

.....keeping you informed
December, 2024



Good Morning Everyone..

Here it is December. Christmas is only a few weeks away. Is your Christmas Wish List done and sent to Santa? Not sure where this year went. Remembering something my Mother would say-'as you get older time moves faster" She may have had something there.

Only a few weeks away. This time of year can mean many things to many people. A joyous time with family and friends. Sharing good times. The family traditions. Holiday decorations throughout the house. And, of course the food. Almost every family has a specific recipe or two that embody Christmas. Keeping special recipes for the holiday season means that everyone looks forward to them all year long.

Many of you may have your Christmas tree up and house decorated. A way of saying it is time to put all the unpleasantness, all the upset to our daily lives, the loss of loved ones and friends, the sadness and uncertainty we have lived through for far too long. But we are here. We have survived.

A little lengthy -but may be of interest--

To bolster the security of the monetary system, the Bureau of Engraving, the Secret Service, and the Advanced Counterfeit Deterrence (ACD) Steering Committee have implemented an initiative to stop U.S. retailers, banks, and ATMs from accepting specific banknotes.

Reports indicate that the dollar bills set to be rejected include those classified as "mutilated" — with cuts, damaged edges, or discoloration. This policy applies to stores and supermarkets such as Target, Walmart, Dollar Tree, Costco, and others.

Currently, the Federal Reserve issues dollar bills in seven denominations: \$1, \$2, \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50, and \$100. While \$500, \$1,000, and \$10,000 bills are no longer produced, they remain in circulation. However, these high-denomination notes can be rejected if they meet the "mutilated" criteria, just like any other bill.

How can you tell if your dollar bill is "mutilated"?

Banknotes typically become mutilated due to factors like "fire, misuse, or even deterioration from burying money," [according to the Federal Reserve](#). Bills with cuts, damaged edges, or discoloration fall into this category.

What should you do with your "mutilated" dollar bills?

If you possess mutilated bills, you'll need to [contact the Bureau of Engraving and Printing](#). Filing a mutilated currency claim is required. The Bureau provides a [step-by-step guide for redeeming such currency](#).

"The BEP will evaluate the note. They have special tools to examine the authenticity and assess the full value of the note. After they do that, they can issue a check back to the consumer," a Fed currency representative explains.

New designs in circulation

Alongside these new security measures, the Federal Reserve plans to release updated designs for the \$5, \$20, \$50, and \$100 bills in the coming years. The updated \$50 bill will debut in 2028, the \$20 bill in 2030, the \$5 bill between 2032 and 2035, and the \$100 bill between 2034 and 2038.

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/money/markets/goodbye-to-these-bills-target-announces-it-will-not-accept-these-dollars-starting-in-december/ar-AA1um>

National Wreaths Across America Day will be held on Saturday, December 14, 2024. A free event open to all, and the organization encourages community members to participate by volunteering locally or sponsoring a wreath for an American hero.

Join the more than two million volunteers and supporters who will gather to Remember, Honor and Teach at more than 4,600 participating locations in all 50 states, at sea and abroad. For more information or how to volunteer go to: [Home - Wreaths Across America](https://www.wreathsofamerica.com)

The theme for 2024: Live With Purpose



Wreaths Across America ensures that once a year, veterans who have passed away are honored with a wreath on their headstones. [Home - Wreaths Across America](https://www.wreathsofamerica.com)

Let's always remember Pearl Harbor



Early on December 7, 1941, citizens and servicemembers alike in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, faced terror as Japanese planes rained fire on the island in a stunning surprise attack. The assault quickly plunged the United States into a world-changing war. Each year, The National WWII Museum commemorates those who lost their lives on that fateful December day.

That day marked the beginning of WWII and the United States involvement. More than 2400 people were killed and 1000 wounded on that day. Military and civilian personnel were included in these numbers.

The USS Arizona Memorial, built in 1962, and located at Pearl Harbor in Honolulu, Hawaii is the resting places of 1,177 sailors and Marines killed on the USS Arizona on that fateful day.

More than two-million people visit this site each year. Accessible only by boat, it straddles the sunken hull of the battleship.

Letters to and from the front lines were a lifeline for service men and women fighting in World War II. Few things mattered more to those serving abroad than getting letters from home, "mail was indispensable," one infantryman remembered. "It motivated us. We couldn't have won the war without it." The mail, whenever it arrived, also helped reassure the worried families of servicemen back home.

A single mail -sack could hold 150,000 one-page letters that would otherwise have required 37 sacks and weighed 2,575 pounds. Between June 15, 1942 and the end of the war, more than 556 million pieces of V-mail were delivered to servicemen overseas — who sent some 510 million pieces in return.

