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Volume 34, Issue 5

November/December 2022

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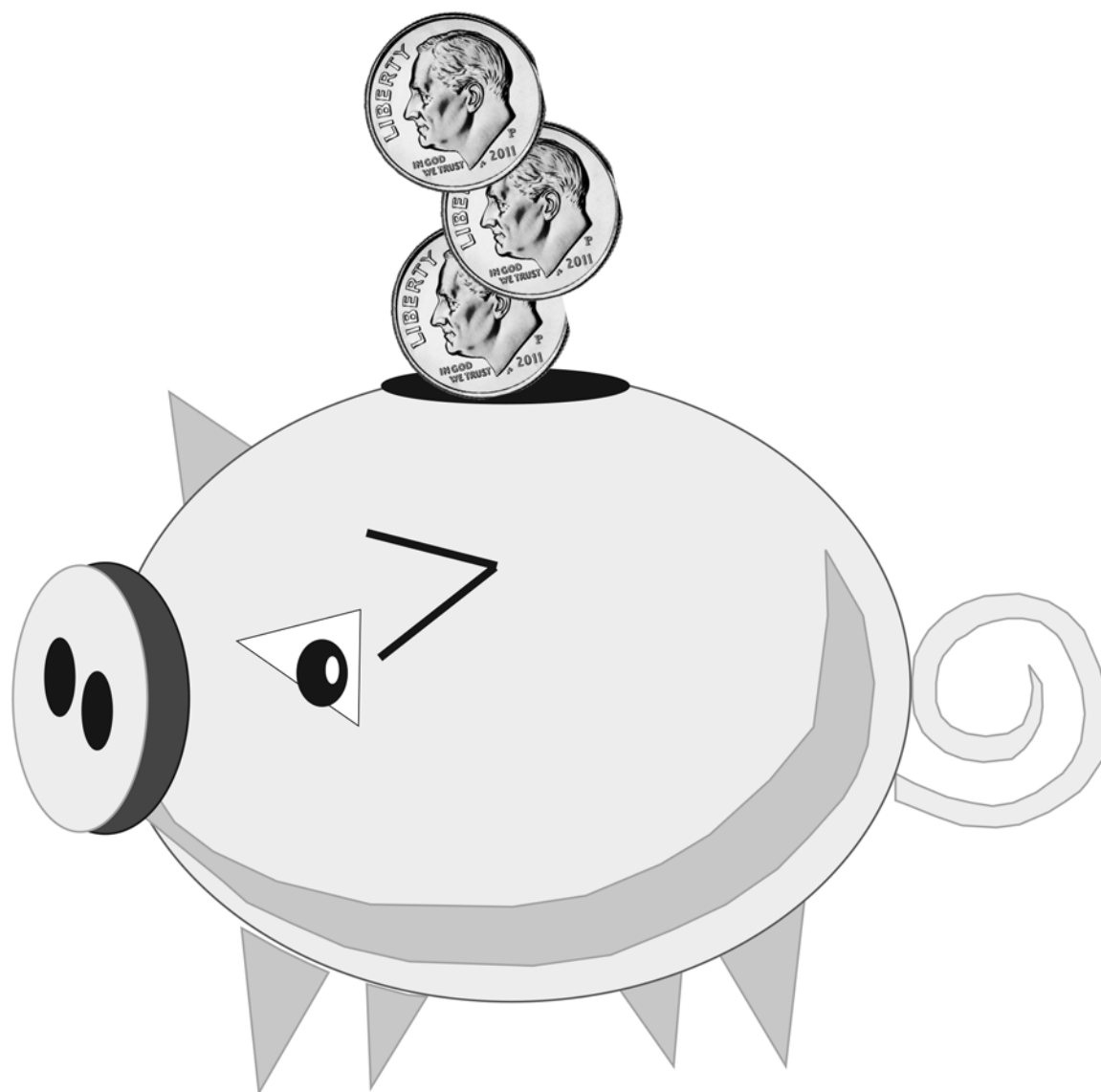
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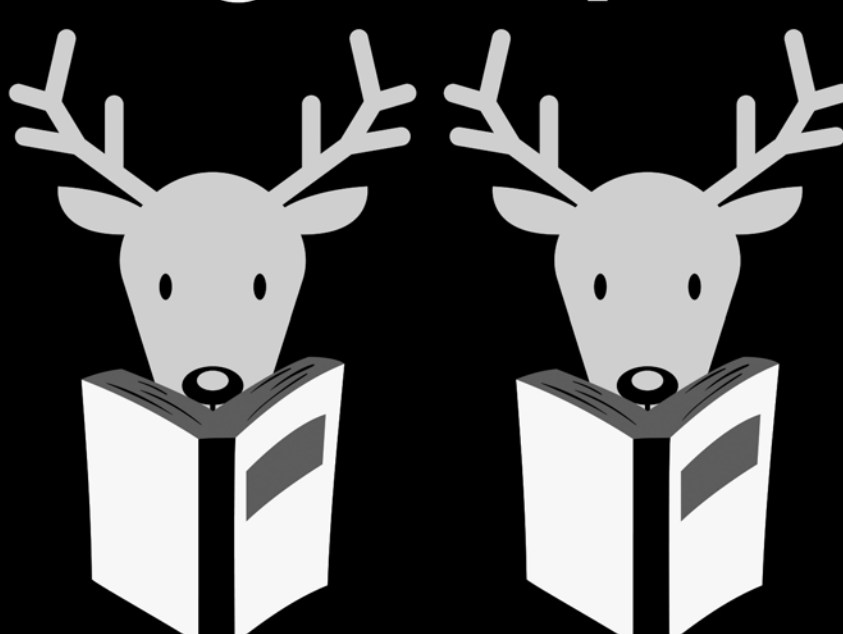
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Letter from the Editor

Dear Readers,

There's Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner, and Blitzen, and of course, the most famous reindeer of them all, the greatest of all time; Rudolph. So, this issue is about reindeer; reindeer jokes and stories about them. We here at *The Waldo Tribune* wish everyone a happy and healthy new year, and a good holiday.

