



# TOPSAIL TIMES

TOPSAIL ISLAND, HOLLY RIDGE, HAMPSTEAD AND SNEADS FERRY



● **3rd December, 2021** ● **American-Owned. Free Press.** ● **Volume I, Issue 4** **FREE!**

## Did You Know This About Christmas?

1. Santa Claus, as we know him today with his white thick beard and full red outfit trimmed in white didn't always look this way.

You can thank the Coca-Cola for his full rosy cheeks and recognizable attire. (Some say he actually looked spooky before Coca-Cola got involved).

2. Hanging stockings by the fire with care? This of course started as a more traditional event, when stockings were hung to get warm and dry.

3. Rudolph the red nose reindeer (whose name is really Rollo or Reginald in legend) was part of a publicity story from Montgomery Ward department stores in 1939.

He became famous in 1964 thanks to stop motion film that featured him on the Island of Misfit Toys.

4. Black Friday, now a stress filled tradition, isn't really the busy shopping day of the season. The weekend before Christmas takes that title.

5. Did you know that Jingle Bells started out as a Thanksgiving song?

6. Going to a school concert this year? Most likely you will hear "Silent Night" which is the most recorded Christmas song with over 732 versions.

7. Did you know that Christmas wasn't declared a federal holiday until the late 1800's?

8. Do you enjoy the antics in the Christmas Vacation movies? Well just remember that more than 10,000 people are sent to the ER each year from Christmas decoration mishaps.

9. Most dangerous part of Christmas? Live trees that have become dry. Hazards like this need to be taken serious by all family members. Can you imagine decorating with real candles? Yikes.

10. Christmas trees actually date back to ancient Egypt and Rome and were used as a symbol of spring during the winter solstice. Who knew?



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# Topsail Times

**Print Dates 2021**

Dec 3rd  
Dec 17th  
Dec 31st

## TOPSAIL TIMES NEWSPAPER



### Publisher

Topsail Times Newspaper, LLC

### Contributing Writers

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### Local Organization Shout-Out



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[www.ablebuddiesnc.org](http://www.ablebuddiesnc.org)

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## TOPSAIL TIMES NEWSPAPER



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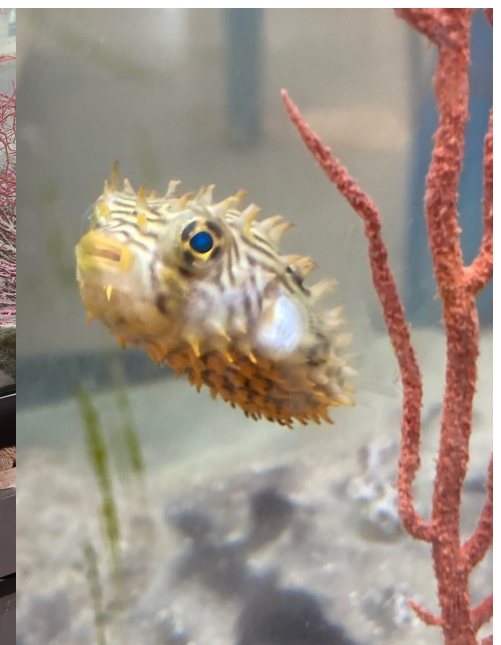
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Monday, December 6th

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# Big Brother Comes to the Rescue

**Topsail Gun Gal**  
**By Dorothy Royal**

Will the Kyle Rittenhouse trial be studied for years in law schools across the country? Absolutely.

This trial, if you were able to watch it or just caught bits and pieces of it, was like nothing I had ever seen before.

The use of video, from private phones and government drones (that's a whole other article) led to clarity and information that easily could have been swayed by opinion, instead of fact.

Regardless of how you felt about the actions of this young man, when the jury reviewed the information and the facts, they found him not guilty.

My question is why would anyone protest the outcome of this trial? It is not a racially motivated issue – that part is clear, so what is the deal? Haven't we had enough of the senseless destruction of people's property to realize that is never the answer to anything?

Modern technology gave Mr. Rittenhouse a fair trial, not emotion, not opinion, certainly not media persuasion. How scary is it when big brother (if you don't understand this reference please read the book 1984 without delay) actually comes to the rescue?

And on that note, why exactly were government drones filming the area?

