

For the week of:  
**12|11|2023**

Get the low-down from a high-up perspective!

the mAAA<sup>x</sup>

## MONDAY 12/11

Today is **National App Day**! Phone applications, known as apps, help us navigate our drives, stay connected to friends, assist us with language translation, and simply entertain us! The first app was the arcade game “Snake” which was introduced in 1997 on the Nokia. Today there are over 7 million apps to download, many of which are free. That’s quite app-ealing!

## TUESDAY 12/12

Happy **Gingerbread House Day**! Gingerbread is a traditional holiday treat and some people suspect that the fairytale “Hansel and Gretel” inspired the creation of these little, edible houses. Not all gingerbread houses are small, however. The largest gingerbread house ever recorded is life-sized, measuring 39,201.8 cubic feet and 36-million calories in total!

## WEDNESDAY 12/13

Hey neigh-bor, it’s **National Horse Day**! Did you know that, despite the fact that horses’ brains are smaller than human brains, they have memories comparable to that of an elephant? Perhaps this is why they’ve been companions of humans for thousands of years: from transportation to agriculture to warfare, these beautiful creatures have played an important role in our history!

## THURSDAY 12/14

Many of us sing about chestnuts roasting on an open fire every year without ever having tried a roasted chestnut . . . there’s an explanation for that! American chestnut trees used to grow in abundance on the East coast before they were wiped out by disease in 1903. Although they are no longer a popular Christmas treat in the United States, you can find recipes online and try roasting chestnuts at home on **Roast Chestnuts Day**!

## FRIDAY 12/15

It’s about to get ugly because today is **Ugly Sweater Day**! You can celebrate this holiday by opting to wear a colorful, festive, and unique Christmas sweater. The more over-the-top embellishments, the better!

## DID YOU KNOW?

- The average mobile phone user has more than **80 apps** on their phone.
- **Shakespeare** mentioned gingerbread in his play *Love’s Labors Lost*: “An I had but one penny in the world, thou shouldst have it to buy ginger-bread...”
- Horses are **unable to breathe through their mouth** as humans can. They can only breathe through their nose.
- America imports around **\$20 million** worth of chestnuts every single year from China, Korea, and Italy.
- Ugly Christmas sweaters made their popular appearance in the 50’s with the mass commercialization of Christmas. They were first known as “**Jingle Bell Sweaters**” and featured discrete Christmas themed decorations. The original ugly Christmas sweaters were never intended to be “ugly”. They were actually pretty artistic and joyful.

## ... And the Latest from Ambassador

### CLASSIC CHRISTMAS

We’re asked every year so might as well confirm it here—you are permitted to air the classic Christmas content from **Focus on the Family’s** Radio Theatre team including “A Christmas Carol,” “Christmas by Injunction” and “Shoemaker Martin.” Send a note to [Rebecca@ambaa.com](mailto:Rebecca@ambaa.com) and she can direct you for downloading.

“I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep.”  
**John 10:14-15 (NIV)**