Sincerely,
Eric Wald

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The Waldo Tribune welcomes stories and illustrations. If you have any stories or pictures you would like to share, please send them to: *The Waldo Tribune*, Box 2587, Sag Harbor, N.Y. 11963. Please include a self-addressed stamped envelope!

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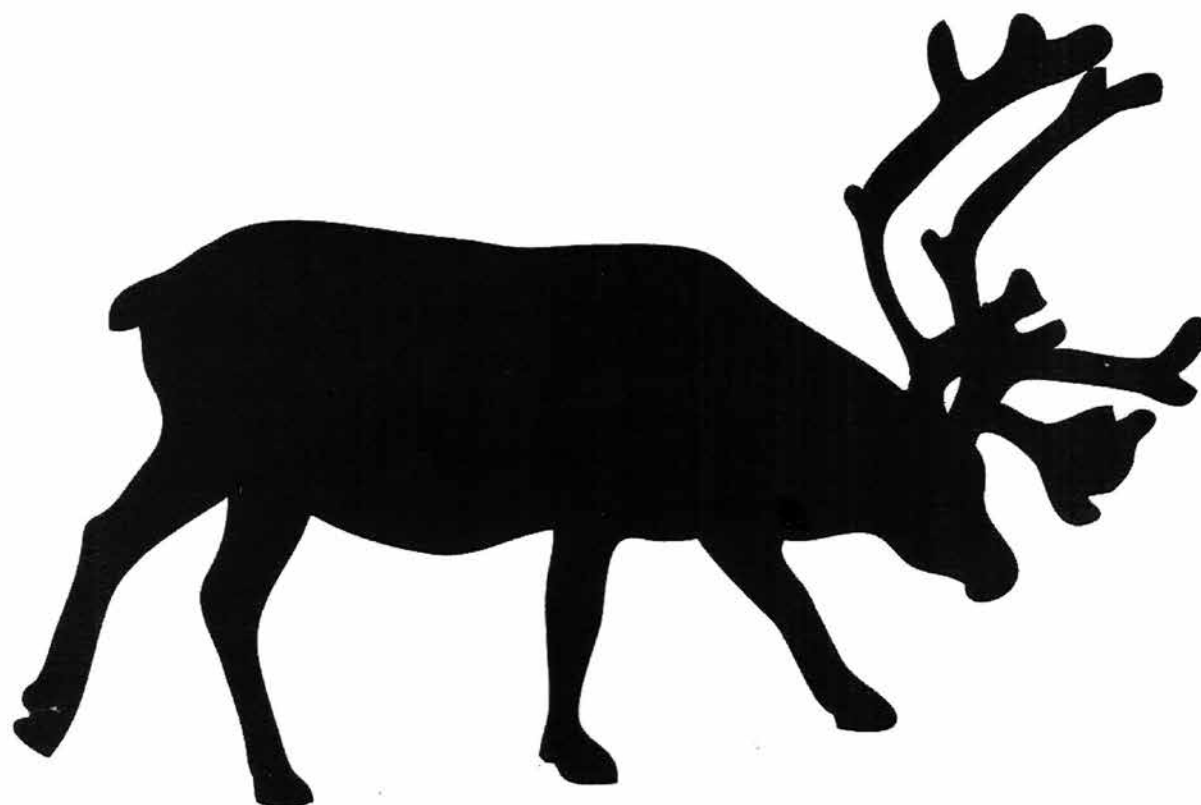
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REINDEER, THEN AND NOW

written by Jerry Cimizi

In the northern countries of Europe they are called reindeer; in North America they are called caribou. It is thought that reindeer were first domesticated thousands of years ago in eastern Russia. There are cave paintings that show reindeer were hunted by people about 45,000 years ago.

Reindeer look like bigger deer with bigger antlers. But unlike deer, both male and female reindeer have antlers. It is estimated there are currently about five million reindeer on Earth. About half of that number are domesticated—in other words, under the control of people.

Male reindeer antlers can grow up to 51 inches long (that's four feet and three inches) and weigh up to 33 pounds. Female antlers can grow up to 20 inches.

Adult males grow new antlers every year and drop their antlers in November, while adult females keep their antlers until April or May. Though wait: don't all of Santa's reindeers pulling that sleigh in December have antlers? That would mean they are female; or they could be young males, who don't drop their antlers until February of the new year.

Incidentally, though no reindeer in real life has a nose like Rudolph, reindeer have 25 percent more blood vessels in their noses than humans do, which help to keep reindeer noses warm in the very cold northern winters.

The eyes of reindeer actually change from gold in summer to blue in winter, during the times of long darkness.

Reindeer live in what are called circumpolar regions—in other words, areas surrounding the North Pole—in Alaska, Canada, Greenland, northern Europe and northern Asia, in tundra, mountains and woodland habitats. Their natural roaming ranges can be as big as 190 square miles. Some caribou, referred to as woodland caribou, can be found as far south as the northern United States,

Reindeer eat lichen (a type of vegetation that grows on trees and rocks) in the winter. In other seasons, they eat the leaves of willows and birches, as well as grasses. They have also been known to eat mushrooms.

Reindeer have a special type of vision: they see light in a wider range of wavelengths, such as ultraviolet. This ability may help them a great deal in the Arctic in the winter when the landscape is completely white, and threats such as predators may escape detection. It is theorized that reindeer avoid power lines because they see them not as harmless structures, but as lines of flickering light.

Perhaps no people have more of a connection to and reliance upon reindeer as those we call Laplanders, and who call themselves the Sámi; they live spread across the colder regions of Sweden, Norway, Finland and parts of Russia. There are today about 80,000-100,000 Sámi. In this area it is said there are more reindeer than people. For centuries they have used reindeer hides for clothing and shelters like teepees, as well as milk and meat. (This is similar to the way the Native Americans of the plains used the buffalo.) And reindeer are also used for transportation. You will see in these regions sleighs being pulled by reindeer.

Finland is very supportive of owning and herding reindeer. In Norway and Sweden only the Sámi can own reindeer and reindeer herds. But in Finland, any citizen of the European Union can own reindeer, as long as he or she are approved by the reindeer herding districts called paliskunta and maintain residence in the locality where they applied.

