

New Year’s – HISTORY AND TRADITIONS

By Ron Jacobs, Contributor

New Year’s celebrations date back to ancient Babylon 4,000 years ago. The observances were usually held in March when there was an equal amount of sunlight and darkness. They considered this the beginning of a new year. They were also honoring the victory of the Babylonian sky god over the evil sea goddess Tiamat.

As civilization progressed, different sections of the world associated the new year with different reasons. Egypt, as an example, observed the new year with the yearly flooding of the Nile River. A great many of the new year’s celebrations became associated with agriculture.

Romulus, the founder of Rome, created a calendar of 10 months and 304 days. A later Roman ruler, Julius Caesar, added two additional months, Januarius and Februarius.

When he created the Julian Calendar, astronomers and mathematicians were consulted. The Julian calendar is much like our calendar of today.

January, named for the god Janus, was depicted with two faces, one looking forward and one looking to the past. February is named for the god Februus, meaning purification, a time

to prepare for the future.

Pope Gregory XIII established January 1, 1582 as the official first day of the new year.

Slowly, traditions began to be associated with New Year’s Day. In Spain, swallowing 13 grapes while the clock is striking will bring good luck in the coming year.

A tradition associated with the southern United States is eating black- eyed peas for good luck and eating something green so you will receive money in the new year.

Cuba, Austria, Mexico, Portugal, and other countries always eat pork to make sure they have a prosperous year. Some countries always eat a round cake to indicate the year has come full circle.

Another tradition in English-speaking countries is singing “Auld Lang Syne” at midnight. Many people make resolutions, which probably date back to Babylonian times.

The dropping of the giant ball in New York’s Times Square is seen by millions of people. The tradition began in 1907. The giant ball will be covered this year with thousands of Waterford crystals and 32,000 LED lights.

Another New Year’s tradition in America that was especially popular midcentury was Guy Lombardo and his Royal Canadian Orchestra broadcasting live from New York



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City the “Auld Lang Syne” song as the clock welcomed in another new year.

Dropping things to celebrate the New Year has become popular in cities. They drop all sorts of things, such as dill pickles in Pennsylvania and opossums in Georgia.

The Jewish new year is known as Rosh Hashana, which translates as “Head of the Year.” The date changes according to the Jewish calendar.

The Chinese welcome the new year in the

spring. The midnight kiss probably originated in England and Germany. Some people celebrate the New Year with a “Polar Plunge” by swimming in freezing water.

It appears the new year gives people an opportunity to start a new beginning, but we express nostalgia at the close of the year.

There seems to be a desire to enter the new year with a clean slate and a positive attitude, thus the resolutions and eagerness to wish one and all a HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Three Kings Day and the Twelve Days of Christmas

From gifts and camels to Epiphany and Mardi Gras, January 6 traditions explained

By Ron Jacobs
Contributor

Three Kings Day is not usually observed here, but it is an important day in many countries, especially in Latin America with parades and festivities.

It is on this day in many Spanish-speaking countries when children receive presents on the “Día de Las Reyes” (Three Kings Day).

The Three Kings bring presents to the children just as they did to the baby Jesus.

This is probably where the tradition of giving presents on Christmas day began.

Just as in the United States children leave milk and cookies for Santa, the children who observe Three Kings Day leave their shoes out and fill them with food for the camels. In appreciation, the Kings leave small gifts for the children for remembering the camels.

A large part of the Christian world observes January 6 as Three Kings Day, also as the Epiphany. The meaning of the



word epiphany is when suddenly you find yourself understanding or become convinced of something. When the Magi, who were Gentiles, came to worship baby Jesus, they had

an epiphany.

According to tradition, there were 12 days from the birth of Jesus until the Wise Men came to visit baby Jesus. We are all familiar with the

song, The Twelve Days of Christmas. This is the time between the birth and the visitation; this is how the song got its name.

William Shakespeare recognized the 12 days of Christmas; he wrote a play titled The Twelfth Night.

