COMMENTARY

I'm dreaming of a debt-free Christmas

By TOM PURCELL
Cagle Cartoons

Merry debt-fueled Christmas, America!

According to a recent NerdWallet study, nearly 40 million Americans are still struggling to pay off credit-card debts from last Christmas.

Here's what's worse: NerdWallet finds that this Christmas, "American consumers plan to spend more, charge more to credit, and take a longer time to pay it all off."

Good grief!

The grand irony is that the gifts we go in hock to give our kids and each other are often forgotten before the debt is paid off.

I was a kid in the '70s. But aside from a Huffy "Spyder" bike I got when I was 10, I can't remember a single gift I received — though I vividly remember the extraordinary blessings my parents bestowed on me.

I remember going from lot to lot with my father in search of the perfect Christmas tree. We'd bring it home and set it on a sturdy plywood platform he built. We'd decorate the tree as a family, and my mother would explain the history of antique ornaments handed down by family members no longer with us.

I remember that our next-door neighbors, the Kriegers, would always visit on Christmas Eve. Tremendous festivity would fill the air. Donny Krieger, the big brother I never had, would make me laugh out loud (and would be taken from this Earth far too early).

I remember that sleeping on Christmas Eve would be nearly impossible. My father would stack the old stereo console in the dining room with every Christmas record we had — Mitch Miller, the Munchkins, Snoopy and the Red Baron, and Bing Crosby's "White Christmas." The scratchy old records would finally lull me to sleep.

I remember it suddenly would be morning. I'd jump out of bed and run around, waking my sisters. Opening our gifts, torn wrapping paper would fill the living room. We'd laugh out loud as Jingles, our beloved mutt, rolled around in it.

But I don't remember the gifts.

I remember my five sisters, my parents and I were together and happy and healthy. All family conflicts and disputes were set aside on Christmas morning. My father would make a massive breakfast and we'd sit around, laughing and talking for an hour or more. Then, despite his repeated warnings that we'd better arrive at church early, we'd stand in the aisle because some once-a-year churchgoing family would be sitting in our regular seats.

Aside from the spiritual element, memories are what Christmas is most about. My Christmas memories are about togetherness, joy and gratitude for my family's many blessings — things that cannot be acquired through credit-card debt.

Which makes our growing debts all the more ridiculous.

By the end of 2018, American debt will exceed $4 trillion for the first time — $1 trillion in credit-card debt, $1.5 trillion for auto loans and other debts that do not include mortgage debt, and $1.5 trillion in student-loan debt that is wreaking havoc on the average millennial's cash flow.

We should spend less on Christmas, not more. We should give more of our time and love, and be charitable, with some of the limited funds we have, to those in greater need.

We certainly should not borrow money we don't have to purchase things that will soon be forgotten.

All I want for Christmas this year, and every year, is the health and happiness of my loved ones — and more memories, of course.

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Tom Purcell, author of "Misadventures of a 1970's Childhood," a humorous memoir available at amazon.com, is a Pittsburgh Tribune-Review humor columnist and is nationally syndicated exclusively by Cagle Cartoons Inc.

