



NewsLink

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Volume II, Issue IV

December 14, 2010

E-Reader Reviews: Nook, Kindle & iPad

By Trey Brockman

It's the holiday season once again and there are way too many choices to make as far as gifts go... So I decided to review one of the hottest items this year, the e-reader. This handy device allows you to take your entire library on the go. The Apple iPad, the Barnes and Noble Nook, and the Amazon Kindle have all been competing fiercely for the last few months to see whose e-reader will come out on top of the market.

The Nook: "Read what you love. Anywhere you like." This incredible product has received much attention in the last few months. A 3.5 inch LCD touch screen on the bottom of this reader allows interactive browsing through menus as well as Web pages. A 16 level grayscale on an E-Ink screen looks just like a book, even in broad daylight. You can even change the font sizes (six choices) plus choose from two font styles. All Nooks come with two Gigabytes of storage, which is big enough for 1,500 books.

However, you can expand the storage space by using a



Micro SD card (useful if you plan on using the music player). This amazing tablet can go on the Internet and surf the Web using WiFi (Continued on page 2)

Christmas & Holiday Traditions

By Your NewsLink Staff

Holiday traditions are part of what make our families unique and special. So as we end this year, we thought we'd take a few moments to share some of our family traditions with you as we wish you a Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and Happy New Year! See you all in 2011.

Trey Brockman: We always put our Christmas tree up

while listening to Christmas music sometime after Thanksgiving. We then hang our stockings above our fireplace and wait for the big day to arrive. On Christmas morning, my brother usually has us out of bed by 6 AM (last year it was 4:00) and we proceed to open our loot. Merry Christmas!

Emma Bujnak: We spend most of December (and Christmas) with our family. Two of my favorite activities

are seeing Christmas Lights and Caroling.

My grandma buys us tickets to the carriage rides in Tilles Park. We have a great time riding in the horse drawn carriage, looking at the amazing light displays (usually freezing while we're at it), and going out to eat pizza afterwards. Later in the month my aunt holds an annual Caroling Party to support epilepsy. We go around (Continued, on page 3)

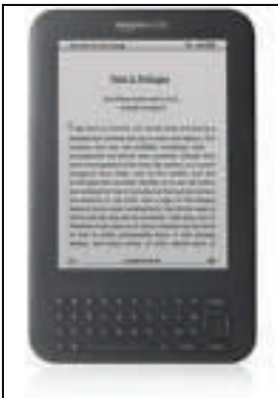
E-Reader Reviews (cont'd)

(Continued from Page 1)

(\$149) or prepaid 3G Inter
(continued from page 1)

net (\$199). Free, automatic WiFi is available in all Barnes and Noble bookstores across the country. The price is right for this amazing device! Be sure and take advantage of it this holiday season.

The Kindle 3: Amazon released this reader just in time for the holidays. This device was released as only a reader. It can only go on the Internet to buy and download books from the Amazon store. The E-Ink electronic paper display is the same concept as the Nook's, but no



touchscreen. Instead, Amazon put a physical keyboard on the lower half of the Kindle. Amazon is experimenting with a Web browser as well as music player, possibly to be added in an upgrade or a later Kindle. There is a 6 inch 16 grayscale screen, same as the Nook's. On this reader, there are 8 text sizes plus three text styles. Two models are available at this time: WiFi (\$139) or prepaid 3G (\$189). Each Kindle comes with four Gigabytes of internal storage, without the option of expanding using Micro SD. Although the price is \$10 cheaper than the Nook's, the Kindle tends to be less user friendly.

The iPad: The long anticipated iPad arrived in April of 2010. This megasized iPod Touch does much more than the Nook and the Kindle put together. The iPad plays music in an iTunes format, surfs the Web on a 9.7 inch backlit LED touch screen, and reads iBooks available for download from the iBookstore. Like the Nook, the touch screen lets you simply swipe your finger across the screen to turn the page. The incredible breakthrough tech-



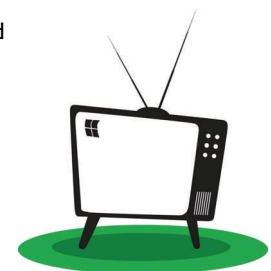
nology of the Multi Touch (tm) feature allows for multiplayer gaming. Unlike the Nook or the Kindle, for 3G, you pay a monthly fee and the actual 3G iPad is \$100 more. This Apple product is incredible, but the price might be too high for some gift-givers this year.