Epiphany, January 6th, the same day as Three Kings Days, marks the beginning of the Mardi Gras season which lasts until Fat Tuesday in February.

Many Protestant churches do not observe Epiphany and do not include it on their church calendars. Other Christian churches feel it is

very important as it was the first contact between the Jewish Messiah and the Gentile world.

Item of interest: It is thought that the tradition of Christmas caroling began with “wassailing” centuries ago.

On the 12th night, the English had a long history of getting together and singing. The singers were rewarded with hot mulled cider known as wassail. This evolved into what we know as Christmas caroling.

Wassail is actually a greeting meaning “Be in good cheer.”

Happy New Year’s from the Marietta Monitor Staff!

Public Notice

NOTICE TO SELL COUNTY PROPERTY (ACQUIRED AT RESALE)

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the receipt of bid, that I, Karla Smith, County Treasurer of Love County, Oklahoma, will on the 19th day of January, 2026, beginning at 9 a.m. at my office in the Courthouse at Marietta, Oklahoma, sell separately the hereinafter described tracts, parcels, or lots of land, all situated in Love County, Oklahoma and heretofore acquired by said county at the resale authorized by 68 O.S. § 3125. Following the description of each property separately offered for sale is the name of the bidder and the amount bid as follows:

Description	Bidder	Amount Bid
PH 1 UN 5 BLK 22 LOT 4 FALCONHEAD	Charlie White	\$114.69
PH 1 UN 5 BLK 23 LOT 6 FALCONHEAD	Charlie White	\$192.32

The said properties will be separately sold to the highest competitive bidder, for cash in hand, or to the original bidder at the amount bid if there be no higher bid offered, subject to the approval of the Board of County Commissioners. The apportioned cost of advertisement and other expense incident to the said sale shall be paid by the purchaser, in addition to the amount bid upon said properties.

Witness my hand this 20TH day of December, 2025

/s/ Karla Smith (seal)
County Treasurer

Published in the Marietta Monitor on
December 26, 2025 and January 2 and 9, 2026.

December 22, 2025

Board of County Commissioners Regular Meeting

Agenda was posted December 18, 2025 12:00 PM on the door of the Courthouse Annex and at exit doors of the Courthouse.

Present: Commissioners David Magee, Mike Mayes and Stacy Rushing; Minutes by County Clerk Shelly Russell; Darrell Holland, Karen Holt, Sheriff Andy Cumberledge, Dianna Dandridge-Rystrom, Jenny Williams and Harvey Stewart.

Called to order by Chairman David Magee.

Quorum Call. Magee, Mayes and Rushing.

Enter into Executive Session in accordance to 25 O.S. 2011, § 307 (B)(4); Confidential communications between a public body and its attorney concerning a pending investigation, claim, or action if the public body, with the advice of its attorney, determines that disclosure will seriously impair the ability of the public body to process the claim or conduct a pending investigation, litigation, or proceeding in the public interests; in regard to Love County E911 coming into compliance with the State of Oklahoma 911 Management Authority. Also, in accordance to 25 O.S. 2011, § 307 (B)(1); discussing the employment, hiring, appointment, promotion, demotion, disciplining or resignation of any individual salaried public officer or employee, E-911 Coordinator. Motion Mayes Second Rushing. Vote Yes – Magee, Mayes and Rushing.

Reconvene Board of County Commissioners meeting. Motion Mayes Second Rushing. Vote Yes – Magee, Mayes and Rushing.

Board made E911 Board aware of upcoming compliance issues and deadline of applying for a grant for the updated equipment needed for remediation of addressing, to comply with new rules for E911. Non-compliance could result in withholding Love County E911 tax collections until in compliance. No Board Action.

Board made E911 Board aware of public concerns and protocol issues with E911 Coordinator. E911 Board to meet with coordinator and discuss issues and address the concerns of the public. No Board Action.

Board adopted Resolution #2025-68 for the Acceptance of the State of Oklahoma 911 Management Authority Grant Application for Love County E911. Motion Mayes Second Rushing. Vote Yes – Magee, Mayes and Rushing.

