse image captures a scene from "99 River Street," a theater marquee acknowledges producer Val Lewton's "Leopard Man," and there are plenty of obvious references to "On the Waterfront," "Casablanca," "Shakedown," and "The Postman Always Rings Twice."

As for the book's cast of supporting characters, rotund owl boss Casper Nighthawk and sleazy Wilmer the Weasel represent villainous Kasper Gutman (Sydney Greenstreet) and Wilmer Cook (Elisha Cook Jr.) from "The Maltese Falcon." Sinister leather-clad Johnny Gila is distinctly reptilian, a nod to William Talman's title role in 1953's "The Hitch-hiker." "People have said he looked like a Gila monster," notes Muller. And

speaking of “Perry Mason” actors, there’s even a character representing Raymond Burr’s villainous roles (but we’ll leave that one for readers to uncover!).

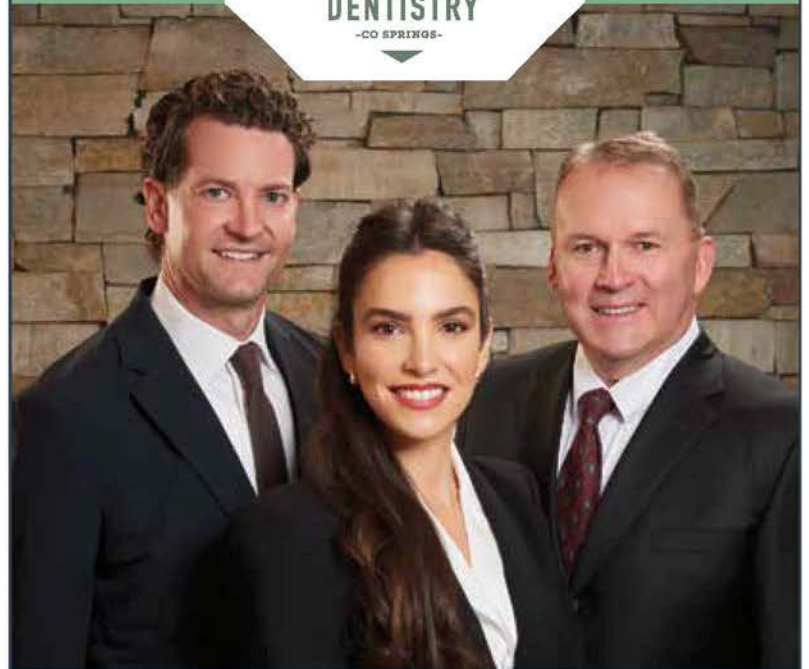
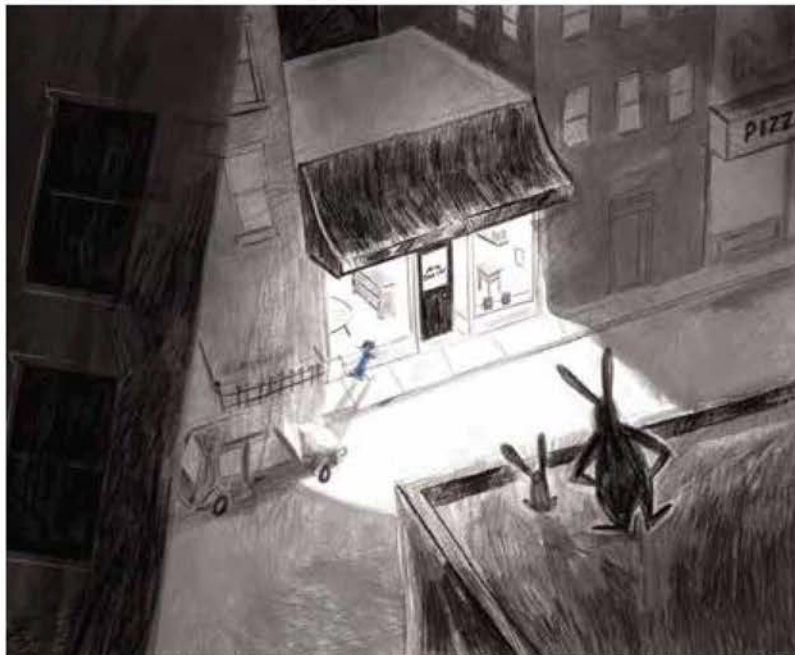
As for Kitty, the character is modeled after actress Ella Raines, especially her sultry role in 1944’s “The Phantom Lady,” even though Muller doesn’t formally acknowledge Kitty’s gender in the pages.

“Kitty was clearly inspired by Raines - a smart, independent woman intent on solving a crime herself in the film, not the typical femme fatale character,” explained Muller. As a bonus, if reading the story to kids, grandparents can test the youngsters’ powers of observation by asking if they can spot something intentionally omitted from the artist’s images of Kitty!

Of course, most of the book’s film references will be beyond young readers, but Muller thinks adults reading the story to their little ones will enjoy opening up a monochromatic world not usually seen on cellphones, laptops, or while gaming. And, perhaps, some may even come to appreciate the screen imagery in classic films enjoyed by their parents and grandparents.

“Since the book came out, I’ve attended film festivals that lasted several days and people told me they were buying the book for their grandkids,” recalls Muller. “They’ve returned a second day, reporting they read it to them and that the kids loved it. So that’s really gratifying.”

Nick Thomas teaches at Auburn University at Montgomery, in Alabama, and writes about classic film, television, and music for numerous magazines and newspapers. See [www.getnickt.org](http://www.getnickt.org).



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# Internet Discounts for Seniors

By Emily Richey

In a survey conducted by Pew Research in 2000, only 14% of people over the age of 65 reported using the internet. Today, that number has jumped to 67%. This significant increase in internet usage amongst seniors shouldn't come as a surprise. Placing online grocery orders, attending virtual doctor visits, and calling loved ones on FaceTime are just some of the ways seniors can enrich their lives with the internet. However, some seniors aren't sold on the idea of adding an extra bill to the pile every month. Luckily, there are plenty of internet discounts for seniors hoping to cut back on their internet payments and avoid unnecessary costs.

## Internet discounts for seniors at CenturyLink

While most internet providers don't offer special discounts for seniors, many still have reduced payments for those who qualify for other assistance programs. For example, CenturyLink offers several consumer assistance programs for qualifying customers, such as the Affordable Connectivity Program, Lifeline, and

the Telephone Assistance Program (TAP).

- The Affordable Connectivity Program provides a discount of up to \$30 per month towards broadband service for eligible households and up to \$75 per month for households on tribal lands. The program is limited to one monthly service discount per household.
- Telephone Assistance Programs are available at the state level. On the CenturyLink Telephone Assistance website, select your state to see information about any additional assistance programs available to you. Each state has its own application requirements, and not all states provide additional assistance.
- Lifeline is an FCC program designed for low-income consumers with affordability in mind. It provides subscribers a discount on monthly telephone or broadband service purchased from participating providers.

Many different phone and internet discounts for seniors are available, such as voice and broadband services, and bundled voice or broadband packages.

- Standard Lifeline — Provides federal monthly support of up to \$9.25 for qualifying broadband service. In some states, additional monthly support



is also available.

- Tribal Lifeline — Offers a monthly internet discount for seniors of up to \$34.25 per month, as well as installation assistance through the Link-Up Program to qualifying customers who live on federally-recognized tribal lands.

## Additional internet discounts for seniors

Seniors can also save on their internet bill by bundling services. With CenturyLink, you can bundle your internet and home phone for a low monthly rate with unlimited nationwide calling. Your customized bundle can include the internet you want with the home phone you need—all on one monthly bill.

Another way to save is by removing unnecessary add-ons from your bundle wherever possible. For example, you may watch more TV during the winter. In the summer months, however, you might be spending so much time outside that you don't need it. In this case, you should consider canceling your TV service and adding it back to your bundle when you'll be watching TV more frequently.



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You can also save on your internet bill by determining the best internet speed for your home. This depends mainly on the size of your household and how you use the internet. If you live in a large household with multiple users streaming, gaming, attending classes, or working from home, you'll need a high-speed package. But if you live alone and use the internet mainly for browsing, a 10 Mbps connection might be more than

enough for you. Find out which internet speed is right for your home and choose your package accordingly.

