

You Said It

“We are singing a lot of traditional Madrigal songs.”

~ **Joni Weinert**
Madrigal / Page 5

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Rumor Has It
American factories in the 1950s, used “Black Friday” to refer to the workers, who called in sick the day after Thanksgiving, to enjoy the long holiday weekend.

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Over 15 countries in the world celebrate Black Friday or some kind of late-November holiday shopping spree.

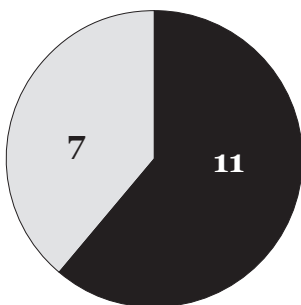
Hit the Polls

Do you like snow days?

Yes = 🟢
No = 🟡

Go to the *Courier Sentinel* Facebook page to find this week’s poll and vote!

Last Week’s Poll
Have you decorated for Christmas yet?



Yes = 7 | No = 11

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The mission of the *Courier Sentinel*, as a local, home-town newspaper, is to support our democracy, by publishing editorials and letters to the editor, that stimulate thought and discussion, but, because of the ongoing divisiveness following the recent U.S. presidential election, we have decided to put in place a moratorium on editorials and letters that will further inflame partisan rancor, and ill-will within our community of readers. We need a period of quiet, so we can begin to listen to one another. The newspaper will continue to run editorials, but as commentary on our local news coverage. We welcome letters from our readers that also focus on local issues, things that we cover in these pages.

Kris O’Leary,
general manager

– Editorial –

Think globally, give locally

Members of the *Courier Sentinel* editorial board include publisher Carol O’Leary, general manager Kris O’Leary and *Star News* editor Brian Wilson.

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The holiday shopping season got off to its traditional start with the Black Friday, Small Business Saturday and Cyber Monday sales, this past week.

While many consumers are looking to their holiday shopping needs this time of year, it is important to remember many local charitable causes and community projects that could use a hand during this season of giving.

Nationally, about 30 percent of all charitable giving is done during December, with about 10 percent of annual giving occurring in just the last three days of the month. About 69 percent of all people report making charitable donations over the year, with 64 percent of all donations made by women. Each person who gives, on average, supports 4.5 charities each year.

National non-profit and charitable organizations are well aware of these trends, and have even more demographic breakdowns of how to appeal to different groups, to maximize donations.

While there is no doubt the national-level or-

ganizations do good work and are worthy of support, those organizations typically have much larger bureaucracies in place, meaning that in some cases, more money goes to keeping the organization running, than going to the actual cause itself.

By comparison, locally-based organizations typically are operated by volunteers or with a minimal amount of staff, putting the focus on fulfilling their mission. As a result, many of these local organizations may not have the glossy mass mailings or prime time television commercials you see from some national campaigns, but their needs are just as real.

Making a donation to a local non-profit or to a community cause also brings the added benefit of being able to see your gift at work in your community.

You see your donation dollars at work whenever your children or grandchildren play in the park, visit a local monument or museum, or take part in a program in a local church, school or outdoors event. Local donations help keep families together, who are suffering through medical challenges, and provide a community safety net for those facing immediate crisis.

Another thing to consider when making a chari-

table gift, is the impact your donation will have. A \$50 donation is unlikely to be the difference in helping save the rain forest, but the same \$50 donation to a local literacy program can put books in the hands of a dozen children.

There are a wide variety of local charitable causes, from organizations that help make sure people have beds to sleep in, to those who support substance abuse recovery programs.

There are also a number of capital campaigns underway for community improvements that will have a lasting impact on the community.

For those who can’t decide or who feel their contribution is too small to make a difference, a gift to the United Way is always a good option. Local United Way organizations take the strength of many smaller donations and combine them to make a meaningful impact for dozens of agencies, ranging from the Boy Scouts to childcare programs.

End-of-year charitable giving is important for non-profits of all sizes. While it may be easy to send a check off to a well-known national group, think instead, about giving to local agencies and civic causes.

Money donated locally is spent locally, building a stronger community for everyone.

– Time For A Tiara: Column by Ginna Young –

I give up, can I just take a nap?

Where were we? Oh yes. *Take 3*. Or as I like to call it, *The Nightmare Continues, Part 3*. I speak, of course, of the problem with my ongoing quest to find a new, usable camera I didn’t despise.



So, after realizing I wanted no part of the camera who shall not be named (actually, I did call it Veronica), that left me with the dilemma of still not having one. I went on advice from my photography buddy and ordered a Canon Rebel T8i, the model that would work best for my needs.

I ordered it through the company she recommended and she was spot on with that. They were right on the money and the delivery was lightning fast. If it had actually been delivered.

As with Veronica, this new camera from the company needed a signature, because it was an expensive item. FedEx was the preferred method of shipping, but it informed me it was arriving on the one day I was the only one in the office; unless it’s an emergency or something I need to cover, the office cannot be closed.

Since I had no idea of precisely when the package would arrive, I had no choice but to stay in the office. Well, I thought, *I’ll just leave a note on the door*.

Yeah, funny thing, FedEx does not respond to “please deliver to this address instead.” So, back went the camera to their holding facility. But, no worry, they sent an email, saying they would try again that coming Monday. Again, not convenient for me, that’s the second busiest day of the week here at the paper.



Where am I?
(See Page 5 for location)

I clicked on the “forward to different address” option. Nope, wouldn’t accept that. But, I could pay \$11.50 for them to deliver it a different day, at a time of my choosing. By then, \$11.50 seemed like a whopping good deal for that.

I chose a Thursday, usually a relatively quiet day, and arranged to take off a couple hours to sit at home and wait. I planned to get there by 11:30 a.m., since I had the delivery scheduled for between noon and 2 p.m., just in case they were early. Oh, they were early, alright.

At 11:01 a.m. that day, FedEx emailed me that they tried to deliver the package, but got no response. That did it. I found a number to call and I gave the customer service person an earful. I pointed out to him that I specifically paid to have it delivered at a time of my choosing, but that it was attempted earlier.

Gee, he didn’t know if they could get the delivery person to turn around and bring it between that specified time.

I really did go off then and mentioned the magic words. *Then, I want my money back!* I guess \$11.50 is a big deal to FedEx, because I got a call from the manager, who said the delivery person was on her way.

She wasn’t happy about it, but the package was delivered, I signed and my worries were over. Yeah, if you believe that, I have some swamp land I can sell ya.

Don’t get me wrong, the camera is great and so is the lens, which gives me extended range. I already love it (not with the same passion as my first one, though) and named it Jonathan, in honor of a character on *Hotel Transylvania*.

The problem now, was returning the disastrous camera. I looked on the receipt and instead of the customary 30 days for a return window, the Best Buy one listed 15 days. That, of course, went by while I was waiting for a lens that actually fit the camera that stunk anyway.

What else could go wrong? I really shouldn’t have said that, based on the next installment.

Take 4.