There are many e-readers out there, but these three are currently the most popular on the market. If I had a choice, I would go with the iPad. However, the price is more than 3 times higher than the Nook and the Kindle. So, with all of its features and one low price, the Nook seems like the optimal choice this year. Whichever one comes out

Poll Question

Every year beginning just after Thanksgiving the television networks begin to broadcast Christmas specials. This got us to thinking about our favorites here at NewsLink and then we wondered about yours. So, kind readers, please share with us your favorite Christmas special and we will post the answers in our January edition. Send your answer to pollquestions.panthernewshl@hotmail.com. Here are a few to get you thinking:

A Christmas Story
National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation
Frosty the Snowman
Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer
A Charlie Brown Christmas
How the Grinch Stole Christmas



Christmas and Holiday Traditions, cont'd

(continued from Page 1)

our neighborhood, singing Christmas carols and collect donations. Then, we go back to her house for food and hot chocolate.

Matthew Coyle: We each get one ornament each year and that we cut off the bottom of every Christmas tree we get each year and keep it in a tote. We have been doing this for twenty five years.

Eric Field: Our family's Christmas traditions are going to the Cantata at church, going to church on Christmas Eve, staying home for Christmas, having Communion at church the day before Christmas, opening our presents on Christmas Eve, putting up the tree and lights around Thanksgiving time. Sometimes, we sing a Christmas song at church at an event called Singspiration. I, myself, am quite a "traditionalist" and like to drink eggnog, have candy canes, eat gingerbread men and more. It is quite fun here on Christmas Eve at the Field house.

Andrew Goewert: One of our traditions is we each pick out a Hallmark ornament every year at a Hallmark store (usually Halls in Kansas City). We usually decorate the tree with my Grandmother. Her tree is so huge that it takes almost a whole weekend to decorate it. We also make Christmas cookies. My favorites are gooey butter cookies, chocolate chip and peanut butter.

Anna James: On December 26th my mom, my dad, my brother and I go to my Grandparent's farm to celebrate Boxing Day. Boxing Day occurs every December 26th and it is

observed in many different countries including United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Nigeria, Kenya, etc. The traditional celebration was to include giving money and gifts to the poor and to those who needed it the most. Many families would box up their left over food and take it to the poor. Hence it was called "Boxing day".

On Boxing Day, my family exchanges gifts and shares a really delicious meal. Then some of us play board games or go for a walk. It is such a fun time together. I love Boxing Day. It is one of my favorite holidays!

Nancy Rice: Some people bring hats, jewelry, shoes, and toys back from trips but my family brings back Christmas nativities. One of our Christmas traditions is putting up our many nativities. We have not two or three but six nativities! These nativities come from all over the world. One of the nativities, the newest one comes from Lima, Peru, it is approximately, 2 inches tall. It is a Peruvian hat and inside this Peruvian hat is the nativity. The next nativity comes from Haiti and is small. Each person in the nativity is colorfully dressed and are wearing a head covering. Our third nativity is from Kenya from a group called Amani ya Juu, this a group of Kenyan women that make crafts that our from different tribes that would normally be fighting, here is a link to there site, <http://www.amiafrica.org/>. Our next nativity set is from Ethiopia, my grandparents went their as missionary, it is made on a pale wood.

The fifth one is from Liberia and is a dark brown wood. The sixth one is from the USA and is made of clay and my sister made it. So that is one of the many Christmas traditions my family has.

Susan Rice: I can hear my mother's voice in my mind even now as I read the words. *"The Herdmans were absolutely the worst kids in the history of the world... They were so all-around awful you could hardly believe they were real: Ralph, Imogene, Leroy, Claude, Ollie, and Gladys -- six skinny, stringy-haired kids all alike except for being different sizes and having different black-and blue places where they had clonked each other."* Who would think that these kids would want to take part in the Christmas Pageant, but they did. And who would think that a Pageant with Herdmans playing all the key roles would come off any good, but it did. In fact it was the best ever. Without a doubt, reading *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* is one of my favorite Christmas traditions. I love sitting around the Christmas tree in the living room listening to Mom read until her voice gives out, begging her to read just one more chapter. My Christmas wouldn't be the same without the Herdmans.



Remembering Pearl Harbor

By Jacob Schroeder

Most of us have heard of "the Greatest Generation," yet sadly some have forgotten Pearl Harbor Day.

"December 7th, 1941, a day which will live in infamy." Those words, spoken by Franklin Roosevelt, our 32nd president of the United States of America, still holds true today.

At 7:55 a.m. on Sunday, December 7, 1941, U.S sailors spotted Japanese dive bombers and torpedo bombers heading full speed for Pearl Harbor — Battleship Row.

Before they could even react, seven torpedoes struck the U.S.S West Virginia, rendering her useless. Within moments, a single bomb tore thru the deck of the U.S.S Arizona, killing 1,104 sailors and sinking the ship.

At this same time, Japanese fighters attacked the U.S airfields strategically located in Hawaii to defend the mainland. Hickam, Ewa, Wheeler, and Bellows, were hit destroying American aircraft and killing American servicemen and women. In all, only two American aircraft made it into the air.