Programs that help seniors get internet access

Along with internet providers that offer discounted services and packages for seniors, nonprofits and other organizations can help older adults gain access to the internet or upgrade

their existing devices. Many of these programs and services have income limits. However, the following programs still offer free classes to help seniors learn more about the internet and their options regardless of income:

- The Community Tech Network's Home Connect program, started in April 2020, helps older adults who are isolated and sheltering in place.

- Older Adults Technology Services (OATS) has a Senior Planet program that teaches technology to all ages nationwide in free online classes, concentrating on adults over 60 years. They are also launching an Aging Connected service to help people find low-cost internet.

Regardless of all the helpful programs out there, one of the best ways seniors can save on their internet bill is to stay aware of the latest deals. What programs or opportunities have you found to help you save on internet? We'd love to hear from you.

*Emily Richey is the Content Manager for the CenturyLink and Quantum Fiber blogs. A recent graduate of Pace University NYC, she's an avid reader and writer. She spends most of her free time in bookstores and cafes, seeking the perfect cup of coffee.*



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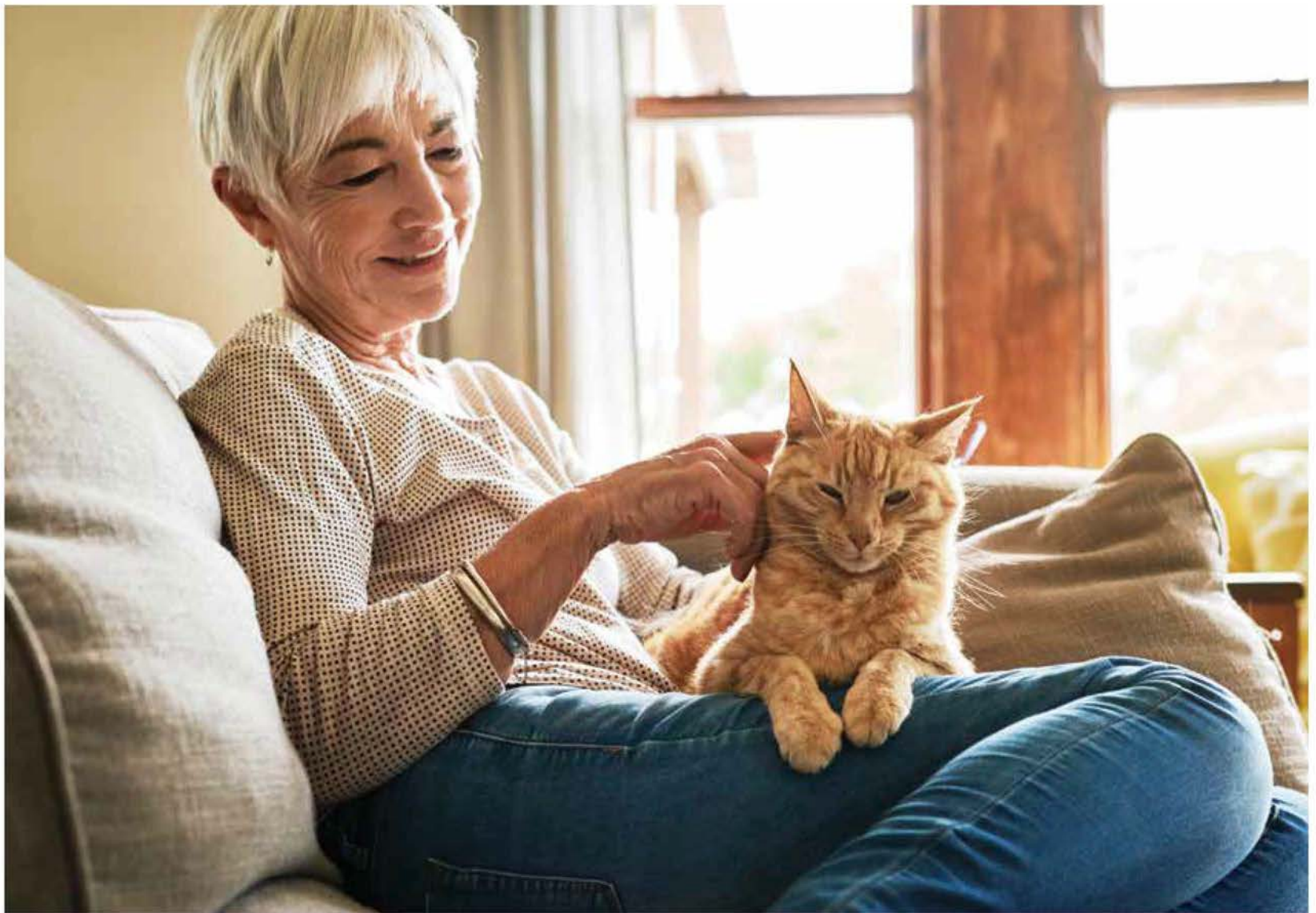
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# Veterans' Community Project Gives Aid to Unhoused Military Vets

## New Longmont Village Offers Temporary Housing to Those Who Fought for the Country

By Trevor Phipps



Across the world, people living without necessities like food or shelter is becoming a major issue. In Colorado alone, it is estimated that nearly 50,000 people live without proper housing.

Another shocking statistic states that military veterans make up about nine percent of the total unhoused population in the country. According to the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless, 76 percent of unhoused veterans live in a city and 54 percent have a mental or physical disability.

In recent years, cities across America have worked diligently to come up with ways to alleviate the growing problem of homelessness. Some areas have started to use "tiny homes" to help provide temporary housing for unhoused people.

For example, in November it was announced that the City of Denver purchased the first 200 tiny homes to provide shelter for 1,000 unhoused residents. Locally, the Mill Street Project in downtown Colorado Springs has acquired property and tiny homes to provide transitional housing for unhoused people between the ages of 18 and 22.

In recent years, an idea of a tiny home community in order to specifically help unhoused veterans was invented by the Veterans' Community Project (VCP) that was started by a group of combat vets in Kansas City, Missouri in 2016. The group of vets noticed a need to help their "brothers and sisters" in areas where the Veterans' Administration (VA) could not.

The group looked at several options before coming up with the idea to use tiny homes for transitional housing for unhoused veterans. The first tiny home village built specifically to provide a temporary home for vets was started in Kansas City and it still serves nearly 50 veterans.

After the project was a success, the VCP group made the decision to expand the idea to other cities across the country. Now the organization has established tiny home communities for veterans in St. Louis, MO, Sioux Falls, SD, Milwaukee, WI, Oklahoma City, OK and Longmont, CO.

### Longmont's Tiny Home Village for Veterans

According to VCP Executive Director Jennifer Seybold, Longmont's VCP Outreach Center opened up in 2020 to provide a number of services to local veterans. To date, the Outreach Center has assisted 350 veterans and helped find permanent housing for 85.

After the group expanded to Longmont in 2018, a group of people in the city including city council members got together

and decided to build a tiny home village for veterans on a two acre section of land inside a new development. In 2022, the years of work paid off with the project breaking ground.

The homes were then built last year with 70 percent of the builders being resident volunteers with limited construction skills. "Anything that's not electrical, plumbing or roofing is done by community volunteers who come out and help us build," Seybold said.

The village is made for any veteran who signed the oath regardless of their discharge status. Veterans can live in the homes for a maximum of two years while the organization works with them to provide permanent housing.

Currently, the VCP Village has four homes on the property with four veterans living in them, and two more are scheduled to move in soon. "Once we are complete, we will have 21 individual units that are 240 square feet," Seybold said. "And then we will have five family units that are 320 square feet. The family units can actually sleep up to seven and those are outfitted depending on family needs."

Currently, all of the residents are men between the ages of 30 and over 60. The veterans will then get support from VCP to help them move out into a permanent housing setting.

According to Seybold, Longmont was a good choice to bring the first VCP Village to the state due to the amount of homeless veterans in the city. "I have been involved in helping the homeless for a long time," Seybold said. "Locally, I have worked in shelter services and employment services for the last 12 years or so. And a large majority of our unhoused community in Northern Colorado are veterans. Depending on the community, it is somewhere between 10 and 12 percent. That being such a large number of individuals that are being disproportionately impacted by homelessness, that is a big part of it."

