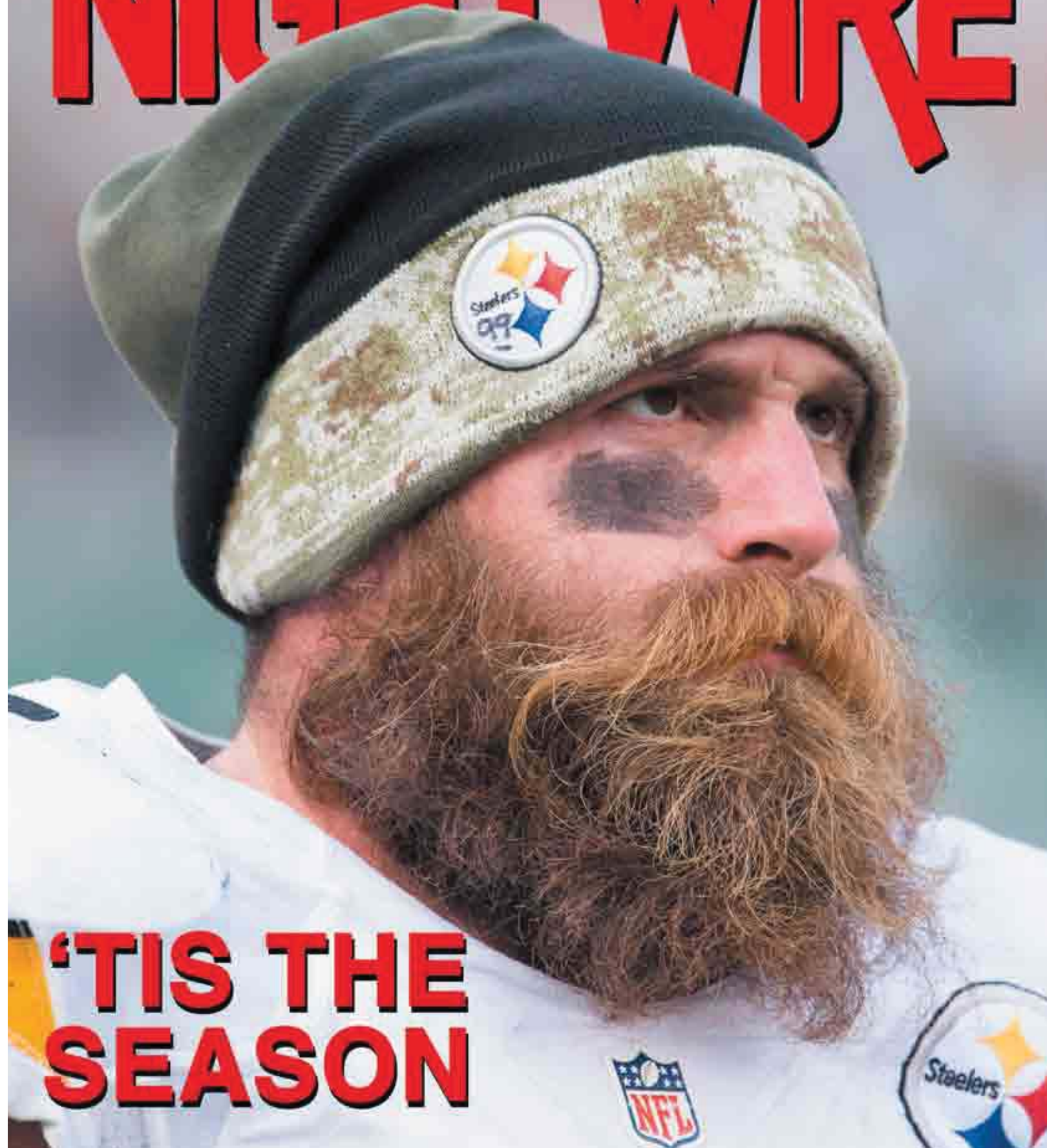


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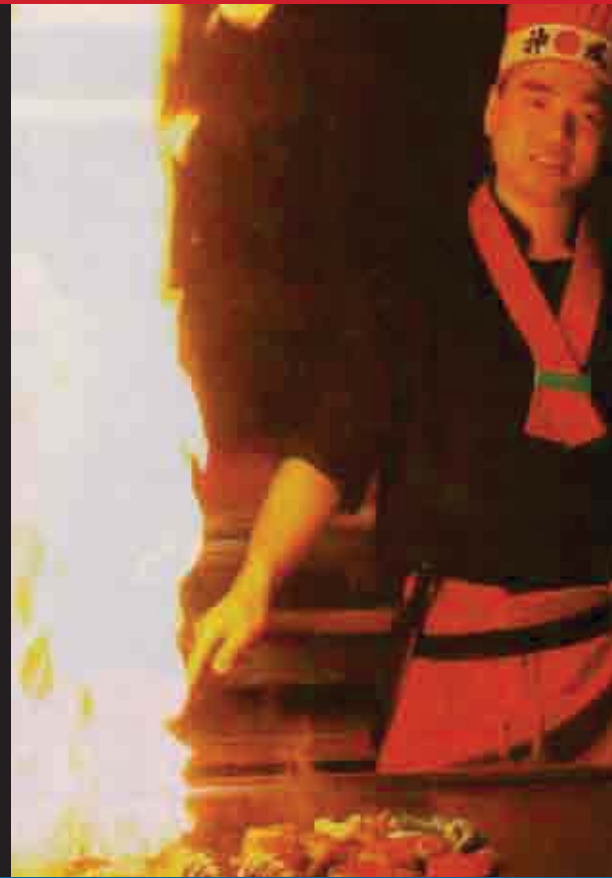
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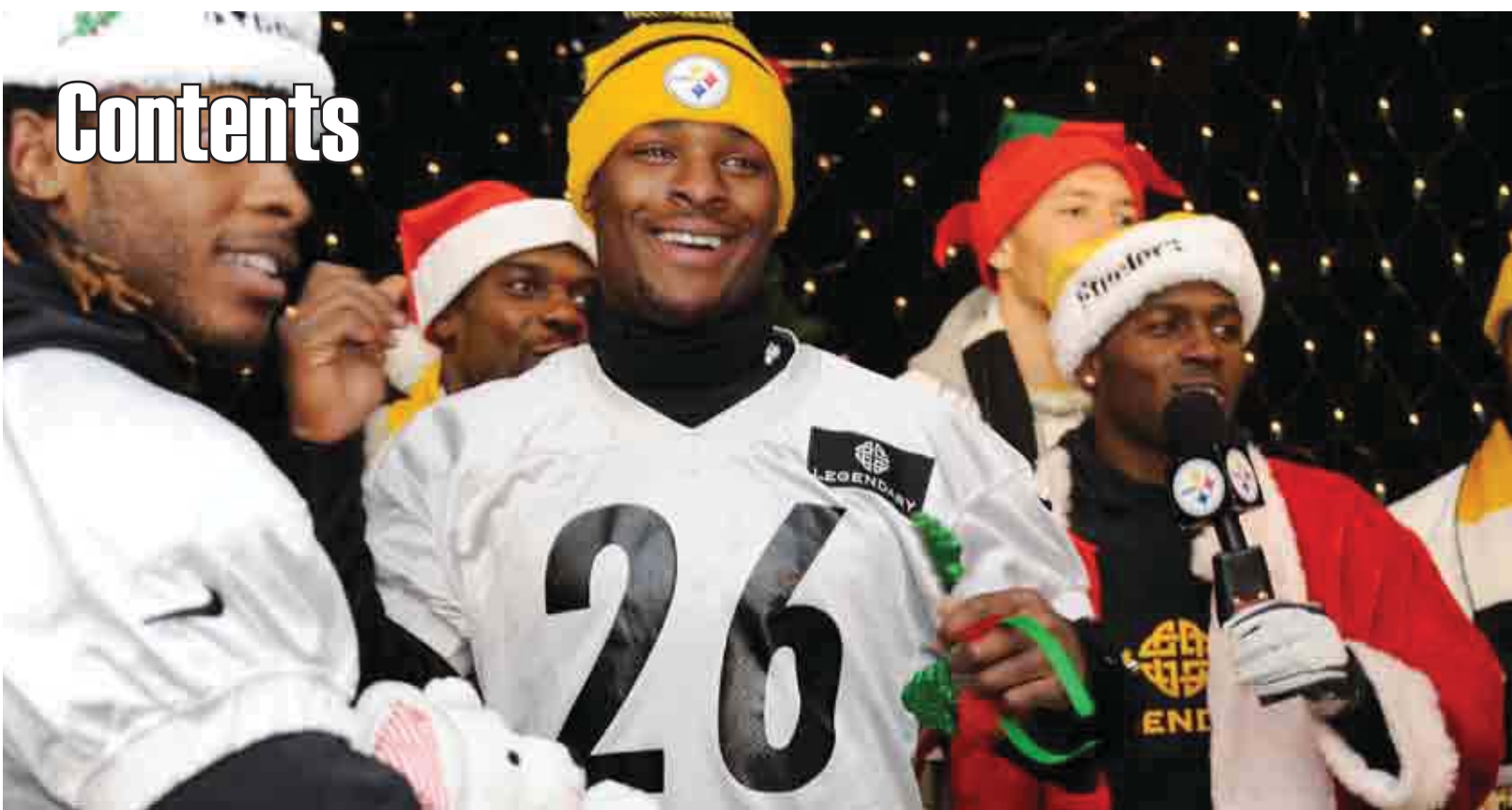
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By: Stacy Kauffman Sports Feature Writer for Nightwire, Photos © Pittsburgh Pirates

## After The Bye & Beyond

Despite inexplicable losses to NFL bottom feeders, Tampa Bay and the New York Jets, the Steelers are in the mix for the post season, currently in position for a wild card berth and breathing down the necks of the division leading Cincinnati Bengals. It will be a fascinating stretch run in the AFC North, where no team has a losing record and all four are in the playoff hunt. With five games left, two against the team ahead of them in the standings, crunch time has arrived.

Crunch time coincides with life A.B. for the Steelers. After Blount. The "Killer B's" didn't include the reported malcontent, who produced 266 yards of offense on 65 carries through eleven games. The disenchanted backup saw his carries dwindle over the past month, as Le'Veon Bell proved to be the more effective option out of the backfield. This is nothing new to the punchy tailback, as it seems his attitude has forced himself out of the game plan in the past. After being undrafted in 2010 and waived by the Tennessee Titans, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers took a chance on him. He racked up a thousand yard season in his rookie year, and became only the second undrafted rookie running back to do so in NFL history, but it was all downhill from there. The following season he had less than 200 carries and bottomed out with just 41 in his third and last year with the team. Le'Veon Bell carried the ball 33 times versus the Titans on Monday Night Football alone.



Maybe that was the last straw for Blount, who by numerous accounts had started to be trouble in the locker room the past few weeks. A nationally televised game versus the team that cut him before he could step on the field and the emotionally charged Blount didn't get a single carry. There ended a running back tandem that looked like it was friendly both on and off the field. From bonding over marijuana and Miranda Rights to an animosity fueled tantrum that ultimately sent Blount packing, you have to ask this question . . . did Bell escape the consequences of a career influenced by Blount? Would he have been destined to follow a similar path? A dead end journeyman type of existence in the National Football League? A career that had so much promise but was sidetracked by shenanigans and immaturity? The sophomore runner is lucky to not have had to find out. So is Steeler Nation.

Blount won't be missed, except maybe in the depth department, but offensively, Ben, Bell and Brown will probably do fine without his services for the remainder of the season. In eleven games, Roethlisberger is third in the league in passing yards (3270) and has tossed 24 touchdowns with just six interceptions. Antonio Brown leads all NFL receivers in yards and receptions and Le'Veon Bell is averaging nearly five yards a carry and is second to only DeMarco Murray in yardage, not to





mention his 57 catches to go along with his ground attack. No wonder Blount didn't see the field much.

After Ben Roethlisberger's record breaking two game stretch of 12 touchdowns and zero picks, he has come back down to earth the last two games, throwing more interceptions than touchdowns (3-2) and getting sacked seven times. In the second half of the Titans game, after Roethlisberger was taken down five times, offensive coordinator Todd Haley turned to the ground game to stabilize the offense. The offensive line play agreed with the call, and Bell churned out over two hundred yards en route to winning a game that had to be won after the embarrassing loss to the one win Jets the week before.

Will a rediscovered running game cure the play down to the competition sickness that ails this team? Mike Tomlin insists it's not a mindset problem, but numbers say otherwise. Since 2012, the Steelers have lost seven games against teams with not just losing records, but disturbing records, a winning percentage of .200 or less. No matter how you want to spin it to make it look better – instead of looking at records “at the time they played the game” some may look to final records which softens the blow a bit – losing to teams that stink THAT BAD will shine the spotlight right on preparedness.

Sometimes I wonder . . . if the Steelers knew how poor a team the 2013 NFC South champion Panthers really were back in week three, would the score have been closer than the 18 point smack down they laid on Carolina? That's all conjecture at this point. Regardless of how they got here, they are here. One of four AFC teams currently with seven or more wins. There are five games left in the season, including two versus the division leading Bengals. The putrid NFC South provides two of the remaining opponents (Saints and Falcons) and a Kansas City team is the fifth adversary, an important game versus an AFC competitor.

