

THE GORGE GAZETTE

**YOUR GUIDE TO FAMILY FUN
IN THE RED RIVER GORGE**

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The Official (only!) Newspaper of The Red River Gorge

Vol. 2 No. 10 Adventure ~ Relaxation ~ Accommodations ~ Awe Inspiring Natural Beauty ~ Friendly People December 2022

Christmas at Cliffview



This year we'll hold our eleventh annual **Christmas at Cliffview** and it's bound to be the best yet! As with each year, we plan to have lots of good food, good friends and good times! Please bring your friends, family, co-workers, anyone you know that will enjoy a great time, out to party with us on Saturday, December 10, 2022 at the Activity Center in Cliffview Resort. Festivities will begin at 3:30 pm and go until 7 pm. You and your children are invited to attend this happy event. We try to make this event as special for the children of Lee, Wolfe and surrounding Counties as possible; what better way to have a great time than to celebrate with friends and neighbors! Bring your appetite as we are gonna have a super scrumptious full course meal with a big dessert array to feast on throughout the evening. We will have a craft section set up to make ornaments to take home. There will be face painting, a photo booth (bring your camera), storytelling and singing. And Santa will be there! We have some great plans to make this year's party a time to remember by all. Need more info? Call Red River Gorge Vacations at 844.692.2246.

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Christmas Across America

All across America, celebrating Christmas is a joyous, brightly lit occasion. From New York City's Empire State Building lit with green and red lights to the shore of Maui where Santa comes ashore in an outrigger canoe. In between we can witness almost as many ways to celebrate as there are people. We might enjoy the nutcracker performed by the New York City Ballet and more than 200 other companies nationwide. One might find a scarlet garbed Santa schussing down an icy slope in the Green Mountains of Vermont. In Washington D.C. the Georgetown Mall is dressed with more than a mile of evergreen boughs. A holiday visit to Longwood Gardens in Pennsylvania finds the trees covered in so many lights they look like giant glowing gum drops. Christmas carols echo through the world's largest cave system during the Candlelight Carol Sing at Mammoth Cave National Park in Kentucky. "Way down yonder", the banks of the Cane River at Natchitoches, Louisiana, are lit up by hundreds of strands of multicolored lights. Further south, over half a million spectators watch the Fort Lauderdale, Florida Holiday Boat Parade every year. Heading out into the Midwest, we find the prairie sky ablaze with color above Minden, Nebraska. Every holiday season, the residents decorate the dome of their courthouse with thousand of hand-painted bulbs. A little further west we witness a true display of the American Christmas Spirit. The residents of Garibaldi, Oregon send two Santa's helpers to Reno with a pair of 60 foot tall Douglas firs for the citizens of Reno, Nevada. The reason is simple - Christmas trees won't grow in the desert. Now you and your family can create your very own Christmas Tradition. Maybe a yearly trip to visit us again?

Merry Christmas!

Electrifying News!

We have three Tesla Charging Stations, one of which is universal. Now you can recharge your Tesla, Prius, Leaf, Volt, or any electric or hybrid car while enjoying unforgettable time in the Gorge zipping, hiking or just napping. And, we offer this service to anyone,

THE RED RIVER GORGE GAZETTE

The (un) official newsletter of
The Red River Gorge
Slade, Kentucky

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Cliffview Notes is published monthly except January and February for entertainment of Cliffview Resort Guests, Owners, Visitors, Staff, Tourists and Friends.

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Natural Bridge State Resort Park General Information

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"Natural Bridge State Resort Park is hiking, arches, exploring, scenery, reflection, and making memories."

www.parks.ky.gov/findparks/resortparks/nb

Kentucky State Nature Preserve Commission

www.naturepreserves.ky.gov

Red River Gorge National Geological Area (606) 663-8100

www.fs.fed.us/r8/boone/districts/cumberland/redriver_gorge.shtml

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Red River Gorge Trail Crew (Volunteers) www.RRGTC.com

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Email stories, ideas, suggestions, news to: jerrywrison@gmail.com

Things To Do, Places To Visit, Where To Eat In The Red River Gorge



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- **Mill Creek Lake: Kayak & SUP Rentals** 859.300.1330
- **Doggie Daycare Scooter’s Station** South from Resort on Rt. 11, right on Rt 498, right on Rt52 west, left on Rte 399 to # 5814 on mailbox. 606.560.9091
- **Red River General Store:** Hand Dipped Ice Cream, Hoodies, Gifts, Camping Supplies, T-Shirts Fudge, Local Artisan Crafts 1321 Natural Bridge Road (KY Rt. 11) Slade, KY 606.663.885
- **Daniel Boone Liquor:** 606-663-2549; Natural Bridge Rd (KY Rt 11)
- **Red River Gorge Hiking, Rock Climbing:** fs.fed.us/r8/boone/
- **Red River Adventure:** Kayaking and Canoeing redriveradventure.net 606-663-1012
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- **Beech Fork Golf Club:** In Clay City - 606-663-9479
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Santa Claus



"He's makin a list. He's checking it twice."

Santa Claus, the jolly old elf, is so much a part of the American Christmas tradition, one would't think his origin is from traditions the early English, Dutch and German settlers brought with them.

In truth, Santa is the sum of several customs which were only unified about 150 years ago into the modern Santa we know. The story of Santa combines several legends and the life of a real person.