Out of all of the ways to help unhoused people, VCP's method has proven to be more successful than others. "They have an awesome success number," the executive director stated. "I have worked in homelessness and social services for quite a long time and I have never seen a success rate like VCP has. VCP has an 85 percent positive transition rate and those individuals also maintain housing for the year that we do after care and check in with them."

*For more information about VCP and to learn about chances to volunteer or donate, visit their website at [VeteransCommunityProject.org](https://VeteransCommunityProject.org) or call (720) 340-2916.*



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# Brightening the Holiday Season for the Military Community

By State Point Media

As we enter the holiday season and Americans across the country look forward to spending time with family, thousands of service members deployed overseas – many to the Middle East in response to the Israel-Hamas war – will not have that luxury and will be spending the holidays far away from loved ones.

Here is how USO Holidays programming delivers a piece of home to them, along with ideas for how you can get involved:

1. **Care packages:** A care package might seem small in light of the challenges of deployment, but for many service members, they're a reminder that they're not forgotten by Americans back home. Aside from standard USO Care Packages, which contain snacks or toiletries, USO Holidays Care Packages have festive treats and goodies, such as holiday candies, cozy socks and a warm beanie, that help bridge the

gap between home and the frontlines. This year, the USO will deliver 50,000 holiday packages to over 250 locations globally.

2. **Holiday traditions:** Giving up treasured family traditions can be difficult. That's why USO Centers and USO Mobile teams host holiday meals for service members and their families, complete with special treats ranging from pumpkin and sweet potato pie to hot cocoa bars. Each December, USO Holidays Cookie Week celebrates the time-honored tradition of baking and decorating cookies, putting service members and military families in the holiday spirit wherever they are located. Other seasonal programming can include tree decorating, arts and crafts, holiday-themed movie nights and ugly sweater competitions. Through these activities, service members stationed far from home can still make holiday memories.

3. **Connections to home:** Staying connected to family during the holidays can be difficult for service members stationed overseas, particularly for those in or near regions in conflict such as Eastern Europe or the Middle East. The USO Reading Program enables deployed service members to record themselves reading a book to their child. Then, the recording and a copy of the book are sent to that service member's family.



PHOTO SOURCE: © USO Photos

**4. Happy travels:** As most people know, holiday travel can be especially taxing. Thousands of service members and trainees from military installations across the country participate in the Holiday Block Leave period, many traveling through some of the busiest airports in the United States to be with their families during the holidays. USO airport centers can alleviate some of that stress for service members and trainees by providing a place to relax and unwind before the next leg of their journey, along with all the comfort items they need.

To learn more about these programs and how to support them, and for ideas on how to reach out to the military community to express your thanks during the holidays and throughout the year, visit [uso.org/campaign/holidays](http://uso.org/campaign/holidays).

The holiday season can look very different for service members and military families who must celebrate while separated from loved ones and home in all corners of the world. Bringing everyone together on special days fosters camaraderie and positivity, and provides a welcome break from the demands of military life.



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# What Country Has the Best Holiday Traditions?

## Various Christmas Celebrations from Fried Chicken to Roller Skating to Throwing Shoes

By Trevor Phipps

Now that December is here, let's be honest, it is pretty much already Christmas. Even though the holiday officially only takes place on Dec. 25, it seems like the day is basically celebrated throughout the entire month with holiday-themed music playing everywhere and various events geared at getting into the Christmas spirit.

For centuries, Christmas in the United States has been a time to spend with friends and family while taking part in various holiday traditions. Many across the U.S. participate in nationwide traditions like having parades, Christmas tree lightings and opening presents.

Some individual families also have their own traditions they follow when celebrating the holiday. For example, some open their presents on Christmas Eve instead of Christmas Day and others strictly attend Christmas Mass at midnight every year.

In other countries, many have their own traditions that they follow. Some traditions in other countries are similar to activities that take place in the U.S., while others may

seem strange to Americans.

For example, in Caracas, Venezuela instead of piling in a car to go to Christmas Mass, there is a tradition to strap on roller skates to head to church. Venezuelans attend a morning mass every day for a week leading up to Christmas and so many people roller skate to the services that the roads are actually closed to traffic in the mornings.

And in Italy instead of Santa Clause bringing the presents himself, his helper is an old witch named La Befana. According to the legend, the three wise men invited La Befana to go with them to see baby Jesus but she told them she was too busy because she was flying around on a broom delivering presents to children.



In fact, every country seems to have its own take on how to celebrate the holiday. The following is a list of some of the most unique ways people choose to celebrate the Christmas holiday from around the world.

### Mexico

Whereas Mexico isn't that far away from the U.S., the traditions they have for the holidays differ from those to their north. In the U.S., many celebrate the holiday with special meals like turkey or ham. However, in Mexico it is very common to have meals with tamales around the holiday season.





As most know, piñatas are commonly used to celebrate occasions like birthdays in Mexico, but they are also used during Christmas. During the holiday season,

Christmas piñatas are dressed up with extra sparkles and some even come shaped in the form of a seven-point star, symbolizing the seven deadly sins that are then broken by a stick to represent faith in God. The piñatas are often filled with treats like candy, peanuts, and fruits.

In the city Oaxaca, Dec. 23 is known as the Night of Radishes. People carve nativity scenes into the skins of radishes and then they are put on display for all to view.

## Norway

In Norwegian folklore, it is said that witches and evil spirits come out on Christmas Eve to cause trouble. Because of this, Norwegian families hide all of the brooms and mops in their house to prevent witches from stealing them and taking a midnight ride. They also sometimes burn spruce logs in the fireplace to keep them from coming down the chimney.

Another tradition involves serving “riskrem” which is a chilled rice pudding with berry sauce for dessert. The “lady of the family” places a blanched almond inside the pudding and the family member who finds it first will get a special gift.

## Japan

People in Japan celebrate Christmas with gift giving and light displays even though it isn’t even a national holiday.



Thanks to a festive marketing campaign in the 1970s called “Kentucky for Christmas,” fried chicken became the perfect Christmas Eve meal.

It is estimated that over three million people in Japan head to the closest Kentucky Fried Chicken to order a bucket of fried goodness for their families every year during the holiday.

## Germany

In Germany, St. Nicholas varies from Santa Claus, but he is a gift giver as well. However, instead of sliding down the chimney and filling stockings, he leaves small presents like coins or fruit inside the shoes of children.

On the night before Christmas, German children leave a shoe or a boot out in front of their bedroom doors. If the children were good they get a present, if they were bad they could find a stick or twig inside it.

Germany also celebrates a tradition where an ornament in the shape of a dill pickle gets hidden deep inside the tree’s branches. The first person who finds it will receive a bonus gift or good fortune for the upcoming year.

## Ukraine

In Ukraine, instead of decorating Christmas trees with lights and ornaments, it gets decorated with spider webs. According to an old tale, a poor widow and her children found a Christmas tree in their garden, but the widow couldn’t afford ornaments to decorate it.

Instead, she hung fruits and nuts on the tree to make her kids smile on Christmas Day. But then when the kids woke up on Christmas, it was covered by a giant spider web that shined gold and silver colors in the morning sun.

Like Americans, Ukrainians also like to celebrate the holiday with a big family meal. But in Ukraine it is common to serve 12 courses with each one dedicated to one of Jesus’ apostles.

## Australia and New Zealand

In the Southern Hemisphere of the world, Christmas time takes place during the summer causing traditions to vary. Instead of flying around in a sleigh, in Australia Santa Claus arrives to the shores on a surf board. People then celebrate the holiday with an outdoor barbecue.

In New Zealand instead of a Christmas tree, they celebrate with a Pohutukawa which is a native tree that produces bright red blooms during the holiday season. The flowers are seen as the official symbol for Christmas and get used on greeting cards and decorations.

### **Austria**

In America, if children are bad they are threatened with coal in their stockings instead of gifts. But in Austria, if kids are put on the naughty list they have to worry about an old legend that says a horned half goat beast named Krampus will come and snatch bad children and put them into his wicker basket.