It's the stretch run for the Steelers and they are in a better position now than they were the past two 8-8 seasons. The playoffs are in sight and Le'Veon Bell is leading the way.

*Stacy Kauffman, Sports Feature Writer for Nightwire Magazine can be heard on weekends on 93.7 The Fan, has appeared on numerous sports media outlets including Fox Sports Pittsburgh, CBS and ESPN Radio. She can be reached on Twitter @SportsnWhatnot or at sportsnwhatnot@gmail.com*





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- Trinity Cathedral and First Presbyterian Church of Pittsburgh will be used to host activities and performances for the evening. These venues help to extend the Highmark First Night® Pittsburgh footprint even farther into the Cultural District and expand the participant experience.
- Each year, there is an annual Sing-Off Competition. The winner of the fifth annual sing-off competition will perform live as the opening act for the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust performances at the Benedum Center during Highmark First Night® Pittsburgh 2015. They will also receive a







cash prize of \$500 and their school will receive donation of \$500 designated to the music department. Finally, the winner will receive complimentary Highmark First Night® Pittsburgh 2015 admission buttons. The Pittsburgh Cultural trust is proud to announce that there will be a new Celebrity Judge! This year, the legendary singer and songwriter, Smokey Robinson, will select the winner! Apply and find out more at [TrustArts.org/FirstNightPgh](http://TrustArts.org/FirstNightPgh). The deadline has been extended to December 12!

- The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust has planned some perennial favorites at this year's Highmark First Night® Pittsburgh. Kicking things off will a local favorite—Beauty Slap on the Dollar Bank Stage and the Dollar Bank Children's fireworks at 6 p.m., the First National Bank Family Tent for great hands-on activities, the FedEx Ground Parade at 9 p.m. with the theme of "Imagination: Delivered."
- The Trust is thrilled to host an amazing headliner that will be announced on December 3, 2014 at the Preview Party Press Event, downtown Pittsburgh. The fabulous Highmark Stage performance will conclude with a countdown to midnight, raising of the Future of Pittsburgh ball and, of course, a beautiful Zambelli Fireworks display.

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- The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust encourages Highmark First Night visitors to plan ahead by visiting [TrustArts.org/FirstNightPgh](http://TrustArts.org/FirstNightPgh).
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# Christmas Beers Showcase

by Brian Meyer

Christmas is a time of giving, and with all the family gatherings, parties, and get-togethers that come along with this feeling of giving comes a time to enjoy some amazing seasonal craft beers. Many breweries save some of their biggest and boldest beers for the cold winter months. Sometimes this is done to match with the seasonal hop harvest at the end of the fall, and more often than not it's done to help get all of us through the coldest of months thanks to big amazing beers.

## History of Christmas Beers

Before getting to some of the best Christmas beers around, it's worthwhile to take a minute to see just where these beers came from, and why we enjoy these specific styles only in the winter months.

The tradition of brewing very special beers for the Christmas season has much deeper roots than what you may think. These types of beers most likely started in the Scandinavian countries with the Vikings. The Viking people traditionally enjoyed strong malty "beer" in the winter months to celebrate their Jul, or as we know it today, Yule.

The Vikings would offer some of their beer up to their gods, and no weak drink would do for Odin, Thor, and Frey, so big beers were the law of the land, so to speak. Even after converting to Christianity, the Scandinavian countries still kept their love of these drinks, even requiring a certain amount of beer per household for Christmas.

These traditions spread to other countries, most notably England, where modern brewing got its start. The British respected the idea of strong Christmas beers before the addition of the Scandinavian beliefs, but both seemed to work together to give a unique twist to both styles of beer.

While the beers of the Vikings and early British were very different than we enjoy today, the tradition of brewing very special beers to celebrate the season continues today with some of the best examples of the style. The British don't make as many Christmas beers as they used to, leaving

the best up to the US and the Belgians, and with a mix of both, your Christmas is bound to be a merry one indeed.

## US Brewed Christmas Beers

While the tradition of brewing Christmas beers may have started overseas, some of the best versions of these beers are definitely brewed right here in the US. American craft beer has exploded with a variety of Christmas beers ranging from bitter and hoppy to sweet and spicy, all of which are more than welcome in the colder months.

While many of these beers fall into what is known as the Winter Warmer category, there are IPAs, red ales, and even new interpretations of age old beverages like Glogg. The variety of US craft Christmas beers is a testament to how craft brewing has taken hold of the US and is being driven by it, too.

**Southern Tier 2XMAS** – Inspired by a Swedish drink known as Glogg, 2XMAS is Southern Tier's way of celebrating not only the Christmas beer traditions long past, but also the new ones respected today of strong flavorful beers with a spicy kick. 2XMAS comes in at 8% ABV and features tastes of figs, orange peels, cardamom, cinnamon, clove, and ginger. Even though Glogg was traditionally served warm, this is definitely best served chilled.

**Breckenridge Christmas Ale** – Featuring flavors of caramel and chocolate, Christmas Ale from Breckenridge Brewery in Colorado is a great example of what a solid Christmas beer should be. With extra flavor and a little extra alcohol, coming in at 7.4% ABV, this seasonal beer really hits the spot on a cold night. Dubbed an American Strong Ale, this full-bodied beer features a medium hop character paired with tastes of caramel and chocolate.



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**Abita Christmas** – While New Orleans, Louisiana isn't the first place you may imagine when you think about Christmas, Abita Brewing's Christmas Ale will definitely get you into the holiday spirit. Brewed as a special dark ale, the exact recipe changes every year so there's always something different to try. Generally always with a toasty body and a nutty taste, the ABV varies and specific ingredients may change, but the one certainty is that this beer is always great.

**Anchor Christmas** – Speaking of beers that change from year to year, possibly the original Christmas beer in the US is definitely Christmas ale from Anchor Brewing in San Francisco. This year marks the 40th anniversary of Anchor's Christmas Ale, which means there have been 40 different Christmas beers along with 40 different trees on the label. The tree for 2014 is the Giant Sequoia, and the label is drawn by the same person who drew the first one in 1975. In fact, this label's tree is as big as it would look if it were planted all the way back when the first Christmas Ale rolled off the bottling line.

**Rogue Santa's Private Reserve** – Brewed as a red ale, Santa's Private Reserve is a double-hopped beer that's reddish in color with a roasty, malty flavor with a well-balanced spruce finish. This beer utilizes malts and hops grown on Rogue's own farm as well as "free range coastal water" and Pacman yeast.

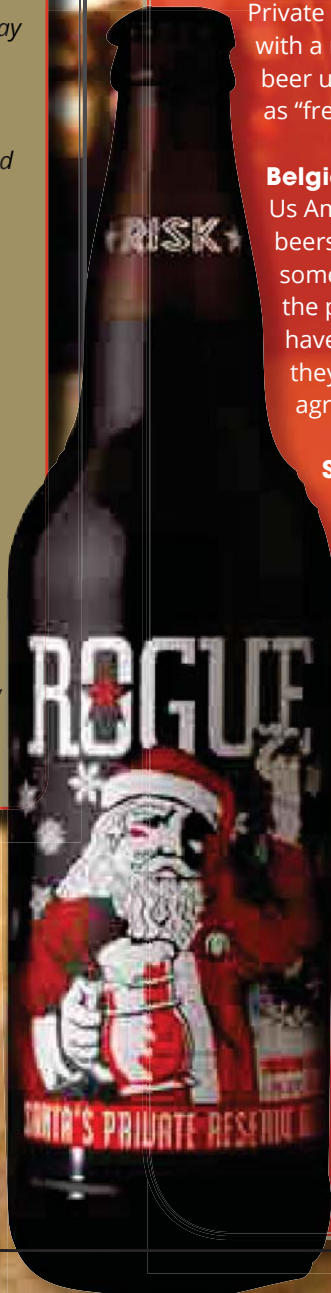
#### Belgian Christmas Beers

Us Americans don't have the market cornered on Christmas beers, even though we make quite a few amazing ones. To get some truly unique Christmas beers you have to travel across the pond to the beer-laden country of Belgium. Here, beers have been crafted and perfected over hundreds of years until they're just about perfect and once you try these, you'll probably agree.

**St. Bernardus Christmas Ale** – This is a dark seasonal beer brewed in the classic Quadrupel style of Belgium's best Abbey Ales. This beer comes in at 10% ABV with a unique spicy character that's thanks to the St. Bernardus house yeast. Expect to taste slight hints of molasses, apricots, licorice, and marzipan that are balanced out by a slightly sweet undertone.

**N'Ice Chouffe** – N'Ice Chouffe is a strong brown ale that is warm, spicy, and overall a perfectly balanced beer. Traditionally left unfiltered, this beer pours a slightly hazy amber with a thick off-white head. Coming in at 10% ABV, this is one beer that will definitely keep you warm all winter.

All of these beers and more can be found on draft as well as in bottles throughout the Pittsburgh area, and are proudly distributed by Frank B. Fuhrer Wholesale.



# Winter Warmer: Winter Beers For Cold Snowy Nights

by Brian Meyer

A winter warmer is traditionally a malty sweet beer that's big in both flavor and body. These winter beers can have spices, or they can rely on the basic beer ingredients of malt, hops, yeast, and water to give them their unique tastes.

Winter beers that use spices follow an age-old tradition of wassail, which was a hot mulled cider that was traditionally enjoyed as an integral part of wassailing, which was the act of going from door to door singing Christmas carols. The tradition of drinking spiced beverages during the winter months goes back to medieval times and was the equivalent of today's spiced holiday beers.

There are definitely non-spiced and non traditionally flavored beers meant for the winter months too, and these, paired with their spiced brethren help to give all of us a variety of beers to enjoy during these cold winter months.

## Winter Beers to Try

**21st Amendment Fireside Chat** – Fireside Chat from 21st Amendment Brewing out of Lakewood, New York is a great example of a spiced winter beer. They start this beer off as an English-style dark ale and as 21st Amendment puts it, “improvise with a variety of spices” to create a uniquely spiced winter ale. This spiced beer comes in at 7.9% ABV, making it a uniquely strong spiced beer perfect for chilly weather and just like FDR's Depression-era radio shows, it's a real kick in the butt, in a very good way.

beer is dark and strong, with subtle undertones of toasty character and alcohol hotness. Black Chocolate Stout is a Russian Imperial Stout that comes in at 10% ABV. Sweet chocolate pairs perfectly with hints of hop bitterness and toasty malt character.

**Black Chocolate Stout** is a beer that is great fresh as well as aged, which means you should pick up a six-pack to drink now, and another to age for a few years. Properly kept in a dark, dry, cool place in your basement this beer will mellow and blend the already expertly melded flavors for years to come. This beer pairs perfectly with desserts like cheesecake, ice cream, fine cheeses, and as Brooklyn's wensite says, “roaring fireplaces,” too.

**Boulder Slope Style Ale** – If there's anyone that knows what beer is best for the cold winter months it should be a brewery located in Boulder, Colorado. Boulder Brewery brews their Slope Style Winter IPA to give us a hoppy, bitter beer for the winter months. For those of us that aren't into the spiced beers and dark stouts, Slope Style gives us a hoppy beer that features a big piney hop beer that's red in color and brewed with five different malts and a healthy dose of Horizon hops.

Slope Style Winter IPA comes in at a respectable 6.4% ABV and gives a full body that's welcome with such a hoppy beer. If you're looking for a great IPA this winter, check out Slope Style.

**Flying Dog K-9 Cruiser** – Known for beers that are in your face and amazing, Flying Dog's K-9 Winter Ale is a winter warmer at its finest. This 7.4% ABV beer features a deep ruby color with a light khaki head. K-9 has aromas of bread, plums, toasted malt, toffee, and slight earthiness that give way to a taste of toasty toffee, caramel, and a slight toffee brown sugar finish.

Overall, this beer has lots going on and is great if you're looking for the true spicy winter warmer style. Great for enjoying next to a fire or just with your feet up in your house, Flying Dog did a great job on their version of a winter warmer.

**Deschutes Jubelale** – This marks the first year Deschutes' winter seasonal offering is available to the Pittsburgh area,

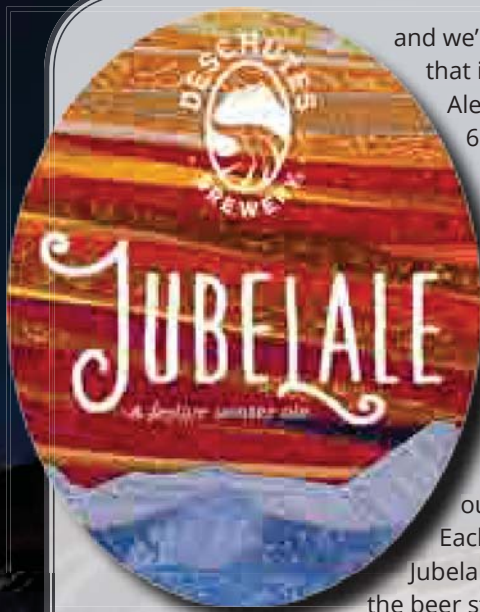


## Brooklyn Winter Ale –

Hailing from the Empire State, Brooklyn Brewery makes their Winter Ale in the Scottish ale style using a variety of malt including Scottish Maris Otter, English Crystal, and American oat. Hopped with only Willamette and coming in at 6.1% ABV, this non-spiced beer is surprisingly toasty and malty while staying fairly balanced.

