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Sudoku Puzzle - See the solution on page 6

		8	4	6	5			
5	6		1		9			4
						1		
	4					3		
		5		9		8		
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			9	5	7	6		

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AVISTA TO BEGIN LAKE SPOKANE DRAWDOWN

Avista plans to start to draw down Lake Spokane (reservoir created by Long Lake Dam) on Dec. 30, 2020, depending on precipitation levels and river flows. Operators expect to lower the reservoir, typically half to one foot per day over a two-to-three week period, until it reaches its winter drawdown elevation of 13 to 14 feet below the normal summer elevation of 1,536 feet. Avista will attempt to keep the lake drawn down the lake for a duration of three to six weeks, but it depends upon weather.

Under the right weather conditions, which include sustained periods of single-digit temperatures and little or no snow on the exposed lakebed, the drawdown is expected to help control Eurasian watermilfoil and other invasive aquatic weeds found in Lake Spokane. The drawdown also allows shoreline homeowners the opportunity to complete state and locally permitted repair and construction projects along the lake shoreline. Please be aware that river flows may vary widely based on weather conditions. It is important to monitor the conditions daily if you plan to do maintenance or shoreline work.

Property owners and lake-users are reminded to make necessary preparations, including removing boats from the water and removing or securing docks and boathouses to accommodate shifting ice and low-water conditions. Floating and removable docks are less susceptible to damage from shifting or changing ice levels.

Please note and be aware, as with all winter drawdowns, water levels are subject to change due to a variety of factors including weather (rain on snow events in the upper drainages) and/or maintenance at Long Lake Dam. Lake users should always be alert to signs of such changes and exercise the highest level of personal caution and safety.

Customers can access waterflow information at myavista.com/waterflow or on our 24-hour telephone information line. You will find notification of anticipated elevation changes on Lake Spokane, the Spokane River, and Coeur d'Alene Lake. In Washington call (509) 495-8043 and in Idaho call (208) 769-1357. The recorded information is provided to advise shoreline property owners, commercial and recreational users of changes in the lake elevations and river flows that may affect plans for water use.



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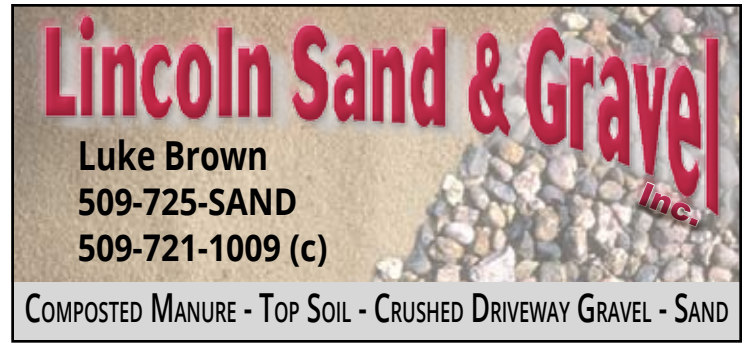
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EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE MEANING OF THE "12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS"

BY KATIE BOURQUE, Dec 15, 2020

"The Twelve Days of Christmas" (or "12 Days of Christmas") is a holiday classic — and while it may not be as catchy as some of our other favorite Christmas songs, ask anyone what their true love gave them on the first day of Christmas, and they'd probably be able to sing right back, "A partridge in a pear tree!" Plus, a song would never factor heavily into the plot of a Hallmark movie if it didn't fully capture the Christmas spirit.

After hearing the song all season while decorating your Christmas tree, planning your most original holiday party, and baking the most delicious Christmas cookies — you may start to wonder, what does this mean?

Truthfully, not much of the song makes sense from a modern perspective. Why are there so many gifts? What do they mean? Who wants eight maids-a-milking, and what would you even do with them? Like many old stories, we have to understand the time it was first written to understand what it means. Let's take a look at the true story.

The lyrics we know are not the originals.

Though some scholars believe that the song is French in origin, the first print appearance of the song was in the English children's book Mirth With-out Mischief. If you haven't heard of it, that's probably because it was published in 1780. You can ask the person who shelled out \$23,750 at a Sotheby's auction for a first edition to borrow their copy, but you may not recognize the lyrics. In this version, the "four calling birds" were actually "four colly birds." The term "colly" is Old English slang meaning birds dark as coal, a.k.a. blackbirds. In other old versions of the song, the partridge we know and loved is replaced with a "very pretty peacock upon a pear tree." If you think that's weird, consider a Scottish version that gifts "an Arabian baboon." In 1909, British composer Frederic Austin penned the version we are all familiar with today.

The song [probably] started out as a game.

Most historians believe that the song started out a "memory-and-forfeit" game in 1800s England. These types of games were played by British school children, and the rules were simple. When it's your turn, you repeat all the previously sung lyrics, and add the next one. If you can't remember a verse, you owe your opponent a "forfeit," which was usually a kiss or piece of candy.