Wisconsin made the national news again when on Sunday November 21st a man, possibly fleeing a criminal act, ran over and killed five people and injured over 40 more that were attending a large holiday parade. Caught on live camera, allegedly Darrell Brooks Jr, 39, was seen driving his red vehicle at a high rate of speed through barricades and into the crowds that were both participating in the parade and onlookers. Mr. Brooks has an extensive criminal background, including having two open cases that include felonies of resisting an officer, bail jumping, battery and reckless endangering (2 separate counts) and illegal possession of a firearm. Why was this criminal out on the street? Why was his bail only \$1,000?

Will there be a protest to ban vehicles? Will there be a protest since the alleged driver was a black male? Will the media share hateful posts that the alleged driver made on Facebook? Probably not.

So how about we work on keeping violent criminals in jail and out of society regardless of race? Isn't that what jails are for? Maybe the judicial system needs a good bath.

North Carolina has a new famous guest. "Tiger King" Joe Exotic has been moved to a federal inmate medical

center in North Carolina after his diagnosis of prostate cancer. The man who made famous the mullet haircut while wearing a gun on his hip and playing with big cats, is serving a sentence of 22 years for allegedly attempting to hire people to kill Carole Baskin. If you don't know who I'm talking about and you find yourself with absolutely nothing to do on a rainy day, watch an episode or two of Tiger King on Netflix. I promise only one or two episodes is all you need. Carole Baskins still remains a "person of interest" in the disappearance of her millionaire husband in 1997. Could he be living in Costa Rica under a new identity? Did she feed him to a big cat? We may never know.

On the flip side, Carole Baskins lost a court battle trying to stop the sequel (which began airing on November 17th) from using footage of her and her husband. Apparently the First Amendment does still matter!

The TV show Yellowstone (if you haven't seen it then get busy!) has a few very famous daughters in their cast. Many of us have enjoyed the "hard to understand" but very sassy "Teeter" who with her pink hair joined the cowboys working the cattle for the last two seasons. I found it hard to believe that

she is Michael Landon's daughter. For those of you too young to know who Michael Landon is, maybe you need to look him up and watch some of his amazing family TV shows. No hate, no screaming, no vulgarity – but great shows. Of course after writing that he would not have been on Yellowstone (ha ha). Another character, Mia the barrel racer, who has a lot of fans not liking her right now, is the daughter of Josh Brolin and James Brolin's granddaughter. I guess it helps to have a famous family in Hollywood.

Remember knowledge is power, violent criminals need to be out of society and watching crazy TV shows is fun in the dark cold days of winter.



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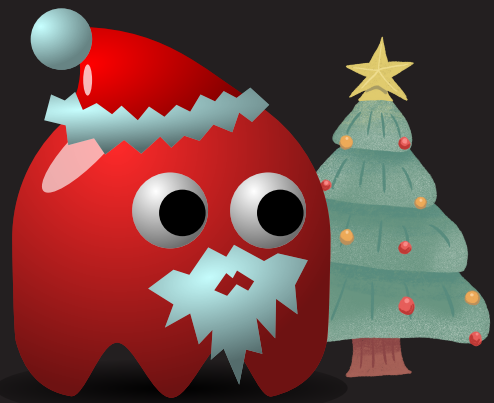
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## Oh, Christmas Tree...

**By Becky Borneman**  
Special to the Topsail Times

We all remember them... the ceramic Christmas trees that at least one family member had. These nostalgic, retro trees have been quite the rage this year.

My grandmother had one that was proudly displayed in the picture window of her home so everyone who drove past could see it. I remember as a kid looking for it when we would pull into their driveway during the Christmas season. It was positioned on the end table to the right of the big Christmas tree. And I would lay among the wrapped gifts under the big, real Christmas tree, in my hand was the white cord with the little rectangular box that held the switch, and I would roll that switch over and over.

Off...on...off...on. I'd love seeing the lights from the ceramic tree dance in reflection to the silver tinsel on the real tree. It was the early 80's...tinsel was cool!

Think of the popular sign making workshops you attend nowadays, in the 70's it was all about ceramics. People would go to a ceramics shop and look for different ceramic molds to paint. As this hobby became more and more popular the mold companies expanded their forms into holiday decor thus came the Christmas tree.