TUESDAY AFTERNOON & EVENING — DECEMBER 25, 2018

			12 PM	12:30	1 PM	1:30	2 PM	2:30	3 PM	3:30	4 PM	4:30	5 PM	5:30	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
FOX	(11) KFFX	11	Paid Program	Divorce Court	Steve!		Judge Mathis		The People's Court		Paid Program	Mom	Last Man St.	Last Man St.	Modern Family	Modern Family	2 Broke Girls	2 Broke Girls	Lethal Weapon "Leo Getz Justice"		The Gifted "outMatched"		First at Ten (N)	:35 Dateline		:35 Mike & Molly
	KPTV	3	Recipe		Wendy Williams		Truth	Truth	People's Court		Judy	Judy	FOX 12	News	Recipe		Feud	Feud	Lethal Weapon		The Gifted		News (N)		Health	Page Six
CBS	(19) KEPR	2	Funn-yAsk	Bold & B.	The Talk		Let's Make a Deal		Dr. Phil		Judge Judy	Judge Judy	YearRe-view (N)	News (N)	Year in Review	Inside Edition	The Big Bang	TheSi-mpsons	NCIS "Date With Destiny"		God Friended Me "Error Code 1.61"		FBI "Family Man"		Year in Review	:35 Colbert
	KOIN	19	Local 6	B & B	The Talk		The 700 Club		Dr. Phil		News (N)		News	News	News	News	Extra	ET	NCIS		God Friended Me		FBI "Family Man"		News	Colbert
NBC	(25) KNDU	6	TMZ	Paid Program	Days of Our Lives		The Wendy Williams Show		Daily Mail TV	Daily Mail TV	Ellen DeGeneres Leah Remini		News (N)	News (N)	News (N)	Family Feud	Wheel (N)	Jeop-ardy! (N)	Grinch	Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas The Grinch tries to steal Christmas from the people of Whoville.					News (N)	:35 Tonight
	KGW	8	Carpool	Paid	Days of Our Lives		The Dr. Oz Show		Ellen DeGeneres		Call-In	MthMatt	News	News	ORHstry	Carpool	Cassidy	InsEd.	Grinch	Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas					News	Tonight
ABC	(42) KVEW	4	NBA Basketball Oklahoma City Thunder at Houston Rockets Site: Toyota Center (L)					NBA Basketball Philadelphia 76ers at Boston Celtics Site: TD Garden -- Boston, Mass. (L)					NBA Basketball Los Angeles Lakers at Golden State Warriors Site: Oracle Arena (L)					Chance of Wine	Black-ish	Ent. Tonight	Extra	Cham-pagne	20/20 Emily Blunt		News (N) /:05 Jimmy Kimmel	
	KATU	5	NBA Basketball Oklahoma vs Houston (L)					NBA Basketball Philadelphia vs Boston (L)					NBA Basketball L.A. Lakers vs Golden State (L)					Wheel	Black	Jeop. (N)	Thanksgivg		20/20		News	Kimmel
PBS	(31) KTNW		Masterpiece Classic "Victoria: Doll 123"				Europe C'mas	Once Upon-C'mas "In the Lab of"		Danube	Once Upon a C'mas (N)		Chapel "Visions of Divine Mystery" (N)		PBS NewsHour (N)		Rick St "European Christmas"		We'll Meet Again (N)		Call the Midwife Holiday Special (N)			The Majestic Life of Queen Elizabeth II		
	(59) OPB	13	Masterpiece "Victoria: Doll 123"		:55 Masterp.	:50 Masterpiece Classic		:45 Masterpiece Classic		:40 Masterpiece Classic		:35 Masterpiece Classic		Masterpiece Classic		Business (N)	PBS NewsHour (N)		We'll Meet Again (N)		Call the Midwife Holiday Special (N)			Princes of the Palace		