When the smoke had cleared, 2,335 American servicemen had lost their lives and six American battleships (the U.S.S Arizona, the West Virginia, the Oklahoma, the Nevada, and the Pennsylvania) were sunk or beached .

The only American battleships that escaped major damage were the U.S.S. Maryland and U.S.S Tennessee. Along with that, 200 American aircraft were destroyed and two American destroyers were sunk.

Today, I challenge you to thank a veteran. Without them, we could not enjoy the freedom we have today. And also , "Remember Pearl Harbor."

Pearl Harbor Today

By Karen Goewert

A few years ago, my family spent two weeks in Hawaii. Boogie boarding, swimming with Sea Turtles, seeing volcanoes and enjoying Hawaiian culture were wonderful experiences. However, visiting Pearl Harbor was incredibly moving.

We had heard about the lines that we would encounter so we got there early. We rented the taped tour and it guided us around the site of the memorial telling us about each of the ships that was in Pearl Harbor and what happened. Then we boarded a boat to actually go over to the Arizona Memorial.

Arriving at the Arizona Memorial was a somber experience as the Memorial straddles what remains of the hull of the Arizona. Oil, or the tears of the Arizona, continue to

bubble up to the surface to this day. At the far end there is a wall with the name of every service member who lost their life on the Arizona. Families still gather to find the name of their loved one and often leave mementos and flowers behind.

Across the Harbor from the USS Arizona Memorial lies the USS Missouri — allowing visitors to see where World War II began, and where it ended (the Japanese Surrender took place onboard the USS Missouri). The Missouri, which was decommissioned following the first Gulf War, is operated by a private non-profit organi-

zation. According to Navy retirees that I spoke with, they are hoping that one day the USS Missouri will become part of the Pearl Harbor memorial.



A view of the USS Arizona Memorial from the deck of the USS Missouri, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

Stuff To Do On Christmas Break

By Lucas Schroeder

We all look forward to Christmas break, but sometimes after a few days we begin to get bored and just might start picking on our siblings. So, here is a list of some things you can do that will keep you off Santa's naughty list (and out of trouble with your parents)!

1. Build a snowman. You never know it could just be frosty.
2. While your mittens are still on have a snowball fight. Duck and cover! Did someone just yell incoming?
3. Watch a Christmas movie. You'll shoot you're eye out kid!
4. Play a board game. You just sank my battleship!
5. Sit by the fire. Warmth feels good.

6. Drink some hot chocolate, then see who can drink the most. Please don't hurt yourself!

7. Make a Christmas list. Be careful what you wish for.

8. Go ice skating. Don't fall, be careful.

9. Watch a hockey game. Let's go Blues!!!

10. Play some touch football.(for the guys) Touchdown!!!

11. Go Christmas caroling. Deck the halls with bells of holly.....

12. Read the Homelink newspaper. You're doing it now why not read some more.

13. Go to the mall (for the girls). Shopping!!!

14. Pick out a Christmas tree. Come on, smell some pine needles!!!

15. Remember the true meaning of Christmas. Get some knowledge in you, come on!

Additions by Karen Goewert,
Newspaper Advisor.....

16. If your mom asks, please clean your room! Your holiday will be much nicer if she is happy.

17. If you are a newspaper staff member, please start writing for January.



Photo Contest - Family Portraits

By Matthew Coyle

It is a good idea to have some Christmas decorations in the background or take the picture in front of your Christmas tree. People should wear similar colors. Christmas colors such as red and green are always appropriate.

People tend to blink instinctively when the flash goes off on a camera. To avoid having everyone's eyes closed, use a small pre-flash. Many cameras have these listed

under flash options. People blink during the pre-flash and then their eyes are open during the actual flash. This effectively produces an eye-opening photograph with everyone's eyes open.

How the family members are positioned is very important. The balance of the picture could be thrown off if some are standing and some are sitting. It may seem obvious, but everyone should be facing the camera. This is

sometimes tricky with small children. Be prepared to take several shots. (It is always fun to include the four legged members of the family, if you can get them to sit still and look at the camera!) It is not important to have everyone smiling, but they should just be looking like they are having fun together.

Turn in your favorite portrait by January 3 to win a \$5 Borders Gift Card. Enter at:
pantheranthernewshl@hotmail.com

Hanukkah

By Daniel Elson

You may think that Hanukkah is a Jewish celebration of Christmas because it falls on the same month but in fact Hanukkah was a Jewish holiday for more than 150 years before Jesus was born.

Hanukkah is a Jewish festival that falls on the 25th of the Kislev month, according to the Hebrew calendar, which this year is the first though the eighth of December on the American calendar. The celebration of this festival continues for eight consecutive days and nights. In Hebrew, the meaning of the word Hanukkah is dedication. This festival is celebrated to celebrate the victory of minority community of Jews over the powerful Syrians in 165 BC.