## Brooklyn Black Chocolate Stout –

Most people will agree that a good winter



and we're definitely lucky that it is. Called a Strong Ale, Jubelale comes in at 6.7% ABV and 60 IBUs, meaning this isn't your average winter warmer.

Spiciness pairs well with the higher bitterness and features intriguing, layered flavors of dried fruits, toffee, and chicory to round out an amazing beer. Each year the label of Jubelale is different while the beer stays the same, so make sure to save a bottle for your collection each year. Originally brewed in 1988, Jubelale has a much longer history than most of the beers in this category and definitely in this list.



**Long Trail Sick Day IPA** – Long Trail gives us another great entry in the winter IPA category with their Sick Day IPA. While many of us have to use real sick days in the winter months to help fend off illness, this beer will make you want to call in a sick day just so you can sit back and enjoy a few.

Sick Day IPA is an unfiltered IPA at 6.8% ABV that features piney, spicy hop flavors and aromas that are balanced nicely with toasty malts. While you may not think an IPA is a great beer for the winter, this one may very well change your mind.

**Southern Tier Old Man Winter** – There are winter warmers, then there's Old Man Winter from Southern Tier, out of Lakewood New York. Southern Tier starts with a traditional winter ale and ups the ante with a solid hop presence and a hearty malt backbone. While this is an unspiced beer, Old Man Winter



has tastes of bittersweet cocoa, nutty, sweet malts and earthy hops.

A medium bodied beer, 7% ABV Old Man Winter pairs well with rich cheeses, winter squash, hearty stews, and roasted meats. The three varieties of hops and two different malts used in this beer give it a depth of taste and aroma that's hard to beat and could easily be used as the standard for winter

**Samuel Smith Winter Welcome** – The only British entry in this list is also one of the best winter ales available today. Samuel Smith Brewing, which is celebrating their 25th anniversary this year brews their Winter Welcome each year to welcome the coming colder months. This UK beer comes in at 6% ABV and features one of the most true-to-style winter warmers available.

Brewed in the British style, Winter Welcome has a more malty sweet taste than its American counterparts, which is a pleasant change from the more hop-heavy varieties available today. Winter Welcome features a sweet caramel malty taste with a slight spice presence. The beer itself is lighter bodied than most US versions, but this makes the beer more drinkable and gives it an overall great feeling.

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# A Bounty of Brews For the Winter Season

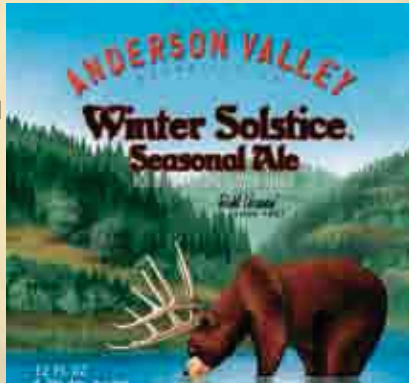
by Brian Meyer

It's that time of year again, when families get together and the winter beers make their appearance. From dark and malty beers like Bell's Expedition Stout to the spiced Christmas and winter beers like Troegs Mad Elf, to fresh, hoppy beers like Stone Enjoy By, there's a winter beer for everyone.

What better way to celebrate the change in seasons than to take a look at the best beers around for the colder months. Tony from Vecenie's Distributing rounded up his favorite winter beers as well as a few brand new ones that are just available now. You may not have made a Christmas list since you were young, but this list might make you start back up again, no Hills catalog required.

## Anderson Valley

Starting at the top of our alphabetical list is Anderson Valley Brewing Company. Anderson Valley was founded in 1987 and since then has grown into a varied and respected brewery that produces everything from the tried and true styles to the wild and interesting Highway 128 series. As with every winter season AVBC is once again releasing their Winter Solstice, their take on the classic winter warmer style. At 6.9% ABV, this beer pours a translucent copper with a thick and creamy head. Expect to taste sweet malt and caramel as well as some nutty tastes in the background.



A new release this year, Anderson Valley's Blood Orange Gose is a unique style that's perfectly crafted. This beer comes in at 4.2% ABV and is one of the most interesting beers in our list. Gose (pronounced gōz-uh) beers are traditionally salty, slightly sour, and usually have a dry finish. While these are highly sought-after beers for those experienced in weird beers, to make the beer more palatable to a larger audience Anderson Valley added the crisp tang of blood oranges to give this beer a tart taste that pairs perfectly with the slight sourness of the Gose style.

## Bell's

Bell's Brewery is no stranger to seasonal beers, and their ever-popular Winter White Ale is making a comeback once again this year. An odd entry into our list, this beer is a wheat ale fermented with Belgian yeast to give it subtle banana and clove flavors with absolutely no spices added, and at 5% ABV it's very easy to drink and very refreshing.

Celebrating the season, Bell's is once again releasing their Christmas Ale, a 5.5% Scottish ale that only uses specialty barley and a unique blend of hops to give this beer its unique taste, no spices added.

Bell's also releases a team of four stouts in the winter months with the nickname of The Stouts of Winter. These beers run the gamut from creamy and strong, to hints of cherry, to strong and dark. First, there's the American stouts like Cherry Stout at 7% ABV, their Special Double Cream Stout at 6.1% ABV, Java Stout at 7.5% ABV, and finally Expedition Stout, a Russian Imperial Stout at a warming 10.5% ABV.

## Dogfish Head

Dogfish Head is known for their variety of beers and unique styles, and the winter months are no exception. Returning for a second year is their Piercing Pils, a Czech style pilsner that's brewed with white pear tea and pear juice. Paired with the spicy Saaz hops, this 6% ABV beer is a unique take on a classic style.

Making its debut this year is a brand new beer from Dogfish Head named BEER Thousand. This imperial lager was made to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the classic Guided By Voices album Bee Thousand. Brewed with 10 different grains and 10 varieties of hops at 10% ABV, BEER Thousand is closer to an amped-up barleywine than a lager.

Next on Dogfish Head's seasonal release calendar is the longtime favorite Olde School. This 15% ABV barleywine is an amazing beer that's great both fresh as well as aged. This big beer is fermented with figs and dates, and has an wonderfully complex taste and aroma. This only comes around once a year, so pick up a 4-pack to drink now and one to age for a few years, too.

If you look halfway between 60 Minute and 90 Minute you can find a very unique beer in the form of 75 Minute IPA. This 7.5% ABV beer blends two of the most popular beers from Dogfish Head and adds in some maple syrup to naturally carbonate it. Dry-hopped with whole-leaf Cascade hops, 75 Minute is crisp and bitter while hanging on to a soft and velvety mouthfeel.

Making a triumphant comeback this year for the winter season is a beer that's talked about often and wished for by those in the know. Raison D'Extra is a beefed-up version of their popular Raison D'Etre that needs to be tried to be believed. A Belgian-style brown ale that comes in at a jaw-dropping 18% ABV, Raison D'Extra definitely has something extra, and you need to try it to see for yourself.

## East End Brewing

In a bid to clear the snow and warm things up for everyone in Pittsburgh, Scott Smith from East End Brewing makes his Snow Melt

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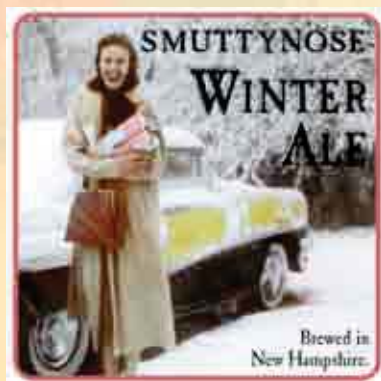
Winter Ale each year, and even though this substantial 7% ABV beer helps, the snow still seems to stick. This mahogany red ale has a unique malt character and a bright hop flavor that has hints of pine. This beer will definitely help keep you warm and while we all can't wait for it to warm up, at least we have this to clear the snow for us.

### Erie Brewing

Most of us usually steer clear of Johnny Law when drinking; Erie Brewing's Ol' Red Cease & Desist is an up-front powerful ale that makes its own set of laws about what a winter beer should be. Coming in at 10.1% ABV, this beer has a balanced mix of oak, spices, dark fruits, and even a little caramel. While the alcohol and flavors are up-front about their intentions, this beer finishes smooth and easy to drink.

### Smuttynose Brewing

For those of us that love their Belgian-style beers, Smuttynose Brewing has their Winter Ale, a 5.8% Belgian Dubbel that's brewed with a special Trappist ale yeast. This beer features fruity aromas and flavors as well as a soft hop background. Mellow yet surprisingly complex, Smuttynose's Winter Ale is perfect for the winter months when you're not looking for a high alcohol kick.



### Stone Brewing

A crowd favorite amongst craft beer fans, Stone Brewing makes a variety of amazing beers year round, but saves a few of them specifically for the winter months. For example, take their Double Bastard and Lucky Basartd ales. These two beers, at 11.2% and 8.5% respectively, fall into the Arrogant Bastard lineup and hold their own against that master of hops. Double Bastard ups the ABV and adds even more bitterness to give you a masterpiece of hop usage and utilization. As for Lucky Basartd (yep, that's how they spell it) is a slightly different take on Arrogant Bastard that's a definite must for any hophead, or anyone daring enough to try the bitter beast.

If more balanced IPAs are your thing, then Enjoy By 12-26-14 is the perfect beer for you. The Enjoy By series of beers are meant to be enjoyed as soon as possible and never aged. This 9.4% ABV beer is described by Stone as "devastatingly fresh" as well as floral, citrusy, and amazing. While you won't melt if you drink this beer past it's Enjoy By date, Stone feels so strongly that this is the best date for the beer to be drank by, they made it part of the name of the beer.

Part of Stone's Stochasticity Project, Master of Disguise is an Imperial Golden Stout (yep, you read that right, a golden stout) that comes in at 9.7% ABV. Stone took the spirit of a dark beer and applied it to a golden ale. What you're left with is a light-colored beer that has cocoa and coffee notes as well as a toasty character that's so surprising out of a light colored beer that you need to see and taste it to believe it.

### Straub

Straub Brewery has been in the brewing business since 1872 and today they're not only producing quality beers that have been around for much of their history, but new and innovative beers as well. Take for example their Legacy Sampler, a mix pack of beers that show the history of Straub Brewery better than any history book ever could. The sampler includes their 1872 Lager, a 5.4% ABV pre-prohibition style lager, longtime favorite Helles Lager, a 5.5% ABV lager, Doppelbock, a 7% ABV Winter Bock, and their 5.6% ABV IPL, Straub's take on an India Pale Ale, but in the lager style.

### Troegs

It wouldn't be a holiday season without the wild and wonderful Mad Elf from Troegs. Coming in at a surprising 11% ABV, Mad Elf uses pilsner, Munich, and chocolate malts paired with spicy Belgian yeast and cherries to make a rich and flavorful beer that might possibly drive you mad, too. Mad Elf is possibly the perfect beer for the holidays.

A new beer for the winter season from Troegs is their Blizzard of Hops winter IPA. This 6.4% ABV beer has notes of pine and citrus in it as well as a solid malt backbone. If you're tired of spiced and flavored beers this holiday season, Blizzard of Hops is one beer you can't miss.

### Victory Brewing

Victory Brewing out of Downingtown PA has quite the catalog of beers available throughout the year, but they wait until the winter months to release some of their best beers. First up is Winter Cheers. This 6.7% ABV wheat beer uses Tettnang and Citra hops to make a hoppy wheat beer that's ready to warm you up and give some winter cheer to spread.

Next comes a hophead's dream, Hop Ranch IPA is a celebration of the seasonal hop harvest in a bottle. At 9% ABV, Hop Ranch is an imperial India pale ale that uses Mosaic and Azacca hops for a pungent, floral and intense taste and aroma that's a refreshing change from the typical winter beers.

Barleywines are one of the beers that best describe what we want in a winter beer. Dark, strong, and full of flavor, these beers help keep us warm on cold dark winter nights. Victory's Old Horizontal is a perfect example of an American Barleywine that is full of malt and hop flavor, and at 11% ABV, it has enough alcohol to keep you warm.

### Weyerbacher

The final brewery in our alphabetical list is the venerable Weyerbacher Brewery from Easton, PA. Weyerbacher brews their Winter Ale to be a malty beer with hints of Sincoe and Fuggle hops that comes in at 5.6% ABV. Winter Ale has a deep roasted taste that is balanced with a dry finish, making it a great cold weather beer.

Tango is a big, bold, Belgian-style dark ale brewed with 1,200 pounds of cherries that is quite the amazing beer. Coming in at 10.6% ABV, Tango is everything we're looking for in a winter beer. Originally debuted in November of 2011, this big beer continues on this year with as much alcohol and cherries as it did the first time it was brewed

All these beers and more are available now at your local distributor or craft beer bar and are proudly distributed by Vecenie Distributing Co, Pittsburgh, PA.

# Hal's Bottle Shop

**- Best Craft Beer Selection Around!!**

Located in the heart of North Hills minutes from I279 and downtown Pittsburgh, Hal's Bottle Shop is the perfect place for beer lover's. They have over 500 beers to choose from and beer experts to help you narrow down your selection. This is the perfect place for gifts plus their knowledgeable friendly staff is always available to help guide and advise you.

