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Wright State Student Body

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The Wright State **GUARDIAN**

MEDIA GROUP

Weekly Horoscopes
Star Signer
December 21, 2020

What you want for the holidays based on your zodiac sign... however impossible it may be.

ARIES

Anything but socks. Just not socks.

TAURUS

Peace and quiet and a civil family dinner.

GEMINI

Money, you are very deep in debt this year.

CANCER

A new puppy, because you can never go wrong with a puppy... unless you're a cat person.

LEO

Friends

VIRGO

My two front teeth

LIBRA

Motivation

SCORPIO

A will to live

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SAGITTARIUS

To win the lottery

CAPRICORN

A robot to do all of your homework for you

AQUARIUS

A genie and unlimited wishes

PISCES

Unlimited access to all you can eat pancake bar

Eight Gifts That Will Not Break The Bank

Maxwell Patton

December 21, 2020

A good gift for a friend or family member can be hard to come by this holiday season. What are the best gifts that are practical but will not break the bank? These eight items will make any recipient smile this holiday season.

Gift cards to local businesses

Local businesses across the country, whether they are restaurants, book stores or record shops, have been struggling in these recent months due to the coronavirus pandemic. Help support a small business and put a smile on a friend's face by purchasing a gift card to a business they love or that new shop downtown.

Framed posters

Grab a poster of a friend's favorite musician, a movie they love or, perhaps, a world map. These can add some decoration to a dorm room or bedroom, and gifted posters look even better with a frame.

Graphic novels

During the pandemic, reading has become a stellar way of spending time while staying at home. Graphic novels put a spin on the traditional book, adding in colorful and striking images that help move the story along and allow for a fun reading experience. Any friend will likely enjoy flipping through the pages and getting lost in the world of the story.

Scented candles

Spice up any room in a friend or relative's house and purchase a scented candle for them this holiday season. There are a wide variety of scents to choose from, allowing for an easily-personalized gift that will not hurt the wallet.

Mugs and glasses

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Raise a glass (or two) to a friend or relative and pick up some themed drinkware at a local store or through an online retailer such as Etsy. A personalized mug or one that features a humorous quote could become their next vessel for morning coffee or evening hot chocolate.

Wacky socks

Getting socks for Christmas is usually not something that a young person enjoys, but humorous or cozy socks can help lighten the holiday. Best of all, this gift can be worn often and can provide comfort and an interesting conversation long after the holidays are over.

Personalized playlists

Music is a tool that many people have used to escape their environment or give it some new ambiance, whether they have been running miles or attending college classes. Instead of going to the store, compile a playlist for a friend that contains their favorite songs, artists they have listened to on repeat and new tunes that they might like.

Baked goods

The only cost for this present would be from any ingredients not currently sitting in the cupboard, and the work put into these goods will be immediately rewarded once the friend or relative takes a bite of their delicious desserts.

Five Unique Gifts For Book Lovers

Ariel Parker

December 21, 2020

The holidays are right around the corner, but there is still plenty of time to shop for your friends and family—especially if you are spending the holidays away from home.

Bookworms in particular are notoriously difficult to shop for. But if you wanted something a little outside the box, below are some unique gifts to give to the book-lover in your life—or if you wanted to send this list out as a little hint in the right direction, we will not tell!

Gift cards for your local bookstore

This is pretty self-explanatory, but this holiday season, be sure to see what local bookshops are around your bookworm friend. This year hit small businesses hard, so it is important to keep them in mind!

And if you are practicing social distancing this holiday season, there are also several indie bookshops that can ship or offer curbside pickups such as the Book Loft or Prologue Bookshop in Columbus, Joseph-Beth in Cincinnati and our very own Half-Price Books here in Beavercreek.

Bathtub caddy trays

Everyone would probably enjoy this even if you do not read. Not only can you prop your book or e-reader, but there's space for your drinks or snacks while you relax in the tub. But be careful—if you do not already love baths, you will after this!