The history of Hanukkah can be traced back to the rededication of the holy temple of Jerusalem by the Jews, by emerging victorious over the Hellenist Syrians in 165

BC. The Syrians forced the Jews to worship the Greek gods and prohibited them from practicing their rituals. Even their holy temple was seized in 168 BC and was dedicated to Zeus. Not much time later, the angry Jews decided to fight back and restore the dignity of their holy temple. The fighting began in a village close to Jerusalem, known as Modiin.

But true Jewish revolt started much earlier some when Jews were asked by a Greek officer to bow to an idol and eat a pig's flesh, which is forbidden by the Jewish religion. This angered one of the Jews who killed the officer and went into hiding with his family. There he was joined by the rest of the Jews, who were willing to fight against the Greeks. This group of Jewish warriors ambushed the Syrians soldiers whenever they got an opportunity. Soon Judah Maccabee (third son of Jewish priest Mattathias) the leader of the Jewish revolt went to the holy temple with his soldiers.

In the temple, Judah found many things broken and missing. The temple was cleaned and repaired by Maccabee and his soldiers and then, a big dedication ceremony was held there. Then Judah also wanted to light the golden menorah in the temple, but they could only find a small flask containing oil, which was enough to light the menorah for a day. However, the oil lasted in the menorah for eight days, very miraculously.

Today many Jewish families still celebrate Hanukkah by lighting the menorah.



Christmas Around the Time of the Great Depression

By Sam Ward

It seems that for many people today Christmas is more about stampeding through the doors of a superstore on Black Friday than it is about being with friends and family to celebrate the birth of Christ. I recently spoke with my Great Grandma, Clara Barton about what was like for her as a child in

the mid 1920's to early 1930's. By comparison, her experiences were simpler and far gentler than the season seems today.

Clara Barton (nee Weber) was born in St. Charles Missouri in 1923. She was one of five children in a third generation, German family that was never starving but worked hard to make ends meet. Her mother was at

home and her father worked at the shoe factory when she was little. Christmas time for her was a season of gatherings, church attendance and simple anticipation. I conducted the following interview with her to find out more first hand; *SW: What did you do at home to get ready for Christmas?*

CB: Mom started making cookies the

Christmas Around the Time of the Great Depression (cont'd)

first part of December. I remember a couple of types. One was called "rocks" they came out in mounds and then there were oatmeal raisin and sugar cookies. She had a huge pot and she had cloth bags. She put each type of cookie in a separate cloth bag. Then, she closed them in the pot and we were not allowed to touch them until Christmas time.

SW: Do you remember any special decorations such as Christmas trees or stockings?

CB: We had a live tree that we bought at the grocery store. We lived close to the store and walked up to get it. The adults put the tree up in the living room shortly before Christmas. Before I was born, the trees were decorated with ornaments and candles but we had colored electrical lights and ornaments. The boy's electric train was put around the tree. The doors were kept shut and the children were not allowed in there until Christmas Eve. Then, we waited outside the door and when they were opened we were allowed in to see the tree and open, at most, three small presents each. It was a hard times back then. It was during the Depression.

SW: Did you have any special foods?

CB: We went to our Aunt and Uncles on Christmas day. They had a big basement, so all the relations could gather there. We had tables set up in the basement for the dinner. We had Chicken, turkey, pie, sweet potatoes, vegetables and

cakes. Then we played with our cousins all day. It was too cold to go outside so we played carefully in the basement.

SW: Do you remember what gifts you got?

CB: Dolls, games and clothes. The girls received a doll and a set of clothes. The boys got toys, a book and clothes. Girls might get a book every once in a while. They boys might get a larger gift like a sled but everyone was allowed to use it. It was a family toy. We always had snow on the ground come Christmas.

SW: Did you celebrate at school?

CB: We made ornaments for our parents. The boys brought a boy gift and the girls brought a girl gift for no one in particular. The teacher put them into separate piles and passed them out at the end of the day.

They were all dime store things. For boys it was a small car or marbles.

The girls got ornaments. I remember getting a

little cardboard snowman with silver sprinkles on it. I hopefully still have in my ornaments down in the basement. Each child gave a gift to the

teacher.

SW: How did you celebrate at church?

CB: We had a Christmas service and party at Church the weekend before Christmas (St. Johns Evangelical UCC still stands, well-attended on Fifth Street in St. Charles today). People gave the children colorful bags with apples, candy and oranges in them. We were allowed to eat it at church and brought any leftovers home. We also had a Christmas morning service.

I really enjoyed interviewing my great-grandma. I learned a lot about the attitude that people had toward Christmas back then. I feel nostalgic but also thankful for the things today like the Christmas lights at Tilles Park and mostly that the majority of people in our community are more financially secure than they were during the Depression.



Sam's Great-Grandmother, Clara Barton, as a young girl with her family. Mrs. Barton is the 2nd from the left in the white dress.