Hal's Bottle Shop carries over 40 IPA's/ Double IPA's rotating throughout the year. Plus, they have a huge seasonal selection with currently over 50 winter beers in stock and a large import selection with over 30 Belgian beers to choose from. You can purchase one bottle or mix and match six-packs.

At Hal's Bottle Shop you can drink a beer, kick back and relax in the bottle shop or venture over to the restaurant side - Hal's Bar and Grill where you order munchies or a full course dinner. The food at Hal's is the best American fare in the North Hills. From steaks, chicken, ribs, salads, pizza, sandwiches, munchies and so much more, you'll be surprisingly pleased with the high quality food, service and pricing. Not only do they offer an extensive beer menu, but they also have a great selection of wines and hand mixed cocktails and fine spirits.

At the bottle shop they always have 3 rotating beers on tap for growlers and drafts. Plus you can bring in and fill your own growler or purchase a growler from Hal's.

Beer tastings from various breweries take place on Thursdays from 7pm-9pm. Stop in meet brewery representatives and brew masters to discuss various brewing methods and sample amazing craft beers. A great fun evening for all! Plus, Thursdays are \$3.00 draft nights and \$3.00 off growlers.



Tuesdays are \$2.00 off growlers and \$2.00 off big bottles. Whether dining/drinking in or grabbing beer on-the-go, Hal's should be at the top of your priority list.

Hal's Bottle Shop open 7 days a week - Mon-Tue-Wed 4pm - 11pm - Thursday & Friday 4 pm -12 midnight - Saturday 12 noon - 12 midnight - Sunday - 12 noon till 10 pm - located at 3225 Babcock Blvd., Ross Township, PA, 15237 - Phone: 412-837-2031 - Follow them on facebook.com/HalsBottleShop - Twitter: @halsbottleshop - Untapped: @halsbottleshop



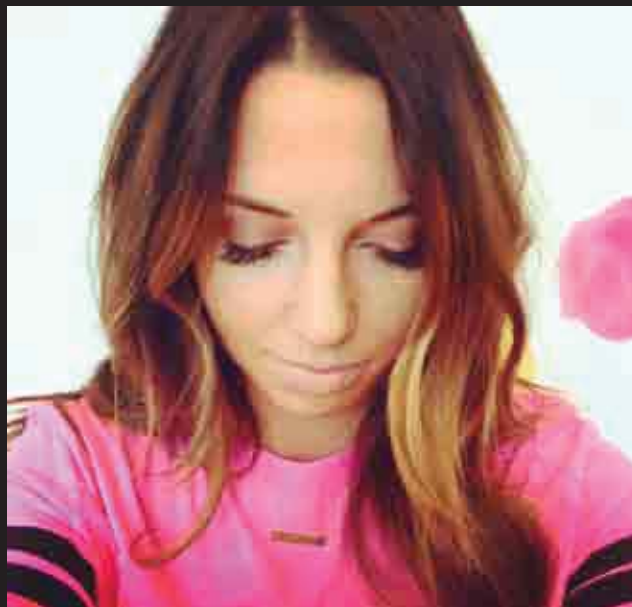
# Lashes by Aimee at deStefino Southside

Aimee Weidl, owner of deStefino Southside and lash extension expert was trained and certified in LA by the world renowned celebrity makeup artist, Amanda Jacobellis (Makeup Mandy.) Her cliental, just to name a few, includes Eva Longoria, Kesha, Avril Lavigne, and more! Now you can get a drama look with LASHX Mink Eyelash Extensions right here in Pittsburgh by our very own Pittsburgh beauty expert Aimee Weidl, owner of deStefino Southside.

Mink lashes come in various curl shapes, lengths and colors for a customized look to suit your personality and wardrobe from the dramatic to natural look. With mink lashes there is no need for mascara, it creates a get up and go look, you will always look your best and be ready to go at a drop of a hat. If you want to open up your eyes, look more awake and younger then LASHX mink eyelash extensions are the perfect fit. This amazing beauty enhancement adds volume, length, and confidence to your natural eyelashes.

Everyone can benefit from the uplifting feeling you'll get with mink eyelashes. Feel amazing no matter your age. Look and feel younger and more vibrant. The best gift you can give yourself.

Why mink lashes instead of synthetic lashes? With synthetic lashes you have to have them refilled every 2 weeks, while mink lashes last 4-6 weeks between fills saving you precious time and money. Mink lashes allow your own natural lashes to grow as they are placed individually onto your own natural



eyelashes. Plus, they are light weight and flexible. You won't even feel them; they feel like your own natural lashes. Best of all the adhesives used are formaldehyde free and hypoallergenic. Perfect for anyone with sensitive eyes or contacts! Watch this space for my follow up next month as I will be sharing my personal experience and the advantages of mink lashes.

Call Aimee today for a consultation and let her create a customized look for you. "I take exceptional care of each and every one of my clients to make sure they not only fall in love with the lashes, but also the amazing benefits of the cleanser and other products available for the lashes." - Aimee Weidl, Owner & Beauty Expert - deStefino Southside - 2751 Sidney Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15203 - Phone: 412-488-4418 - [www.destefinosouthside.com](http://www.destefinosouthside.com)



# Time Travel

## New Year's Eve at Xtaza

(turned back into Metropol for this special night)

The biggest party in the 'burg is set to take place on Wednesday, December 31 when you can travel back in time to Metropol and Rosebud. This huge retro event will be "the place to be" for New Year's Eve!

The party starts at 9pm with a lite food buffet from 9pm-10pm. Metropol DJs will be spinning 90's dance and all the music that make Metropol famous. There will be a complimentary champagne toast at midnight along with massive cash and prize filled balloon drop and laser show.

This party was inspired after a group of old Metropol lovers spearheaded by Frank Halling decided to host a reunion show back in September of this year. The event was attended by over 600 guests and is still being talked about to this day! Xtaza and the promotion group came together to bring this huge party back on New Year's Eve!

The party is designed for the Metropol aged crowd, those that remember the infamous parties amazing music and environment that has not been duplicated... until now! This is your excuse to dress up (of dress down) for a night that is sure to be remembered.

Invited guests include, Robin Fernandez, former members of Pittsburgh Steelers, Penguins and Pirates that used to frequent Metropol as well as former Staff from way back when.

Xtaza Nightclub is the latest incarnation of the former Metropol and is now an event based venue, specializing in concerts, club nights and showcases. Xtaza is home to Y108's Country in the City every Saturday for the over-21 crowd and plays host to concerts and events throughout the week. The space has been redesigned with the latest in LED and light technologies as well as state of the art earth shaking sound system but still pays homage to the original space with the same general layout and

massive interior.

Static Nightclub - Former Rosebud has been operating since August 2011 and specializes in Electronic Dance Music (EDM). Static boasts about 10,000 square feet and is a very high-energy format and design. The large stage that used to be front and center with general seating has been replaced with a large bar stocked with all of your favorite spirits plus an oversized dance floor that is capable of holding the crowd that comes to dance every weekend!!

Electronic Music DJs and producers continue to play the club regular and Static will host its 4th annual New Year's Eve event on the same night! Doors will link Static and Xtaza after the ball drops... allowing guests in each room to travel between the two parties at no additional charge.

"Linking the two clubs together after Midnight allow for a unique New Years experience for both crowd. While Xtaza's (Metropol) event will feature late 80s, 90s and early 2000s dance music.... Static will feature the best in today's dance music! Combining both parties will make this the largest New Year's Eve Party in Pittsburgh - since the days of Metropol / Rosebud that is." - according to Chris Firman, Operating Partner Static / Xtaza Nightclubs.



### Time Travel - New Year's Eve at Metropol Event:

**Wednesday December 31st. Doors open at 9pm - 21+ event**

**Location: Xtaza Nightclub (former Metropol) 1630 Smallman Street | Strip District**

#### Tickets:

**\$25 in advance online ([www.xtazapgh.com](http://www.xtazapgh.com))**

**\$30 at the door**

**Info/tickets: [www.xtazapgh.com](http://www.xtazapgh.com) | 412.720.1396 | [xtazapgh@gmail.com](mailto:xtazapgh@gmail.com)**

### Static Nightclub New Year's Event:

**Static - New Year's Eve**

**Wednesday, December 31st. Doors open at 9pm - 21+ event**

**Location: Static - 1650 Smallman St, Pittsburgh, PA 15222 - Strip District**

#### Tickets:

**\$25 in advance online**

**\$30 at the door**

**Info/tickets online: [www.staticpgh.com](http://www.staticpgh.com) - 412.720.1396**

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## Don't Let Your Christmas Holiday Weekend Road Trip be a Turkey

### 10-Minute Vehicle Check Can Ensure Stress-Free Driving

One way to ensure you will get to dinner in time for turkey on Thanksgiving weekend is by making sure that the vehicle you will be driving is running well. A 10-minute pre-trip check is small potatoes compared to a big helping of inconvenience if you break down many miles away from home, according to the Car Care Council.

"A Thanksgiving pre-trip inspection helps reduce the chance of costly and possibly dangerous on the road trouble. It also provides an opportunity to have repairs done by one's own technician locally who knows the vehicle," said Rich White, executive director, Car Care Council. "Especially important, it provides peace of mind. While no inspection can guarantee a car's performance, it's comforting to know proper precautions were taken to avoid a 'turkey' of a weekend."

The Car Care Council suggests the following 10-minute checkup to help ensure vehicle safety and reliability on Thanksgiving, when millions of Americans take to the roads to visit family and friends:

- Check all fluids, including engine oil, power steering and brake and transmission, as well as windshield washer solvent and antifreeze/coolant.
- Check the hoses and belts that can become cracked, brittle, frayed, loose or show signs of excessive wear. These are critical to the proper functioning of the electrical system, air conditioning, power steering and the cooling system.
- Check the tires, including tire pressure and tread. Uneven wear indicates a need for wheel alignment. Tires should also be checked for bulges and bald spots.
- Check lighting to identify any problems with exterior and interior lighting as the chance of an accident increases if you can't see or be seen.
- Check wipers. Wiper blades should be replaced every six months. Make sure the windshield wipers are working properly and keep the reservoir filled with solvent.

The Car Care Council also recommends that motorists restock their emergency kit. To save on fuel costs during the trip, the council suggests that motorists avoid aggressive driving, observe the speed limit and avoid excessive idling. Gas caps that are damaged, loose or missing should be replaced to prevent gas from spilling or evaporating.

The Car Care Council is the source of information for the "Be Car Care Aware" consumer education campaign promoting the benefits of regular vehicle care, maintenance and repair to consumers. For a copy of the council's Car Care Guide or for more information, visit [www.carcare.org](http://www.carcare.org).

## Give yourself the Gift of Love this Christmas



BRUNO

Say hi to Bruno. He is a very friendly rot mix around 10 years old who is looking to find a home to retire in. He is doing well with the other dogs here but we are not sure about his feelings towards cats or small children. Bruno is up to date on his vaccinations and has been micro-chipped.

Hi my name is Socrates. I am a playful little 3 1/2 month old male with a fun personality. I like to run around with my friends, and I'm looking for mischief to get into! I would likely be great in any family, even if you have a dog or small children. I am neutered, microchipped, and current on all of my vaccinations.



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# Go on a Wine Adventure this Holiday Season Stuck on the Same Old Starter Wines? Aficionado Shares Advice for a Maturing Palate

There's nothing wrong with liking what you like, but you can't discover new favorites unless you try new things, says wine enthusiast Howard Kleinfeld.

While recovering from throat cancer, Kleinfeld, an award-winning commercial music producer, lost his sense of taste for a few years. When it came back, he decided to embrace some of the finest tastes life had to offer and has since traveled the world to satisfy his obsession with wine.

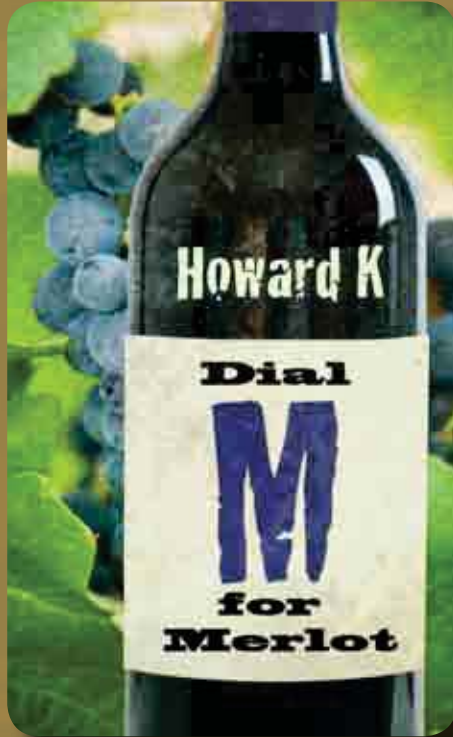
"I became someone who decided to say 'yes' to many of the things I used to say 'no' to, which has enriched my life tremendously with adventure," says Kleinfeld, author (as Howard K) of "Dial M for Merlot," [www.DialMForMerlot.com](http://www.DialMForMerlot.com), a lighthearted novel imbued with its character's passion for wine.

"But you don't have to book a trip to Napa or the Bordeaux region of France. You just have to be willing to try a new type of wine."