Many towns in Austria have special celebrations to commemorate the folktale. During Krampusnacht on December 5th, Austrians dress up as the half goat demon and parade around the streets brandishing sticks.

### **Sweden**

In the U.S., Santa Claus is known to pull a sleigh with a team of reindeer. But according to Swedish folklore, Saint Nicholas has a companion that is a goat figure that can control and ward off the devil.

Saint Nicholas would then ride the magical goat to deliver presents. To honor the tale, people in Sweden set up giant goats made out of straw in their yards and make them to use as ornaments for the Christmas tree.

In Sweden, they also have a tradition of watching a Donald Duck television

special every Christmas Eve afternoon dating back to the 1960s. Around 40 percent of Sweden's population still gathers around the television set at 3 p.m. to watch the cartoon.

### **Guatemala**

In Guatemala, they believe that evil spirits exist in the dark and dirty corners of a home. The week before Christmas, Guatemalans spend sweeping and collecting all of the rubbish and putting it into a big pile outside.

A figure of the devil is placed on the piles and the whole thing is burned. The "Burning of the Devil or La Quema del Diablo" helps them burn all of the bad from the previous year and start a new year from the ashes.

### **Czech Republic**

In this eastern European country like others in the continent, Christmas is celebrated on Dec. 5 or St. Nicholas Eve. On Christmas Eve, it is a popular celebration to have a feast of fried carp. Some people buy the fish weeks before Christmas and keep them alive in their bathtubs before the feast.

On Christmas Day, it is customary for unmarried women to throw a shoe over their shoulders towards the front door. If the shoe lands with its toe towards the door, she will get married in the following year. If the shoe falls with the heel pointing towards the door, she will remain single for the next year.

### **Finland**

Being located in the frigid northern part of the globe, many people in Finland have a sauna in their homes. In the morning on Christmas Eve, Finnish families eat a porridge made of rice and milk topped with cinnamon, milk, and butter.

At the end of the day, many of the families get into the sauna for a soak because they see it as a place to connect with their deceased ancestors. After their sauna time, they head out to celebrate Christmas Eve and the spirits of their ancestors take their place in the sauna.

### **Portugal**

People in Portugal, like many other countries, celebrate Christmas with a giant feast called consoda. Some families set extra places at the dining table for their deceased relatives.

The practice is supposed to ensure good fortunes for the entire household over the next year. In some areas, Portuguese people even leave crumbs on their hearths.

Whatever the traditions may be, the general theme is to spend time with friends and family. Whether it is sharing meals or opening presents, holiday celebrations are intended to bring joy to homes before the year is over.



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# Our Red Barn Ranch: Educating Others on How to Live Off the Land

## Calhan Ranch Offers Public Tours and Educational Sessions

By Trevor Phipps

When people first came to the country and then headed out west to settle, families had to live off the land. In present times, technology has changed things to where many would not know how to get food to feed their family without being able to buy it in a grocery store.

Even though there are still several ranches in Southern Colorado, it seems as if living off the land is a dying trade. However, Our Red Barn Ranch located south of Calhan offers tours to the public as they are dedicated to educating the masses about ranching and land conservation.

The ranch is open to tours by

appointment only seven days a week where people can go to see their collection of horses, chickens, llamas, alpacas, cats, dogs, two ponies and their resident pet turkey named Bertha who showed up at the ranch one day and never left. The ranch raises its own meat, vegetables, and makes clothing items.

According to ranch owner Chris Schade, one of the ranch's main focuses is to educate the public. "We get involved with the schools," Schade said. "We do a lot with Calhan public schools. Recently, I went to the District 49 career day because they were looking for somebody that wanted to talk about agriculture. So, I was there explaining to high school kids the pros and cons of agriculture. Some thought it was 'cool,' but I told them it is not always 'cool' because I have tried to call in sick and they won't answer the phone. I still have to go to the barn and feed them."

The ranch has worked with veterans, senior citizens, children and disabled people. Schade said that he recently even brought two alpacas to a dance club in Denver for a corporate event.

As a result of Schade's efforts to educate, his ranch was recognized by the El Paso County Conservation District earlier this year. The

ranch was given the award of "Conservationist of the Year for Small Acreage." The ranch went on to win the award for the entire Lower Arkansas Valley Watershed District in southeastern Colorado and they are now in the running for the statewide conservationist of the year award.

The award went to a property owner who exhibited the best land conservation practices. "What got us on their radar was our outreach programs and educating the public on agriculture and being good land stewards," the ranch owner said.

### It All Started with Alpacas

Schade and his wife Christiann started raising alpacas over 20 years ago when they lived in Black Forest. They were members of the Southeast Colorado Alpaca Breeders group for several years before they decided to relocate to a smaller house with more land two miles south of Calhan. The couple picked a 40-acre piece of land to start their ranch and incorporate more than just alpacas into their business model.

"When we moved out here the house and the garage were already built and they were red metal buildings," Schade recalled. "When we got here, we always wanted to get involved in agriculture tourism and educating people about livestock. Alpacas are



our mainstay and our number one focus. But, my wife said that since we were no longer doing just alpacas and with the red house and garage and the red barn we built, she wanted us to become 'Our Red Barn Ranch.'"

The ranch still has a major focus on alpacas and they also have llamas to show people the difference. The ranch also makes products out of alpaca fleece to sell.

Visitors that sign up for a tour of the ranch can shop at their "Fiber Farm Stand" alpaca store on the property or visit [OurRedBarnRanch.com](http://OurRedBarnRanch.com) to purchase items online. The store has everything from stuffed alpacas to hats, gloves, sweaters, socks and more all made from alpaca fur.

## Hands on Learning Experiences

According to the ranch's website, the Schade family offers a number of chances to learn "hands-on" about processing alpaca fur. Schade said that he is currently working on acquiring another building so that the ranch can complete all of the fiber processing on site.

"My wife has had groups get a hold of her that want to come learn how to spin, so she will put together an area out in the store and teach folks the basics about spinning and get them interested," Schade explained.

"When we take kids out on a tour those over eight years old get to learn how to make needle-felted art."

Once a year, the ranch also invites the public out for their "Shearing Day." Every Memorial Day Weekend the alpacas get what their website calls their "day at the spa" because they not only get their hair cut or sheared, they get a pedicure (toe nail trimming), their teeth trimmed if needed and their annual vaccinations.

"We had one lady that wanted to come to an alpaca farm for her birthday," Schade remembered. "They came out in early spring and she said she wanted to come help on shearing day. Her daughter stayed with her all day and she was in a walker. She wanted to do something to help. So I put her back in a safe area where she could help open and close the gate as we were bringing the alpacas into the shearing barn. We just found a way to get her involved in it and she absolutely loved it. We try to accommodate people's needs."

