

OPP NET HERALD

Opportunity Networks Newsletter

In this issue:

- Ashley Reviews Local Pizza Establishment
- Matt's Weather Tips
- Top Holiday Music and Movies
- New Column - Shawn's Musings!
- Annie Gives Insight to Tree Decorating
- Jobsite Review

AND MUCH MUCH MORE!!!

Find Fun For the Whole Family Inside our Winter Newsletter!



Garlic Parmesan Chicken Meatloaves You Say?? Turn to Page 7 for More!

Editors:

Andrew

Kristine

What is the Best Holiday Movie Ever?

Check out Ben's Bracket on Page 10 to Find Out!



Turn to Page 9 to hear Shawn's Good and Bad of Winter!

Did your Top Holiday Song Make the Cut? Find Out on Page 3!

Turn the Page for More Fun!

Christmas Trees: More Than Just a Decoration

By: Annie



This time of year people are decorating Christmas trees. The tradition started in the 16th century in Germany. Now there are lots of different ways people decorate their Christmas trees, but just about everyone uses ornaments on the tree. I have a lot of ornaments that are special to me and my family. I have one that my mom made for me from when I was a baby. My brother has one from school that he made when he was 7 years old. My sister has a baby ornament like me. Decorating the Christmas is really special to me because it reminds me of good times I had when I was a child and it reminds me of how important my family is to me. Decorating the Christmas tree is something I enjoy a lot because of this.

I sometimes get frustrated, stressed and nervous when I'm in a place where I don't know lots of the people there. That happens at holiday parties a lot! I learned while writing this article that asking people about their favorite ornament, might be a good way to start a conversation with them. Next time you're in this situation, maybe you can ask someone about their favorite ornament to help break the ice!

There is also the topic of real versus fake tree. I talked to some friends and surveyed them to find out if they prefer a real tree or a fake tree. 10 people prefer fake trees and 8 people like real trees. One reason why people like real trees is because they smell nice. Some people said they prefer fake trees because they put up the tree early and pets leave them alone. This is another thing you could ask someone at a Christmas party if you want to start a conversation.

Matt's Holiday Song Roundup

By: Matt



Here at Opportunity Networks we wanted to get into the Holiday spirit by ranking our favorites! We also wanted to include the top 10 from across the US. We hope that we can inspire some new selections for you to play while gathering with family this Holiday season.

Matt's Top 10 Christmas Songs (and why I like them)

1. Baby Please come home By Darlene Love - I like that it's supportive to those who have loved ones over seas
2. The magic of Christmas Day by Celine Dion - It captures the beauty people see on Christmas Morning, both presents and loved ones
3. Oh Holy Night by Celine Dion - I like the story of the song, and Celine Dion sings it great
4. Merry Christmas darling by Karen Carpenter - It's represents people saying Merry Christmas to others far away from them, like in Vermont or New York or California
5. Mary's Boy Child by Boney M - I like the storytelling in this song
6. Jolly Old Saint Nicholas/The Little Drummer boy by The Ray Conniff Singers - Mixture of two classics, the transitions just rips right into the next excellent song
7. Do You hear what i hear by Bing Crosby - The original holiday classic!
8. Christmas Time in the Granite state by The Fat City Band - A very local song, it tells people from outside of the state how we like to do things during the holiday season!
9. Have yourself a Merry Little Christmas by Frank Sinatra - It's an oldie but a goodie
10. Winter Wonderland by Jewel - It covers when you walk outside after a snowstorm. Do I like the snow? Yes and no...

How do you feel about this list? You should try making your own top 10. It's a little hard than you think!

Winter Weather Report

By: Matt



Winter Weather Report 2025

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (AKA NOAA) is Currently Predicting that New Hampshire will have above normal levels of precipitation for December Coupled with warmer temperatures. This is following 2023's record Setting warmest year in New Hampshire. La nina is Predicted to drive the weather pattern this winter.

Tips and Tricks to get ready for Winter!