Special edition of their favorite book

Stalk through their Goodreads shelf or social media and see if there is a particular book that they just love. Many editions of the same book exist, including contemporary titles, sometimes the U.K. or Canadian editions have better-looking covers than ones published in the U.S. Especially if the book is a classic, there can be beautiful special editions that can give their bookshelves a “pop.”

Comfortable pillow or blanket

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Readers love to be comfy and cozy while they curl up with a book, so picking out a cute pillow or fluffy blanket can be the perfect bookish gift that they can also use every day. You do not even have to pick something with a quote or books decorating it—something black, grey or even their favorite color will work.

Coffee coasters

Everyone will tell you to buy a bookworm a mug for their coffee or tea, but coasters are just as important to protect their tables! There are so many unique and cute coasters out there that you can pick based on what the bookworm likes. Whether they like antiques, flowers, colorful or black and white, there are endless possibilities.

Unique Holiday Traditions Around The World

Jamie Naylor

December 22, 2020

This time of year, different holidays are celebrated around the world in their own unique ways. While many traditions have to be modified this year due to the global pandemic, the spirit of these holidays is still very much alive.

Hanukkah (Chanukah)

Hanukkah or sometimes known as Chanukah is the Jewish eight-day celebration of the Festival of Lights. Judaism is the fourth largest religion in the world with Jewish holidays and traditions being practiced all around the world.

The country with the highest Jewish population is Israel, and they do not take Hanukkah lightly.

It is a national holiday there with school and many workplaces closed. In a normal year, they would hold large public celebrations and hold mass family gatherings, and even display their menorahs to celebrate the eight days, this year, however, more events are going to be moved to virtual formats.

Christmas

Christmas is the most widely celebrated holiday all around the world, whether for its Christian meaning or for its fun festivities. Europe celebrates this historic holiday quite similarly, take France for example.

Christmas or Noël in France starts with Avent which is the celebratory month-long lead up to Noël. Avent is celebrated via calendars, wreaths and candles. Followed by shopping in Christmas Markets, like Metz in Lorraine, which sells local goods and crafts.

On Noël Eve, families gather for a midnight feast called Le Reveillon, or revival. This has historic and religious meaning. The French finally end the holiday season with Epiphany on Jan. 6.

Kwanzaa

Kwanzaa is a holiday celebrating African American history and communities. It was created in America in 1966, at the height of the Civil Rights movement, by Dr. Maulona Karenga.

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This holiday celebrated mostly in the U.S. and Africa goes on for seven nights, starting on Dec. 26 and ending on Jan. 1. Each night celebrates a different African principle based on community and camaraderie, each with a corresponding candle lit on the Kinara or candlestick. Each family and community celebrate different versions of Kwanzaa based on their heritage.

New Years

While most countries in Europe go all out for Christmas or Hanukkah, Belarus chooses to bolster the celebration of the new year.

Catholics in the country celebrate Christmas on Dec. 25, while orthodox Christians celebrate on Jan. 7. In order to create a more unified holiday season Belarus focuses on the holiday that is between these two dates, New Years.

Instead of Christmas trees, families have New Year's trees, they exchange gifts on New Year's Eve, sing New Year's songs, and hold a feast on Dec. 31.

How to Give Back to Your Community This Holiday Season

Alexis Wisler

December 22, 2020

The holiday season is a great time to give back to your community and spread kindness. Although things might look different this year, there are still great ways to give back to others.

Volunteer at a food bank / donate food

One way to give back to your community this holiday season is volunteering at a local food bank. Spending an evening at a food bank can help so many people get a hot meal this winter and is a way to spread kindness.

If you don't feel comfortable volunteering this year because of the coronavirus, another option is to donate food to local food banks or food drives. Make sure to find out what the drives and food banks are in need of and what types of food they do not or cannot take.

Donate clothing

If you go through your closet this winter break and end up with a pile of clothes to get rid of, donate them to a local shelter or clothing drive instead of throwing them out. As with food, make sure to call shelters or look at their websites to find out what type of clothing they are in need of and what they will not take. Most shelters won't take clothing with holes or large stains, but every place is different.