*To book a tour of Our Red Barn Ranch, call (719) 339-5229.*



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# Crossword Puzzle

## ACROSS

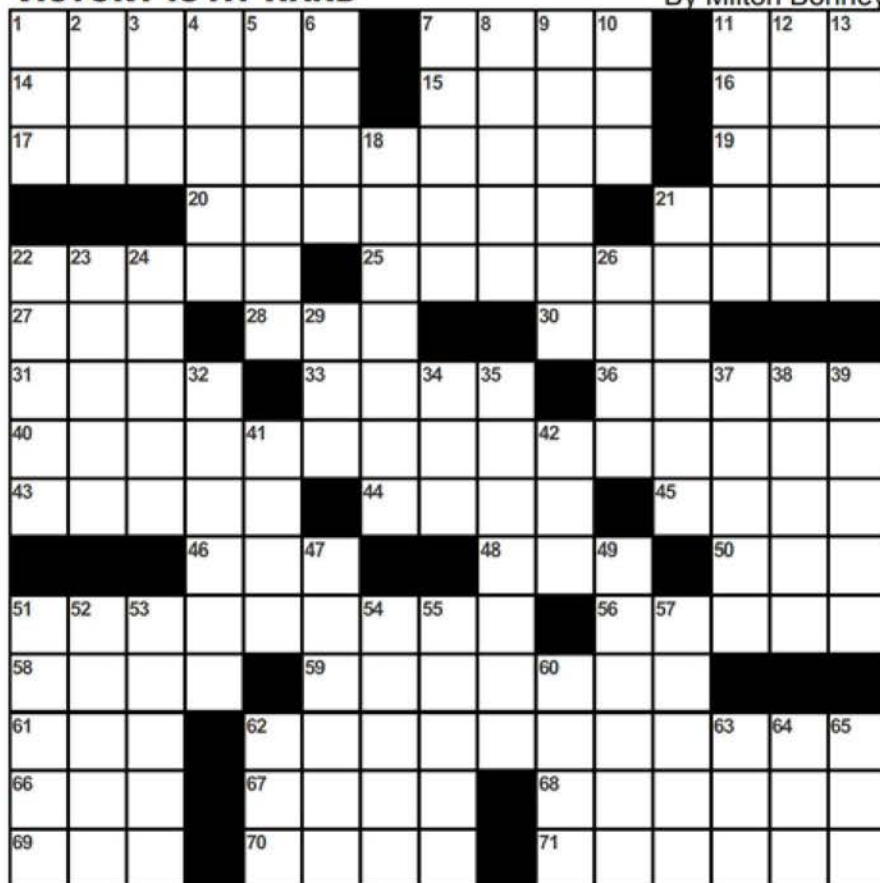
- 1) Wipe off completely
- 7) Ways to the WWW
- 11) Electronics giant, once
- 14) Shore-leave taker
- 15) Vaccination fluids
- 16) Oohs and \_\_\_\_
- 17) Defeated and then some
- 19) Hors d'oeuvre item
- 20) Call a spade a club?
- 21) Cosecant's opposite
- 22) Fold-up mattress
- 25) Emission
- 27) \_\_\_\_-Wan Kenobi
- 28) Helium, for one
- 30) Title for Galahad
- 31) Wrapping-paper unit
- 33) Serving of white lightnin'
- 36) Major airline
- 40) Won four out of four games
- 43) Type of band or trap
- 44) Like Jimi Hendrix's lady
- 45) What a collar surrounds
- 46) Lacking color
- 48) Cookout purchase
- 50) Geese can form it
- 51) Living off others
- 56) Place for a peck
- 58) Do the bidding of
- 59) "The Last Supper" room
- 61) Combination of dance steps
- 62) Won, but barely
- 66) Olympics powerhouse
- 67) Word in an ultimatum
- 68) Thousandth of a millimeter
- 69) Aisle seat
- 70) Coloring expert
- 71) Plays with Lego blocks

## DOWN

- 1) Count conclusion?
- 2) Oft-chewed item
- 3) "Fee, \_\_\_\_, foe ..."
- 4) Site of Crockett's demise
- 5) On the way
- 6) Commits a mistake
- 7) Muslim's religion
- 8) Alabama city on the Alabama
- 9) Smooths one's feathers
- 10) Melancholy
- 11) They form central angles
- 12) Cotton cloth
- 13) Colorado comedy festival city
- 18) Alone (with "by")
- 21) Scattered
- 22) They may be filled in or out
- 23) Depth-charge target of WWII
- 24) Squiggly accent mark
- 26) Subsidies
- 29) One big-time broadcaster
- 32) Wiggle room
- 34) Feline sign
- 35) It moves about the city
- 37) Time on shore
- 38) Sioux dwelling of old
- 39) Sneak \_\_\_\_ (look surreptitiously)
- 41) Cry of regret
- 42) Monogram of the Big Apple
- 47) "\_\_\_\_ done!" ("Good job!")
- 49) Filled pastry
- 51) "\_\_\_\_ Video" (VH1 series)
- 52) Disparage
- 53) Further shorten
- 54) Razz
- 55) "\_\_\_\_ alia" (among other things)
- 57) From this time forward
- 60) Type of flower cluster
- 62) Board's partner
- 63) "Lord of the Rings" menace
- 64) Booze abuser
- 65) One who takes Capt.'s orders

### VICTORY IS AT HAND

By Milton Bonney



Key on page 31.



### • Saadani Farms – Creating Opportunities Through Growth

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### • Costa Rica – In The Moment – Senior Friendly

May 13-24, 2024 | From \$4699 per person (dbl occ) - including air from Colorado Springs | Register Now! Price increases \$200 Dec 21.

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### • Made in America – On the Road Again

September 8-15, 2024 | From \$3269 per person (dbl occ) - Includes air from Dallas or Atlanta

The "Made in America" tour promises an exceptional exploration of iconic factories, historical landmarks, and cultural treasures. This exclusive experience will showcase the ingenuity, craftsmanship, and innovation that have shaped our nation. To included: Fords Rouge Mfg. Plant – Henry Ford Museum – Sechler Pickle Showroom – DeBrand Chocolate Factory – Indianapolis Motor Spdwy – Airstream Factory – Phoenix Bat Co – American Whistle Factory – Amish Ctry Backroads – Gervast Vinyards – Henry London Chocolates – JM Smuckers Sweeties Chocolates – Rock and Roll Hall of Fame – Libbey Glass and more **Call for more info, or to register: <https://cvent.me/gxnGX9>**



### • Panama Canal Cruise

February 22 - March 9, 2025 | From \$6880.22 per cabin (Balcony Type)

Embark on the journey of a lifetime with our Panama Canal Cruise aboard the luxurious Norwegian Bliss Cruise Ship! Set sail on February 22, 2025, and indulge in a 15-day adventure spanning from the vibrant city of Miami, Florida, to the historic shores of Cartagena, Colombia. Experience the rich culture of Puerto Quetzal, Guatemala, the beauty of Manzanillo, Mexico, the lively atmosphere of Puerto Vallarta, the breathtaking landscapes of Cabo San Lucas, and the glamour of Los Angeles, California. Join us for an unforgettable voyage through the Panama Canal, where every moment is a celebration of exploration and luxury. Book your spot now for a cruise filled with unparalleled experiences, stunning views, and memories that will last a lifetime! **Call for more info, or to register: <https://cvent.me/BwqEDb>**



### • 7-night Hawaii Cruise

Apr 12 -19, 2025 | From \$2860 per person (balcony type cabin)

Embark on a tropical paradise adventure with our Hawaii Cruise aboard the magnificent Norwegian Pride of America Ship! Your journey unfolds with a visit to the enchanting Kahului Maui on where you'll have the day to explore before departing. Discover the wonders of Hilo with a full day to immerse yourself in the beauty of this volcanic landscape before sailing to Kona a destination known for its pristine beaches and vibrant marine life. experience the allure of Nawiliwili Kauai, where lush landscapes and captivating scenery await. As your Hawaiian odyssey continues, bid farewell to Kauai on and return to the vibrant city of Honolulu. Join us for a week of sun-soaked beaches, cultural richness, and unforgettable moments. Book now for an unparalleled Hawaiian cruise experience on the Norwegian Pride of America! **Call for more info, or to register: <https://cvent.me/2X7gb1>**



### • Portugal and Spain

October, 2025 | Website coming soon

Two iconic cities, Lisbon and Madrid, provide the perfect start and end to a grand journey through Portugal and Spain. Cosmopolitan Lisbon offers a treasure trove of Old World architecture and a wealth of stories about its famed explorers; and then there is the seaside town of Sintra, one of the loveliest mountain villages in Portugal and a favorite summer residence of the Portuguese royal family for more than 500 years. Set sail in Porto, the beautiful "City of Bridges" and gateway to the Douro River Valley, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, with rambling vineyards and charming quintas, which cling to the steep sides of the river. Taste wines from these vineyards and discover the timeless traditions of Portuguese winemaking throughout your journey before visiting some of Spain's glorious cities: the golden-hued city of Salamanca, the ancient walled city of Toledo, and cosmopolitan Madrid, renowned for its world-class museums, stately gardens and lively tapas bars.