- Slowly condition your home to cooler temperatures.
- Kick rodents and other pests to the curb.
- Stock up on your outdoor hardware.
- Clear vents and chimneys to avoid carbon monoxide mishaps.
- Take preventative measures against pipe freezing.
- Visit your doctor or local pharmacy for a flu shot.
- Outfit your car for winter weather.
- Make an emergency plan with your family.

Volunteering for the United Way

By: Justin



At Opportunity Networks, we volunteer each week for the United Way in Nashua. We help with bringing meals to the kids at the Boys and Girls Club of Nashua from the Nashua Soup Kitchen. We usually go twice a week. We pick up the food from the Soup

Kitchen and then we bring it to the kids for after they get out of school. Staff and program participants both said they enjoy going. One staff said they liked being able to give back and help participants give back to the community. My friend Kevin said he really enjoys going because he likes giving back too. Kevin had never done anything like this before, and he is happy he got a chance at doing it.

Why My Job is Important to Me!

By: Ana

Hi my name is Ana. I have been working at the Boys and Girls Club in Milford NH for one year now. I absolutely love my job! At my job I help keep the building clean for all the kids to enjoy year round. The building is very big and there are a lot of kids. My job consist of cleaning the classrooms, making sure the bathrooms are clean and tidy, sweeping and mopping the floors, and anything else my boss asks of me.

The reason my job is so important to me is, it allows me to earn a paycheck every week. With my paycheck I like to save some money for vacations, going out to eat with friends and family, movies, Trampoline Park and other fun activities. Earning my paycheck makes me feel part of my community. I have made friends at work and that makes me feel happy.

Ashley's Local Food Stops: Naji's Pizza

By: Ashley

I decided to review Naji's Pizza, in Amherst, NH. They have been around for a long time! From their website, they opened in 1988, when Amherst was much smaller. They were struck by an unfortunate event, but it ultimately brought the community together. From their website, "In the summer of 2008, the restaurant, then Amherst House of Pizza, burned down. But the event marked a community-turned-family, as dozens of patrons expressed the significance that the small town, family-owned business meant to their sense of local New Hampshire ideals. Since re-opening, the business has expanded further, hiring staff members, which Naji and his wife Rosie have been grateful to adopt into their own family. Today, customers who once came in as children come in with children of their own. The tradition of family continues."



Naji's is located just down the road from my day program Opportunity Networks. When I walked in to order lunch I noticed that everything seemed very clean. When I ordered my sub at the counter, the person who took my order was very friendly and patient. I ordered the Chicken Salad Sub with lettuce. When I ate the sub I not-

ed that it tasted very good. The chicken salad seemed nice and saucy while the lettuce seemed fresh and crunchy. The Sub roll they made it on was perfectly satisfactory. Overall I enjoyed my experience and would return for lunch again. I give Naji's Pizza in Amherst 5/5 stars!

Jamie's Culinary Corner: Garlic Parmesan Chicken Meatloaves

By: Jamie

As winter approaches, we at Opportunity Networks wanted to focus on a nice comfort food option with a twist. What better way than to spice up your meatloaves with chicken and a nice alfredo sauce! This has quickly become a crowd favorite and we believe it will soon find its way into your regular dinner rotation.

Meatloaf Ingredients:

- 2 lbs ground chicken
- ½ yellow onion, diced
- 8-10 garlic cloves, pressed
- ¾ cup bread crumbs
- 1 egg
- 3 Tbsp fresh minced parsley
- 1 cup of fresh grated Parmesan cheese (from a block, NOT the stuff in the green container)
- Salt to taste
- Black pepper to taste
- Extra fresh grated parmesan on top



Cream Sauce Ingredients:

- 2 Tbsp olive oil
- 3 garlic cloves
- 1 Tbsp all purpose flour
- 1 cup freshly grated parmesan cheese
- 1 ½ cups heavy whipping cream
- 1 Tbsp minced fresh parsley
- Salt



Instructions:

Meatloaves:

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees and grease a muffin baking pan

- In a large mixing bowl, combine ground chicken, diced yellow onion, pressed garlic, bread crumbs, egg, parsley, fresh grated parmesan cheese, salt and pepper. Mix very well, until all ingredients are evenly incorporated.