			12 PM	12:30	1 PM	1:30	2 PM	2:30	3 PM	3:30	4 PM	4:30	5 PM	5:30	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
CABLE	A&E	52	★★ Ocean's Twelve ('04, Act) George Clooney.					★★★★ Con Air ('97, Act) Nicolas Cage.					★★ Armageddon ('98, Adv) Liv Tyler, Bruce Willis.						★★★★★ The Shawshank Redemption Tim Robbins.						:05 The Scorp...	
	AMC	60	The Year Wit...		★★★★ The Polar Express Tom Hanks.			★★ The Santa Clause 2 ('02, Fam) Tim Allen.						★★★★ Elf ('03, Com) Will Ferrell.				National Lampoon's Christmas ...			:45 ★★★ The Polar Express					Movie
	ANPL	24	Too Cute!		The Zoo		The Zoo		The Zoo		The Zoo		The Zoo		The Zoo		The Zoo		The Zoo		The Zoo		The Zoo		The Zoo	
	CMT	43	Home I.	Home I.	Home I.	Home I.	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	★★★★ Santa Claus: The Movie					★★★★ Santa Claus: The Movie					★★★★ Parenthood ('89, Com) Steve Martin.				
	CNBC	72	Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Deal or No Deal		Deal or No Deal		Deal or No Deal		Deal or No Deal		Deal or No Deal		Paid	Paid
	CNN	68	CNN Newsroom		Finding Jesus		Finding Jesus		Finding Jesus		Finding Jesus		Finding Jesus		Finding Jesus		Finding Jesus		Finding Jesus		Jesus "Judas"		Finding Jesus		Finding Jesus	
	DISC	51	It's The Irwins		To Be Announced		To Be Announced		To Be Announced		To Be Announced		To Be Announced		To Be Announced		To Be Announced		To Be Announced		To Be Announced		To Be Announced		To Be Announced	
	DISN	26	CoopCmi	CoopCmi	Stuck in Middle		Bizaard.	Bizaard.	Liv/Mad	Liv Mad	Underc.	Underc.	Jessie		Bunk'd	Bunk'd	Stuck in Middle		CoopCmi	CoopCmi	Bizaard.	Bizaard.	Austin	Austin	Girl M.	Girl M.
	ESPN	33	NFL Live (L)		:05 SportsC. (N)		:05 SportsCenter		SportsCenter (N)		SportsCenter (N)		NBA Basketball L.A. Lakers vs Golden State (L)					NBA Basketball Portland vs Utah (L)					SportsCenter (N)		NBA Basketball	
	ESPN2	34	30/30 "This Was the XFL"			30 for 30 "The Two Bills"			30 for 30 "The Last Days of Knight"				30/30 "42 To 1"		NCAA Basketb. Diamond Head Classic				SportsCenter (N)		SportsCenter (N)		NFL Live (N)		NBA Basketball	
	FNC	66	Shepard Smith		Your World		The Five		Special Report		The Story		Tucker Carlson		Hannity		Ingraham Angle		Fox News		Tucker Carlson		Hannity		Ingraham Angle	
	FOOD	61	Southern	Southern	Pioneer	Pioneer	Chopped Junior		Chopped		Chopped		Chopped		Chopped		Chopped		Chopped		Chopped (N)		Chopped		Chopped	
	FREE	32	Movie		:40 ★★ A Christmas Carol			:40 ★★★★ Meet the Robinsons				:45 ★★★★ The Santa Clause				:50 The Santa Clause 3: The Escape Clause					:55 ★★★★★ The Lion King				The 700 Club	
	FX	65	Trolls		★★ The Secret Life of Pets				★★ Despicable Me 2 Steve Carell.				★★ Minions Sandra Bullock.				★★ The Secret Life of Pets				★★ The Secret Life of Pets				★★ Minions	
	GOLF	88	Shell's World Golf		Shell's World Golf		Shell's World Golf		Shell's World Golf		Shell's World Golf		Feherty		Feherty		Feherty		Feherty		Feherty		Feherty		Feherty	
	GSN	76	Am.Says	Am.Says	Am.Says	Am.Says	Am.Says	Am.Says	Feud	Feud	Feud	Feud	Feud	Feud	Am.Says	Feud	Feud	Feud	Feud	Feud	Feud	Feud	Am.Says	Reaction	Idiotest	Idiotest
	HALL	87	Movie		Christmas Made to Order		It's Christmas, Eve			Christmas in Evergreen...			Pride, Prejudice & Mistl...			Christmas at Graceland			When Calls the Heart (N)			Christmas at the Palace				Movie
	HGTV	62	Hunters	Hunters	Fixer Upper		Fixer Upper		Fixer Upper		Fixer Upper		Fixer Upper		Fixer Upper		Fixer Upper		Fixer Upper		Fixer Upper		Fixer Upper		Fixer Upper	
	HIST	50	Cars America Pt. 2 of 3 cont'd next				Cars Made America Pt. 3 of 3				Oak Island "Rick's Big Bang Theory"				Curse Oak Island		Curse Oak Island		Curse of Oak Island "A Legacy Revealed: Extended" (N)						:05 Oak Island	