### • Peru – Womanly Ways

April 1-10, 2024 | \$4,623.00 per person (dbl occ)

Womanly Ways a group designed for women who want to travel, whether single, widowed, divorced, your husbands aren't able to travel, your husband is deployed, or a mom who needs a break. We takes women to places they'd only dreamed of visiting. Begin in Lima, where colonial charm intertwines with modern innovation. Explore the vibrant streets, indulge immerse yourself in the city's arts and culture scene. Let the rhythms of Peruvian music ignite your senses. Venture to the Sacred Valley, breathtaking landscapes and rich heritage. Engage in empowering rituals, connect with local women, and gain insights into their traditions and way of life. Witness the ancient art of weaving, passed down through generations. Prepare for the Maras Salt Ponds, a natural wonder evoking wonder and tranquility. Let their majesty inspire you and awaken a sense of awe within. Machu Picchu. Immerse yourself Explore the ruins, feel the echoes of history beneath your feet, and marvel at the architectural wonders crafted by the Inca civilization. Savor the fusion of indigenous and international influences in Peruvian cuisine. Share laughter, stories, and meaningful moments with like-minded women. **Call for more info, or to register: <https://cvent.me/xyR1vZ>**

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## Smoked Salmon Wreath

### Ingredients

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 large fennel bulb, trimmed, core removed              | 400g sliced smoked salmon                                 |
| 3 limes   | Extra virgin olive oil, to drizzle                        |
| 2 green shallots, trimmed                               | Crème fraîche, to serve                                   |
| 3 large ripe avocados                                   | Salmon roe, to serve                                      |
| 250g baby cucumbers, peeled into ribbons                | Fresh dill sprigs, to serve                               |
| 200g (1 bunch) radishes, trimmed, washed, thinly sliced | Micro herbs, to serve                                     |
|   | Gluten-free crackers or crusty bread, to serve (optional) |



### Directions

1. Use a mandoline to very thinly slice the fennel length-ways. Place in a large bowl with the juice of 1 lime. Add a large pinch of salt, toss to combine and set aside to pickle.
2. Cut shallots into 8cm lengths and thinly slice length-ways. Place in a bowl of iced water for 2-3 minutes or until lightly curled. Drain well. Roughly mash the avocados in a bowl. Add the juice from the remaining limes, season and stir to combine.
3. Drain fennel. Arrange avocado in a heaped circle around the edge of a large plate. Arrange pickled fennel, cucumber, radish, shallot and salmon over the top. Drizzle with oil and season with pepper. Dollop on crème fraîche and salmon roe. Scatter with the dill and micro herbs. Serve immediately with crackers or bread, if you like.

## Baked Brie & Cranberry Pastry Squares

*Bring out the classic French flavors of our mild Brie Cheese with dried cranberries and pecans in this mouthwatering appetizer. Each smooth and fruity bite is complimented by a flaky and crunchy sensation. Serves: 6*

### Ingredients

- 1 sheet Frozen puff pastry thawed
- 8 oz French Brie Cheese
- 3 tbsp Brown Sugar
- 1 cup Dried cranberries
- 2/3 cup Pecans chopped
- 1 Egg beaten
- Fresh Thyme Leaves for garnish



### Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 425 degrees.
2. Lay the puff pastry flat on a parchment-lined baking sheet, then divide into 3-inch squares and separate.
3. Slice the brie into 1/4"-thick slices and place 1-2 pieces in the center of each pastry square.
4. Evenly sprinkle brown sugar, dried cranberries and chopped pecans overtop of the brie. Fold the corners of each pastry, just slightly over the brie.
5. Brush each pastry square with the beaten egg and bake for 15-20 minutes, or until the brie is melted and the pastries are golden brown.



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**SOCO Senior Resource Center: A 411 for the 719 Network Group**

## He is Born-A Service of Lessons and Carols

**What:** Celebrate the season with our Chancel Choir, Chancel Ringers, and Festival Orchestra conducted by Douglas Grogan and dance by the Turning Pointe School of Dance.

**When:** December 1st 7pm, Sunday December 3rd, 3:00 pm

**Where:** First United Methodist Church 420 N Nevada Ave 80903

## 40th Annual Festival of Lights Parade

**What:** Theme: Sounds of the Season One of the Pikes Peak region's most beloved holiday traditions, the Festival of Lights Parade. The Parade is always the first Saturday in December every year and features nearly 100 beautifully lighted and decorated entries and is broadcast LIVE on media sponsor KKTU. Local companies and organizations, and volunteers create holiday fantasies to share with all.

**When:** Saturday, December 9, 2023 at 5:50pm

**Where:** Downtown Colorado Springs on Tejon Street.

It will start at St. Vrain Street and continue south to Vermijo Street.

**Web:** [coloradospringsfestivaloflights.com](http://coloradospringsfestivaloflights.com)

## Winterfest Craft Fair

**What:** This fair will have over 100 vendors selling just about anything you will need; Jewelry, Pottery, Clothing, Baked Items, Jams & Jellies, Soaps & Candles, and More! Shop on Sunday from 10 AM - 4 PM.

**When:** 12/10/2023 10:00 AM - 12/10/2023 04:00 PM

**Where:** Norris Penrose Event Center

1045 Lower Gold Camp Road, Colorado Springs

## Christmas, A Beautiful Sight

**What:** Celebrating their 30th Anniversary, The Senior Chorale of the Rockies presents "Christmas - A Beautiful Sight" concert with an appearance by members of the Colorado Springs Children's Chorale.

**When:** Tuesday, December 12, 2023 at 1:30 p.m. and

Wednesday, December 13, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

**Where:** Downtown "Y".

**Cost:** Admission is Free

## Cirque Musica Holiday Wonderland

**What:** A must-see holiday event to usher in the magic of the season. Featuring the talented cast of Cirque Musica, spectators will be dazzled by the acrobats, aerialists, hilarious hijinks and holiday cheer.

The show blends the spellbinding grace and daredevil athleticism of today's greatest circus performers with a musical mix of timeless seasonal favorites. Tickets online at AXS.com or in person at the Pikes Peak Center box office.

**When:** December 13th 7:30

**Where:** The Pikes Peak Center, 190 S Cascade Ave, Colorado Springs

**Web:** [www.pikespeakcenter.com/events-tickets/calendar-of-events](http://www.pikespeakcenter.com/events-tickets/calendar-of-events)



## Irish Christmas in America

**What:** This family-friendly performance features lively instrumental tunes on fiddle, flute, uilleann pipes, harp and bouzouki, along with thrilling Irish dancing. In addition, evocative photographic images provide a backdrop to some of the rich historical traditions of Ireland. Take a memorable glimpse into the enchanting spirit of Christmas, as the finest traditional artists from Ireland, bring you on a fun-filled start to the holiday season of 2023.



**When:** Fri, Dec 15, 2023, 12:00am

**Where:** Stargazers Theatre 10 Parkside Dr. Colorado Springs

**Phone:** (719) 476-2200

**Cost:** \$25.00 to \$30.00

**Web:** <https://stargazerstheatre.com/product/irish-christmas-dec-15/>

## We Need a Little Christmas

**What:** Our annual Christmas Concert, featuring America the Beautiful A Cappella Chorus. Also appearing will be Velvet Hills Women's A Cappella Chorus and a selection of area quartets!

**Cost:** \$15 in advance/\$20 at door purchase at ATBchorus.com

**Where:** Sunrise United Methodist Church 2655 Briargate Blvd 80920

**When:** Saturday December 16th at 2pm and 7pm.

## Christmas Symphony

Colorado Springs Philharmonic

**When:** Sun, Dec 17, 2:30 PM - Mon, Dec 18, 4:59 AM

**Where:** Pikes Peak Center 190 S Cascade Ave, Colorado Springs

## Skate In the Park

**What:** A perfect way to make lasting memories with those you love. Presented by Academy Bank.

**Where:** Acacia Park: Tejon St. & Platte Ave., Downtown Colorado Springs

**When:** Friday, Nov. 10, through Wednesday, Jan. 31, 2024.

**Cost:** \$10, includes skates. Children 4 and under FREE w/paying adult

## Bridge of Lights at Royal Gorge Bridge & Park

**When:**

**What:** Royal Gorge Bridge & Park is absolutely thrilled to unwrap a dazzling drive-thru light extravaganza again this 2023 Holiday Season! A magnificent suspension bridge bedecked with thousands of lights for the festive season. Treat yourself to some toasty hot cocoa and cookies available for purchase

**Where:** Royal Gorge Bridge; 4218 Co Rd 3A, Canon City, CO, 81212

**When:** November — December 2023

November 17-26, 2023 (Closed November 23, Thanksgiving) and

December 7-31, 2023 (Closed December 25, Christmas Day)

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 5:30pm-8:30pm

and Friday, Saturday, Sunday 5:30pm-9:00pm

**Cost:** \$40/car online, \$45/car at the gate,

\$35/car for Season Pass holders online

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## Santa Express Train

**What:** This year, the Royal Gorge Route Railroad is introducing the ALL NEW Santa Express Train holiday locomotive, which will lead the train through the Royal Gorge to the North Pole and back. It's an absolute holiday masterpiece and will delight children of all ages. During the journey, you and your family are welcome to order and enjoy lunch or dinner, as well as your favorites from our full bar, while we make our way through the Royal Gorge to pick up St. Nick. Once the guest of honor boards the train, Santa will greet every child and give each of them a very special gift.