Board approved request for the UEI FETMC1YFU486 – Commercial and Government Entity (CAGE) Code Office – System for Award Management (SAM) Registration Verification for Love County. Motion Mayes Second Rushing. Vote Yes – Magee, Mayes and Rushing.

December 15, 2025 Board of County Commissioner’s Minutes and the Proceedings for publication were approved. Motion Mayes Second Rushing. Vote Yes – Magees and Rushing. Abstain: Magee

Board approved the use of Courthouse parking lot on February 9, 2026 for an OBI Blood Drive. Motion Mayes Second Rushing. Vote Yes – Magee, Mayes and Rushing.

Transfer within Rural Fire Fund for Falconhead Volunteer Fire Dept dba/ Red River Volunteer Fire Dept; from M&O 1321-2-8206-2005 to Capital Outlay 1321-2-8206-4110, \$5000.00 for equipment purchase, was approved. Motion Mayes Second Rushing. Vote Yes – Magee, Mayes and Rushing.

Board adopted Resolution #2025-69 Chickasaw Nation Donation to the Love County Sheriff Office, \$1000.00, for supplies/maintenance and general maintenance/operations of sheriff’s vehicles. Motion Mayes Second Rushing. Vote Yes – Magee, Mayes and Rushing.

Requisition–Purchase Order–Claims presented for payment the week of 12/11 – 12/18, 2025 were approved. Motion Mayes Second Rushing. Vote Yes – Magee, Mayes and Rushing.

2024-2025

General #1895, SHIPMAN RADIO COMMUNICATION, 325.00, supplies; **Resale** #96, MARIETTAMONITOR, 35.00, cards

2025-2026

911 Phone #48, AT&T, 450.06, service #49, AT&T, 785.45, service #50, AT&T, 710.67, service #51, XCELOFFICESOLUTIONS, 329.03, service #52, CANON FINANCIAL SERVICES INC, 196.33, contract; **County Clerk-ST** #81, AMAZON BUSINESS, 112.63, supplies; **Donations** #2, J & I MANUFACTURING, 2600.00, metal; **Extension-ST** #38, AT&TMOBILITY, 41.73, service #39, OFFICE DEPOT, 501.32, supplies; **General** #822, JASON HILLTOP GROCERY, 31.07, fuel #823, ONG, 103.97, service #824, ONG, 506.75, service #825, ONG, 89.45, service #826, MARIETTAPWA, 218.27, service #827, MARIETTAPWA, 1173.61, utility #828, MARIETTA PWA, 35.34, utility

Public Notice

#829, MODESTO SIGNS INC, 360.00, signs #830, OTAPLATE PAY, 3.30, tolls #831, CANON FINANCIAL SERVICES INC, 156.88, contract #832, CULLIGAN OF ARDMORE, 65.25, water #833, PCS SOLUTIONS LLC, 460.33, repair #834, AMAZON BUSINESS, 48.99, supplies #835, TURN KEY HEALTH CLINICS LLC, 125.00, x-rays #836, TURN KEY HEALTH CLINICS LLC, 522.20, service #837, ONG, 109.67, utility;

General Gov’t-ST #293, CODA, 150.00, registration #294, PITNEY BOWES, 188.28, payment #295, COMMUNITY CARE EAP, 82.80, service #296, TERMINIX PROCESSING CENTER, 188.53, service #297, TERMINIX PROCESSING CENTER, 164.00, service #298, JUST TRASHIN, 160.00, service #299, CINTAS CORPORATION, 351.95, service; **Health** #78, SHOTROK LLC, 2338.75, service #79, SAMANTHA ALDABA %LCHD, 142.57, travel #80, SHOTROK LLC, 395.00, service #81, SAMUEL CECENAS FLORES, 475.00, service #82, WORKABLE PROGRAMS AND SYSTEMS INC, 555.34, service #83, BURGESS TESTING COMPANY LLC, 3400.00, service;