Donate blood

Although more restrictions have been put in place for donating blood because of the coronavirus, blood donations are still essential for saving lives. The American Red Cross is testing all blood donations for antibodies that could potentially save someone currently sick with the coronavirus, so if you have had the coronavirus and have fully recovered, then donating blood could be a huge way to give back to others this year.

Write letters to nursing homes

Before the coronavirus, volunteering at a nursing home was a great way to spread happiness and cheer. However, that is not the safest option this year. Instead of volunteering, write letters to nursing homes to continue that human connection while keeping everyone safe.



Random Acts of Kindness

Giving back to the community doesn't have to be something big and elaborate. Doing something nice for your neighbor, roommate, sibling, friend or parent not only brightens their day, but can cause a ripple effect where they then do something nice for someone else and so on.

Maybe cook dinner for your roommate, check in on your neighbor the next time you see them outside, or simply just give a heartfelt compliment. Giving back to others can be as simple as a smile.

Classic Movies to Watch This Holiday Season

Kaitlyn Chrosniak

December 23, 2020

Winter has arrived, and along with it, snow and freezing temperatures. As you cozy up inside this winter season, consider the following classic movies for entertainment.

“Grumpy Old Men”

“Grumpy Old Men” is an often forgotten film about two retired widowers battling for the attention of a new female neighbor through the holiday season. Ann Marget plays the role of Ariel, a vivacious artist in her fifties who moves in across the street from these two childhood “frienemies” and creates a whirlwind of adventure in the air during the holidays in the early 1990s.

The two-film series was one of the final pieces that both Jack Lemmon (John) and Walter Matthau (Max) starred in together before their passing.

“A Christmas Story”

“A Christmas Story” is a holiday classic taking place in the 1940s when young Ralphie tries to convince everyone around him that a Red Ryder BB Gun is the perfect Christmas present for him. The movie follows Ralphie’s journey to trying to get a BB gun, from an essay to his teacher to being mocked by a mall Santa Clause.

The film takes place just outside of Cleveland, OH, and the house used to film the movie remains a popular tourist attraction.

“Home Alone”

“Home Alone” is another holiday classic about a young boy, but unlike in “A Christmas Story,” Kevin was accidentally left behind when his family went on a holiday trip, during which he must defend his family home from a pair of burglars.

The Oscar-winning film went on to produce a sequel due to its popularity.

“Elf”

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Will Ferrell stars as Buddy the “Elf” in this 2003 holiday classic as he discovers that he was adopted by an elf as a baby and sets out to find his father in New York City, only to discover that his father is on the naughty list.

Along with trying to bond with his father, Buddy must learn how to adapt to human life while also falling in love with a “fellow elf” at a local department store.

Safe Holiday Activities This Winter

Nicolas Benvenuto

December 23, 2020

As coronavirus concerns still linger on the minds of many this winter season, it's important to remember there are still winter activities that can be fun for the whole family.

Land of Illusion

Land of Illusion located at 8762 Thomas Road in Middletown, is hosting their Christmas Glow for a fourth consecutive year.

Cost of entry to the Christmas Glow event is \$7 per person, and the park will remain open for winter activities through Dec. 30 from 6 p.m. through 10 p.m.

This year, the display of lights around the park has increased by over 500,000 lights.

Featuring over 3.8 million lights total, Santa's workshop, gift shop and a petting zoo; the Christmas Glow event at Land of Illusion is sure to be a hot spot for winter lovers in Dayton.

One can view large displays of lights on the property on foot or by mobile. Land of Illusion offers a trip around the park with both options.

A 45-foot Christmas tree is available for your viewing close to gas-lit fireplaces. This will keep you and your family warm while enjoying the festive light displays.

Additionally, Santa will be available for photo opportunities inside of his on-site workshop for a small fee.

For more information on Land of Illusions Christmas Glow event, visit:

<https://www.landofillusion.com/glow/>

Lost Creek reserve

Lost Creek reserve in Troy is hosting their annual drive-thru light display for just \$10 per car, and \$30 per 15 passenger van.