- You can use an ice cream scoop, but we found it's easier just to use your hands and gently press even amounts of the chicken mixture into each of the muffin tins, all the way to the top. Sprinkle more Parmesan Cheese on top of each one.

- Bake for 22-25 minutes, until the juices run clean. Then broil for 2-4 minutes until the meatloaves are a nice golden brown on top.

Sauce

- Preheat a saucepan over medium heat. Add oil and pressed garlic. Saute the garlic in oil until fragrant, then whisk in the flour until it's incorporated.
- Lower the heat to medium-low and start pouring in the heavy cream while slowly and continuously whisking. Keep whisking slowly until smooth and heated through.
- Once the heavy cream mixture is hot (but not boiling), whisk in fresh grated parmesan cheese and salt. Keep mixing slowly until the cheese all smooth and incorporated.
- Stir in parsley and take off heat.
- Top each mini Meatloaf with creamy sauce as you serve it
- Enjoy!



JAMIE'S FINAL RATING:

**10/10 "Not Red
Sauce, Chicken
Sausage, Yeah"**

Shawn's Musings

By: Shawn

Welcome to our new column—Shawn's Musings. Here I will discuss my thoughts on the current landscape of the seasons. First off, I love the holiday spirit. I love looking at the lights, making gingerbread houses, and all the other things that come with the holiday season. More importantly I like that people can be less stressed, people being nice to one another, sharing is caring with family and friends, and less talk about politics!

Next, is Christmas dinner. The cooking is overrated and too much of a hassle. I am more of a simple pizza guy. Speaking of food, New Year's Eve has a lot of options. I say stick with the classics. I get Chinese food every year, but I actually go out to the restaurant to eat. I go to Aloha in Manchester, NH. I love the owner there! I eat at the bar, which is really nice. I like the free refills on my soda, it's a great deal. My order is usually all meats, including a chicken wing appetizer. No reason to get too fancy. My favorite part of the meal is reading my fortune for the upcoming year.



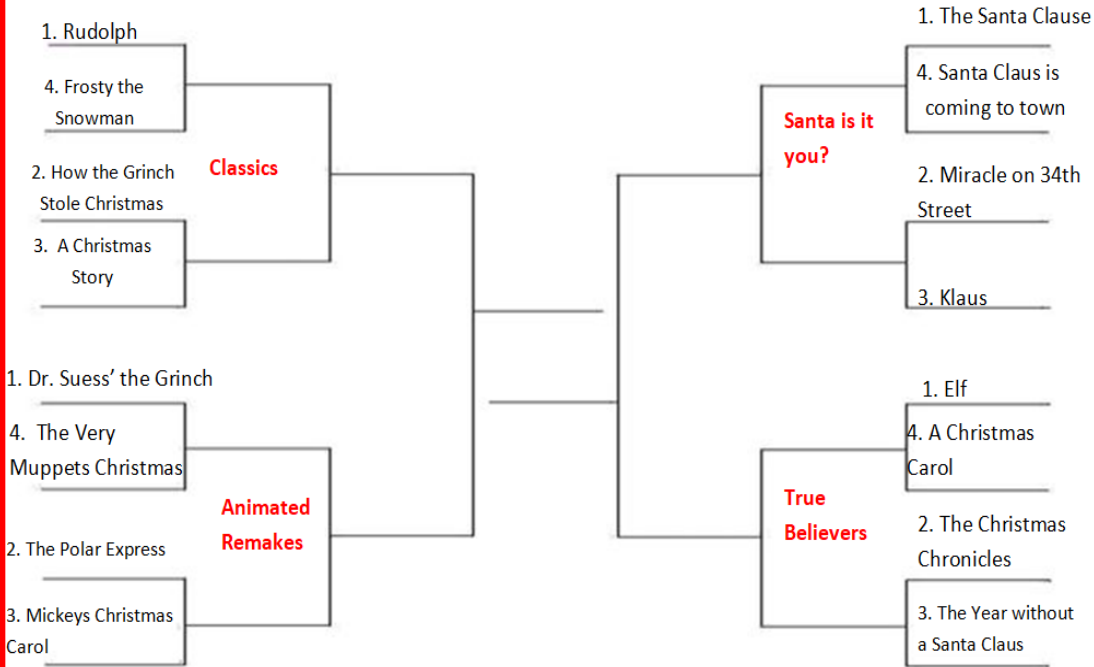
On New Year's Eve I don't stay up late. Every year the ball is dropped, and I'm not the type of guy that stays up late. I am bummed out that the 3 Stooges marathon isn't on anymore. They should bring back that marathon.