Highway #741, DOLESE, 1302.96, materials #742, BURTON TIRE COMPANY, 225.00, repair #743, J C AUTO PARTS LLC, 380.95, supplies #744, RODRIGUEZ TIRE SHOP, 15.00, repair #745, COUNTY BUILDING CENTER, 29.18, supplies #746, STANDLEYSYSTEMS, 25.63, service #747, STANDLEYSYSTEMS, 145.10, service #748, PREMIER TRUCK GROUP, 133.98, service #749, SERVICE OKLAHOMA, 42.60, transfer #750, SOUTHWEST EQUINE RESTRAINT SYSTEMS, 1440.00, supplies #751, SECURITY NATIONAL BANK, 1998.31, lease #752, DOLESE, 1202.13, materials #753, JR THOMPSON INC, 6677.67, materials #754, BUTTONS AUTO ELECTRIC, INC., 310.00, supplies #755, J C AUTO PARTS LLC, 80.04, supplies #756, BURTON TIRE COMPANY, 121.00, repair #757, J R THOMPSON INC, 2448.12, gravel #758, JR THOMPSON INC, 3639.10, materials #759, J R THOMPSON INC, 1430.91, materials #760, PREMIER TRUCK GROUP, 27.30, parts #761, JIM FORD SIGN CO., 58.50, stickers #762, C L BOYD INC, 1278.54, parts #763, SOUTHWEST EQUINE RESTRAINT SYSTEMS, 1800.00, supplies #764, PREMIER TRUCK GROUP, 216.47, parts #765, RUSHING, JOHN STACY, 199.50,

travel #766, J C AUTO PARTS LLC, 171.13, repair #767, JCAUTO PARTS LLC, 301.67, supplies #768, COUNTY BUILDING CENTER, 63.97, supplies #769, STANDLEY SYSTEMS, 25.63, service #770, ELLIOTT HYDRAULICS, 353.19, supplies #771, MARTIN PETROLEUM INC., 3430.00, fuel #772, RUSH TRUCK CENTER, 550.00, parts #773, RUSH TRUCK CENTER, 245.56, parts #774, SECURITY NATIONAL BANK, 3210.27, lease; **ML Fee** #25, MARIETTAMONITOR, 75.00, advertisement; **Resale** #40, MARIETTAMONITOR, 75.00, ad;

Rural Fire-ST #193, GALLS INC, 374.97, supplies #194, ARBUCKLE COMMUNICATIONS INC., 236.97, service #195, ULINE 237.13, tape #196, ARBUCKLE COMMUNICATIONS INC., 65.49, service #197, SHIPMAN RADIO COMMUNICATION, 4221.00, lights #198, ARBUCKLE COMMUNICATIONS INC., 64.84, service #199, ONG, 192.38, service #200, DAVENPORT FIRE EQUIPMENT SALES, 247.00, supplies #201, ARBUCKLE COMMUNICATIONS INC., 64.84, service #202, ARBUCKLE COMMUNICATIONS INC., 145.49, service #203, BILLINGSLEY FORD INC., 665.99, repair #204, ARBUCKLE COMMUNICATIONS INC., 64.84, service #205, MARIETTA PWA, 64.09, service;

SH Svc Fee #92, TIBBETS, JOHN M., 250.00, maintenance #93, CANON FINANCIAL SERVICES INC, 156.88, contract #94, ROMAINE COMPANIES, 2078.00, supplies #95, WAGNER SUPPLY COMPANY, 597.78, supplies; **SR Cit-ST** #25, MARIETTA PWA, 114.68, service

Adjourn. Motion Mayes Second Rushing. Vote Yes – Magee, Mayes and Rushing.

Approved this 29th day of December, 2025.

BOARD OF COUNTY

COMMISSIONERS

/s/ David Magee

Chairman

/s/ Stacy Rushing

Vice-Chairman

/s/ Mike Mayes

Member

(SEAL)
ATTEST:
/s/ Shelly Russell
Shelly Russell, County Clerk

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LPXL