SMACKOVER
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:

## Smack Talk

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January Is... 6

January is National Soup Month. We may ring in the New Year with pork, peas, and cabbage, but we're apt to soon be searching for something a bit lighter and equally as comforting.

Although National Soup Month is celebrated in the United States, it is gaining popularity in other countries. Soup is popular in every country, among the lavish and the frugal. Whether it is the first course or the main dish, brothy or creamy, just veggies or with meat, soup is amazingly versatile.

The internet makes it easy to sample soups from other
countries and cultures, if you like to experiment. For those who like to stick with tried


Chicken Noodle Soup is an all time favorite
and true favorites, Gone Ta Pot says that Tomato Soup and Chicken Noodle Soup
are top picks.
Popular side kicks for soup are salad, baked potato, or sandwiches. One might toss in some croutons or oyster crackers, cheese, or crispy fried onions for variety.

Whatever your preference, cozy up with some warm soup to ward off the winter chill this month.
(By: Sandra Mills, some information taken from gonetapot.com. Photo from Delish.com)

## Soup Recipes....

Find scrumptious soup recipes at one of these websites:
$\diamond$ Allrecipes.com
$\diamond$ Tasteofhome.com
$\diamond$ Justapinch.com
$\diamond$ Countryliving.com

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AUTO • HOME • LIFE

# Bon Appetit trammex 

In an article in our December issue, we mentioned that the French Club was going to have an opportunity to dine on authentic French cuisine. I asked Mrs. Sonia Barker to share with us how the trip went and what the students thought about it.
Mrs. Barker shared with me that the students dined at Terry's Finer Foods in Little Rock, Arkansas. They had the entire lunch section of the building to themselves, and were served complimentary appetizers and their choice of three entrees. Hogan Barker and Ryan Johnson chose Steak/Frites (steak and fries). The remaining choices were Crepes du Poulet (chicken crepes) and Croque Monsieur (classic French grilled ham and cheese). "When we arrived, it was really nice. The food was amazing and so was the service," Mark Jenkins shared. Tyler Waxley also shared that the food was "really good and different."

The décor and furnishings were imported from France and featured paintings by a French artist. The owner of Terry's Finer Foods sells the paintings here in America for the artist at an average price of about $\$ 7,500.00$. Brooke Roden related, "The decorations from France were really interesting." To add to the atmosphere the students were served water from old wine bottles.

The fine meal was finished off with Crème Bulee by those who chose to try it.
In addition to those already mentioned, the trip was enjoyed by: Cammie Martin, Lacy Bates, Elizabeth Golden, Midori Ellis, Adrianna Thurmon, Disheanna Brown, Aaron Brant, Dalton Owens, Jackson Leach, Cooper Thurman, Luke Bussell, Christina Jones, Summer Jones, Autumn Winans, Landon Darden, Brooke Roden, Cristen Temples, Tessa

Watson, David Lee, Spencer Stanton, Krisanna Reynolds, John Burton, Gerrett Alphin, Mason Willett, Skyler Green, Skyler Kinley, Laura Deal, Kelsey Paxton, Sergio Diaz, Holly Donahoe, Kara Burson, Ashley Haynes, Nick Jennings, and Patrick Morris.
Emily Bunker said, "The trip was well worth it! ...Seeing and tasting was a great learning experience. It was like I took a small trip into a different culture."

Thank you to Smackover School District for allowing trips such as these and for teachers and leaders like Sonia Barker who are willing to take on such endeavors. Of course there couldn't have been a trip without yearning to learn young folks and those who helped pay their way. Ryan Johnson speaks for the group in saying, "Thank you to those who made this trip possible"
(By Sandra Mills)



Smackover Chamber of Commerce planned to have a Christmas Parade last month as part of its Hometown Christmas celebration. However, due to unforeseen events, the parade was canceled. This decision left two very disappointed Smackover Elementary students who'd won the opportunity to serve as the parade's Grand Marshals.

SES sixth grade students competed by writing essays about the President passing a law banning Christmas. The students who won the contest were Lexie Lawrence and Cameron McLelland.
Hoping to ease Lexie's and Cameron's disappointment and reward them for their great work, SCOC president, Stacy Mullin, had each presented
with a $\$ 25.00$ gift card. We know that's not as exciting as a parade, though.

Each essay will be featured in this month's issue of Smack Talk. You will find them on page 4. These students did a great job and we at the Chamber of Commerce want them to know we are proud of them!