Christmas Decorations and Traditions Around the World

By Emma Bujnak

In America, Christmas decorations and traditions differ in every house. Some people have fake trees, LED lights, and huge inflatable reindeer for decorations. Others cut their own tree, and use popcorn and cranberries to trim it. Most families go somewhere in between. On Christmas, Santa Claus or Saint Nicholas will bring toys to good girls and boys, and Christmas carols ring through the air. But all of these customary decorations and traditions that we celebrate in America are brought from countries all around the world, like Mexico, Italy, Russia, France, and Germany. What do people there do during this happy season?

Feliz Navidad! That's how you say, "Merry Christmas" in Mexico. Mexicans celebrate Christmas in a way that really respects Jesus' birth. They decorate their houses with poinsettias, nativity scenes (*Nacimiento*), stockings, and small trees. Some people even have piñatas. The Holy Child and the three Magi come, instead of Santa Claus.

Buon Natale - Merry Christmas, in Italy. Italians also focus on Jesus' birth while celebrating. People fast all day on Christmas Eve, until their meatless meal at nighttime, before a midnight church service. The next day, there is a feast of all meat, and then another church service. The church services last until January 6th (the Epiphany), when *La Befana*, the old lady, comes. And, although trees and lights are becoming more popular, nativity scenes (*Precipio*) and fruit are the main decorations in Italy.

"С Рождеством" - that's how you say "Merry Christmas" in Russian. Before 1992, celebrating Christmas in Russia was illegal. But now, Russians celebrate on January 7th, because their calendar is 13 days behind ours. For a few weeks in December, Russians fast from meat, eggs, and milk. On Christmas, they have a feast of meat pies, fruit pudding, and meat dumplings, then, a priest comes to bless each home. Sometimes, parents give children sweets as presents, but three popular figures stand as the main gift-givers: Saint Nicholas, Grandfather Frost, and Snegurocha, the snow princess. Families use figures of these people to decorate their homes.

Joyeux Noël! That's what you'll hear at Christmastime in France. The French decorate their homes with Christmas trees (trimmed with paper flowers and fruit), manger scenes (*crèches*), and mistletoe, hung to bring good fortune. Some families go to a Christmas mass, but unfortunately, only a few. Children set their socks or shoes in front of the fireplace in waiting for Saint Nicholas.

"Frohe Weihnachten", from Germany! Germany is the main founder of Christmas as we know it, and it's celebrated almost the same way as in America. But, the Christmas tree is the most important part of the holiday in Germany. The tree must not be bought until December 23, a day before you're allowed to decorate it. Children must not decorate the tree or see it until Christmas day, when their mother rings a bell,

and they can come to open presents, and gather fruit and candies from the tree. On Saint Nicholas day, they lay a sock or shoe on the doorstep, so Saint Nicholas can fill it. Another important part of Christmas is the Christmas day feast and Christkndlmrkt. For the feast, Germans serve boar, suckling pig, white sausage, macaroni salad, and a sweet cinnamon bread called *reisbrei*. After the feast, they go to Christkndlmrkt, where there is a parade and other festivities. The song, "Silent Night", originated during the 1800's at a past Christkndlmrkt. Since then, the song, and many other things have changed, as far as Christmas in Germany goes.

So, now you know how America inherited its many different traditions. Maybe you can try celebrating differently this year! Whatever you do, don't forget to focus on "the reason for the season" - baby Jesus!

Feliz Navidad! Buon Natale! С Рождеством! Joyeux Noël! Frohe Weihnachten! However you want to say it - Merry Christmas!



Game Reviews

Cabela's Dangerous Hunts 2011

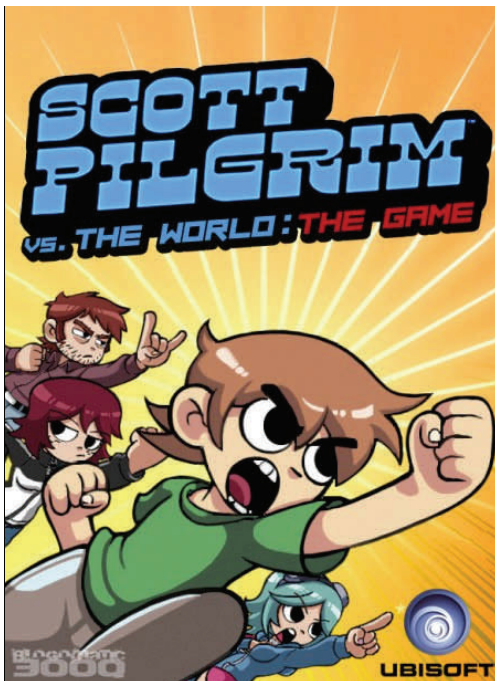
By Jacob Schroeder

Rated T for : Violence and Blood

Man has always been the top hunter until now! Dangerous Hunts '11 is a suspense driven, heart-stopping game full of close calls and gut wrenching terror. Hunt 14 of the world's most dangerous game; from bears to rhinos; bloodthirsty wolves to packs of hyenas; this game is sure to get your adrenaline pumping!!!