Finally the cold weather. I might go out once in a while, but I think the cold weather is lousy. I like hiking in the fall, but the cold weather ruins that.

Thanks for reading my musings.

Holiday Movie Madness

By: Ben



The First Round Match Ups

Classics:

1. Rudolph vs. 4. Frosty the Snowman: Two of the best in this one. Frosty Advances

2. How the Grinch Stole Christmas vs. 3. A Christmas Story: The Grinch proves a lot in this one. See you in round 2.

Animated Remakes:

1. Dr. Seuss' The Grinch vs. 4. The Very Muppets Christmas: The Muppets are the best year round!

2. Mickey's Christmas Carol vs. 3. The Polar Express: The Polar Express is rolling to the second round

Santa is it you?:

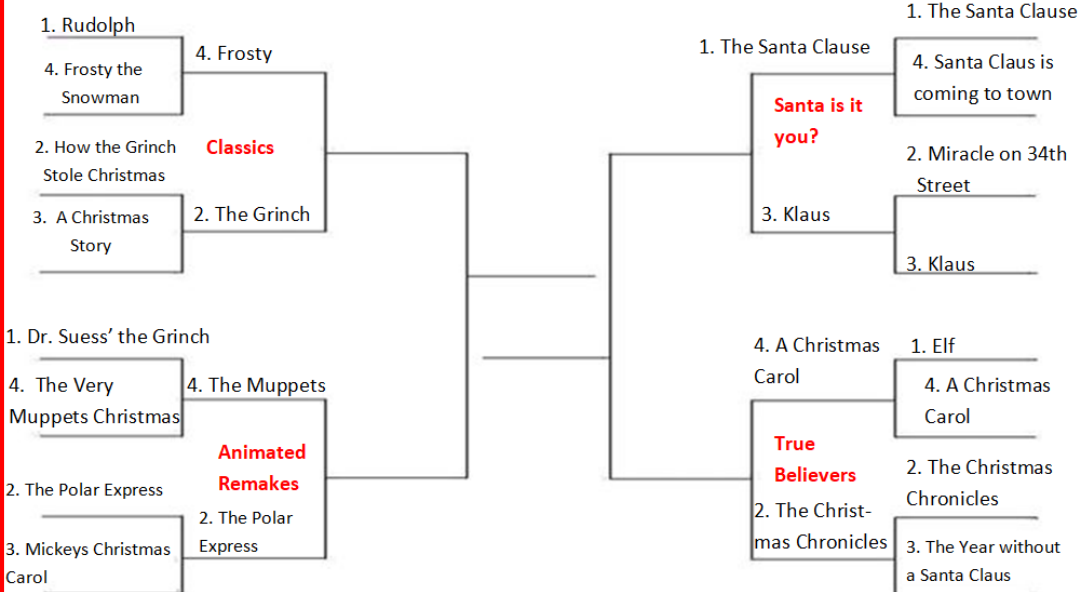
1. The Santa Clause vs. 4. Santa Claus is Coming to Town: The Santa Clause is the clear favorite and will advance

2. Miracle on 34th Street vs. 3. Klaus: Black and white movies aren't going to get it done. Klaus moves on.

True Believers:

1. Elf vs. 4. A Christmas Carol: We have an upset alert! The classic advances

2. The Christmas Chronicles vs. 3. The Year without Santa Claus: The Christmas Chronicles 1 & 2 are enough to move to the second round.