Wine has grown increasingly popular in America in recent decades. The preference of just one in four in 1992, it's now the alcoholic beverage of choice for 35 percent of us, which is just one percent less than beer, according to a 2013 Gallup poll.

"With all the holiday parties and family gatherings, it's a great time of year to expand one's 'Wine-Q,'" says Kleinfeld, who offers the following suggestions.

- If you like white zinfandel, consider a Riesling. White zin is the "Kool-Aid of wine." It can be a good introduction to the wonderful world of wine because it's sweet, and everybody likes sugar. But there are a number of wines at many price points that are also sweet and carry a much more interesting profile -- a fuller body, honey and pear or apple notes and much more. Riesling and Gewürztraminer wines are a great place to start. Fun fact: red zinfandel hails from the same grape as white zinfandel, except the red variety includes the grape's skin -- white does not. The skin gives the wine a more robust flavor and color than its popular cousin, deep, rich and full of zest. It's quite different from white zin, but worth investigating with a curious palate.
- If your go-to white wine is strictly Chardonnay, try a bottle of white from the Côtes du Rhône or a sauvignon blanc from just about anywhere. Wine can be confusing because varieties may refer to a grape, a region or both.



Chardonnay refers to a specific green-skinned grape and is grown all over the world, most notably in Burgundy, France. Côtes du Rhône is from the region of France of the same name and is usually made from a blend of grapes, none of which, by the way, are chardonnay. Chardonnay is very popular and, it is said, a rite-of-passage grape for wineries. While Chardonnay is a relatively straightforward selection, Côtes du Rhône offers white and red varieties that will be fun crowd-pleasers at parties, and it's inexpensive. An export grape from the region is Syrah, remarkable for its now-global prevalence, from Washington state to South America to South Africa to Australia, where it's called Shiraz. For something completely different and light, try sauvignon blanc, which can be herbal and tart, with good acidity and complexity. "Sauvignon blanc can be like drinking passion fruit -- not quite orange, cherry or lemon -- just passion fruit," he says. "I'll never forget one time I had it with tuna sashimi. It was such a perfect pairing...These are the things that make life great

- If you like Moscato before dinner, try Sauternes or port wine with dessert. Again, sweet wines are popular, but Sauternes from the region of Bordeaux with the same name, has a distinct flavor because of a unique geographical attribute. Sauternes is made from Sémillon, Sauvignon blanc, and Muscadelle grapes that have been affected by a fungus that usually causes souring. But, thanks to the weather in the Sauternes region, the fungus instead adds sweetness and complexity to wine. Varieties range from very sweet to dry as a bone. Port, Portuguese fortified wine, and Sauternes are amazing with nuts, blue cheese and foie gras, or goose liver pâté, slathered on baguette, Kleinfeld says.
- If you think it's time to outgrow merlot ... try another merlot. Ever since the movie "Sideways," merlot has gotten a bad rap. Yes, some varieties can be fruit bombs (and there's nothing wrong with that!), but others are deep, rich and structured. On a wide range of levels, merlot can provide a nuanced and rewarding experience. "Don't be afraid to drink merlot just because you may have heard it's not hip," says Kleinfeld. "It can stand on its own and is also a big-time blending grape in some of the world's most famous wines. It's the king of the 'right bank' region of Bordeaux."

*About Howard Kleinfeld (Howard K)*

*Howard Kleinfeld is a full-time wine enthusiast, part-time foodie, and first-time author. His new novel, "Dial M for Merlot," [www.DialMForMerlot.com](http://www.DialMForMerlot.com), written under the pen name Howard K, follows a 30-year-old math whiz's intoxicating journey of wine discovery. Kleinfeld is a longtime singer-songwriter whose compositions/productions for advertising, TV shows and indie films have earned him Emmy, Telly and Addy awards.*



# Nightwire Takes You To The Movies

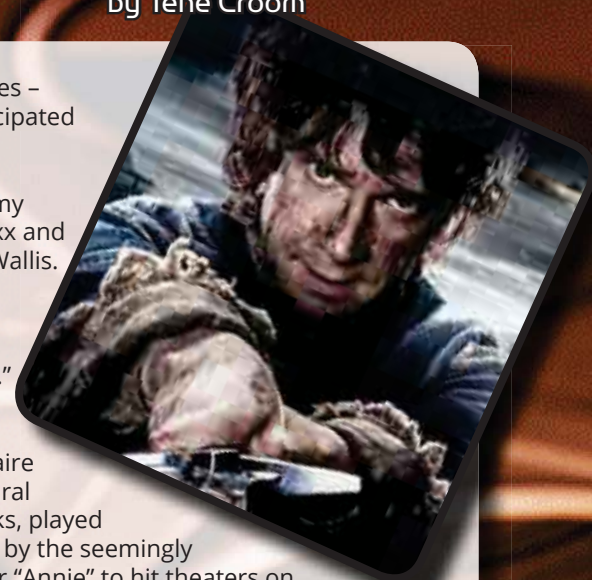
by Tené Croom



Nightwire takes you to the movies – spotlighting two of the most anticipated movies of the holiday season.

It's a hard knock life for Academy Award winning actor Jamie Foxx and Oscar nominee Quvenzhané Wallis.

They are starring in the remake of the ever popular heartwarming movie, "Annie." Wallis is in the title role of the foster kid taken in for the holidays by a billionaire tycoon and New York mayoral candidate named Will Stacks, played by Foxx. Stacks is softened by the seemingly incorrigible Annie. Look for "Annie" to hit theaters on Friday, December 19.



The adventures of Bilbo Baggins and the Company of Dwarves will be coming to an end in "The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies." This is the third in a trilogy of films adapting the ever popular children's book and fantasy novel - The Hobbit, by J.R.R. Tolkien. Tolkien, born in 1892 and died in 1973, was deeply religious and a veteran of WWI. "The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies" will be in theaters Wednesday, December 17.

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# Nightwire's 2014 Gift Guide

The holiday season can be a bit of a mixed blessing – you love binge-watching Christmas movies and decking the halls just as much as anyone, but picking up presents for your family and friends can be a fairly daunting task. How are you supposed to enjoy all that hot buttered rum and cheddar-flavored popcorn with a gift-list hanging over your head?

Don't worry – Nightwire has you covered. We've tackled your holiday gift list and pulled together presents that fit the bill for every fashion. Still not enough? These gifts are perfect for the person who has everything – they've never seen a present like these before. Now take a deep breath, grab a sip of hot chocolate, and relax.



## Sound Oasis Bluetooth Sound Therapy System

The Sound Oasis Bluetooth Sleep Sound Therapy System combines the best facets of a high-quality, wireless bluetooth speaker and a therapeutic sound and sleep therapy device. As a Bluetooth speaker, it has a 30 ft. range to stream music from your mobile device or computer. Its built-in usb-rechargeable battery allows for 5-8 hours of cordless use on one charge. Super compact size at 2.5 inches tall by 2.5 inches in diameter makes it very portable but still has excellent sound quality and powerful bass. Built-in sleep therapy sound tracks can be customized to run seamlessly for up to 8 hours. Perfect for improving sleep, blocking noise and managing tinnitus. 10 different sounds are built-in and more sleep/sound therapy tracks/sounds can be downloaded from the SoundOasis.com store or from the Sound Oasis Apps. \$59.99

**Sake - South Side Works** - Sake serves Asian cuisine and fresh sushi daily and offers great specials. They offer 1/2 off sushi every Sunday and Monday, if you haven't had sushi at Sake, then you just haven't tried the best! Their skilled sushi chefs will amaze you as you watch them prepare your sushi with master skills and presentations. If sushi isn't your thing, then try one of their many entrees from their extensive menu offering something for everyone. The perfect holiday gift or stocking stuffer a gift card from Sake! Located at 2773 Sidney Street, South Side Works - 412.481.8888 - sakesouthside.com

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## Saga Hibachi Steakhouse & Sushi Bar - Cranberry

Big sister to Sake, Saga is conveniently located in Cranberry Twp. Saga is the best hibachi steakhouse and sushi restaurant in the tri-state area. Only the freshest, quality food is served and in hearty portions too! They hand pick ingredients carefully and only use the freshest to prepare every dish. At Saga, here you will be greeted and welcomed by the owners and staff. They will make you feel as if you have stepped back into a magical far away exotic place. The skills of their hibachi chefs will simply delight and astound you. What a great place to dine with family and friends. Nothing but top notch service, quality and food. In Cranberry - 20006 U.S. 19, Cranberry Twp. 156066 - 724.778.9998 - www.sagahibachisushibar.com

### Chicken Latino - in the Strip

Serving authentic Peruvian rotisserie chicken, the best in the 'Burgh and conveniently located in the Strip. This little tucked away restaurant, located on 21st Street between Penn Ave and Smallman Street is a true gem, offering the best chicken we have ever eaten. Their chicken is marinated overnight in special authentic Peruvian seasonings and then carefully roasted daily in their Peruvian-style brick oven which keeps the chicken moist and delicious. They also serve pork and beef kebobs, tasty burgers and carne asada (grilled steak) all done in their brick ovens. Their weekend special is, Peruvian ceviche, a true seafood delicacy, make sure you stop in early as this sells out quickly. They also offer burritos, quesadillas, salads and delicious authentic sides such as crispy yucca or sweet fried plantains. During this busy holiday season, stop in or order take out and don't forget a gift certificate for your co-workers or anyone on your gift list. 155 - 21st St, Pittsburgh, PA 15222 - 412.246.0974 - chickenlatino.com



### Maverick Vapors

Starter kits starting at \$20 and up, receive a free bottle of vaping juice with any starter kit purchase. Something for everyone on your list that vapes or smokes.. Give them the gift of vaping this holiday season. Stop in and ask JD the vaping expert, he will help you with your holiday gift selections. Located in heart of Lawrenceville at 4322 Butler Street - 412.709.6443 Open daily Tuesday through Sunday - Closed Mondays. Maverickvapors.com

### Monte Cellos - North Hills & Wexford Location

Stop in from 11/28 through 12/23 purchase \$100 in gift cards and receive \$20 Free!! Family owned and operated for over 30 years offering fantastic homemade food, great prices, and friendly staff. Their extensive menu offers everything from steaks, seafood, pasta, pizza, salads, hoagies plus daily chef specials and so much more. 2198 Babcock Blvd., North Hills, 412.821.0600 and Wexford - 10441 Perry Highway (across from Baierl Chevrolet and next to Shultz Ford) 724.935.4151 - montecellos.com



### deStefino Southside

The perfect gift for any woman, she will absolutely fall in love with Eyelash Extensions, it saves time and will make her look and feel her best 24/7. Nothing can beat LASHX Mink Eyelash Extension, worn by celebrities. Make her feel like a rock star this holiday season. Stop in or call to purchase a gift certificate today! Located in the SouthSide Works - 2751 Sidney Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15203 Tel: 412-488-4418 - destefinosouthside.com

### DiPietro's Ristorante

Nightwire has traveled to Italy and sampled hundreds of Italian fares, however the one that we vote as the best "most authentic" Italian restaurant is hands down DiPietro's. Our Editor's personal favorite! As their motto states "if we wouldn't eat it, we won't serve it" at DiPietro's they treat you like family! So, this holiday season, take your family or give a gift certificate to everyone on your gift list to DiPietro's! Nothing but top quality meats and cheeses are used in preparing every dish. Everything is homemade from scratch with old world recipes brought back from Italy. DiPietro's is located in the North Hills, at 412 Perry Hwy., West View, 15229 - 412.931.9878 - dipietrosrestaurant.com



### All India

The best authentic North/South Indian, Indo Chinese, Tandoori food in the burg! Offering an amazing Daily Grand Lunch Buffet and Royal Dinner Buffet on Sundays & Thursdays. It's a feast to behold, something for every taste, or you can order from their extensive menu. Each dish is carefully prepared by their expert chefs to ensure your specific spice level and taste is being met. The owners have brought back family recipes from India, this is Indian food at its finest. Gift certificates make great gifts for anyone on your gift list. Located 315 N. Craig Street, Oakland, PA 15213 - 412.681.6600 - allindiapgh.com

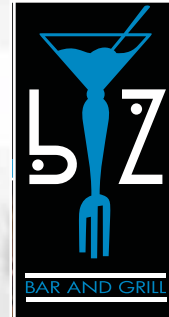


### Hal's Bottle Shop & Hal's Bar and Grill

May we suggest for the craft beer lover in your life a gift basket or hand selected 6 packs from Hal's Bottle Shop. Hal's can help you select and assemble for you a custom beer basket. They currently have over 500 beers and over 50 new winter beers in stock to choose from. Let them help and guide you with your selections for that special person in your life. Don't know what beer to choose then give them a gift certificate and let them choose beers or a dining experience at Hal's Bar & Grill, where fine dining meets chic. The best food in the North Hills - Located at 3225 Babcock Blvd., Ross Twp. 15237 - 412.364.3230

### BZ Bar and Grill

The best bar and food on the North Shore!! Located across the street from PNC Park and blocks from Heinz Field, this bar is the happening place with its great craft beer, awesome signature cocktails coupled with a fabulous food menu. The perfect place for Sunday brunch and monthly beer dinners, you can't go wrong with a gift certificate from BZ Bar and Grill for anyone on your Christmas list. Located at 140 Federal Street (across from PNC Park) 412.323-2924 bzbarandgrill.com



### Lil Bangkok in the Strip

Offers healthy, fresh, authentic Thai cuisine while providing the highest quality food and outstanding service. Their food is inspired by home cooking, as their recipes were handed down to Chef Penny by her mother back in Thailand. They use nothing but fresh herbs and real fruit juices to make their food healthy and delicious. Treat your loves ones and everyone one your gift list to an unforgettable dining experience. Located at 1906 Penn Ave, in the Strip - 412.586.4107 - littlebangkokinthestrip.com

# SPOTLIGHT PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS PITTSBURGH ROCKIN' REUNION



Six Pittsburgh Hit Makers will band together for one night only, to perform a historic event at the Benedum Center on April 4, 2015 at 4:00 and 8:00 pm. The PITTSBURGH ROCKIN' REUNION will

celebrate the hits that launched Pittsburgh onto the national music scene.