**When:** November 17 – December 30 (closed Christmas Day)  
9:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 4:00 p.m., and 7:00 p.m.

**Cost:** Varies depending on class. Lunch and dinner is additional.

**Web:** <https://www.royalgorgerroute.com/santa-express-train/>



## Christmas Stroll

**What:** Walk the holiday streets of days gone by on Small Business Saturday with the best Victorian Christmas Celebration from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Christmas specials galore! Enjoy entertainment and treats at many of the avenue shops. Santa's Workshop will be open for business until 8 p.m. for the Stroll and every weekend until Christmas. Dickens Carolers will be strolling the avenue with song and live holiday skits.

**Where:** 2732 W. Colorado Ave

## Photos with Santa at his Cabin 12-8p.m.

**What:** Meet live reindeer in Bancroft Park. Merchant offers, sales, giveaways and gifts at shops and restaurants all day along W. Colorado Ave. Holiday cookies and treats at businesses all along W. Colorado Ave.

**When:** Saturday, November 25th Time: 5:00-8:00 pm

**Where:** Old Colorado City, Bancroft Park, and all along Colorado Ave

**Cost:** Free

## Christmas in Magic Town

**What:** Michael Garman's sculptural theater is transformed into a winter wonderland. Festive holograms welcome you to this hand-sculpted, vintage Americana miniature city.

**What:** November 24 – December 24, 2023  
10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. daily

**Where:** Michael Garman Museum & Gallery  
2418 W. Colorado Ave, Colorado Springs, CO

**Cost:** Adults – \$7.50 | Seniors (Ages 55 and up) – \$6.00 | Children (Ages 7 to 12) – \$4.00 | Children (Ages 6 and under) – Free  
Discounts available with ID for Military, Students, 1st Responders

## Lighter Side of Christmas Parade

**What:** "Woodland Park's Nightmare Before Christmas" This year we are celebrating the 35th Anniversary of the Lighter Side of Christmas Parade. Our theme this year, "Woodland Park's Nightmare Before Christmas," which tells the story of Jack Skellington, the King of "Halloween Town," who stumbles upon "Christmas Town" and schemes to take over the holiday.

**When:** December 2 Time: 6 – 7 p.m.



## 25th Annual Tweeds Holiday Home Tour

**What:** Our theme for this event is Ute Pass Holiday Express...A Historical Tour of Greater Ute Pass. Tour beneficiaries are Performing Arts Parents Association (PAPA) of Woodland Park High School, Rampart Library District Foundation, Teller Senior Coalition and Ute Pass Symphony Guild. Six venues will be featured including a historic home in Green Mountain Falls and two beautifully decorated homes in Woodland Park. Elk Valley Estates and Rainbow Valley Ranch will complete our historic tour. As part of the 25th Anniversary Celebration, The Lodge at Rainbow Valley Ranch will be serving a complimentary meal and drink to each ticket holder.

**When:** December 2 and 3 Time: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

**Cost:** Ticket prices are \$20 for an adult, \$35 for two adults, \$40 for a Family Pass (two adults plus children), and \$5 for Students (K-12).



## Breakfast with Santa

**What:** Kiwanis Gift to the Community. Free pancake breakfast

**When:** December 2 Time: 8 – 11 a.m.

**Where:** the Ute Pass Cultural Center.

## Brunch with Santa

**What:** Enjoy a jolly brunch with Santa at Cheyenne Mountain Colorado Springs, A Dolce Resort's Mountain View Restaurant. They will have amazing food, Christmas Carolers and Santa sitting in his sleigh for pictures.

**When:** December 3, 10, 17, 2023 – 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

**Where:** Mountain View Restaurant,  
Cheyenne Mountain Colorado Springs

**Cost:** Adults \$50, kids (5-11) \$25. This is not a prepaid event, but please book your table reservation in advance.

## Classic Broadmoor Holiday Show

**What:** The Broadmoor's annual Holiday Show is a family-friendly dinner show filled with seasonal favorites presented in a variety show format, sprinkled with a few surprises. Back by popular demand, singer Debby Boone returns to headline. Joining Boone are Broadway star Marcus Lovett and his daughter, Cathryn Lovett; the Colorado Springs Children's Chorale; and Ken Miller and The Broadmoor Pops Orchestra. \*This event is general admission and suggested for guests 18 and older.

**When:** December 15, 15, 22, 23, and 24, 2023

Doors will open at 6pm, dinner is served at 7pm, entertainment begins at 8pm.

**Where:** The Broadmoor; 1 Lake Avenue, Colorado Springs, CO 80906

**Cost:** \$75 ticket per person. Lodging packages available with holiday show discount (Classic Broadmoor Holiday Show Package)  
Parking available in the Broadmoor garage for \$20

## Messiah & Christmas Concert

**What:** Come join us for this gorgeous night of Christmas classics! In the fall of 1973, Judith and Ken Westcott established a non-auditioned community choir for the Annual Lutheran Reformation Service and invited various denominations in the Pike's Peak region to participate. That December, Soli Deo Gloria Choir performed the Christmas portion of Handel's Messiah which then became the genesis for the ongoing Soli Deo Gloria Choir. For the 50th Anniversary Celebration, the SDG Choir will again offer the Christmas portion of the Messiah.

**When:** Saturday, December 16 3:00PM – 5:00PM

**Where:** First United Methodist Church 420 N Nevada Avenue 80903

**Cost:** The event is free and open to the public; no registration is required.

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**MBK Cuisine**

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# Calendar of Events

## Cheyenne Mountain Zoo's Electric Safari

**What:** The only place in Colorado Springs where you can see over 85 one-of-a-kind light sculptures while celebrating the season with the animals at the same time! You'll also enjoy photos with larger-than-life illuminated inflatable animals, interactive animal experiences, the Sky Ride, photos with Santa, hot cocoa and more!



**When:** December 1-3, 8-23, 25, 2023 and January 1, 2024  
5:20-8:30pm, 4:20pm early entry with zoo membership

**Where:** Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, 4250 Cheyenne Mountain Zoo Road, Colorado Springs

## Visit Santa at the North Pole

**What:** Welcome to The North Pole-Santa's Workshop, an enchanting vintage amusement park nestled at the foot of Pikes Peak in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Home to Santa's Village and the jolly man himself – the spirit of Christmas lives on all year long here at The North Pole.

**When:** Holiday Season: November 2 - December 24, 2023. Peak days are weekends in November & December and holiday weeks. Closed Tuesday and Wednesday with the exception of Holiday weeks.

Times: Vary on peak vs. non-peak days. Last wristband sold at 3:30pm. All rides close at 4:20pm during the Holiday season.

**Where:** North Pole - Santa's Workshop;  
5050 Pikes Peak Hwy, Cascade, CO

**Cost:** Reservations are required for peak days. Tickets will be released weekly to avoid weather cancellations. Peak day admission is \$32/ticket for everyone 3 and older. Non-peak day admission is free, but you may purchase ride wristbands at the gate. Unlimited ride wristband is \$32.