Cameron McLelland


Lexie Lawrence

## Essay: The President Banned Christmas!

By: Lexie Lawrence
"Stop!" "Push the brake." "So are you telling me that Christmas is banned?" I boost to my friend. Even though people love Christmas because of the wonderful gifts, it is also about our Lord and Savior's wonderful birthday.

Banning Christmas would negatively affect my family's traditions in many, many ways that would hurt my family. That means no more decorating fancy trees or hanging the angel on top of the tree. No more big family parties or big Christmas feasts. [We also] couldn't decorate our porch with the nativity scene to [recognize] Jesus' birthday.

Banning Christmas would also negatively affect celebrating my family beliefs. Well that would mean no more preaching about what the real meaning of Christmas is at church. [And] going under the big Christmas tree when it is lit up would be a "no-no", too. No more delightful Christmas plays at church about Jesus' birthday [-they] would be banned also. "Sad", I think to myself. So if the President banned Christmas it would break all of the little kids' hearts.

Christmas will affect many people in many, many ways. For example, little kids couldn't have the school parties for Christmas. Also little, precious kids couldn't take memorable photos with Santa Claus. What would break their little hearts the most is they couldn't make good, delicious cookies and cold, refreshing milk to leave for hungry Santa.

To wrap things up a bit, Christmas...is very special to my family and everybody else in this world, as you can see. Christmas is that special thing my family always looks forward to because it brings back some of the brightest memories deep down inside.

## Essay: Extra! Extra! Read All About It!

By: Cameron McLelland
Extra! Extra! Read all about it. "Christmas is banned," the President exclaimed! Although the President has made a tactless decision, I will stand up for my rights.

First, the American Bill of Rights guarantees to every person in the United States the rights and liberties that are the basic democracy. It is one of the most important and respected documents in America. The First Amendment guarantees freedom of religion, speech, press, assembly, and petition. The founding fathers believed that freedom carried with it certain responsibilities. They felt a man was free to do as he pleased as long as his actions did not hurt anyone else. The Bill of Rights assumed men were responsible. One of the greatest things about the Bill of Rights is that it trusted the people. It is based on the belief that every individual is responsible and behaves properly and is, therefore, entitled to fair treatment from the government.

Next is how banning Christmas will affect my traditions negatively. It is a joyful holiday marked by family gatherings, colorful decorations, traditional songs, and the exchange of gifts. In the United States, kids believe in a figure called Santa Claus. [He] is thought to have a red suit and he is also a fat elf. Every year my family has a Christmas dinner. We have lots of fun decorating the tree and house while singing Christmas carols. One of my favorite traditions is exchanging gifts. Seeing Santa Claus with my younger cousins always makes me smile. If the President bans Christmas, it will make people unable to do all of that.

Finally, is the Christian beliefs I have about Christmas. Most Christians celebrate Christmas on December 25th. That's Christmas Day. My family does the Christmas scenes every year for Jesus. That's my favorite belief. My family also does the Bible stories on Luke 2:1-20.

Indeed, the President has made a bad decision. I hope this makes him reinstate Christmas.


0dds and Ends

WANTED
Elementary Administrative Asst.
Send resume \& application to
Holly Strickland @
Smackover Elementary School

| THANK YOU |
| :---: |
| To the First Apostolic Church of |
| Smackover! |
| We loved our Pumpkin Bread! |

## THANK YOU

Smackover!


Preschool Openings
Two slots open for 3-4 year olds.
Contact Debra Tolin @ 725-3651

## Caught Doing Good

Smackover School District Superintendent, Dave Wilcox, was at the Spelling Bee when Kindergarteners came by to sing Christmas Carols. They were sorry they'd missed him, but kept right on singing.

While they were blessing the Dollar General crew with a song, Mr. Wilcox found them. His smile related his joy at hearing the youngsters' wishes for a Merry Christmas.

Thank you, Mr. Wilcox, for taking time out of your busy day just to listen to our little ones. Your actions showed them that though they are small, they are very important!

## January 2014

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 <br> New Years Day | 2 | 3 | 4 <br> World <br> Braille Day |
| 5 | 6 <br> Back to School | 7 | 8 | 9 <br> Report Cards | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 mıK Day | 21 | 22 | 23 |  | 25 |
| Nat'I | No School |  |  |  | 24 |  |
| Popcorn | Sch. Brd. Mt. |  |  |  | h Day |  |
| Day | 5:30 |  |  |  | of School |  |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 |

JANUARY IS...


A true warrior, like tea, shows his strength in hot water. ~Chinese Proverb

