

Cheverly STEM Buzz



COURTESY: RT

Thousands Rally After Ferguson Decision

Associated Press

Thousands of people rallied late Monday in U.S. cities including Los Angeles and New York to passionately but peacefully protest a grand jury's decision not to indict a white police officer who killed a black 18-year-old in Ferguson, Missouri. They led marches, waved signs and shouted chants of "hands up, don't shoot," the refrain that has become a rallying cry in protests over police killings across the country.

The most disruptive demonstrations were in St. Louis and Oakland, California, where protesters flooded the lanes of freeways, milling about stopped cars with their hands raised in the air.



Holiday DIY Gifts

By Erin, Buzz Reporter

Lonna Cropper has a large, and still growing, family. She has six adult children, and new grandchildren are being added to the family each year.

For the Croppers, the holiday season could be quite expensive. But Cropper has found a great way to save money.

"Every year, I make gifts for 25 people." She explains that what she saves in money, she pays in her time.

She starts early in the year by gathering ideas.

"It takes a year, but it is worth it, my children and grandchildren love that I make their gifts, they prefer it when I make them!"

Cropper originally started making holiday gifts to save money. But now the main reason she makes her own gifts is that she enjoys creating unique and personal gifts that have more meaning.

Cropper explains that one year she did not have the money to buy gifts, so she started to make them.

When her husband was in graduate school, money was tight. **Continued with "DIY"**

Are We Being Watched?

By Julian, Buzz Reporter

It is no longer a secret that the government is spying on its citizens. It has publicly notified its citizens that they are being spied on. But do you know how this is done? A newly developed surveillance system has been built into airplanes to disguise themselves as cell phone towers. 'When you turn on your cell phone, it immediately puts out a call to find the nearest cell phone tower.

Ordinarily, it will connect with a cell phone owned by your service provider, but the Department of Justice has a fleet of airplanes outfitted with special hardware that can trick phones into connecting to the airplane instead of a conventional cell phone tower. Because each cell phone has a unique identifier, this registration process can help the federal investigators determine who owns the phone and track a suspect as he moves from location to location.'



Although the device is intended to monitor criminal and terrorist suspects, it also scans through other people's personal data.

"I don't like it. Yet, I've always been aware that they are doing it more and more," said Diona Christine. "If they are using it to track criminals and terrorists then it may be a good thing. However, innocent citizens get caught in the search when their privacy is invaded," she added.

"The government has to go through many records and transcripts of innocent people in order to find out who the criminals are. So I am at risk of being spied on as a result," said Christine.

"I believe that normal freedom and basic human rights are at high risk as security measures are increasing and tightening in the name of terrorism," said Denise Witherspoon of Washington, D.C. "We are not far away from living in a militant world where martial law will be everything." ###

"DIY" Continued

.So she interviewed each family member and made individual memory pages for each person. She likes to put a little heart into everything she makes.

"So far, out of all the gifts I've made, my favorite is the PVC pipe mini marshmallow gun!" She gets many of her ideas from Pinterest.

She also has a friend that makes gifts, and they exchange gift ideas. It doesn't hurt that she has a lot of crafty talents, she can sew and knit. She has made blankets, wooden

Thanksgiving in America

By GIRIS, Buzz Reporter

Thanksgiving was the first American holiday. On October 14, 1789, a proclamation was issued by George Washington. It was published in the Massachusetts Centinel, which stated it would be "A Day of Publick Thanksgiving and Prayer."

The first American settlers experienced hardship; not knowing what would grow or when or if it would grow. They had to rely on hunting and fishing while experiencing a very, very, cold, brutal winter.

Facing near death, they were saved by Native Americans who taught them what would grow, when it would grow, and how to store it properly for the long winters ahead.

The colonists of the Plymouth Plantation held a celebration of food and feasting, according to Archiving Early Americans. Indian Chiefs Massassoit, Squanto and Samoset, and ninety of their men joined in the event.

In 1637, Indians were attacked by German and Dutch mercenaries, according to University of Connecticut Anthropology Department Chairman William B. Newell. The Native Americans were either shot or burned alive.

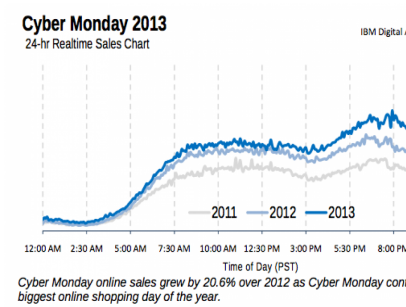
The next day the Governor of Bay Colony, Massachusetts ordered a day of Thanksgiving, thanking God the battle had been won.

"Thanksgiving is one of the few holidays that is not a religious celebration or the ending of a war, it is just purely a day of thanks," said Chandra Robinson. "In that way, it is truly unique." ###

"DIY Holidays" Continued

"For my young grand kids, I made little folder games, to help them with counting, and learning their letters. I've also made them car activity kits."

Cropper spends a lot of time going through ideas and gathering supplies. By making her gifts each year, she gets to individualize her gifts. But more than that she feels that she is making memories. ###



COURTESY: ErieSense.com

Cyber Monday Shopping

By Bena, Buzz Reporter

The day after Thanksgiving is very commonly known as Black Friday, or the first official day for holiday shopping. On this day, stores hold huge sales that attract mobs of people. Then the next day is known as Small Business Saturday, a similar day, where small-businesses have big sales for their products.

Cyber Monday(or Cyber Week, as some websites have begun to call it), is when a lot of online shopping is discounted. So if you can't make it out to stores on Black Friday or Small Business Saturday, you can feel comfort in knowing Cyber Monday is coming up to fill your holiday shopping needs. You don't even have to leave the house.

"I go out shopping on Black Friday, but I go to shop online on Cyber Monday as well. I like to shop online, especially from Amazon," said shopper Michelle Ferrando.

There are many advantages to shopping on Cyber Monday. Ferrando says the deals are good, and if what you ordered is not quite right, you can probably return it in time.

"I can snuggle up in my pajamas on the couch and shop online as late as I want!" said Ferrando. However, there are downsides.

"You can not feel how soft a sweater is, see if you like how a candle smells, or visualize if the sizing or color is right when shopping online," Ferrando says.

You have to rely on the reviews of the product to see if you're getting your moneys worth. But in Ferrando's eyes, the benefits outweigh the downsides of Cyber Monday.

"I chose to shop online for Cyber Monday because there are a lot of great sales, and it's nice after being out in the crazy hustle and bustle of Black Friday," said Ferrando. "I can go online, find the best price, and then order it. I look at all the cool stuff in the stores, and if I don't find what I'm looking for right away, then I can look later instead of going back out to a store." ###

Cheverly STEM Buzz

plaques, plates and birthday trees for each family. ***Continued with “DIY Holidays”***