In Finland, reindeer herds can roam on state-owned or public lands. If a reindeer causes damage to someone's property, the district will pay for the damage, rather than having the owner of the herd foot the bill. And if a reindeer is hit and killed by a car, the district will compensate the owner.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) oversees regulations regarding reindeer, and funds the Reindeer Herding Association, which is made up of the 56 paliskunta. Though even if the government is very supportive of all things reindeer, it is inevitable that the Sámi, who have been around long before there was an MAF, sometimes resent government oversight of their traditions.

Anyway, how exactly did reindeer become associated with Santa Claus?

In 1821, an anonymous poem, "A New Year's Present" was published, mentioning (in one line only) Santa being pulled along by reindeer.

It was two years later that the image of Santa and his reindeer really took hold. Clement Clarke Moore, a professor of languages, wrote the poem, "The Night Before Christmas," to entertain his daughters. Originally Mr. Moore did not want to see the poem published, because he thought it too silly; for decades, he would not claim he had written what had become probably the most famous poem about Christmas—which had to a lot to say about Santa and his reindeer.

In the 20th century would come Rudolph, the Red Nosed Reindeer, further cementing the bond between Santa and his reindeer.

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will be taking an annual seasonal hiatus until Spring of 2023.

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Texas High School Football

written by Chris Clark, age 17
The Waldo Tribune Junior Sports Columnist

When I was five years old, my mom signed me up for a youth flag football team, without asking me whether or not I wanted to participate. I joined the team, and within one day of practicing, I fell in love with the game. Now, 12 years later, football plays a huge part in my life every day. I play, I watch, and I love everything about football.

My story starts just as before, all the way back at the age of five when I played my first ever season. I loved it, and my dad noticed that I loved it, so the next year he decided to get closer with it and coach my team. For the next seven years, my dad and his best friend coached my youth flag football teams. I never really realized how amazing it was having my dad as a coach until he wasn't anymore, but I definitely grew closer to him over those seven years.

Then middle school football started. I really wanted to play quarterback, as that was what I have always played, but things changed and my coach moved me to tight end. My love for football continued to grow in middle school as my first years of tackle football were emerging. And in eighth grade, I started to really grow and turn into a real football player.

Then high school football started. My ninth and 10th grade seasons were spent on the junior varsity football team. I still played tight end, but my love for the game started failing. I was faced with difficult coaching, bad teammates, and a terrible atmosphere for those two years, and in the summer between 10th and 11th grade, I was given an opportunity to switch schools, which I ended up taking.

Now, in 11th grade, I play tight end on the varsity football team and wear #80. I have grown, continued to work hard and am very proud of the football player I have become. I play with a group of coaches that I love as well as the best friends in the world. If football has taught me anything, it is that there will be ups and downs in everything that you do, but if you persevere and stay persistent, it will all be worth it in the end.



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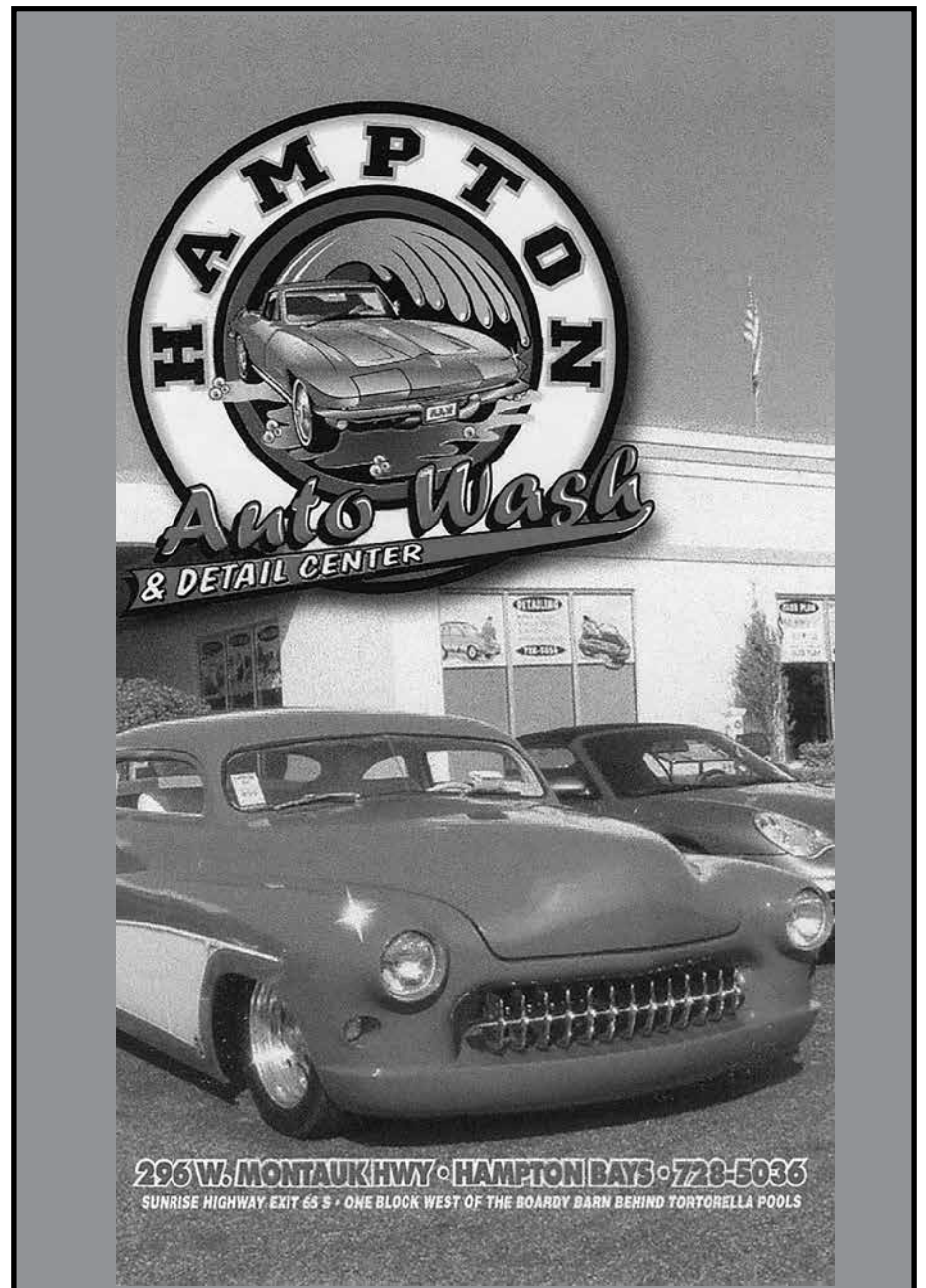
by Eric Wald