Guests to the reserve will find a winter wonderland, lit with over 60 on-site displays many of which are animated.

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The drive-thru winter wonderland is 1.25 miles long, and directs travelers through the woods and is available weekends through Dec. 27.

The last car admitted will be at 9:30 p.m. on each of the weekend nights.

For more information on the winter display at the Lost Creek reserve, visit:
<https://www.miamicountyparks.com/holiday-lights>

Holiday lights on Main

Holiday light display lovers looking for a free trip will be pleased every night through the holiday season. The downtown lights in Dayton will be available for viewing pleasure and are synchronized to radio music.

Brought to Dayton by DP&L, the lights on Main will be viewable every night through January 2021.

Drivers are also encouraged to utilize the safe, free parking spaces located along Main St. to view the display of holiday lights

Parking along Main St. between the blocks of Second and Third St. will allow visitors to see the animated displays along the Courthouse Square as well as the 2020 Dayton Holiday Festival tree.

This display of holiday lights is viewable on foot, but is also synchronized to music in which guests can tune in to 97.1 FM to hear songs that are coordinated with the dancing light displays for a more interactive experience.

For more information on the Holiday lights on Main, visit:
<https://www.downtowndayton.org/things-to-do/holiday-festival/>

The Benefits of Nature Walks

Roxanne Roessner

December 23, 2020

In the past year, people have experienced isolation from limiting social interactions. A great way to fill that void is to go on nature walks. Experiencing nature can bring your life into focus and provide an outlet for stress.

What is a nature walk?

The simple answer is that nature walks can be anything you want them to be. Whether or not you have access to a forest path or a field of lush flowers, you can still go on a nature walk.

These walks are intended to help people focus on the world around them without the added distractions such as social media and other people. Nature is the focus. How we interact with nature is brought to the forefront and we have to ask ourselves why we forget to pay attention.

In “Pilgrim at Tinker Creek” a book by Annie Dillard follows Dillard as they go on nature walks. Dillard draws attention to the little scenes in life that we often forget to look at. During these scenes, Dillard writes about watching fish swimming, birds flying and bugs forming cocoons. It makes you stop and think about the last time you just sat and enjoyed the outdoors.

The benefits

Going on nature walks promotes exercise, fresh air and quiet reflection time for one’s well-being. As a reminder, they do not have to be half marathons, a walk around the block or down the road count as well.

During my own nature walks, I have taken to snapping pictures of the world around me and trying to spot the different birds in the trees. I do not know what types of birds they are, but I really do not have to know the answer. I simply bask in their chirping and wonder if they have little lives of their own.

Nature walks are a way to relieve stress and find a bit of calmness in your everyday life. While they may not be a big change, they can lift your mood, if just a little.

Seven Easy DIY Tree Ornaments

Maxwell Patton

December 24, 2020

During the holidays, there are always opportunities to make new memories and add new decorations to your evergreen tree. Here are seven do-it-yourself ornaments that can be made with friends or family, serving as holiday memories that can return to the tree for years to come.

Jingle bells

Ribbon, large bells, silver pipe cleaners and hot glue are the only items necessary to create this ornament. Bend a pipe cleaner to form the hanging loop and add a large bell to each end. Use a second pipe cleaner and add a third bell before wrapping its other end right below the loop of the first pipe cleaner. The bell decoration can be embellished with a ribbon bow kept in place by a small piece of pipe cleaner.

Salt dough ornaments

Making salt dough only involves three ingredients: flour, salt and water. After mixing the ingredients together, knead the dough and roll it out. This dough can be cut into shapes with a hole in the top to hang a ribbon, and after spending some time in the oven, the ornaments are ready to hang!

Wooden bead snowman

Jute cord, wooden beads, fabric scraps and paint/markers are the only items needed to create a wooden bead snowman. Tie a loop on one end of the cord and thread the beads through it. Add some facial features with craft paint or markers and finish off by tying a small strip of fabric between the top two beads to make a scarf.