This was a popular hobby thru the early 90's actually. Then as it died off, so did the ceramic shops and mold companies. Many of the original ceramic molds were lost or destroyed making this beloved tree scarce for several years.

As we know, retro circles back every

30 years or so which is what has happened here. This retro, vintage tree is all the rage this year. I see the replicas of these trees in white and green, fancy bulbs and simple bulbs, tall ones and short ones. There are so many now to chose from. But one thing is for sure... what I wouldn't give to be under that tree at grandma's house again for one more Christmas, mesmerized by those beautiful tree's lights.

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Jeff & Becky of Southern Roots with Santa Claus  
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# Seine Fishing on Topsail

**By Carol Overstreet**  
Special to the Topsail Times

Of course Topsail Island has long been associated with fishing, the natural rock formations there make the island a good spot for it. People come here from all kinds of places to surf fish and to fish from the piers. Most people know that the island was once home to nine fishing piers: McKees, Paradise, Ocean City, Scotch Bonnet, Barnacle Bills, Surf City, Dolphin, Jolly Roger and the Sound Pier. Now we are down to only three.

But did you know that there was a time when scads of people used to flock to our little sand bar not to fish from a pier or even to surf fish, but to use a seine. The seine has been around for centuries. There is even mention of seine fishing in the Bible. So what is a seine?

A seine is a huge net manned by people-operated and pulled by people. It has had a long standing tradition, in this neck of the woods, for decades and as far back as most folks around here can remember. Seine fishing was how many families in this area made their living.

In the fall and spring of each year, fish migrate north to south or south to north. Bigger fish follow smaller fish for food. So you could say that seine fishing was a semi-annual event. It's safe to say that seine fishing was, at one time, a tradition-a family tradition, because



Photo taken during the 1970's

Photos provided by Carol Overstreet, Todd Thomas, and Thomas Seafood

extended families, along with friends, would gather together at that time of the year, and haul in millions of pounds of fish to be sold to fish markets in Wilmington.

Long before there was a bridge and before there was an Intracoastal Waterway, men brought dories over to the island. Sometimes they were kept sheltered in a ramshackle building on a wooden trailer, but when preparing for use, a dory would be rolled as close to the ocean as possible.

Each man who came to be part of the work had a task, some worked the seine, some were oarsmen and some were spotters.

The spotter kept lookout for the fish north of the launch site (in the

fall) keeping his eyes peeled for the huge black cloud (school of fish) in the water that moved southward. When the spotter waved his hand, it meant, "get ready," that meant that the seine needed to be boated (put in the boat). If he took off his hat and waved it about, it meant there were a lot of fish (usually mullet). If he waved his coat about, it meant the school of fish was very large. If he ran back and forth from the shore to the dunes, it meant that the school was enormous. (Try running back and forth from the dunes to the shore and see how long you last).

Once seeing the signal from the spotter, and as soon as the seine was boated, the dory would be lifted from the trailer by poles that were then

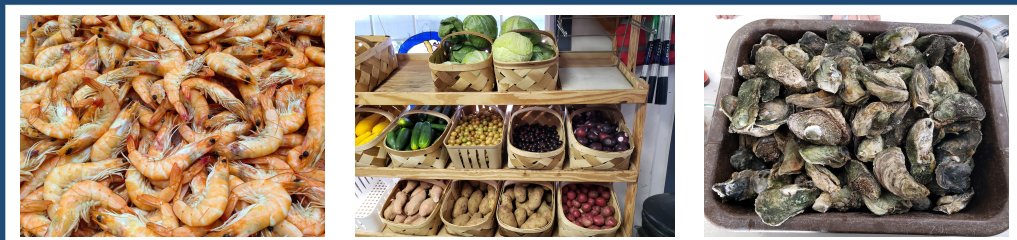
threaded through ropes affixed to the gunwales. It took fifteen or so men to lift the heavy structure from the trailer into the water and then to move past the breakers. After hoisting themselves into the boat, the race against time and nature began.

There were no electric winches or pulleys available to those men, no outboard motors, so everything was done by sheer brute strength. I was told by someone that once these men dipped their oars in the water it truly was as if they had a power motor-the boat took off with immense speed.