Red Horse Market is owned by Jeff Lange, his wife, and his partner, Pedro, at 74 Montauk Highway, right in East Hampton. They have been open for over 10 years. Red Horse Market is a great place for families to shop for a variety of goods that are fresh and delicious. There is the bakery, offering fresh coffee every day, filled with delicious cakes, pies, cookies, muffins, breads, and pastries.

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Track Santa with NORAD this Year

by Jerry Cimisi

Every Christmas Eve, NORAD (North American Aerospace Command) tracks Santa's progress around the world. Any child or parent can access Santa's flight by going on NORAD'S website. But when did this all begin, and how did NORAD get involved?

Well, it actually makes sense, when you consider that NORAD, which was once the Continental Air Defense Command, has the duty of making sure that everything that flies over the entire North American continent poses no threat to anyone.

Back in the 1950s, it was not so long after the terrible battles of World War II and the invention of the most devastating weapon of all, the atomic bomb. The United States and Russia were governed by very different political and economic systems, and each saw the other as a possible threat to begin a new war. So America instituted the Continental Air Defense Command Continental Air Defense Command, which would later be taken over by NORAD.

How this serious military operation became involved with Santa Claus was a once in a million accident; it was all because of an error in the printing of a phone number in a newspaper.

In 1955, an ad for Sears Roebuck & Co. in a Colorado Springs-area newspaper listed a phone that children could call to speak with Santa Claus. But the North Pole was not at the other end of this line. The number was printed incorrectly; it was a direct connection to the Continental Air Defense Command's director of operations, Colonel Harry Shoup. The Defense Command was also located in Colorado.

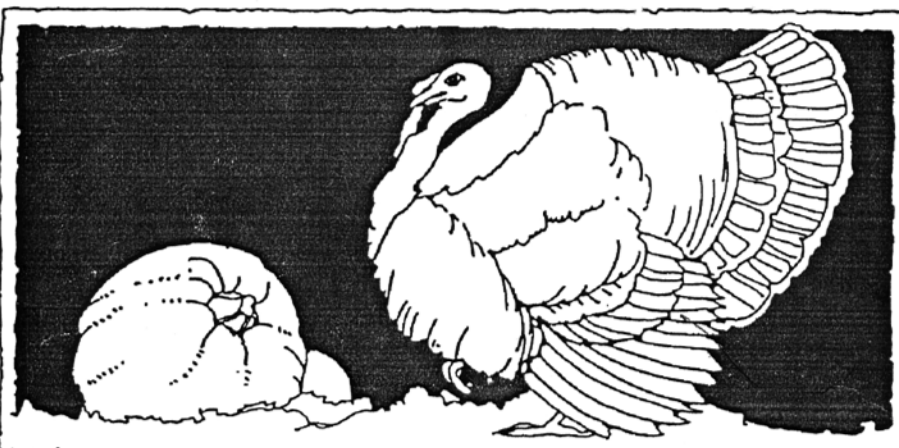
Years later, one of the colonel's daughters, Terri Van Keuren, said, "Only a four-star general at the Pentagon and my dad had the number."

But now children in Colorado did, too. At first frustrated that children for Santa were calling this military installation, Col. Shoup then grew sympathetic, and spoke to every child who called as well as their parents, assuring them his command would keep watch over Santa. As the calls grew more numerous, Col. Shoup began putting military personnel on the phone lines. At Christmas Eve, an image of Santa's sleigh was added to the huge tracking board that was used to monitor all flights over the United States.

Col. Shoup was really getting into the Christmas spirit, relates his daughter. He called a radio station and said, "We have an unidentified flying object—that looks like a sleigh." The radio station would call back every hour and ask, "Where's Santa now?"

And so, that's how it all began. By 1958, the Defense Command was absorbed by the newly formed North American Aerospace Command (NORAD), in partnership with Canada, and continued tracking Santa every Christmas Eve. Col. Shoup would receive letters from all over the world thanking him for creating a great tradition—out of a misprint in a newspaper ad, the duties of the military and, of course, Santa Claus.

Now, in the 21st century, NORAD and Santa have gone digital. Children can follow Santa's progress via email, Skype, Twitter, Facebook; they can even use apps to follow Santa. Even OnStar is tracking him, country by country, town by town. Just log on to www.NORAD.mil this Christmas Eve.