Overall I give this game an A- for great graphics, an intense story mode and fun one-on-one multi-player mini games. The controls on Wii are pretty hard; easier on PS3 and Xbox 360 (similar to Call of duty).

I hope this review helps anyone who is thinking about buying this game.



Scott Pilgrim Vs. The World the Game

By: Tyler Schneider

Rated T for: Animated Blood, Cartoon Violence

Scott Pilgrim vs. the world the game is a downloadable game for the ps3 or xbox 360.

The story is that if Scott Pilgrim wants to date Ramona Flowers, then he must fight her 7 Deadly Ex boyfriends. This game is extremely fun and very addictive! It has the style of an old side-scrolling arcade game, but with tons of new twists. This game has a 4 player co-op mode that is loads of fun if you are bored one day and want to play with a friend! Now, I have to mention this game's soundtrack because if you bought this game and never really played it, it would've been worth the money just for the music! This game is a great downloadable game and I hope that if you buy, that you will enjoy it! Good luck!

Stopping at Chimichanga's Mexican Restaurant!

Eat with Emma!

By Emma Bujnak

Today, we'll be stopping at one of my favorite restaurants - Chimichanga's! As you walk into this colorful building, you'll see colored Christmas trees (only out in December) and Christmas lights, which they keep up all year! This place is no Taco Bell - it's the real thing! As you sit down, a real Mexican waiter serves you warm chips and fresh salsa (with extra cilantro) - which, by the way, you won't be able to stop eating!

Even if you're not a Mexican food fan, I'm sure you'll love it here (my brother always orders a cheeseburger)! But, if you do like

Mexican food, I would suggest the Lunch Fajita - a sizzling platter of meat and veggies, served with guacamole, salsa, and Mexican rice with refried beans. Some of my other favorite foods to get here are the White Queso dip and Sopapillas - tortillas coated in butter and cinnamon, then fried and topped with honey and ice cream.

If you want to try something a little more adventurous than Chimichanga's, try two other restaurants - *El Burrito Loco* or *El Taqueria Bronco*. If you want to be even more adventurous, try *Latino Americana*, a Central American owned grocery store, located across the street from

Chimichanga's. When I was there, I saw fresh pig's feet! Now that's something I won't try!

Whether you want to go to Chimichanga's, El Burrito Loco, or El Taqueria Bronco, just promise me that you won't order a cheeseburger! Try something new! J

Chimichanga's Mexican Restaurant
5425 South Grand Blvd.
63116

El Taqueria Bronco
2812 Cherokee St.
63118

El Burrito Loco
3611 Bates St.
63111

Fresh Salsa & Guacamole

Makes about 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups of salsa and 2 cups of guacamole

Ingredients:

- about 6 Roma tomatoes;
- a bunch of cilantro
- 1 jalapeño
- small or medium sized wedge from onion
- salt and pepper to taste (For guacamole)
- about 1 tsp. lime juice
- 1 or 2 avocados

Dice tomatoes. For juicy salsa, put tomatoes in a food processor, and pulse until desired texture. For chunky salsa, cut tomatoes into about popcorn-kernel sized pieces. In small food processor, pulse or puree onions. Then, cut the jalapeño long ways, carefully, without touching the inside. Cut out the pulp and seeds. Add the jalapeño to the onion and puree. Mix with tomatoes in a bowl and add salt, pepper, and cilantro. Enjoy!

Movie Reviews

The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader

Coming to theaters: December 10, 2010

Rated: PG

Storyline

Lucy and Edmund Pevensie return to Narnia with their cousin Eustace where they meet up with Prince Caspian for a trip across the sea aboard the royal ship The Dawn Treader. Along the way they encounter dragons, dwarves, merfolk, and a band of lost warriors before reaching the edge of the world.



Megamind 3D

In theaters now!

Rated: PG

Storyline

After super-villain Megamind (Ferrell) kills his good-guy nemesis, Metro Man (Pitt), he becomes bored since there is no one left to fight. He creates a new foe, Titan (Hill), who, instead of using his powers for good, sets out to destroy the world, positioning Megamind to save the day for the first time in his life.

Gulliver's Travels 3D

Coming to theaters: December 22, 2010

Rated: PG

Storyline

Travel writer Lemuel Gulliver takes an assignment in Bermuda, but ends up on the island of Lilliput, where he towers over its tiny citizens.



Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1

In theaters now!