The job of those working the seine was very important. While boating the seine they had to be sure not to snag it on the gunwales. They had to make sure that it would lead out into the water to surround the school of fish, without bunching. Both cork and lead lines were led from the stern into the ocean at the same time, with the lead line sinking and cork line floating, so that the net wrapped the fish up so none or very few could escape.



Photo of Larry Batson, 1970's



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## HOLIDAY MAGIC YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS

As the dory neared the shore with its catch, waves would crash over the stern and fish would gasp for air, jumping erratically. Fishermen held the lead line down to keep any from escaping and held the cork line up for the same reason. As the dory was beached, everyone jumped from the boat and they, along with those waiting on shore, pulled on the heavy fish laden net.

Back then there were no pick-up trucks on the island, no roads, so each person who participated in the seine fishing had to supply his own barrel or sack-no sack or barrel, no fish. One had to work if he wanted to eat.

Fish were salted for preservation and taken home or loaded into carts on the mainland and then taken to Wilmington. In years to come these fish would be sold to houses in Hampstead or Sneads Ferry.

As you see, life was not easy back then. Everyone worked hard, even the women and children. Everyone was self-sufficient. But then that was a different time. There was a different way of living and thinking, perhaps.

Sometimes I throw a line in the water and wait, knowing I know how to feed myself, and then other times I do my fishing at Thomas Seafood.



Close your eyes, tilt your head back, and breathe. The chilled autumn night air is filled with sugar cookie- scented snow (or candy cane if you are lucky). Now open your eyes. You find yourself immersed in a 1950's small town, complete with hand waving neighbors, seated in rocking chairs, wishing you happy holidays as Christmas carols play in the background.

This is not a dream, but a wonderful wagon ride that takes you along a mile long road filled with holiday lights and festivities, including singing trees that keep you mesmerized.

Once a golf course, this farm has been transformed into something magical and even includes a Rustic Barn used for weddings and private events. During the wagon ride you get a chance to see this amazing structure from the outside and may just get a glimpse of a wedding!

Want to meet Santa? He has his own house, complete with candy canes. He loves to have his picture taken so don't miss out. How about a game of miniature golf? You can do that too!

Bring a warm blanket, your holiday spirit and don't forget the hot cocoa.

As an extra bonus, area food trucks are often present and offer a wide variety of meals and snacks.

Open Thursday through Saturday from 5:30 pm – 9:30 (last wagon ride is at 9pm) ELJ Farms is located at 133 Battingcage Trail in Jacksonville. Adults pay \$10 and 5-13 year olds are \$8 per person for wagon rides and it is FREE for kids 4 and under. Want to drive your own vehicle? You can do that for just \$25 per car load of four people (\$5 for each additional person). Want to book a wagon ride for a large group? For \$200 you can take your entire office, large family or club event on their own wagon ride.

In the scope of fun things to do I strongly recommend you don't miss this unique holiday event!





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Thank you, Rachelle Trout, for all your wisdom, humor, and encouragement that made this paper possible.

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*Happy Birthday to my  
beautiful daughter,  
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love you to the moon and  
back, baby girl!  
Hope you have a good day  
- Dale*

Thank you,  
Becky and Jeff,  
for always taking  
care of our  
community

Thank you, Jean Beasley,  
for all your years of  
dedication and teaching  
the public the importance  
of our existence.

- Turtles Everywhere



Thank you,  
Pat McLamb,  
in heaven,  
for being a great  
second mom

- RR



My husband and I own Board & Brush, Surf City in Hampstead and we are so grateful for the warm welcome we've received from the community! We opened with the hopes of being an accessible space for friends and family to simply be together doing something fun; wood working, painting, drinks, friendship, and laughter - it's a full sensory experience! Your support has indicated we're on our way and we couldn't be more thrilled! Thank you so much!  
- Yanessa Miller

Just want to say thank you for all those that come out and support the Topsail Wrestlers. New Head Coach, Pete Smith, is doing an amazing job building a solid foundation. It helps having great crowds and you guys are definitely showing up!

If you haven't been to a wrestling meet, make sure you come out some time.