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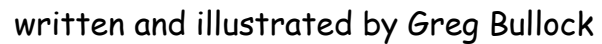
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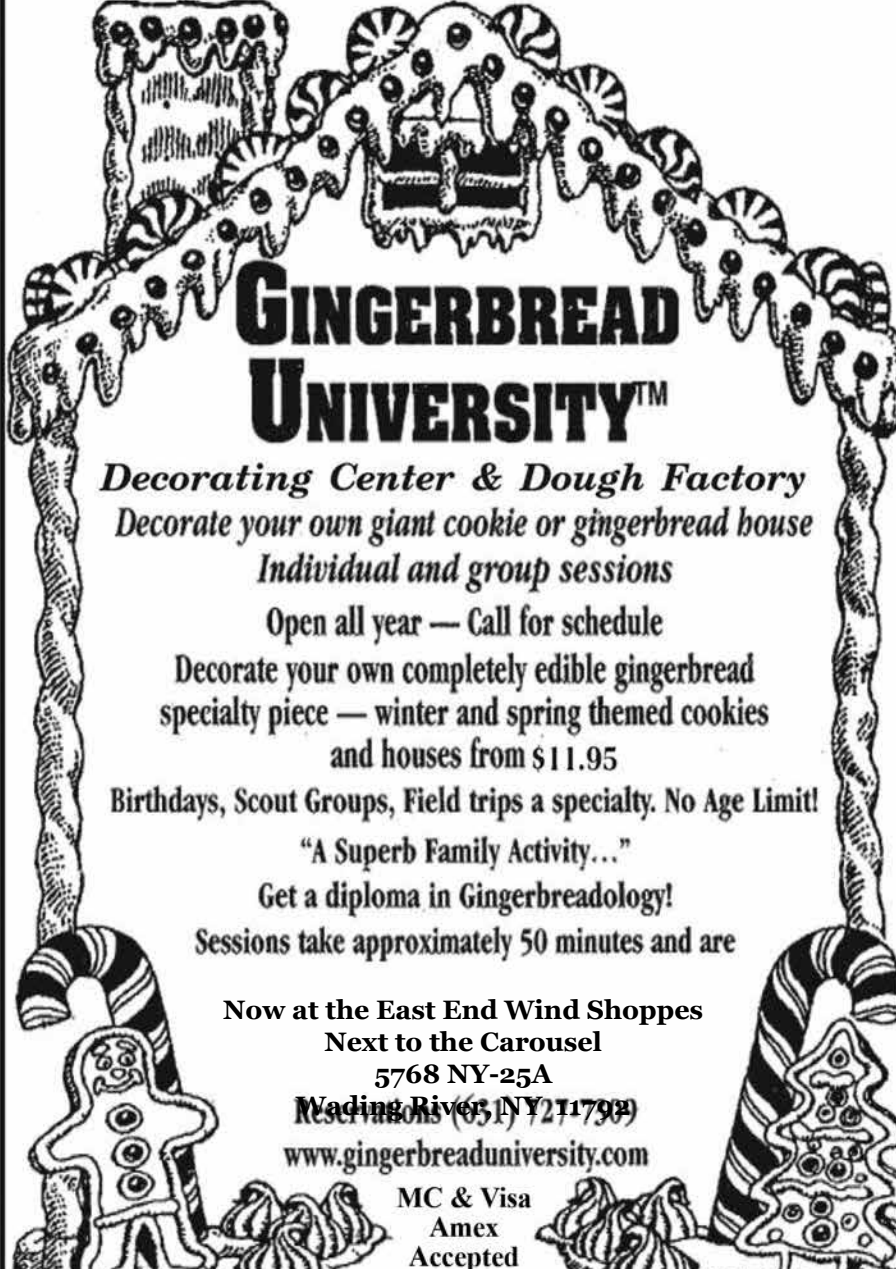


There once was a reindeer named Skye
that wanted to learn how to fly.
He strapped on a wing
Then started to sing:
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(See cartoon above.)

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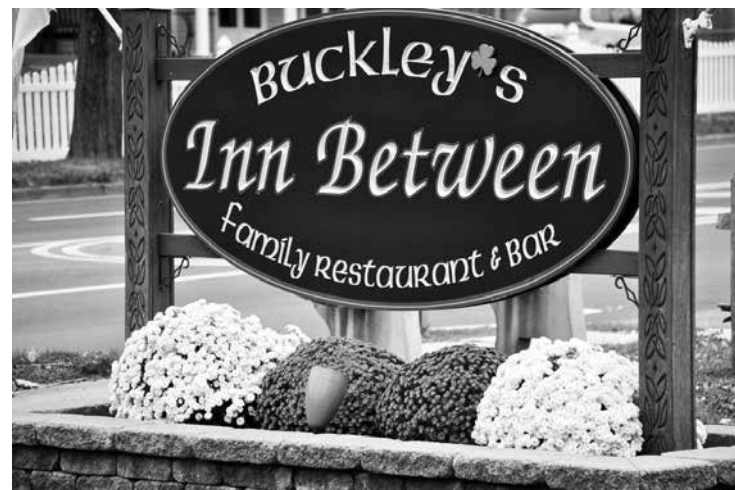
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Alvin Meyer

photo and story by Eric Wald

This is a photo of my step father, Alvin Meyer, who grew up in Manhattan during the Great Depression, with his father, mother, and two brothers, Norman and Elliot. As a boy, he said the best gift he ever got was a sack of potatoes, as he absolutely loved potatoes.

He would later join the Army, where he took part in the invasion of Normandy on D-Day 4. He had two children from his first marriage, Geoffrey and Buf, and he had my sister Risa with my mother, Kitty. Alvin had a very successful business in Manhattan called Merlite Industries, in which he sold costume jewelry. He played a weekly poker game with Sydney Poitier, Harry Belafonte, and other celebrities.

He loved Oreo cookies and ice cream. Alvin treated me like his very own son. Everyone who knew him loved him. He was smart, funny, strong, caring, compassionate, and good beyond words.

Although he's been gone for years, those that knew him will continue miss him for a long, long time.

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The Heartbroken Swan

written by Waldo

illustration by Rosemary Szczygiel

Once last spring, there lived a beautiful white swan that loved to swim in Town Pond by Main Road and Wood Lane in the heart of East Hampton. There in the pond lived other animals; mallards, ducks and Canada Geese. The pond had lots of fish, so there was always lots of food to eat. There were other animals there, like rabbits and squirrels.

One day, the officials of East Hampton, for no good reason, decided to drain all the water from the pond. The poor animals had nowhere to go, nowhere to fish, nowhere to lay their eggs, to swim, to live in peace. We hope maybe next year, the pond will come back, and all the beautiful animals that loved their pond will come back to live in peace, once again, when there is water in it.

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Queen Elizabeth II's Childhood

written by Paula Timpson



Princess Elizabeth Alexandra Mary was born April 21, 1926 at 2:40 in the morning. Bruton Street, London was her birthplace in the United Kingdom. The family's main home was at 145 Piccadilly in London. It was simple, not a fancy house, as it was written in the book *The Little Princesses*. She had a younger sister named Margaret. They were home schooled by a governess. Elizabeth and her sister learned piano, they were in plays and they learned French and math. Her nickname was Liliput, meaning small. The family lived in a big house in London. She was the first British monarch born in a home, not a castle.