PITTSBURGH'S ROCKIN' REUNION will feature Hit-Maker's Lou Christie, Jimmy Beaumont and the Skyliners, Donnie Iris, Chuck Blasko's Vogues, The Marcells, and Jimmie Ross and the Jaggerz. Even though all of the artists are friends who have performed together on the road from time to time, they have never performed all together on one stage—until now.

"When I first started to explore this project a few years ago, I had doubts that it could even be done," shared Charlie Pappas of Spotlight Productions, producer of PITTSBURGH'S ROCKIN' REUNION. "The logistics of getting all of the Acts to agree to the project, finding a date that worked for every group involved, and a venue of choice was a real challenge—but the stars aligned and the REUNION is set for April 4, 2015 at the Benedum Center in downtown Pittsburgh."

The concept of the PITTSBURGH ROCKIN' REUNION is to bring together the Pittsburgh greats performing all of the hits that made them known as the Pittsburgh Hit-Makers. This show, a once in a lifetime event, will never be done again and promises to make Pittsburgh proud.

Tickets for the PITTSBURGH ROCKIN' REUNION will go on sale, Friday, January 9, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. Tickets can be purchased in person at the Theatre Square Box Office, 665 Penn avenue, online at [www.TrustArts.org](http://www.TrustArts.org) or by calling 412-471-6930. Group tickets for 10+ are available.

## Artist Biographies Lou Christie

Lou Christie's chart topping, multi-million selling career as a singer, songwriter, recording artist and performer started in a two week track studio in Glenwillard Pennsylvania, his rural hometown near Pittsburgh. Lou's first million selling song, "The Gypsy Cried," transformed a local choir boy into a national teen idol. Over the decade of the sixties, Lou followed success with greater success. "Two Faces Have I," was his next big hit featuring his stratospheric falsetto. His #1 multi-million selling song, "Lightnin' Strikes," forever embedded hi unique voice into America's consciousness. Lou's chart topping success continued with two additional million-selling hits, "Rhapsody in the Rain" and "I'm Gonna Make You Mine."

## Jimmy Beaumont and the Skyliners

Back in 1958, a young Pittsburgh singer by the name of Jimmy Beaumont began singing with a group called the Crescents that soon combined with a South Hills group by the name of The Elrios. Under the management of the young Pittsburgh native promoter, Joe Rock, they became The Skyliners. Joe Rock and Skyliner's lead singer Jimmy Beaumont soon began to write songs. Their first song, "Since I Don't Have You" went to the top of the chart and is known today as the quintessential fifties ballad. The song has been covered by scores of artists including Ronnie Millsap, Art Garfunkel, Trini Lopez, Chuck Jackson, Don McClean and Guns n' Roses. Other top 40 hits and classics by the group include "This I Swear," "Pennies from Heaven," "It Happened Today," "Close Your



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Eyes," "Comes Love," "The Loser" and "Where Have They Gone."

#### Donnie Iris

Donnie Iris is an American rock musician known for his work with the Jaggerz and Wild Cherry during the 1970s, and for his solo career beginning in the 1980s with his band, the Cruisers. He wrote the #2 Billboard hit "The Rapper," with Jaggerz in 1970 and was a member of WILD Cherry after the group had a #1 hit with "Play That Funky Music." Iris also achieved fame as a solo artist in the early 1980s with the #29 hit "Ah! Leah!" and "Love is Like a Rock."

#### Chuck Blasko's Vogues

The Vogues began as a four man vocal group in Turtle Creek originally known as The Val-Aires, while at Turtle Creek High School. In the late fifties, they quickly gained popularity and soon landed a contract with the local Co and Ce Record Label. The Val-Aires changed their name to the Vogues and became a national sensation in September of 1965 with a #4 hit, "You Are the One." Nine weeks later, the group followed up with another hit, "Five O'clock World" followed by "Magic Town," "Land of Milk and Honey," "Turn Around Look at Me" and "My Special Angel." The Vogues made several appearances on television programs including the The Tonight Show, The Ed Sullivan Show, Shindig, American Bandstand, Hullabaloo and the Mike Douglas Show.

#### The Marcells

In 1959, five racially mixed guys from Oliver Allegheny High School began singing on the North Side. They soon took the name of a popular wavy hair style and The Marcells were born. After a year's worth of practicing, they found themselves at Copix Records, a record subsidy of Columbia Pictures in New York. At their first recording session, they recorded a remake of an old Rogers and Hart song, "Blue Moon." The song went straight to #1 on the Billboard charts and remained there for three weeks, selling a million copies and earning them a gold record. Later that Fall, they scored again with "Heartaches," which reached #7. The group appeared with Chubby Checker in the film Twist Around the Clock and their rendition of "Blue Moon" has been used in four major motion picture and various television shows. Today, The Marcells include Jules Hopson, Richard Harris, Ted (Reno) Smith and Kenny Mitchell.

#### Jimmie Ross and the Jaggerz

Around 1964, six talented guys from Beaver Valley joined together and began playing local night clubs and regional venues as far as the Sunken Bar at Geneva on the Lake, Ohio. Managed by the Skyliner's manager, Joe Rock, the Jaggerz signed with Gable Records, where the legendary Philadelphia Soul music team of Gamble and Huff produced their first album. The album included "(That's Why) Baby I Love You," "Together" and "Gotta Find My Way Back Home." In 1970, the Jaggerz switched labels and their second album produced the groups' chart-topping hit "The Rapper," which hit #2 on the Billboard hot 100 and remained there for 13 weeks. The record was certified gold by the RIAA, selling over 2.5 million copies. Original members, Jimmie Ross and Benny Faiella, along with current members Hermie Granati, Dennis McAbee, Paul Martello and Chris Patarni continue to perform the soulful sounds of the Jaggerz.

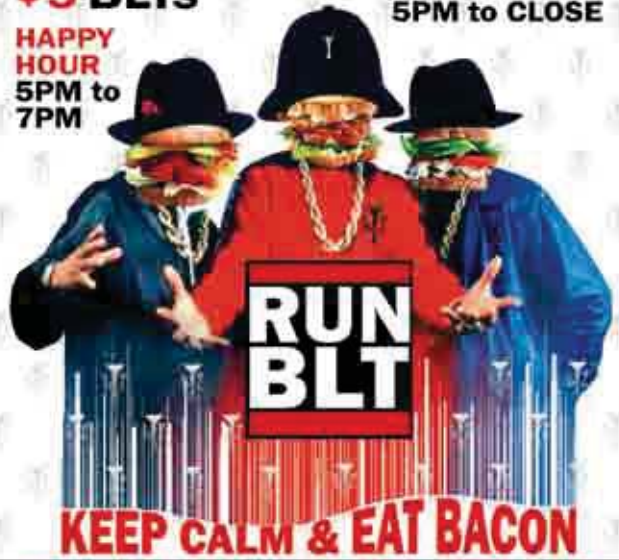
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## Figures Of Speech

Below are figures of speech in which the latter part of a sentence or phrase is surprising or unexpected and is frequently humorous.

1. Where there's a will, I want to be in it.
2. The last thing I want to do is hurt you ... But it's still on my list.
3. Since light travels faster than sound, some people appear bright until you hear them speak.
4. If I agreed with you, we'd both be wrong.
5. We never really grow up -- we only learn how to act in public.
6. War does not determine who is right, only who is left.
7. Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.
8. To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research.
9. I didn't say it was your fault, I said I was blaming you.
10. In filling out an application, where it says, "In case of emergency, notify..." I answered "a doctor."
11. Women will never be equal to men until they can walk down the street with a bald head and a beer gut, and still think they are sexy.
12. You do not need a parachute to skydive. You only need a parachute to skydive twice.
13. I used to be indecisive, but now I'm not so sure.

14. To be sure of hitting the target, shoot first and call whatever you hit the target.

15. Going to church doesn't make you a Christian, any more than standing in a garage makes you a car.

16. You're never too old to learn something stupid.

17. I'm supposed to respect my elders, but it's getting harder and harder for me to find one now.

Spread the Laughter, Share the Cheer, Let's Be Happy, While We're here!

## Five Undeniable Facts

1. We all love to spend money buying new clothes but we never realize that the best moments in life are enjoyed without clothes.

2. Having a cold drink on a hot day with a few friends is nice, but having a hot friend on a cold night after a few drinks - is PRICELESS.

3. Breaking News: Condoms don't guarantee safe sex anymore. A friend of mine was wearing one when he was shot dead by the woman's husband.



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4. Arguing over a girl's bust size is like choosing between Molson, Heineken, Carlsberg, & Budweiser. Men may state their preferences, but will grab whatever is available.

AND

5. A recent study found that women who carry a little extra weight live longer than the men who mention it.

### An Irish Priest is Transferred to Texas

He rose from his bed one morning. It was a fine spring day in his new west Texas mission parish. He walked to the window of his bedroom to get a deep breath of the beautiful day outside. He then noticed there was a jackass lying dead in the middle of his front lawn. He promptly called the local police station. The conversation went like this:

"Good morning. This is Sergeant Jones. How might I help you?"

"And the best of the day to yourself. This is Father O'Malley at St. Ann's Catholic Church. There's a jackass lying dead in me front lawn and would ye be so kind as to send a couple o' yer lads to take care of the matter." Sergeant Jones, considering himself to be quite a wit and recognizing the accent, thought he would have a little fun with the good father, replied, "Well now Father, it was always my

impression that you people took care of the last rites!" There was dead silence on the line for a long moment. Then, Father O'Malley replied, "Aye, 'tis certainly true; but we are also obliged to notify the next of kin first, which is the reason for me call."

### 86 Year Old Checkup

An 86-year-old man went to his doctor for his quarterly check-up. The doctor asked him how he was feeling, and the 86-year-old said, things are great and I've never felt better. I now have a 20 year-old bride who is pregnant with my child. "So what do you think about that Doc ?" The doctor considered his question for a minute and then began to tell a story. "I have an older friend, much like you, who is an avid hunter and never misses a season. One day he was setting off to go hunting. In a bit of a hurry, he accidentally picked up his walking cane instead of his gun." "As he neared a lake, he came across a very large male beaver sitting at the water's edge. He realized he'd left his gun at home and so he couldn't shoot the magnificent creature. Out of habit he raised his cane, aimed it at the animal as if it were his favorite hunting rifle and went 'bang, bang'." "Miraculously, two shots rang out and the bear fell over dead. Now, what do you think of that?" asked the doctor. The 86-year-old said ,

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“Logic would strongly suggest that somebody else pumped a couple of rounds into that bear.” The doctor replied, “My point exactly.”

**The Queen & Dolly Go To Heaven !!**

Queen Elizabeth and Dolly Parton die on the same day and they both go before an Angel to find out if they'll be admitted to Heaven. Unfortunately, there's only one space left that day, so the Angel must decide which of them gets in. The Angel asks Dolly if there's some particular reason why she should go to Heaven. Dolly takes off her top and says, 'Look at these, they're the most perfect breasts God ever created, and I'm sure it will please God to be able to see them every day, for eternity.' The Angel thanks Dolly, and asks Her Majesty the same question. The Queen takes a bottle of Perrier out of her purse, drinks it down. Then, wees into the loo and pulls the lever. The Angel says, 'OK, your Majesty, you may go in.' Dolly is outraged and asks, 'What was that all about? I show you two of God's own perfect creations and you turn me down. She wees into a toilet and she gets in! Would you explain that to me?' “Sorry, Dolly,” says the Angel, ‘but even in Heaven, a royal flush beats a pair - no matter how big they are.’

**Ten Thoughts to Ponder**

- Number 10 Life is sexually transmitted.
- Number 9 Good health is merely the slowest possible rate at which one can die.
- Number 8 Men have two emotions: Hungry and Horny. If you see him without an erection, make him a sandwich.
- Number 7 Give a person a fish and you feed them for a day. Teach a person to use the Internet and they won't bother you for weeks.
- Number 6 Some people are like a Slinky-not really good for anything, but you still can't help but smile when you shove them down the stairs.
- Number 5 Health nuts are going to feel stupid someday, lying in hospitals, dying of nothing.
- Number 4 All of us could take a lesson from the weather. It pays no attention to criticism.
- Number 3 Why does a slight tax increase cost you \$800.00, and a substantial tax cut saves you \$30.00?
- Number 2 In the 60's, people took acid to make the world weird. Now the world is weird and people take Prozac to make it normal.
- And The Number 1 Thought Life is like a jar of Jalapeno peppers--what you do today, might burn your butt tomorrow. - - - and as someone recently said to me: “Don't worry about old age--it doesn't last long.”