- Daniel Blevins

Thank y'all for all you did,  
Mike & Angie,  
Sam & Kim,  
Randy & Tammy,  
Ricky & Dorothy  
Miss Alice,  
and rest of  
Lanier's family,  
that took me in

- Yankee Chris

**OCPAW'S**



would like to thank the fundraiser bike ride sponsored by Brenda Williams of Great Moves Realty and Spanky's Bar, who have raised funding to support our programs in this coming year. This fundraiser has been such a great success that those participating are looking to make this an annual event.



# OCPAW

**By Dotty Harding**  
Special to the Topsail Times

The Christmas Season...words come to mind that this is the season of love, peace, joy, comfort, hope, and happiness. It brings to mind the story of Ole Man Ben. A forgotten, abandoned, uncared-for older dog. However, he walked down a path, perhaps directed, into the lives of several people who gave him their time and talent to help him.

His life was changed, but more importantly, so were the lives of those who reached out to help him. So an unwanted, lost dog was offered love, trust, and comfort that, in return, could bring the same compassion to others.

## The Story of Ben and The Givers

On a hot, dry, dusty day, Lizette, a single Marine mom, found two large gentle dogs in her yard, hungry, dehydrated, and full of fleas and ticks.

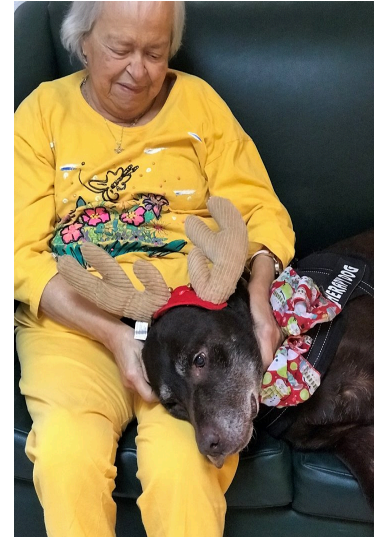
Ben, the older dog, was in the worst shape with open festering sores. But they were super sweet, and her heart ached for them. No ID, microchip, or collar Lizette did not know what to do, so she asked OCPAW for help. Jean Cole from the organization contacted her and started to assist.

Rita, Second Chances back to Nature, became his foster until she realized she could not part with him and adopted him. Ben had Rita's full attention, and she cared for his physical condition, which was in such dire straits.

With her help and financial assistance from OCPAW, he flourished and became a Therapy Dog to minister to the many Alzheimer patients that Rita took him to see faithfully every other weekend. They were inseparable in their lives, and when she realized he was dying, she laid beside him, speaking softly of their memories together while keeping her hand on his body so he would know of her presence.

He passed knowing he was so loved and cared for with her gentle healing hands. Thank you Rita, you were both blessed by each other, and I know he will be nudging his way to the front of the pack, as there have been so many others that you cared for, on the other side to greet you.

There are so many memories of Ben that will surely last our lifetime, but most importantly is how full and giving the life of a companion animal can be with care, love, and attention, so that they also can attain their full potential that God intended. Sweet dreams dear Ben, you were a gift to so many.



**So in every act of kindness, we hold in our own hands the mercy of our Maker, whose purposes are in life and not death, whose love does not stop at us but surrounds us, bestowing dignity and beauty and hope on every creature that lives and suffers and perishes.**

**Perhaps that is part of the animals' role among us, to awaken humility, to turn our minds back to the mystery of things, and open our hearts to that most impractical of hopes in which all creation speaks as one. For them as for us, if there is any hope at all then it is the same hope, and the same love, and the same God who (Dominion by Matthew Scully)**

**" shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. (Rev.21:4)**



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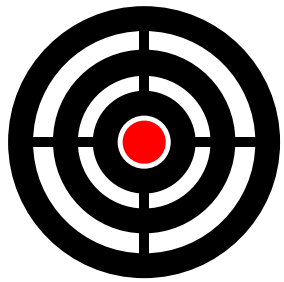
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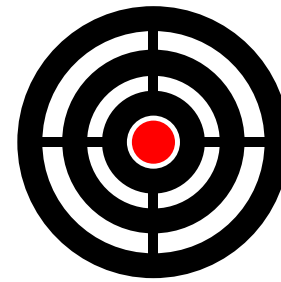
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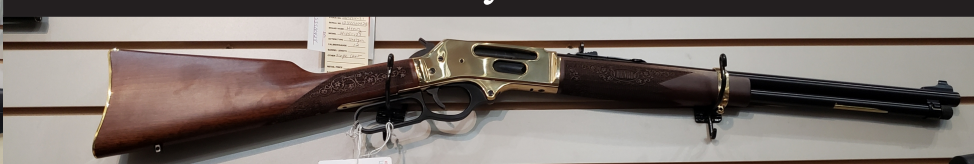
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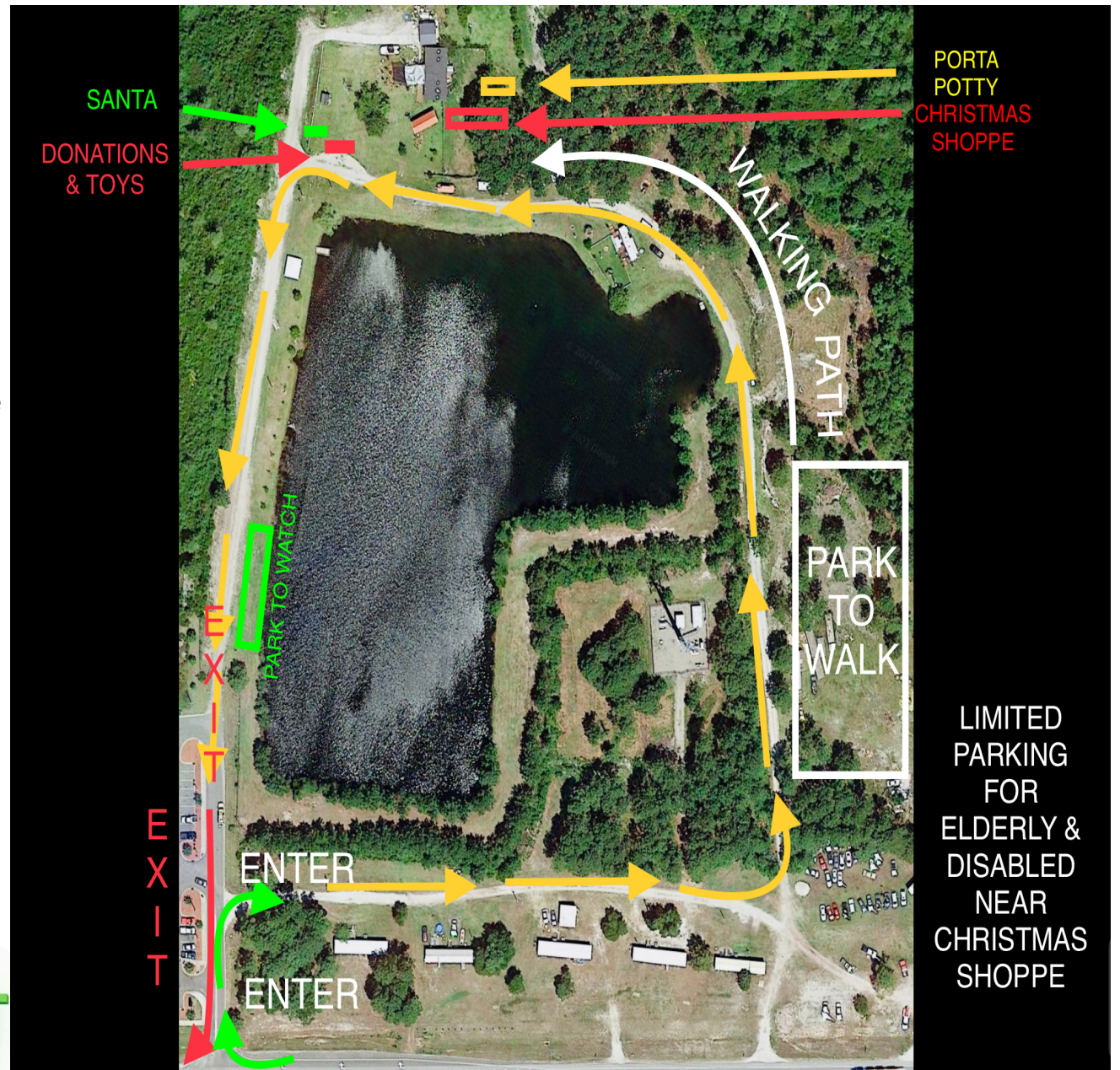
Fun Facts:

- In 2020, over 28,000 vehicles passed through the wonderful Lake Linda's CHRISTmas Lights
- Lake Linda's CHRISTmas Lights were featured on last year's ABC's "The Greatest Christmas Light Fight"
- Lake Linda's CHRISTmas Lights is now a 501c3 non-profit organization that needs your help
- This year Lake Linda's apparel will be available at the gift shop to help show your support



Mike & Tonia Register  
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 501(c)3 Organization  
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 Want to donate? Venmo @LakeLinda

Lights turn on November 25th!



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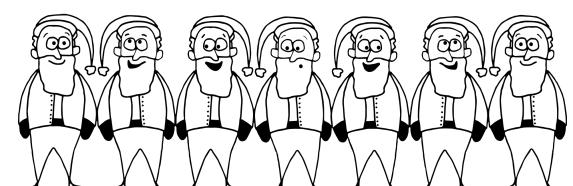


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And she brought forth her firstborn son,  
and wrapped him in swaddling clothes,  
and laid him in a manger;  
because there was no room for them in the inn.  
**Luke 2:7**



The Ultimate French Toast Casserole

ANDREWS PRODUCE  
SHOPPING LIST

Bananas  
Farm Fresh Eggs  
Buttered Pecan Syrup

INGREDIENTS

Butter-flavored cooking spray  
1 small loaf day-old French bread (about ½ pound)  
3 Farm Fresh Eggs  
1 cup heavy cream  
½ cup whole milk  
2 tablespoons light brown sugar, packed  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
½ teaspoon ground cinnamon  
½ teaspoon nutmeg, freshly grated  
Dash of salt

**Topping:**  
¼ cup unsalted butter  
¼ cup light brown sugar, packed  
½ cup Andrews Produce Buttered Pecan Syrup  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
Dash of salt  
2 ripe, but-firm bananas, diagonally cut about ¼-inch thick  
½ cup walnuts, roughly chopped

What's for Breakfast?

By Vanessa Andrews

DIRECTIONS

- **For the casserole:** Spray casserole dish with butter-flavored cooking spray.
- Slice day old bread into 1-inch slices.
- Cut each slice in half, diagonally, to make two triangles from each piece.
- Whisk together the eggs, cream, milk, brown sugar, vanilla, cinnamon, nutmeg and ¼ teaspoon of salt in a large bowl until well blended.
- Dip each triangle of bread in the custard, lightly coating each side.
- Lay the triangles (overlapping) in the casserole dish.
- Pour any remaining custard over the bread slices.
- Cover the dish with plastic wrap, and place in the refrigerator for at least 6 hours or overnight.
- When ready to bake, preheat the oven to 350°F.
- Remove the casserole from the refrigerator, and let rest about 30 minutes at room temperature before baking.
- Remove the plastic wrap, and bake until the casserole is browned and the custard is set, 30-45 minutes.
- **For the Topping:** In a small saucepan, bring the butter, sugar, and syrup to a boil on medium-high heat.
- Cook until the butter is melted and the mixture begins to thicken, about 2 minutes.
- Add the vanilla, a pinch of salt, and the walnuts.
- Turn off the heat and stir to coat evenly.
- Add sliced bananas to the top of the baked casserole.
- Spoon the desired amount of the syrup mixture over the casserole, and serve any additional on the side.



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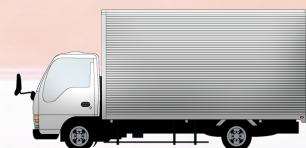
# WAKE UP AMERICA



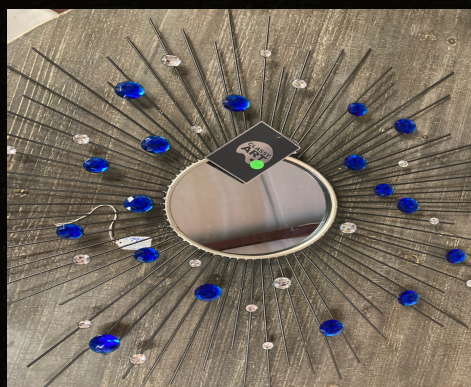
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