At age six, she owned a home. A straw cottage named Bwthyn Bach or The Little House on the grounds of the Windsor Royal Lodge was given to her and Princess Margaret, her sister, by the people of Wales. Elizabeth loved Jam Pennies, soft white bread with strawberry jam inside folded over cut into rounds the size of the English coin, 20.3 mm centimeters. Shortbread was one of her favorite foods, too, and grilled chicken or fish with vegetables. Once Elizabeth's father, King George VI was crowned King, Princess Elizabeth's life changed forever. The family moved into Buckingham Palace.

Being the older daughter, she knew she would someday become Queen. She loved animals, especially Corgi dogs. When she was seven years old, her father, King George VI, brought home a Pembroke Welsh Corgi they named Dookie. Her love for Corgi dogs remained her whole life. Elizabeth invented the new breed Dorgi. Her Dachshund sisters mated with her Corgi. Princess Elizabeth's strong faith kept her calm. During World War II, the family stayed at Windsor Castle.

At age 14, October 1940, Elizabeth did her first radio show, letting everyone know all would be fine and would end in peace and victory. Her hobbies were horse riding, playing with her dogs, pigeon racing and supporting football. Elizabeth II loved the color blue. She often wore it. Elizabeth was 25 years old, away on a safari holiday in Kenya, when she heard was told about her father's passing. She was the only person in the United Kingdom allowed to drive without a license.

Elizabeth enjoyed a happy childhood. Even as she became Queen, she stayed the same way as she was as a child and her goodness lasted forever. Queen Elizabeth went from jam sandwiches to salmon with cream cheese sandwiches, no crusts. She rode horses into her nineties, and her grace endures. She was the longest reigning British monarch, when she passed away at age 96.



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Christmas will soon be upon us, and Santa is a very busy man. So call today to have him over at the holiday event you are planning, at 631-808-3247.



Servals, Savannah Cats, and Other Cat Hybrids

written by Susan Wald

illustration by Rosemary Szczygiel

By now, thanks to social media, you've probably heard of or seen photos and videos of servals, Savannah cats, and other cats that are mixes of house cats and their wild cousins. Such cats are called hybrids.

Servals, by and large, do not make good pets. They, like caracals and leopard cats, are wild animals, have special needs, and are illegal to keep in most states without a special license. The same applies to housecat/wildcat hybrids, such as Savannah cats, which are part African serval and part housecat, Chausie cats (part jungle cat and part house cat), and caracat (part caracal and part housecat)). One problem with hybrid cats is that they cannot be placed "back" into the wild if things don't work out with their human families, due to their part-domestic bloodline, and their having been born and raised in captivity. (Note: it's illegal and cruel to abandon a domestic animal, too). Adult servals and other wildcats, and even hybrids, usually cannot be rehomed.

Furthermore, hybridization of wild species does NOTHING to preserve endangered species. Another disadvantage is that with their being part wild, their behavior can be unpredictable. They can be aggressive, play roughly, be very destructive in the home if poorly engaged, socialized, and in an unsuitable environment. Servals, savannahs (especially with lots of serval parentage), caracats, Bengal cats (part housecat and part leopard cat) tend to wee-wee all around the house and on humans, to mark their territory as their own. That is the number one reason hybrid cats don't work out as pets. The lucky ones wind up in big cat sanctuaries; the less fortunate ones meet far worse fates.

So, why do people get Savannahs, and other hybrid cats? Serval cats can weigh up to 40 pounds, are four feet long, and two feet at the shoulder. People prize them for their beautiful coats and their big

ears. Servals and Savannah cats can be trained to walk with leashes, come when called, and sit on command, somewhat like dogs. They can also be litter box trained, with large boxes.

However they have many needs. They are larger than most housecats, weighing in at 15 to 30 pounds for a large Savannah cat. Servals (illegal in New York State) and Savannahs require a lot of attention, several high shelves in the house as they can jump as high as 12 feet, lots of toys, foraging opportunities, and large enclosures with high fences and covers, so they can't escape. They love to swim, so a state with a year-round warm climate is a must, and a home with a pool is a huge plus. They also tend to be food possessive.

In addition, wildcats and their hybrids, are illegal in many states; at least without permits.

Another factor to consider is that Savannah cats are very expensive to buy; a first or second-generation removed from a serval cat can cost \$18,000 to \$22,000 for a kitten. According to several websites, pop superstar Justin Bieber has two Savannah cats. But for most people, the cost of keeping a Savannah cat, not to mention a Serval, happy and healthy, is prohibitive. For those seeking feline companions, the best route to go is to check out animal shelters.

Dear Ms. Spiral Notebook

Dear Ms. Spiral Notebook,

My child is having a difficult time retaining their basic facts. I have tried flash cards for recall, but do you have any other suggestions?

A key point is that you want to mix up the ways you are addressing the skill. Flashcards are not necessarily something to put completely aside and can be great for those few extra minutes before a T.V. show or during commercials. There are some great apps that are really engaging, too. What you want to do is track the accuracy and fluency of the skill so that you can assess progress. A simple tracking chart will do the trick. Start with one of the strongest areas first, so you do not deflate your child's confidence.



Dear Ms. Spiral Notebook,

The holidays are approaching, and I am the class parent. Ideas to bring in fun with an educational twist?