Beaded candy cane

Bend a red pipe cleaner in the shape of a candy cane and place alternating red and white beads onto the pipe cleaner until there is no more room. At that point, curl the pipe cleaner over the end beads. Create accents for the piece by tying small strips of fabric to the candy cane and adding a small metal star.

Sheet music stars

Share a favorite holiday carol this winter by displaying its sheet music on a cardboard star for all to see. Add a small bow and some twine to the ornament to finish it.

Another option is to fold the sheet music to form a star and apply mod podge to seal the decoration.

Origami bird

The best way to make an origami bird for the tree is to use colored paper. Fold the paper to form the bird of choice, thread a ribbon through the top and apply mod podge. Mandarin ducks, seagulls, cranes, and other creatures can adorn the tree this way.

Pinecone owls

One other bird can perch on the tree this holiday season: the owl. This craft requires only pinecones, felt, scissors and a hot glue gun. Trim the felt into the shape of wings and facial features (eyebrows, beak, etc.) and glue these parts to the pinecone to create the owl.

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Five Podcasts to Add to Your Playlist in 2021

Nicolas BenVenuto

December 24, 2020

Winter break. A time for reflection on fall grades, spending time with loved ones, drinking warm festive flavors and listening to a good podcast.

The Edison Research Infinite Dial 2020 reports that as of Oct. 2020, there are over 1.5 million different podcast shows available for listeners online with a total of over 34 million different episodes.

In the U.S. alone, Edison Research reports that 55% of American's have listened to at least 1 podcast episode, and 50% of Americans are fans of at least 1 podcast show.

With such a vast array of podcast shows available for listeners, it may be difficult to pick out which shows best fit your listening interests. Compiled below, is a list of 5 popular podcasts that students can check out while cozying up inside over winter break.

Big Brains

Voted "Best Branded Podcast of 2020" by AdWeek, the Big Brains podcast is a weekly show hosted by the University of Chicago, and includes a variety of topics that has kept listeners coming back for more since it's premier in Apr. 2018.

On average, episodes of the Big Brains podcast range from 20 minutes to just under an hour, and include guest speakers from the most prestigious American university settings available.

Most recently, Big Brains hosted professor Patrick Jagoda and associate professor Kristen Schilt from the University of Chicago to discuss the most popular form of media in today's day and age — video games.

Professor Jagoda and professor Schilt are changing the script on how to teach certain topics, and are actively utilizing the video game format to address and educate students about some of the world's most pressing issues.

Climate change, marginalization and public health are just 3 of the topics discussed in this episode.



Other episodes of the Big Brains podcast include discussions on empathy, capitalism, government secrets, Native American history and loneliness.

To listen to the Big Brains podcast, visit <https://news.uchicago.edu/podcasts/big-brains> or search Big Brains podcast on all audio streaming platforms.

The Tony Robbins podcast

Tony Robbins is an American author, motivational speaker and philanthropist. Best known for his life coaching seminars and self-help rhetoric, Tony Robbins has been a popular figurehead amongst entrepreneurs and business enthusiasts since beginning his Leadership Academy seminars in the late 90's.

The Tony Robbins podcast is a place where Tony Robbins discusses topics ranging from unity, COVID-19, growing a business and guarding your own mind.

While the Tony Robbins podcast isn't released on a set schedule, the episodes available on all audio streaming platforms provide listeners with business and marketing strategies from some of America's most distinguished minds, and offer episodes ranging in length from 15 minutes to over two hours.

Most recently, Tony Robbins discusses food insecurity and the ever-growing need for nutritious, affordable and sustainable foods as the Earth's population is expected to reach 9.7 billion people by 2050.

Tony discusses this topic with XPRIZE Founder and Executive Chairman Mr. Peter H Diamandis, a New York Times best-selling author and entrepreneur who has started over 20 companies.

To listen to the Tony Robbins podcast, visit: <https://www.tonyrobbins.com/podcasts/> or search Tony Robbins podcast on all audio streaming platforms.

The Big Podcast with Shaq

For listeners looking for sports and comedy, The Big Podcast with Shaq is just that.

19-year NBA veteran Shaquille O'Neal has dipped his hand into many facets of American media over the last decade, and in January of this year, Shaq began his podcasting career as well.