Rated PG-13

Storyline

Voldemort's power is growing stronger. He now has control over the Ministry of Magic and Hogwarts. Harry, Ron, and Hermione decide to finish Dumbledore's work and find the rest of the Horcruxes to defeat the Dark Lord. But little hope remains for the Trio, and the rest of the Wizarding World, so everything they do must go as planned.

SPORTS

By Sam Ward reporting from Baddeck Nova Scotia.

Curling is a famed sport in Canada with over 1.5 million participants. It is played on ice with stones and is similar to Bocce Ball. The goal is to have your stones closest to the center of a target at the opposite end of the playing surface while eliminating the stones of your opponent. While visiting Canada, I tried my hand at Curling at the Baddeck Curling Club in Baddeck Nova Scotia.

When I walked in the door I had to remove my shoes and put on clean shoes that had never been used outdoors. The club was pristine and removing one's outdoor shoes helps to preserve the cleanliness of



Photo Above: Sam tries his hand at Curling taking lessons on a recent trip to Nova Scotia.

Curling

the facilities and ice. The head children's coach, a nice lady named Mrs. Ann Robinson helped me to put duct tape on the sole of my left shoe in order to help me learn to slide on the ice. Without it, my shoes would have gripped more and frustrated me as a beginner.

Approximately fifteen kids trickled from nearby schools and were helped with taping their shoes. When everyone was taped-up and had helmets on, we began our curling session with warm-up stretches. Next, we headed out to a 138' x 40' rectangular sheet of ice that had three lanes with targets painted into the ice on each of the ends. Each kid took a "broom" which is a stick with a pad on the end and we began to practice sliding on the ice.

To slide, if you are right handed, you must go into a crouching position with your right knee near the ice and your left foot flat on the ice in front of you. The broom is used for balance and held in the left hand. The right hand is used to hold the curling stone. Next you push off from a block or "hack" with your right foot while your left foot remains planted on the ice in front of you. After you push off you

drag your right foot behind you like a rudder and release the stone to continue down the ice toward your target or "house".

The stone is a 42 pound, polished, puck-like chunk of Scottish granite with rounded sides and a plastic handle set into the top. My coach was a very kind man named Mr. Harry Faulkner. Mr. Faulkner is a retired P.E. coach and 6th grade teacher. He taught me the basic skills of sending a stone down the sheet. In his words; "Say your stone is a clock. Bring the tip of the handle down to six o'clock. Then, as you push off turn it to 4 o'clock which makes curl to the left. The same goes for eight o'clock which makes it curl to the right." This helps to give the stone direction when knocking the other team's stones away from the "house." Mr. Faulkner was an excellent and friendly coach and I enjoyed my time with him. Curling is a game of skill and strategy. I enjoyed the people and the sport so much. I was so fun that I found myself sad that I only had one day to participate. If I lived in Nova Scotia I would be curling almost every day!

The Monthly Scoreboard — Baseball Winter Meetings

By Andrew Goewert

Earlier this month, Major League Baseball held its annual Winter Meetings at the Swan and Dolphin in Walt Disney World. Staff members from each of the 30 teams met for four days to sign and trade players around the clock, to start on making up their 2011 clubs.

The St. Louis Cardinals made a few moves, signing Lance Berkman, the former Cardinal killer, to a one year, \$8 million contract that brings him back to the NL Central to play Outfield. Berkman has not played outfield on a regular basis since 2004, and most are worried about him holding up. "Obviously, it's a question, but he looked to be in great shape. He lost some weight and is running real well. So we have a high level of confidence in him." said Cards GM John Mozeliak. We also acquired former Cubs middle infielder Ryan Theriot from the LA Dodgers and signed him to a \$3.3 million contract reports Fanhouse.com, but the Cardinals have not released the official price.

Following the Winter Meetings, Shortstop Brendan Ryan was traded to the Seattle Mariners in exchange for minor league pitcher Maikel Cleto. Cleto, known as a hard throwing right-handed pitcher, has a 100 mph fastball! Cleto will likely strengthen the bullpen, though he may initially start in either Springfield or Memphis. While some believe that Ryan could have been worth more, considering that he is one of the best defensive shortstops in the league, gaining a pitch-

ing prospect of Cleto's caliber is a good move for the Cardinals who have historically struggled with pitching.

Probably the biggest story right now in Cardinal Nation is the fact that Albert Pujols remains unsigned past the 2011 season. Speculation, based on the Ryan Howard signing last April, is that signing Pujols is going to take big money! Fortunately, we still have a year to sign him, but Cards fans remain uneasy that Pujols may not be a Cardinal past the 2011 season.

Lots of moves have been made around the MLB before the meetings, like the Red Sox traded for first baseman Adrian Gonzalez, and Jason Werth signed a reported seven year, \$126 million contract with the Washington Nationals. Adam Dunn, the 31 year old slugger signed a four year, \$56 million deal with the Chicago White Sox, bringing him to a hitter friendly ballpark. The last headliner is outfielder Carl Crawford, who signed with the Red Sox for a deal of \$142 million for seven years.