	LIFE	29	Santa's Boots Megan Hilty.				Poinsettias for Christmas				Christmas Around the Corner				Dear Santa ('11, Dra) Amy Acker.				Every Day Is Christmas				:05 Jingle Belle Tatyana Ali.			
	NICK	27	PAW	Butterb	PAW	Machines	PAW	Albert: The L...		Sponge	Sponge	Sponge	Loud H.	The Loud House			Santa Hunters			Sponge	Sponge	Sponge	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends
	ROOT	37	Paid	Paid	The Dan Patrick Show						WPT Poker		Champions Tennis				Undeniable Buck		H.S. Football WIAA Championship						H.S. Football	
	SPIKE	42	★★★★★ The Goonies Sean Astin.				★★★★ Dirty Dancing ('87, Dan) Patrick Swayze.				★★★★ Forrest Gump ('94, Com/Dra) Sally Field, Tom Hanks.								★★★★★ The Goonies ('85, Adv) Sean Astin.					★★★★ Dirty Dancing		
	SYFY	67	Futur.	Futur.	Futur.	Futur.	Futur.	Futur.	Futur.	Futur.	Futur.	Futur.	Futur.	Futur.	Futur.	Futur.	Futur.	Futur.	Futur.	Futur.	Futur.	Futur.	Futur.	Futur.	Futur.	Futur.
	TBS	59	★★★★ A Christmas Story				★★★★ A Christmas Story				★★★★ A Christmas Story				★★★★ A Christmas Story				BigBang	BigBang	BigBang	BigBang	BigBang	BigBang	Conan Borders	
	TCM	56	Movie		The Man Who Came to Dinner			:45 ★★★★ It Happened on Fifth Avenue					★★★★ Some Like It Hot				:15 ★★★★ Monkey Business				:15 ★★★★ Lover Come Back					:15 Mr. Deed...
	TLC	49	Lottery Changed		Lottery Changed		Untold "Dr. Bikini"		Untold "Shark!"		Untold Stories		Untold Stories		Untold Stories		Untold Stories		ER "Rear Ended"		Untold Stories		Untold Stories		Untold Stories	
	TNT	57	A Christmas S...		★★★★ A Christmas Story				★★★★ A Christmas Story				★★★★ A Christmas Story				★★★★ A Christmas Story		Jesus		★★★★★ Love Actually ('03, Rom) Emma Thompson.					
	UNI	21	Notic.	Vecinos	Celebrando la Magia						El gordo y la flaca		Primer impacto		P. Luche	Notic.	Rosa Guadalupe		Jesus		Mi Marido Tiene		Amar a Muerte		Impacto	Noticie.
	USA	58	The Fast & th...		★★ Fast and Furious Vin Diesel.					:10 ★★★★ Fast Five ('11, Act) Paul Walker, Vin Diesel.					A Madea Christmas				WWE Super Smackdown				Harry Potter & the Sorcerer's S...		
	WE	118	Monk		Monk		C.Minds "Doubt"		Criminal Minds		Criminal Minds		Criminal Minds		Criminal Minds		Criminal Minds		C.Minds "Identity"		C.Minds "Lucky"		Law&O. "Sweetie"		LawOrder "Zero"	
	WGN		★★★★ The Matrix Keanu Reeves.				Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	★★ Bad Santa Billy Bob Thornton.				Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Mother	Mother
PREMIUM	HBO	518	Isle of Dogs			★★ The Terminal Tom Hanks.				:45 ★★★★ The Post Meryl Streep.				1stLook	The Mountain Between Us				★★ Four Christmases			Love, Simon Nick Robinson.			Movie
	HBO2	520	The Prestige		★★★★ Inception Joseph Gordon-Levitt.					★★ Vanilla Sky ('01, Dra) Tom Cruise.					★★ Knight and Day ('10, Act)				American Made Tom Cruise.				★★ The Mummy Tom Cruise.		
	HBO3	521	Kingsman: T...		:55 ★★ Murder by Numbers				★★★★ Dangerous Minds			:40 ★★★★ Lucky You Eric Bana.				:45 ★★★★ The Blind Side Sandra Bullock.					★★ Kingsman: The Golden Circle					Movie
	MAX	549	★★★★ It's Complicated			:45 Going in Style Michael Caine.				:25 The House Will Ferrell.			:55 ★★★★ Die Hard II: Die Harder				Tour Bus	Tour Bus	★★ K-9 James Belushi.		:45 ★★ K-911 James Belushi.		:20 ★★ K-9: P.I.			
	SHOW	578	A Bad Moms Christmas			★★★★★ Patriots Day				:45 ★★ Daddy's Little Girls				Home Again			:10 ★★★★★ Office Christmas Party				Inside the NFL (N)		A Bad Moms Christmas		Ins.NFL	
	STARZ	621	Movie		:35 Home Alone 2: Lost in New ...			:35 ★★★★ Home Alone				:20 Home Alone 2: Lost in New ...			Outlandr	:40 Outlander		:40 ★★★★ The Other Guys				Outlander		:25 ★★ Joe Dirt	
	STZENC	644	★★★★ Scrooged		:10 ★★★★ Scrooged			:55 ★★★★ Scrooged Bill Murray.				:35 ★★★★ Scrooged			:15 ★★★★ Scrooged Bill Murray.				★★★★★ Big Hero 6				:45 ★★★★ Bedtime Stories			Movie