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Episodes of The Big Podcast with Shaq range from 50 minutes to just over an hour in length, and include some of the biggest names in the professional sports world today.

Previous episodes include topics of discussion such as the life and death of Kobe Bryant, leading young athletes, election coverage, Breonna Taylor and racial injustice, COVID-19 and many others.

Most recently, Shaq discusses the treatment of young athletes and in particular, meeting NBA star Kevin Love when Love was just a kid.

To listen to The Big Podcast with Shaq, visit:

<https://www.podcastone.com/the-big-podcast-with-shaq> or search The Big Podcast with Shaq on all audio streaming platforms.

The GaryVee Audio Experience

The GaryVee Audio Experience is a podcast hosted by entrepreneur, CEO, investor and public speaking icon Gary Vaynerchuk.

From his #AskGaryVee show episodes featured on social media platforms like YouTube and Instagram, to keynote speeches and business segments featured on his WEEKLYVEE video series, Gary Vaynerchuk is an extremely popular figurehead in the marketing, advertising and business realms of America.

The GaryVee Audio Experience is a place where Vaynerchuk speaks on topics such as advancing your brand, consumer behaviors, delivering on expectations and enjoying the process rather than focusing on the end goal.

Episodes of The GaryVee Audio Experience range in length from 10-minute pep-talks, to episodes lasting over an hour. New episodes are released multiple times throughout the week.

In his latest episode, Vaynerchuk provides a Q&A format style episode and features business owners looking to learn from Vaynerchuk's experience in navigating the business landscape today.

To listen to The GaryVee Audio Experience, visit: <https://www.garyvaynerchuk.com/podcast/> or search The GaryVee Audio Experience on all audio streaming platforms.

TED Radio Hour

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Hosted by NPR, the TED Radio Hour podcast is a space for podcast host Manoush Zomorodi to talk to subject matter experts, and express her own personal interests into how technology has already transformed humanity and how these transformations change the landscape of human life on Earth.

Zomorodi took over the TED Radio Hour podcast in Nov. 2019, following previous host Guy Raz, who announced his departure from the show in July of the same year.

“Hosting TED Radio Hour is one of the best jobs in radio/podcasting. Who wouldn’t want to interview the smartest people on the planet about their life’s work and then collaborate with one of the top teams in audio to turn it into an intimate, educational, and entertaining hour of listening that impacts millions of people around the world?” said Zomorodi in a press release upon her hiring as TED Radio Hour podcast host in Nov. 2019.

The Ted Radio Hour podcast tackles head-scratching topics such as building a zero-emissions future, building resilient relationships, ingrained injustices, human loneliness and more.

Most recently, Zomorodi and The TED Radio Hour discuss the end of 2020, and recap the years most memorable podcast moments.

To listen to the TED Radio Hour, visit: <https://www.npr.org/podcasts/510298/ted-radio-hour> or search TED Radio Hour on all audio streaming platforms.

Where to Find The Best Holiday Light Displays

Kaitlyn Chrosniak

December 24, 2020

A holiday staple for many families in the month of December is driving around to find the best decorative light displays in the neighborhood. The following are some of the best places to find holiday light displays throughout Ohio.

The zoo

Multiple zoos throughout the state are incorporating extravagant holiday light displays to their animal sanctuaries. The Columbus Zoo, the Cincinnati Zoo and the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo all have transformed their habitats to better fit the season.

The Columbus Zoo offers Wildlights Sunday-Thursday from 5 p.m. – 9 p.m. and Friday-Saturday from 5 p.m-10 p.m. through Jan. 3.

The Cincinnati Zoo offers the PNC Festival of Lights by reservation only through Jan. 17.

The Cleveland Metroparks Zoo offers Winter Lights in both a walking and driving tour by reservation only through Jan. 9.

City lights

While many cities have chosen to cancel events related to the holiday season due to coronavirus, there are still a handful of events taking place in the Dayton area.