It is our Reindeer Issue, so my answer will focus on this. Here are some top rated books:

Never Let A Unicorn Meet A Reindeer! Paperback -September 7, 2019 by Diane Alber

The Grumpy Reindeer: A Winter Story About Friendship and Kindness (First Seasonal Stories)

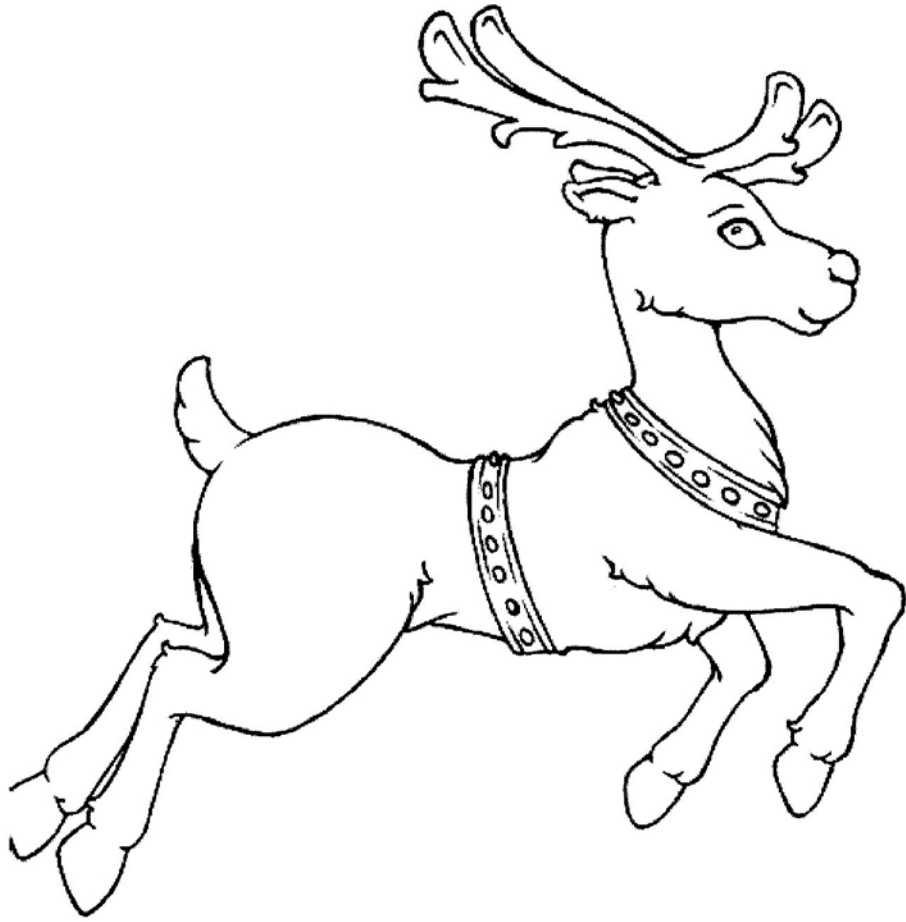
Next, you want to have a food craft. The simplest one starts with a cookie as the base, pretzels for the antlers and red M & M's for the nose. For the educational piece, have the students write a story about the reindeer.

Dear Ms. Spiral Notebook,

My child is struggling in math. He just entered sixth grade and the concepts seem very challenging for him. He has always been an average math student. What can I do at home to offer support?

Many schools follow NYS Math Modules, which are available at the following website: curriculum-instruction-mathematics-curriculum-files-archive. You can download both teacher and student versions, which also have explanations attached.

The key is not to overwhelm your child with too much work. If this is a class that he struggles with, sometimes bringing that struggle home can present some frustration, but also knowing what is going on in the classroom is very helpful. Perhaps you may want to try a choice chart with different math activities and lessons that take five to 10 minutes that your child could choose from.



The History of Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer

by Paula Timpson

Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer is one of the most popular reindeer movies of all time. Rudolph began in 1939. Robert L. May wrote a poem about a reindeer named Rudolph for the Montgomery Ward Department store. It was designed for the inside of coloring books for the holiday season to promote sales. Mr. May felt he was a misfit too, like Rudolph when he was younger. Writing about Rudolph was healing for him. Mr. May was bashful like Rudolph. In Rudolph, he saw strength and courage come alive. It gave him his own sense of worth and joy to gain success from his writing.

Santa discovered Rudolph's shiny red nose as a light for his sleigh Christmas Eve. Mr. May's wife and daughter were ill. During this time, it helped him to create and to make a good life for himself with his story, a true blessing.

In 1964, Rudolph became an animated television special. It was made in a stop-motion way. This means the camera stopped and started over and over to make it look as if the characters were moving. It is called Animagic, a true-to-life puppet animation. This was the longest running television special in America. There have been many different Rudolph movies based on the same story.

A misfit elf named Herbie helps Rudolph to not run away from his problems. A prospector named Yukon Cornelius also shows Rudolph the way to be brave.

Rudolph ends up at the North Pole. He makes Santa happy because Santa needs him. Mr. May lived happily ever after for the rest of his life.

In the 1930s, the Depression impacted many people, and it was important to keep the spirit of Christmas alive. Mr. May's poem lives forever in the hearts of all ages. Rudolph was honored on a postage stamp in November 2014. It is great to be different like Rudolph. Simply being ourselves is the best way to be. Helping others with our uniqueness is a true treasure.