TUESDAY LATE NIGHT & WEDNESDAY MORNING

			12 AM	12:30	1 AM	1:30	2 AM	2:30	3 AM	3:30	4 AM	4:30	5 AM	5:30	6 AM	6:30	7 AM	7:30	8 AM	8:30	9 AM	9:30	10 AM	10:30	11 AM	11:30
FOX	(11) KFFX	11	:05 Mike & Molly	:35 Two 1/2 Men	:05 CR TV Featuring a selection of products and services.								CR TV		AgDay	The Game	Good Day (N)				Provi-dence	Provi-dence	Live PD: Patrol	Live PD: Patrol	Chicago P.D.	
	KPTV	3	TMZ Live!		Celebr-ity Page	2 Broke Girls	2 Broke Girls	King of Queens	Paid Program	Paid Program	This Minute	News (N)	Good Day Oregon at 5 a.m. (N)		Good Day Oregon at 6 a.m. (N)		Good Day Oregon (N)				Good Day "Best of" (N)		Good Day "Best of" (N)		The Rachael Ray Show	
CBS	(19) KEPR	2	The Late Show	:35 James Corden		:35 Paid Program	:05 CBS Overnight News					Morning News	News (N)	News (N)	News (N)	News (N)	CBS This Morning (N)				Pickler & Ben		The Price Is Right		The Young and the Restless	
	KOIN	19	The Late Show	:35 James Corden		:35 News	:10 CBS Overnight News				News (N)	News (N)	KOIN 6 News at 5 a.m. (N)		KOIN 6 News at 6 a.m. (N)		CBS This Morning (N)				Let's Make a Deal		The Price Is Right		The Young and the Restless	
NBC	(25) KNDU	6	Tonight Show	:35 Late Night With Seth Meyers		:35 Last Call	:05 Today Show		Early Today	Early Today	Early Today	Wake Up Northwest (N)					Today Show (N)				Today Show III (N)		Today (N)		Millio-naire?	Hot Bench
	KGW	8	Tonight Show	:35 Late Night With Seth Meyers		:35 Last Call	:05 Steve!		:05 Early Today	Early Today	Early Today	News (N)	KGW News at Sunrise (N)		KGW News at Sunrise (N)		Today Show (N)				Today Show III (N)		Today (N)		Daily Blast (N)	Daily Blast
ABC	(42) KVEW	4	:05 Nightl.	:35 This Minute	:05 Pat. Court	:35 This Minute	:05 ABC News Now Featuring the morning's top stories and breaking news from around the world.					News (N)	News (N)	News (N)	News (N)	News (N)	Good Morning America (N)				Live Ted Danson, Marisol Nichols		The View Hugh Jackman		Paid Program	This Minute
	KATU	5	Jimmy Kimmel	:35 Nightl.	:05 Paid Program	:35 Paid Program	:05 ABC World News Now				News (N)	News (N)	KATU News This Morning (N)				Good Morning America (N)				AM Northwest		The View Hugh Jackman		Live Ted Danson, Marisol Nichols	
PBS	(31) KTNW		News	Oil Painting	We'll Meet Again		Call the Midwife Holiday Special			Europe C'mas	Mormon Choir		Independent Lens "A Ballerina's Tale"		Esmon-de Tech.	W.L.-Yoga	Ready Jet Go!	Wild Kratts	Sesame Street	Splash & Bubbles	Dinosa-ur Train	Cat in the Hat	Daniel Tiger	Super WHY!	Pinka-Peter	Sit and Be Fit
	(59) OPB	13	PBS NewsHour		Independent Lens "A Ballerina's Tale"		Christmas Invitation		Chapel "Visions of Divine Mystery"		Christmas at St. Olaf		Nightly Business	World News	Power "Hips"	Wild Kratts	Nature Cat	Curious George	Let's Go Luna!	Daniel Tiger	Daniel Tiger	Pinka-Peter	Splash & Bubbles	Sesame Street	Dinosa-ur Train	Cat in the Hat