The person was St. Nicholas, a fourth century bishop of Myra in Asia Minor. St. Nicholas is the patron saint of mariners, bakers, merchants and children. A number of legends exist which illustrate his generosity. It is said he gave freely to the poor and helped a distraught man who was about to sell his three daughters to recoup a lost fortune. Later, legends developed St. Nicholas into a man who was especially fond of giving gifts to children and visiting them on the eve of his feast day. When St. Nicholas was depicted in pageants and festivals he always had a long flowing white beard. After the Reformation, a more secular figure took St. Nicholas' place. Some called him Christmas Man.

In France, he was Papa Noel and in England, Father Christmas. In Holland, St. Nicholas was known as Sinterklass. The Dutch brought Sinterklass with them to New Amsterdam.

After the Dutch lost New Amsterdam to the English, Sinterklass was gradually anglicized into Santa Claus, acquiring some of the features of Father Christmas. St. Nicholas' red and white became the colors of Santa Claus' clothes

The German and German speaking Swiss who settled in Pennsylvania held the custom that the Christ Child, Christkindl, would come riding his gray mule on Christmas Eve to leave gifts for the children. Tiny Christkindl entered the houses through the keyhole. Christkindl was Kriss Kringle to the English.

All the traits each of these figures possessed were gradually incorporated into our present Santa Claus. From St. Nicholas came the gift giving. The toy shop at the North Pole and sliding down the chimney are believed to have come from the Christmas Man. When Clement Clarke Moore penned *A Visit from St., Nicholas*, better known as *The Night Before Christmas*, the reindeer-drawn sleigh was introduced.

As it stands now, Good Old Saint Nick is Kris Kringle and is Santa Claus. However Santa is still going through some changes.

The Santa of today is going to have to get out the treadmill, drop a few pounds, opt for oatmeal bran cookies with skim milk and will certainly have to give up that pipe!

*"Merry Christmas to all
And to all, Goodnight!"*





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"On Your Way To The Gorge"

The Message of Christmas

By Jerry Ison

“Put Christ back in Christmas!”

“There's too much revelry!”

“Christmas is over commercialized; it has lost its true meaning!”



And so on and so on. A lament of the times? Yes and no. It is true that many, both in the churches and the laity, bemoan the fact that Christmas has taken on a more "pagan" look than Pope Julius I intended when he established Christ's Mass in the 4th century. It's also true that people have been bemoaning the situation for centuries, so it's not just a modern day observation.

For most early settlers in America, Christmas wasn't even on their calendars. Those pious Pilgrims who had fled England because of religious persecution hated Christmas celebrations.

So much so that in 1659 the Puritans of New England passed a law with a five shilling penalty for "observing any such day as Christmas and the like." Nowadays, there does seem to be a lack of religious emphasis on this holiday, which is a celebration of the birth of the Christian Savior.

True, billions are spent on so-called pagan elements of celebration - drinking, greeting cards devoid of religious messages, parties and extravagant spending.

It is also true and unfortunate that so many people approach the Holiday Season as a month-long orgy of spending and partying culminated by an hour or so of oohs and ahhs over gadgets and gee-gaws.

I can't argue that Christmas definitely isn't a time of glitter and gloss, but it is also a time of appreciation and reflection. Yet, I don't think there's much cause for worry about how and why we celebrate.

The Season is a romantic and joyous time.

A time of wonder and expectation for young and old. One of the things which makes America what it is, is our tolerance, even protection of the rights of anyone to live and enjoy life as they see fit - so long as it doesn't hurt any one else.

By no stretch of the imagination can I foresee anyone being hurt by the joyous celebration of the Holiday Season. In whatever manner.

The very mention of Christmas evokes thoughts of happiness and sharing. A mental picture is invariably one of bright colors, smells and tastes.

The key word is always happy.

I would say this to those who wish to spend the time in worship or attending a church or synagogue, the folks buying all those gifts and throwing all those parties are willing to fight for your right to do just that. Some probably have. To those shoppers and revelers, don't let the spirit of the Season elude you. There is more to living than receiving and giving and it is embodied in the spirit of Christmas.

The message of Christmas is one of hope and love. We are, after all, celebrating the birth of the Savior, Jesus Christ.

As Tiny Tim said, "God bless us, every one!"



*Merry Christmas
and
Peace on Earth*



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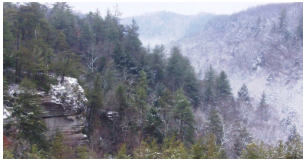
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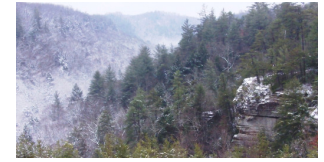


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It Happened In December

December events in Kentucky's history

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author of It Happened Today! In Kentucky History

December 9, 1788 *George Washington, Horse trader.*
Washington traded his horse, *Magnolia*, to Colonel Henry Lee for 5,000 acres of land on the Rough River in what is now Western Kentucky's Grayson County.

December 16, 1921 *Star Attraction is Born - Slowly*
The Natural Bridge State Park in Powell County was dedicated. It was one of the four original state parks. This magnificent sandstone arch was carved by the Red River over a period of 65 million years; is 78 feet long, 65 feet high with more than 15 millions pounds of rock suspended over the giant opening.

December 1, 1934 *The Great Bourbon Tragedy*
The new James E. Pepper warehouse in Lexington collapsed and sent 250,000 gallons of Kentucky bourbon into the city gutters. Talk about waste!

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