There are plenty of free agent major leaguers still out there, like the leftie ace Cliff Lee, who has had offers from the Rangers and Yankees, and Washington is in the hunt. Others like pitcher Carl Pavano, pitcher Rafael Soriano,



first baseman Adrian Beltre, designated hitter Jim Thome, first baseman Adrian LaRoche, and designated hitter Manny Ramirez are also available. There are also some trade rumors, but nothing much is likely to happen before the New Year.

Finally, for those of you yearning for warmer weather, take heart. The Cardinals Winter-Warm-Up is scheduled for January 15 to 17 and pitchers and catchers report for Spring Training on February 13 -- just 61 more days! Warmer weather (and baseball) is just around the corner!

Pitchers and
Catchers
Report to Spring
Training on
February 13,
2011

Poetry Corner

Miracle

Lyrics by Trey Brockman

(verse 1)

I loved you
More than you will know
And I cared for you
I loved you
And I cared about you
Look what you did to me

(chorus)

And I

Want to see a miracle

To see you change

To see this change

(verse 2)

All I wanted
Was the best for you
And you gave me your worst
All I wanted
Was for you to love me
Look what you gave to me
Instead

(chorus)

And I

Want to see a miracle

To see this change

To see you change

I

Want to see a miracle

To see you change

To be like Me

(outtro)

I love you

More than you will know

And I care for you.

Papercrafting

By Bowie Avery

As it is my hobby I have come to decide that I should have a contest about it, Papercrafting. So here goes.

The Requirements

- A computer and a printer that you can download a file from then print.
- Scissors or an exacto knife (you need a cutting surface with the knife.)
- Some Elmer's school glue.
- And a camera.

The Papercraft

- <http://cp.c-ij.com/en/contents/3157/cow/index.html>
- Go there and download the file marked "LTR (1 page)"
- Print it out then cut, fold, and glue it together.
- Now for the fun part...
- Find an interesting place to put your papercraft then take a picture of it then send it to panthernewsh@hotmail.com to win a \$5 Borders Gift Card.

Good luck to all.

Pun Intended - By Geddy Avery



Word Jumble - By Nancy Rice

Word Jumbles or Word Scrambles can be a lot of fun.

Here are a few that will test your wits. Enjoy!

RACEANMI

EMBEDREC

GARLYE

BLUREM

RIGHYMN

ACREAM

ARCHPET

FLEWPOUR

RIFTS

DADENYEWS

RATSTING

CMULES

LATCHWEER

EHSO

Holiday Cookie Recipe — Crinkle Cookies

Submitted by Susan Rice

Cookies are a vital part of Christmas, but it seems like I get tired of cooking just about the time I stick the first batch into the oven. Ever feel the same way? Well, problem solved; these cookies are so quick and simple, you'll be done in no time. And they're so TASTY too.

Ingredients:

- 1 (18 1/4 ounce) boxes devil's food cake mix
- 1/2 cup vegetable oil
- 2 large eggs
- confectioners' sugar (for rolling)

Steps:

1. Preheat the oven to 350°.
2. Stir dry cake mix, oil and eggs in a large bowl until dough forms.
3. Roll cookies (by hand) into 1" balls and roll in confectioner's sugar.
4. Bake for 8-10 minutes or until center is just set. (Do not over cook)

And there you go! Four ingredients, four steps and you get some amazing cookies. Enjoy!



December 2010—January 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
12	13	14	15	16 1st Semester Homelink Classes End	17	18
19	20	21 No Homelink Classes	22	23 No Homelink Classes	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day
26	27	28 No Homelink Classes	29	30 No Homelink Classes	31 New Year's Eve	1 Happy New Year!
2	3	4 2nd Semester Homelink Classes Begin	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13 New Edition of NewsLink Available	14	15

Remembering John Lennon

By Eric Field

John Winston Lennon is remembered by many Beatles fans from many areas around the globe on December 8, 2010, which marks the 30th year after John Lennon's tragic death. Many Beatles fans paid tribute to Lennon at Strawberry Fields in New York City.

Lennon was shot outside his New York City apartment building on

December 8, 1980; since then, the area around the Dakota (the apartment building where he had lived and died) has become a big memorial for John Lennon, including such places as the "Imagine" mosaic and Strawberry Fields. These memorials are located in Central Park.

On December 8, many people gathered around the "Imagine"

mosaic to place flowers around the mosaic while playing John Lennon's music. *Rolling Stone* magazine also released Lennon's last interview on December 5, 1980. A vigil was also held in Liverpool, England, at a place called the "Peace and Harmony" memorial. Participants lit candles and sang songs by John Lennon. The "Peace and Harmony" memorial was opened on October 9th of this year.