The song doesn't contain a secret code about Christianity. You may have seen this theory floating around via chain emails and message boards. In a nutshell, the theory claims that during a time when Christians were punished for worshipping openly, "The Twelve Days of Christmas" song was used to secretly pass on the ideology of Christianity. In this theory, each gift symbolizes a different aspect of the faith: The Partridge in the Pear Tree is Jesus Christ. The 2 Turtle Doves are The Old and New Testaments. The 3 French hens are Faith, Hope, and Charity, the theological virtues. The 4 Calling Birds are the four gospels and/or the four evangelists. The 5 Golden Rings are the first five books of the Old Testament. The 6 Geese A-laying are the six days of creation. The 7 Swans A-swimming are the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, the seven sacraments. The 8 Maids A-milking are the eight beatitudes. The 9 Ladies Dancing are the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit. The 10 Lords A-leaping are the ten commandments. The 11 Pipers Piping are the eleven faithful apostles. The 12 Drummers Drumming are the twelve points of doctrine in the Apostle's Creed.

Snopes breaks down the many historical and logistical errors in this theory. But the biggest flaw in this claim is that if

(Continued on page 7)

Happy New Year! Welcome 2021

S	R	E	L	K	R	A	P	S	E	R	W	N	H
N	T	S	E	I	T	I	V	I	T	S	E	F	S
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B	C	L	O	C	K	S	R	E	E	H	C	M	E
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AVISTA GIVING TOPS \$4.1 MILLION IN 2020

Donations benefit non-profit agencies across five states

Avista Corp. and the Avista Foundation today announced 2020 giving totaling more than \$4.1 million to non-profit organizations in the company's service territories. The funds from both corporate and foundation sources helped support community organizations in Washington, Idaho, Oregon, Montana and Alaska.

"We recognize people have been challenged by multiple layers of impacts from the pandemic," said Dennis Vermillion, Avista president and CEO. "Avista has invested in our non-profit partners to provide various basic needs and help close the gaps throughout this difficult year."

In 2020, corporate giving was \$1.5 million, while the Avista Foundation increased total giving from the 2019 level of \$1.3 million to \$2.6 million. All of Avista's philanthropy is paid for by its shareholders, none of it is funded by customers through rates.

"As the need increased, we wanted to respond and help as many people as possible," said Avista Foundation executive director Kristine Meyer. "We provided grants to hundreds of different organizations throughout the region, and increased our employee matching gifts program from a \$1 for \$1 match to a \$2 for \$1 match, doubling our collective support for non-profit agencies."

Since its establishment in 2002, the Avista Foundation has made grants totaling over \$10 million. The foundation focuses its giving in the areas of vulnerable and limited income populations, education, and economic and cultural vitality. It is a separate, non-profit organization established by Avista Corp., and does not receive funding from Avista Utilities or AEL&P customers through rates.

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1	2	8	4	6	5	7	3	9
5	6	3	1	7	9	2	8	4
4	9	7	2	8	3	1	6	5
9	4	6	8	1	2	3	5	7
2	3	5	7	9	4	8	1	6
8	7	1	5	3	6	4	9	2
6	5	2	3	4	1	9	7	8
7	1	9	6	2	8	5	4	3
3	8	4	9	5	7	6	2	1

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(12 Days of Christmas continued from page 5)

Christians lived in fear of even mentioning the basic tenants of Christianity, how were they able to sing a song that mentions the word "Christmas" in every lyric?

That being said, one thing historians can agree on is that the twelve days over

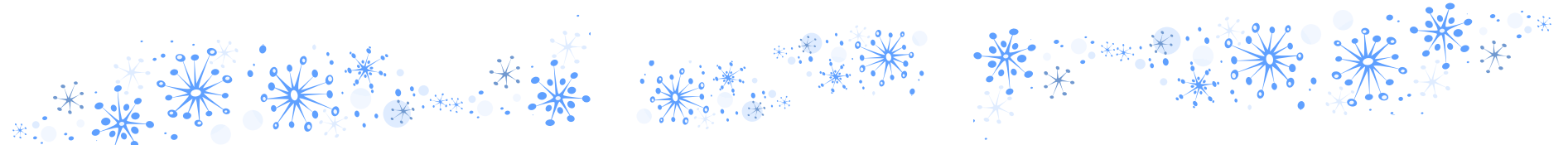
which the song takes place is a reference to Christianity. "The Twelve Days of Christmas" historically did not reference the days leading up to Christmas, but the twelve days following it. The period begins with birth of Christ on December 25th, Christmas Day, and ends with the coming of the Three Wise Men on January 6th, the Epiphany or Three Kings Day.

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