The Holiday Lights at Lost Creek are being hosted by the Miami County Park District through Dec. 27 on select days of the week for \$10 per car and \$30 per 15 passenger van.

Journey Borealis is a 2.5-mile driving lights tour in Hamilton, OH open every night until Jan. 3, with a discount available for Hamilton residents.

A Carlton Christmas is a 65-acre holiday light display in Dayton at the Carlton Historical Park running on limited hours through Dec. 30.

Neighborhood lights

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If spending money to see socially distanced holiday lights is not an option this year, on nearly every block are houses and buildings decked out for the season.

Many storefronts and community areas have lit up their buildings to celebrate the season all across the state. A simple walk down the block or drive through the neighborhood will provide the opportunity to see displays as simple as a single string of lights or as extravagant as a full yard display pairable with a radio station.

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Movies and TV Shows to Get in the Holiday Spirit

Roxanne Roessner

December 25, 2020

'Tis the season to wrap up in a blanket and watch Hallmark movies on Netflix. Here are a few movies and series to watch to put you in the holiday and carefree spirit.

“The Knight Before Christmas”

“The Knight Before Christmas” stars Vanessa Hudgens and Josh Whitehouse. Whitehouse, who plays Sir Cole, travels from medieval times to the present and has to navigate our world during Christmas. A crone sent Sir Cole to the future so he could complete a quest. This movie is silly, but it is perfect to watch when you want a simple holiday romance story.

“Holidate”

Emma Roberts and Luke Bracey take center stage in “Holidate” as two strangers who strike a deal to be plus ones for their holiday gatherings. Roberts, playing Sloane, and Bracey, playing Jackson, are both tired of the pressures they face during the holiday season. Though some parts of the movie are unrealistic, it is a break from traditional rom-com movies.

“Virgin River”

“Virgin River” is a Netflix series that stars Alex Breckenridge as a midwife named Melinda Monroe who moves from the city to the small-town Virgin River. While Melinda does not quite fit in with the community, she finds her place in the town and begins to grow her confidence. However, Melinda is haunted by her old life and constantly tries to run away from the past. This series, while not being holiday-related, is still a great story with a hometown feel.

“Dolly Parton’s Christmas on the Square”

This movie is a retelling of “The Christmas Carol” that focuses on Jenifer Lewis’s character Margeline who is a present-day Scrooge. Margeline wants to sell her small town and evict the residents on Christmas eve so that a large company can build a mall on the land. It features 14 new Dolly Parton songs and has great character arcs.

Spotify's 2020 Wrapped: The Most Popular Songs This Year

Noah Kindig

December 25, 2020

With many of us stuck inside for most of this year, we have consumed more media than ever. The most popular of all media for 2020 was of course, music. Music is everything today, and Spotify announced its most popular music in this year's 2020 Wrapped.

Around the world

With over 8.3 billion streams across all of his songs, Puerto Rican Rapper *Bad Bunny* picked up the most streams in the world on the platform in 2020 after releasing two albums this year in February and November.

His most recent hit, DAKITI, first released on Oct. 30, already has over 330,000 listens on the site alone, and his first album released this year "YHLQMDLG" was the most streamed album of the year.

For single songs, The Weeknd's "Blinding Lights" picked up the most streams globally, with over 1.6 Billion streams alone.

For Podcasts, it couldn't be anyone else but the king of podcasting itself, Mr. Joe Rogan. The man with big ideas in "The Joe Rogan Experience" earned himself the top spot for 2020 podcasts, with "TED Talks Daily" and "The Daily" following behind.

Other popular music

American singer Billie Eilish has been the most popular female artist in the world for 2 years in a row, with her latest single "Therefore I Am" picking up over 135 Million streams in one month.

With the political situation in the U.S., independent listeners created over 64,000 playlists using "BLM" or "Black Lives Matter" in the title.

While 2020 was a rough year for many of us, music seemed to be a happy outlet around the world. The amount of self-care music listened to jumped to an all-time high, and playlists based around gardening or cleaning reached record numbers as well. While 2020 was an insane year, the music in 2020 Wrapped seemed to have kept us all sane.