Mr. Bear Loves to Play Violin

written by his good friend, Waldo the Clown
illustration by Rosemary Szczygiel

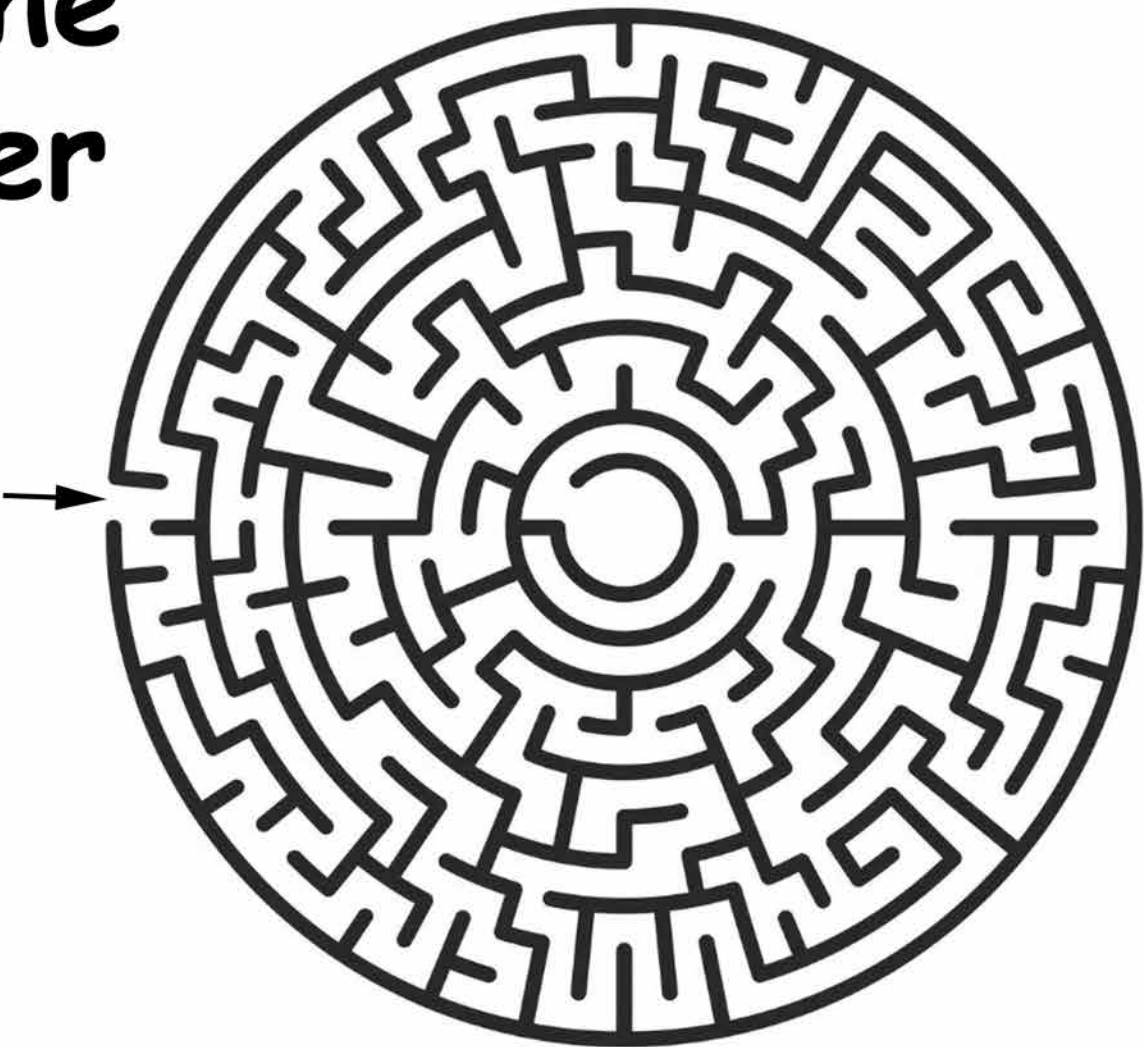
Mr. Bear loved to play his violin. He lived in Middletown, Connecticut, in a small house on a small street, and he loved to play, day and night, the most beautiful music in the world. He also could make the most beautiful violins in the world. He spent hours making them till they were absolutely perfect. All the animals in the town loved to hear him play.

One day, as he was playing his violin on the street for change, an owl asked him if he could play at the Metropolitan Music Hall. Of course, he said yes, and before long, he was the most famous bear in the world. The moral of this story is never stop trying to be your best, and one day, if you're lucky, very lucky, good things will happen.

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MORE REINDEER PUZZLES

Herd the Reindeer



REINDEER HERDERS: Find the Hidden Words

The SAMI reindeer herders are the only indigenous people of SCANDINAVIA. They inhabit an area which covers parts of northern Norway, Sweden, Finland, the Kola Peninsula of RUSSIA.

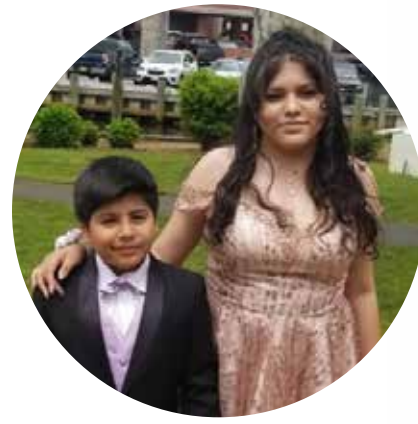
Mongolian Reindeer People DUKHA or TSAATAN live in the Taiga in northern MONGOLIA. The Dukha live in YURTS that resemble tepees. Their lives revolve around their domesticated REINDEER, which supply them with much of their daily needs, including milk (used in tea, and to make YOGURT and cheese), leather and a means of transportation. Very few of the animals are killed for their meat.

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Wishing you and your family a happy holiday season!

Dr. Nancy Cosenza

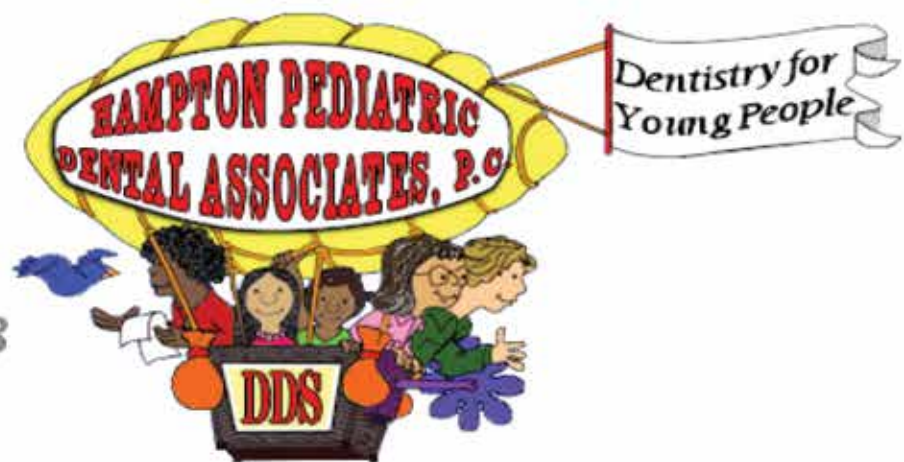
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