As the troop trains traveled through towns the servicemen would throw notes out the window with their name and address and asked whoever found this to write to them.



Full Cold Moon

December's full Moon, the Full **Cold Moon**, appears on Friday, December 15, reaching peak illumination at 4:02 A.M. EST.

the Geminid Meteor Shower, which peaks on the night of December 13, 2023. This is the biggest light show of the year, with a meteor a minute! Unfortunately, a nearly Full Moon provides less than optimal viewing, so conditions will make it difficult to catch a shooting star.

[Geminid Meteor Shower 2024: See the Geminids on December 13 | The Old Farmer's Almanac](#)

you can observe any time starting around 8 PM and stare at any part of the sky.

The Geminid meteor shower is one of the year's most active and reliable meteor showers! They streak through the sky every minute or two all night.

[The Old Farmer's Almanac - Weather, Gardening, Full Moon, Best Days, Astronomy, News](#)



2025 Social Security benefits will change from January 1 for millions of people

Significant changes **to benefits** will come into effect in the New Year, authorities have confirmed.

Millions of Americans will be affected by the changes to retirees and disability benefits after they were tweaked by the Social Security Administration (SSA), the independent federal agency responsible for managing benefits. The SSA said the cost-of-living adjustment (COLA), which is made to benefits and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) in life with inflation, will mean a rise in benefits pay from January 1.



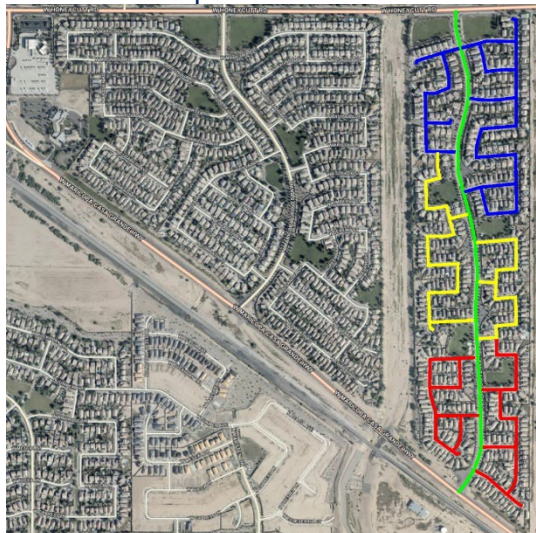
For the complete article go to:

[2025 Social Security benefits will change from January 1 for millions of people](#)

🚧 ROAD WORK ALERT 🚧

Contractors will begin crack sealing work in the Senita subdivision starting Monday, December 2. Expect potential delays in the highlighted areas shown on the map.

Thank you for your patience as we continue to improve and maintain our roads.



Nine days before Christmas in 1965, [astronauts Wally Schirra and Tom Stafford aboard the Gemini 6 told Mission Control](#) that they saw an "unidentified flying object" about to enter Earth's atmosphere, traveling in the polar orbit from north to south. Just as things got tense, they interrupted the broadcast with "Jingle Bells," as Wally played a small harmonica accompanied by Tom shaking a handful of small sleigh bells.



If you arrest a mime, do you have to tell him he has the right to remain silent?

Four fonts walk into a bar. The barman says, "Get out! We don't want your type here."

Money talks. Mine always says goodbye.

Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.

A computer once beat me at chess, but it was no match for me at kickboxing.

What's the difference between ignorance and apathy? I don't know and I don't care.

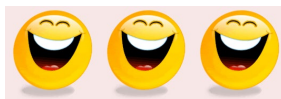
When you're 20 and you drop something, you pick it up. When you're 80 and you drop something, you decide you don't need it anymore.

"The four most beautiful words in our common language: I told you so"

Wal-Mart had to remove 50,000 milk cartons from their store. The label ad to be changed from "open here" to "open at home".

The biggest joke on mankind is that computers have begun asking humans to prove they aren't a robot.

Apparently exercise helps you with decision-making. It's true. I went for a run this morning and decided I'm never going again.



As this is the last Newsletter of 2024 I want to thank everyone who took the time to let me know they enjoyed the Newsletter. Your appreciation of the Newsletter means more than I can express in a few words.

If there is something of interest, a story or remembrances you want to share – send those to me and I will include them in the next newsletter. Questions, comments, critiques are always welcome. And jokes.

Remember to reach out to someone who is alone. This simple gesture lets them know someone cares.

Ray & I want to wish everyone a very Merry & Blessed Christmas.

DecalsForTheWall.com
DecalsForTheWall.com
DecalsForTheWall.com
DecalsForTheWall.com
DecalsForTheWall.com
DecalsForTheWall.com

*Christ
is Born*

Let the Heavens Rejoice
and the Earth be Glad.
- Psalm 96:11