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## The Elderly Irish Virgin!!!

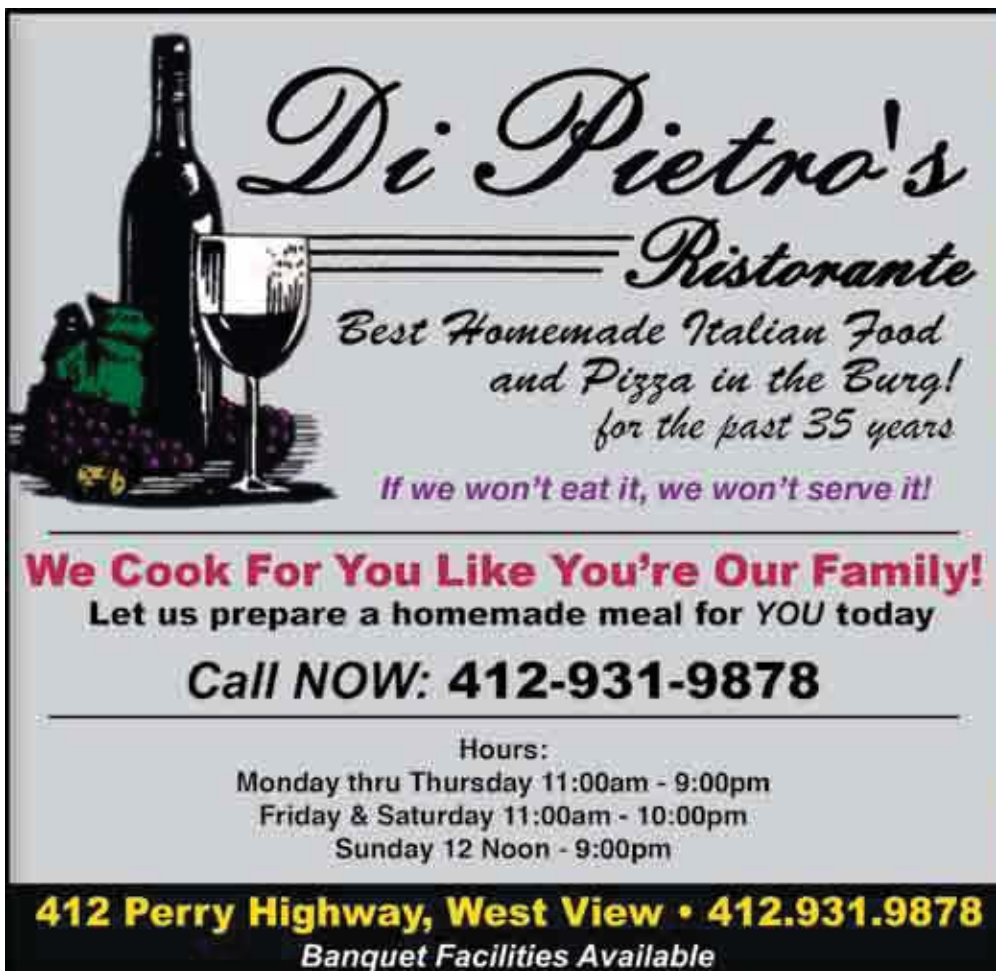
In a tiny village on the Irish coast lived an old lady, a virgin and very proud of it. Sensing that her final days were rapidly approaching, and desiring to make sure everything was in proper order when she died, she went to the town's undertaker (who also happened to be the local postal clerk) to make proper 'final' arrangements. As a last wish, she informed the undertaker that she wanted the following inscription engraved on her tombstone: 'BORN A VIRGIN, LIVED AS A VIRGIN, DIED A VIRGIN' Not long after, the old maid died peacefully. A few days after the funeral, as the undertaker-- postal clerk went to prepare the tombstone that the lady had requested, it became quite apparent that the tombstone that she had selected was much too small for the wording that she had chosen. He thought long and hard about how he could fulfill the old maid's final request, considering the very limited space available on the small piece of stone. For days, he agonized over the dilemma. But finally his experience as a postal worker allowed him to come up with what he thought was the appropriate solution to the problem. The virgin's tombstone was finally completed and duly engraved, and it read as follows: 'RETURNED UNOPENED'

## Red Tomatoes

A beautiful woman loved growing tomatoes, but couldn't seem to get her tomatoes to turn red. One day, while taking a stroll, she came upon a neighbor who had the most beautiful garden full of huge red tomatoes. The woman asked the man, "What do you do to get your tomatoes so red?" The man responded, "Well, twice a day I stand in front of my tomato garden naked in my trench coat and flash them. My tomatoes turn red from blushing so much." Well, the woman was so impressed; she decided to try doing the same thing to her tomato garden to see if it would work. So twice a day for two weeks she flashed her garden hoping for the best. One day the man was passing by and asked the woman, "By the way, how did you make out? Did your tomatoes turn red?" "No", she replied, "but my cucumbers are enormous."

## A little risqué but so funny !!

I nearly became a doctor. I don't know if I ever told you, but when I was young, I decided to go to Medical School. At the entrance exam, we were asked to rearrange the letters PNEIS and form the name of an important human body part which is most useful when erect. Those who answered SPINE are medical doctors today, while the rest of us are sending jokes via email.



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### The Man Rules

At last a guy has taken the time to write this all down. We always hear "the rules" from the female side. Now here are the rules from the male side. These are our rules! Please note.. these are all numbered "1" ON PURPOSE!

- Men are NOT mind readers.
- FIRST & FOREMOST RULE
- Learn to work the toilet seat.
- You're a big girl. If it's up, put it down.
- We need it up, you need it down.
- You don't hear us complaining about you leaving it down.
- Sunday sports, It's like the full moon or the changing of the tides.
- Let it be.
- Crying is blackmail.
- Ask for what you want.
- Let us be clear on this one:
- Subtle hints do not work! Strong hints do not work! Obvious hints do not work! Just say it!
- Yes and No are perfectly acceptable answers to almost every question.
- Come to us with a problem only if you want help solving it. That's what we do.
- Sympathy is what your girlfriends are for.
- Anything we said 6 months ago is inadmissible in an argument. In fact, all comments become Null and void after 7 Days.
- If you think you're fat, you probably are.
- Don't ask us.
- If something we said can be interpreted two ways and one of the ways makes you sad or angry, we meant the other one
- You can either ask us to do something
- Or tell us how you want it done. Not both.
- If you already know best how to do it, just do it yourself.
- Whenever possible, Please say whatever you have to say during commercials...
- Christopher Columbus did NOT need directions and neither do we.
- ALL men see in only 6 colors, like Windows default settings.

- Peach, for example, is a fruit, not A color. Pumpkin is also a fruit. We have no idea what mauve is.
- If it itches, it will be scratched.
- We do that.
- If we ask what is wrong and you say "nothing," We will act like nothing's wrong. We know you are lying, but it is just not worth the hassle.
- If you ask a question you don't want an answer to, Expect an answer you don't want to hear.
- When we have to go somewhere, absolutely anything you wear is fine.... Really.
- Don't ask us what we're thinking about unless you are prepared to discuss such topics as Football or Hockey.
- You have enough clothes.
- You have too many shoes.
- I am in shape. Round IS a shape!

Thank you for reading this.

Yes, I know, I have to sleep on the couch tonight; But did you know men really don't mind that? It's like camping.

### Christmas Humor:

- What do elves learn in school? The Elf-abet!
- How many reindeer does Santa Have??? 11 (named below): Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner, Blitzen, Rudolph (the one with the red nose), Olive (Olive the other reindeer {all of}), and Al (Then Al the reindeer loved him {all}).
- What kind of bird can write? A PENguin.
- Why does Santa's sled get such good mileage? Because it has long-distance runners on each side.
- Why does Scrooge love Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer? Because every buck is dear to him.
- What do you get if you deep fry Santa Claus? Crisp Cringle.
- ELF NO. 1: What did Santa shout to his toys on Christmas Eve?
- ELF NO. 2: Okay everyone, sack time!!
- If athletes get athletes foot, what do astronauts get? Missletoe!





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## My friend, Rick

My friend, Rick, is a paramedic here in Miami. A few years ago he answered a call about a man who had a head injury he sustained when some teenagers were throwing eggs at cars. It seems that the egg had come through the open window of the man's car as he was driving at about 45 mph. He had a large swelling on his forehead. In the official report, Rick described the incident as an "egg-noggin". Just before Christmas, there was an honest politician, a kind lawyer and Santa Claus travelling in a car of a very posh hotel. Just before the doors opened they all noticed a five dollar bill lying on the floor. Which one picked it up?? Santa of course, the other two don't exist! Santa Claus, like all pilots, gets regular visits from the Federal Aviation Administration, and it was shortly before Christmas when the FAA examiner arrived. In preparation, Santa had the elves wash the sled and bathe all the reindeer. Santa got his logbook out and made sure all his paperwork was in order. The examiner walked slowly around the sled. He checked the reindeer harnesses, the landing gear, and Rudolf's nose. He painstakingly reviewed Santa's weight and balance calculations for the sled's enormous payload. Finally, they were ready for the check ride. Santa got in, fastened his seatbelt and shoulder harness, and checked the compass. Then the examiner hopped in carrying, to Santa's surprise, a shotgun. "What's that for?" asked Santa incredulously. The examiner winked and said, "I'm not supposed to tell you this, but you're gonna lose an engine on takeoff."

## Christmas Jokes

- What do you call a bunch of grandmasters of chess bragging about their games in a hotel lobby? Chess nuts boasting in an open foyer!
- What do you call a cat on the beach at

Christmastime? Sandy Claus!

- How do sheep in Mexico say Merry Christmas? Fleece Navidad!
- If Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus had a child, what would he be called? A subordinate claus.
- There once was a czar in Russia whose name was Rudolph the Great. He was standing in his house one day with his wife. He looked out the window and saw something happening. He says to his wife, "Look honey. Its raining." She, being the obstinate type, responded, "I don't think so, dear. I think its snowing." But Rudolph knew better. So he says to his wife, "Let's step outside and we'll find out." Lo and behold, they step outside and discover it was in fact rain. And Rudolph turns to his wife and replies, "I knew it was raining. Rudolph the Red knows rain, dear!"
- Did you hear that one of Santa's reindeer now works for Proctor and Gambel? Its true....Comet cleans sinks!

## Politically Correct Santa

'Twas the night before Christmas and Santa's a wreck...

How to live in a world that's politically correct?

His workers no longer would answer to "Elves,"

"Vertically Challenged" they were calling themselves.

And labor conditions at the north pole Were alleged by the union to stifle the soul.

Four reindeer had vanished, without much propriety,

Released to the wilds by the Humane Society.

And equal employment had made it quite clear

That Santa had better not use just reindeer.

So Dancer and Donner, Comet and Cupid, Were replaced with 4 pigs, and you know that looked stupid!

The runners had been removed from his sleigh;

The ruts were termed dangerous by the E.P.A.



And people had started to call  
for the cops  
When they heard sled noises on  
their roof-tops.  
Second-hand smoke from his  
pipe had his workers quite  
frightened.  
His fur-trimmed red suit was  
called "Unenlightened."  
And to show you the  
strangeness of life's ebbs and  
flows,  
Rudolf was suing over  
unauthorized use of his nose  
And had gone on Geraldo, in  
front of the nation,  
Demanding millions in over-due  
compensation.  
So, half of the reindeer were  
gone; and his wife,  
Who suddenly said she'd  
enough of this life,  
Joined a self-help group,  
packed, and left in a whiz,  
Demanding from now on her title  
was Ms.  
And as for the gifts, why, he'd  
ne'er had a notion  
That making a choice could  
cause so much commotion.  
Nothing of leather, nothing of fur,  
Which meant nothing for him.  
And nothing for her.  
Nothing that might be construed  
to pollute.  
Nothing to aim. Nothing to  
shoot.  
Nothing that clamored or made  
lots of noise.  
Nothing for just girls. Or just for  
the boys.  
Nothing that claimed to be  
gender specific.  
Nothing that's war-like or non-  
pacific.  
No candy or sweets...they were  
bad for the tooth.  
Nothing that seemed to  
embellish a truth.  
And fairy tales, while not yet  
forbidden,  
Were like Ken and Barbie, better

off hidden.  
For they raised the hackles of  
those psychological  
Who claimed the only good gift  
was one ecological.  
No baseball, no football...  
someone could get hurt;  
Besides, playing sports exposed  
kids to dirt.  
Dolls were said to be sexist, and  
should be passé;  
And X-Box would rot your entire  
brain away.  
So Santa just stood there,  
disheveled, perplexed;  
He just could not figure out what  
to do next.  
He tried to be merry, tried to be  
gay,  
But you've got to be careful with  
that word today.  
His sack was quite empty, limp  
to the ground;  
Nothing fully acceptable was to  
be found.  
Something special was needed,  
a gift that he might  
Give to all without angering the  
left or the right.  
A gift that would satisfy, with no  
indecision,  
Each group of people, every  
religion;  
Every ethnicity, every hue,  
Everyone, everywhere...even  
you.  
So here is that gift, its price  
beyond worth...  
"May you and your loved ones  
enjoy peace on earth."