## Holiday Market At Commonwheel Artists Co-Op

Date: SHOW RUNS until DECEMBER 28TH 10am to 6pm

A handcrafted holiday market awaits with ornaments, clay art, photography, glass, cards, soap, fiber, sculpture, jewelry and wall art. Browse our offerings of hand-crafted items and you're sure to find something unique for even the impossible-to-shop-for people on your gift list.

**Where:** 102 Canon Ave, Manitou Springs

## The Heart of Christmas 2023

**What:** With stunning performances, breathtaking musical scores, and spectacular visuals, The Heart of Christmas will transport you through time and give you a new perspective on the birth and life of Jesus. Don't miss this incredible event that will bring the whole family together and become a cherished Christmas tradition



**When:** Dec 8 – 10 - Dec. 8: 7 pm,  
Dec. 9: 2 pm, Dec. 10: 3 pm.

## Winter Wonderland with the Wolves

**What:** Join the Colorado Wolf and Wildlife Center for a special holiday celebration with festivities including breakfast burritos with the wolves.

**When:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 Time: 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

**Where:** Colorado Wolf and Wildlife Center; Divide, CO 80814

**Cost:** 12 and older \$40. Kids 11 & under \$20

**Phone:** Call to RSVP at 719-687-9742.

## Christkindl Fest

**What:** Celebrate the holidays with an authentic German-style Christmas market at Ascension Lutheran Church.

This event features warm fires, holiday lights, craft vendors, German food and drink, friendly people, caroling and something for the whole family.

**When:** December 9, 2023 3:30 PM – 6:30 PM

**Where:** 2505 N. Circle Drive | Colorado Springs, CO | 80909

**Cost:** Event is free. Please RSVP at [ascensioncos.org/fest](https://ascensioncos.org/fest)

## 2023 COUNTRY HOLIDAY FAIR

**What:** Food Trucks\*Holiday Cocktails\*Vendors\*Kids Crafts\*Cookie Decorating\*Meet Santa Free Photo's with Kyle the Alpaca & Farley the Scottish Highlander And of course, drop off a toy for the Toy Drive held with Eastern Plains Community Pantry. Followed by the Calhan Christmas Parade of Lights

**When:** Saturday, Dec. 9th 2 pm - 7 pm

**Where:** Whittemore Bldg & Swink Hall

**Cost:** Free Admission.

## Manitou Christmas Parade

**When:** Sat Dec 09 2023 at 06:00pm

**Where:** Downtown Manitou Springs | Manitou Springs, CO

Join us again for the Manitou Christmas Parade! Get your bells and hot cocoa ready for this evening celebration of the holiday! Beginning at the roundabout and ending at El Paso Blvd. the parade will be a wonderful holiday delight down Manitou Ave.! The parade should last about an hour.

## Woodland Park Wind Symphony's Christmas Concert.

**What:** Woodland Park Wind Symphony's Concert.

**When:** December 10 Event Time: 6:30 pm, Matinee 4pm

**Where:** Ute Pass Cultural Center 210 E. Midland Ave.  
Woodland Park, CO 80866

**Web:** Reservations Required [woodlandparkwindsymphony.com](https://woodlandparkwindsymphony.com)

**Phone:** Bev Harms (719-687-3361)

## Christmas in the Gold Camps

### 2023 Theme – “A Whoville Christmas”

**November 25th – December 31st**

Headframe Lighting, every evening at dusk, throughout the Gold Camp

“Angel of the Christmas Mine”, The Butte Theater

**November 30th – December 7th**

Christmas Wreath Decorating Sessions @ Aspen Mine Center East during office hours (make your own wreath – supplies provided or bring your own – wreaths will be entered in the silent auction, the winner has an option to keep their wreath)

**December 7th**

3:30-6:30 pm Winter Wonderland Reception, Aspen Mine Center East

**December 8th**

11:30-1:00 Soup for the Soul and Christmas Cookie Contest,  
Aspen Mine Center East

5:30 pm Headframe Lights Guided Tour, bus leaves from  
Aspen Mine Center East

6:00 pm Victor Parade of Lights, Victor Main Street

6:30 pm Victor Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony, Victor

6:45 pm Victor Christmas, Victor Elks Lodge

7:00 pm Victor Jingle Bell Ball, Victor Elks Lodge



## December 9th

9:00-3:00 Annual Gold Camp Christmas Craft Fair, June Hack  
Community Center, Parks & Recreation  
11:00-1:30 Annual Luncheon, Aspen Mine Center East  
11:00-1:30 Hot Chocolate/Cider and S'mores outside Aspen Mine Center East  
12:00 pm Annual Gold Camp Christmas Parade, led by Ft. Carson  
Color Guard – Bennett Avenue  
12:30 Visit with Santa @ Aspen Mine Center East  
12:30-2:00 pm Children's Indoor Activities, Aspen Mine Center East  
1:30 pm Contest Awards & Silent Auction Ends @ Aspen Mine Center East  
3:00-5:00 pm Colorado Springs Chorale FREE CONCERT,  
Cripple Creek Baptist Church

## December 14th

4:30-7:00 pm Toys for Tots, Cripple Creek – Victor High School Cafetorium  
**Web:** [www.visitcricklecreek.com/event/christmas-in-the-gold-camps/](http://www.visitcricklecreek.com/event/christmas-in-the-gold-camps/)

## Kiwanis Grinch Bingo

**What:** Don't be a Grinch! Join us for Grinch Bingo!  
\$20 gives you a chance to win 10 games. There is also  
a 50/50 raffle! All proceeds go to supporting the  
Children of Teller County. A food truck will be available  
to satisfy your appetite.



**When:** December 14 Time: 6:30 – 9 p.m.

## Model Train Expo (TECO)

**What:** The January 2024 Model Train Expo will feature "Railfanning  
Destinations of Colorado." See club layouts - G, HO, HOOn3, On3, O, N, Live  
Steam, Lego, and the Youth in Model Railroading groups in action. The swap  
meet style event will feature traditional model trains, railroad collectibles, tools,  
and more. There is a jam-packed schedule of how-to-clinics, box car races,  
seek and find, and historical presentations.

**When:** January 27-28, 2024.

**Where:** Colorado Springs Event Center,  
6369 Palmer Park and Academy Blvd.,  
hours on Saturday are 9 am - 5 pm & Sunday from 10 am - 3 pm.

**Cost:** \$11/pp.

**Phone:** Contact Elizabeth Maline at (915) 491-4819

**Web:** [tecoshow.org](http://tecoshow.org)

## PLAY SUDUKO

Key on page 30.

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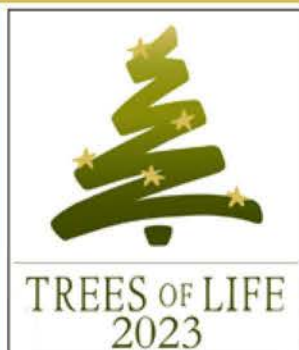
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**Saturday  
November 11, 2023  
5:00 p.m.**

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Pioneers Museum  
215 South Tejon Street  
Colorado Springs, CO 80903

During the winter holiday season, the trees surrounding the Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum are lit up for the Trees of Life celebration in memory of thousands of loved ones.

## SUDUKO KEY

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

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1	E	F	F	A	C	E		7	I	S	P	S		11	R	C	A	
14	S	A	I	L	O	R		15	S	E	R	A		16	A	H	S	
17	S	T	E	A	M	R	O	L	L	E	D		19	D	I	P		
			20	M	I	S	N	A	M	E		21	S	I	N	E		
22	F	U	T	O	N		25	E	M	A	N	A	T	I	O	N		
27	O	B	I		28	G	A	S		30	S	I	R					
31	R	O	L	L		32	B	E	L	T		36	D	E	L	T	A	
40	M	A	D	E	A	C	L	E	A	N	S	W	E	E	P			
43	S	T	E	E	L		44	F	O	X	Y		45	N	A	P	E	
			46	W	A	N		48	I	C	E		50	V	E	E		
51	P	A	R	A	S	I	T	I	C		56	C	H	E	E	K		
58	O	B	E	Y		59	C	E	N	A	C	L	E					
61	P	A	S			62	B	E	A	T	B	Y	A	N	O	S	E	
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69	P	E	W			70	D	Y	E	R		71	E	R	E	C	T	S



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