The Elite 8 Match Ups

Classics:

2. How the Grinch stole Christmas vs. 4. Frosty the Snowman: Things heat up and end Frosty's run.

Animated Remakes:

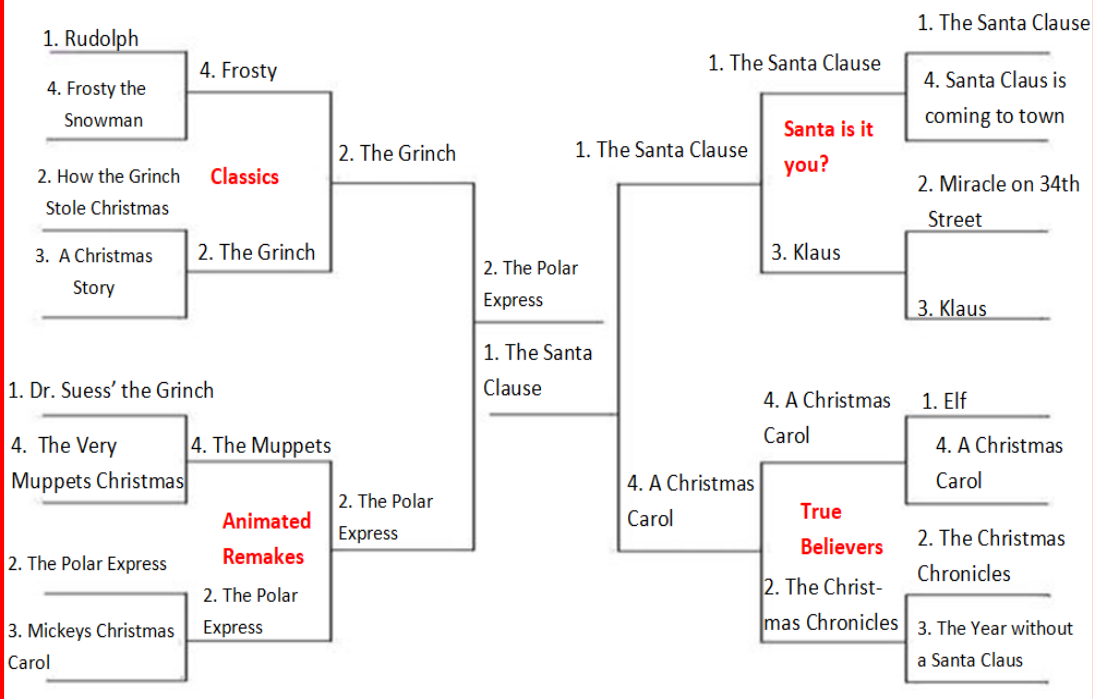
2. The Polar Express vs. 4. The Very Muppets Christmas: The Train keeps rolling to the Finals, The Polar Express wins easily.

Santa is it you?:

1. The Santa Clause vs. 3. Klaus: It's no accident, The Santa Clause is moving on.

True Believers:

2. The Christmas Chronicles vs. 4. A Christmas Carol: Another Upset! A Christmas Carol advances.



The Final 4 Match Ups

2. How the Grinch Stole Christmas vs. 2. The Polar Express: The Grinch can't steal this one, The Polar Express moves on

1. The Santa Clause vs. 4. A Christmas Carol: The Santa Clause might be the most complete movie in this bracket, on to the finals.

The Finals

1. The Santa Clause vs. 2. The Polar Express: The BEST holiday movie is the Santa Clause