- What do you call people who are afraid of Santa Claus? Claustrophobic.
- What do you do if Santa gets stuck in your chimney? Pour Santa flush on him.
- What do snowmen eat for breakfast? Snowflakes.

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**The Week Before Christmas**

'Twas the week before Christmas and all through the school  
Not a pupil was silent, no matter what rule.  
The children were busy with paper and paste;  
The mess that they made with it couldn't be faced.  
The teacher half frantic and almost in tears,  
Had just settled down to work with her dears,  
When out in the hall there arose such a clatter  
up sprang the kids to see what was the matter!  
Away to the door they all flew like a flash;  
The one who was leading went down with a crash.  
Then what to their wondering eyes did appear  
But a green Christmas tree! (To decorate I fear!)  
When the teacher saw this, she almost grew sick.  
She knew in a moment it must be Old Nick!  
She ran to the door (all her efforts were vain)  
But she shouted, and stamped, and she called them by name;  
"Now Tommy! Now Sandy, Now Judy and Harry!  
Stop Billy! Stop Robert! Stop Donny and Sherry!  
Now get to your places get away from the hall  
Now get away! Get away! Get away all!  
As leaves that before the wild hurricane fly  
The pupils, pell mell, started scurrying by.  
They ran to the blackboard and skipped down the aisle;  
Their faces were shining and each had a smile.  
First came a basket of popcorn to string  
-Then came the Christmas tree (menacing thing).  
As the tree was brought in there arose a great shout;  
The pupils were merrily romping about.  
The state they were in could lead to a riot;  
The teacher was sure, if allowed, they would try it.  
Her nerves how they jangled! Her temples were throbbing!  
The rush of her breath sounded almost like sobbing!  
The lines of her face were as fixed as a mask;  
It was plain that she didn't feel up to her task.  
The look in her eye would have tamed a wild steer,  
But the children ignored it; they did every year.  
A tear from her eye and a shake of her head  
Soon led me to think that she wished she were dead.  
She spoke not a word but went straight to her work,

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Strung all the popcorn which broke with a jerk.  
 But at last it was finished and placed on the tree;  
 Then came the bell and the children were free.  
 Their shrill little voices soon faded away  
 And peace was restored at the end of the day.  
 As she looked at the Christmas tree glistening and tall,  
 She smiled as she whispered, Merry Christmas to all!

- Why does Santa have 3 gardens? So he can ho-ho-ho.
- Why was Santa's little helper depressed? Because he had low elf esteem.
- What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire? Frostbite.
- What do you get when you cross an archer with a gift-wraper? Ribbon hood.
- The 3 stages of man: He believes in Santa Claus. He doesn't believe in Santa Claus. He is Santa Claus. When you stop believing in Santa Claus is when you start getting clothes for Christmas.

- It was Christmas and the judge was in a merry mood as he asked the prisoner, "What are you charged with?" "Doing my Christmas shopping early," replied the defendant. "That's no offense," said the judge. "How early were you doing this shopping?" "Before the store opened," countered the prisoner.

### Apple does it again!

Apple announced today that it has developed a breast implant that can store and play music. The iBoob will cost from \$4990 to \$6990, depending on cup and speaker size. This is considered a major social breakthrough, because women are always complaining about men staring at their breasts and not listening to them.

### T'was the night before Christmas

T'was the night before Christmas and all through the house, Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse. The stockings were hung by the chimney with care. They'd been worn all week and needed the air.



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## New Policy

Effective immediately, the following economizing measures are being implemented in the "Twelve Days of Christmas" subsidiary:

1) The partridge will be retained, but the pear tree, which never produced the cash crop forecasted, will be replaced by a plastic hanging plant, providing considerable savings in maintenance.

2) Two turtle doves represent a redundancy that is simply not cost effective. In addition, their romance during working hours could not be condoned. The positions are, therefore, eliminated.

3) The three French hens will remain intact. After all, everyone loves the French.

4) The four calling birds will be replaced by an automated voice mail system, with a call waiting option. An analysis is underway to

determine who the birds have been calling, how often and how long they talked.

5) The five golden rings have been put on hold by the Board of Directors. Maintaining a portfolio based on one commodity could have negative implications for institutional investors. Diversification into other precious metals, as well as a mix of T-Bills and high technology stocks, appear to be in order.

6) The six geese-a-laying constitutes a luxury which can no longer be afforded. It has long been felt that the production rate of one egg per goose per day was an example of the general decline in productivity. Three geese will be let go, and an upgrading in the selection procedure by personnel will assure management that, from now on, every goose it gets will be a good one.

7) The seven swans-a-swimming is obviously a number chosen in better times. The function is primarily decorative. Mechanical swans are on order. The current swans will be retrained to learn some new strokes, thereby enhancing their outplacement.

8) As you know, the eight maids-a-milking concept has been under heavy scrutiny by the EEOC. A male/female balance in the workforce is being sought. The more militant maids consider this a dead-end job with no upward mobility. Automation of the process may permit the maids to try a-mending, a-mentoring or a-mulching.

9) Nine ladies dancing has always been an odd number. This function will be phased out as these individuals grow older and can no longer do the steps.

10) Ten Lords-a-leaping is overkill. The high cost of Lords, plus the expense of international air travel, prompted the Compensation Committee to suggest replacing this group with ten out-of-work congressmen. While leaping ability may be somewhat sacrificed, the savings are significant as we expect an oversupply of unemployed congressmen this year.

11) Eleven pipers piping and twelve drummers drumming is a simple case of the band getting too big. A substitution with a string quartet, a cutback on new music, and no uniforms, will produce savings which will drop right to the bottom line.

Overall we can expect a substantial reduction in assorted people, fowl, animals and related expenses. Though incomplete, studies indicate that stretching deliveries over twelve days is inefficient. If we can drop ship in one day, service levels will be improved. Regarding the lawsuit filed by the attorney's association seeking expansion to include the legal profession ("thirteen lawyers-a-suing"), a decision is pending. Deeper cuts may be necessary in the future to remain competitive. Should that happen, the Board will request management to scrutinize the Snow White Division to see if seven dwarfs is the right number.

## Dentist Visit

This guy goes into his dentist's office, because something is wrong with his mouth. After a brief examination, the dentist exclaims, "Holy Smoke! That plate I installed in your mouth about six months ago has nearly completely corroded! What on earth have you been eating?" "Well... the only thing I can think of is this... my wife made me some asparagus about four months ago with this stuff on it... Hollandaise sauce she called it... and doctor, I'm talkin' DELICIOUS! I've never tasted anything like it, and ever since then I've been putting it on everything... meat, fish, toast, vegetables... you name it!" "That's probably it," replied the dentist "Hollandaise sauce is made with lemon juice, which is acidic and highly corrosive. It seems as though I'll have to install a new plate, but made out of chrome this time." "Why chrome?" the man asked. "Well, everyone knows that there's no plate like chrome for the Hollandaise!"



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## Christmas Trivia Quiz

1. What American state was the first to make Christmas an official holiday?
  - a. Connecticut
  - b. Alabama
  - c. Alaska
  - d. North Carolina
2. What is the shape of the candy cane modeled after?
  - a. A fish hook
  - b. A constellation of stars
  - c. The cane St. Nicholas used
  - d. A Sheppard's crook
3. What was the name of the dog that belonged to the Grinch in Dr. Seuss' book "How the Grinch Stole Christmas"?
  - a. Rudolph
  - b. Toto
  - c. Max
  - d. Cerberus
4. Which star led the Three Kings to Jesus?
  - a. Star of David
  - b. North Star
  - c. Star of Bethlehem
  - d. Angel Star
5. What was the name of Scrooges' dead business partner in "A Christmas Carol"?
  - a. Jacob Marley
  - b. Bob Cratchit
  - c. Tiny Tim
  - d. Bill Sykes
6. Where did the real St. Nicholas live?
  - a. In Holland
  - b. At the North Pole
  - c. In Turkey
  - d. In Germany
7. What brought Frosty the Snowman to life?
  - a. Pixie Dust
  - b. An old silk hat
  - c. A kiss
  - d. A fresh snowfall
8. When you go Wassailing, what is it that you are doing?
  - a. Giving out gifts to your friends & neighbors
  - b. Going out in the woods to cut down your Christmas tree
  - c. Challenging as many of your neighbors as you can to a snowball fight
  - d. Going to visit neighbors and receiving goodies!



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9. In the movie "It's A Wonderful Life" how do you know that an angel has received his wings?

- a. A light flashes
- b. It starts raining
- c. A trumpet sounds
- d. A bell rings

10. Who was the author of "A Christmas Carol"?

- a. Hans Christian Anderson
- b. Charles Dickens
- c. Thomas M. Sawyer
- d. Mark Twain

11. What was pictured on the first stamp printed for the Christmas season?

- a. Santa Claus
- b. An Angel
- c. A Star
- d. A Rose

12. The poem commonly known as "The Night Before Christmas" was originally titled:

- a. The Night Before Christmas
- b. Santa Claus is Coming to Town
- c. A Visit From Saint Nicholas
- d. The Night Visitor

13. Electric Christmas tree lights were first used in what year?

- a. 1925
- b. 1700
- c. 1895
- d. 1750

14. At Christmas, it is customary to exchange kisses beneath a sprig of which plant?

- a. Holly
- b. Mistletoe
- c. Ivy
- d. Pine

15. Which of these events did NOT occur on Christmas Day?

- a. Hong Kong fell to the Japanese in WWII.
- b. Ebenezer Scrooge was visited by four ghosts.
- c. King Arthur pulled Excalibur from the stone.
- d. Charlemagne was crowned Holy Roman Emperor.

16. In Tchaikovsky's ballet The Nutcracker, the nutcracker's main enemy is:

- a. A girl named Clara.
- b. The King of Mice.
- c. Drosselmeyer the Magician.
- d. Dr. Almond

17. Good King Wenceslas was king of which country?

- a. Hungary
- b. Bohemia
- c. Poland
- d. Czechoslovakia

18. When was Christmas first celebrated?

- a. The year after Jesus was crucified
- b. Around 100 AD
- c. In the 4th Century
- d. 1935

19. Why was December 25th chosen as Christmas Day?

- a. That's when Jesus was born
- b. To compete with a pagan celebration
- c. That's when Christmas trees are in season
- d. That's when the Bible says to celebrate it

20. What country did poinsettias originally come from?

- a. The U.S.
- b. Cuba
- c. Mexico
- d. Brazil



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21. How did Xmas originate as an abbreviation for Christmas?

- a. Atheists refused to accept "Christ" as part of the word
- b. The early popes were lazy so they tended to shorten everything
- c. The Greek word for Christ is Xristos
- d. From Latin terminology for any holy day

22. How many reindeer does Santa Claus have?

- a. Santa has eight reindeer.
- b. Santa has nine reindeer.
- c. Santa does not have reindeer. They are really caribou.
- d. Santa has a whole herd of reindeer-- we only know about his favorite ones.

23. What comes after '8 maids a-milking' in the song 'The 12 Days of Christmas'?

- a. 9 pipers piping
- b. 9 lords a-leaping
- c. 9 drummers drumming
- d. 9 ladies dancing

24. When are the '12 Days of Christmas'?

- a. The 12 days before Christmas: December 14 to December 25
- b. The 12 days after Christmas: December 26 to January 6
- c. The 12 days around Christmas: Christmas Eve to January 4
- d. The 12 days beginning with the winter solstice: December 21 to January 1

25. Which of the following holidays DOES NOT occur in December?

- a. Candlemas
- b. Kwanzaa
- c. Feast of St. Nicholas
- d. Boxing Day

26. Santa's only female sleigh-pulling reindeer, Vixen, has antlers. True or false?

- a. False. Only the male reindeer have antlers.
- b. True. Both male and female reindeer have antlers.
- c. True. But they are really no bigger than slight bumps on their heads.
- d. False. Some females have been known to have antlers, but that is extremely rare.

27. How many sides does a snowflake have?

- a. 6
- b. 8
- c. 10
- d. 12



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28. What is the most popular holiday plant decoration in the United States?

- a. Pine branches or evergreen boughs
- b. Mistletoe
- c. Holly
- d. Poinsettia

29. In the movie 'Miracle on 34th Street', Kris Kringle is hired to play Santa Claus in what large department store?

- a. Marshall Field's
- b. FAO Schwarz
- c. Macy's
- d. Gimble's

30. Speaking of 'Good King Wenceslas'... he looked out 'on the Feast of Stephen'. When is the 'Feast of Stephen'?

- a. December 6
- b. December 12
- c. December 26
- d. January 6

## **Christmas Trivia Challenge ANSWERS:**

- 1 - b
- 2 - d
- 3 - c
- 4 - c
- 5 - a
- 6 - c
- 7 - b
- 8 - d
- 9 - d
- 10 - b
- 11 - d
- 12 - c
- 13 - c
- 14 - b
- 15 - b
- 16 - b
- 17 - b
- 18 - c
- 19 - b
- 20 - c
- 21 - c
- 22 - d
- 23 - d
- 24 - b
- 25 - a
- 26 - b
- 27 - a
- 28 - d
- 29 - c
- 30 - c

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Three Hours of Unlimited Play for All Guests

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