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The gifts they should've gotten

Hey guys. Did this whole crazy holy daze madcap bedlam thing sneak up on you this year, making the world speed up like a maglev Bullet Train going downhill lit by a strobe, like it did us? There's a perfectly reasonable explanation.



WILL DURST
RAGING MODERATE
Cagle columnist

Lazy-Boy recliner so at least he can be comfortable doing nothing.

For Fox News: Hard evidence that the credit card used to pay for the rental car that took terrorists to the American Embassy in Benghazi has been traced to a shell corporation whose CEO is Hillary Clinton's chief of staff.

For Malaysian Airlines: A name change.

For Jeb Bush: A name change.

For Mitch McConnell: An oilcan.

For Elizabeth Warren: A lingering bug to hit Hillary Clinton clearing the Democratic field for 2016.

For Joe Biden: A lingering bug to hit Hillary Clinton and Elizabeth Warren clearing the Democratic field for 2016.

For Kentucky Senator Rand Paul: More Republicans to support his run for the Presidency and less Democrats.

For Speaker of the House John Boehner: A gift certificate good for one surgical procedure to remove that unsightly Tea Party growth clinging to his back.

For Medical Science to study: Dick Cheney's heart. George Bush's brain. And Barack Obama's leadership skills.

For Scott Brown: Cheap property in either Vermont or Maine. Or both.

For CNN: Something to talk about other than ISIS and Ebola. And not ISIS infected with Ebola.

For Alec Baldwin: An unlimited refillable prescription for Xanax in a carrying case suitable for travel.

For Democrats in Congress: Scuba gear until they learn to grow gills for breathing underwater.

For Republicans in Congress: Enough rope to tie up Obama's agenda for two years, but not enough to hang themselves with.

For Ted Cruz: A money order in the exact amount of a one-way ticket on the clue train.

For Harry Reid: A big old

The Battle of New Orleans: the bicentennial

Just a reminder: Jan. 8 marks the 200th anniversary of the Battle of New Orleans, the last major encounter of The War of 1812.

Depending on your perspective, you may greet that news in different ways, such as "Wow! Time flies" or "I need to dust off my old history textbook" or, if you work for the Veterans Administration, "Keep your shirt on! We're almost up to that point on the backlog of cases."

Perhaps you assumed you'd already missed the bicentennial of the end of the War of 1812, but the conflict actually ranged from June 18, 1812 until Feb. 18, 1815. The Federalist Party couldn't raise enough votes to dub it The War of 1812 And Change.

Many Americans at the time of the war fancied it "the second American Revolution." Of course this sequel was lacking George Washington, Betsy Ross, Paul Revere and the Minutemen. It was sort of the "straight to video" war. Larry the Cable Guy was probably peddling grapeshot ammunition for this one.

If you think the War of 1812 gets little respect in the U.S., it's barely commemorated at all in Great Britain. That's partly because they considered it just an offshoot of the



DANNY TYREE
TYRADES!
Cagle columnist

Napoleonic Wars and partly because they're still mad about not trademarking "The Empire Strikes Back."

When I was in high school, I had a hard time grasping one of the causes of the war. The "impressment of American sailors" meant that the British did not recognize British-born sailors on American ships as American citizens and began kidnapping them to serve in the British navy. All I heard was that the British navy was "impressing American sailors." I could just imagine them bragging, "Check out these abs! Pretty good for someone who eats limes, huh? And watch me wiggle my teeth..."

One lasting aspect of the War of 1812 was our national anthem.

The unsuccessful British bombardment of Baltimore's Fort McHenry inspired Francis Scott Key to pen "The Star-Spangled Banner." Imagine if the anthem had been inspired by America's attempts to annex Canadian territory. ("This land is your land, this land is my land... and, oh, yeah — THAT land is your land, that land is my land...")

Remember August 1814 and the British burning of Washington, D.C.? The first impulse of First Lady Dolly Madison was to save priceless paintings from the White House. Today if the city was on fire, the first impulse of the first lady would be to demand, "Who let Biden play with matches?"

The Battle of New Orleans is best remembered for inspiring a 1959 country song written by Jimmy Driftwood and performed by Johnny

Horton. ("In 1814 we took a little trip/Along with Colonel Jackson down the mighty Mississippi...") His military service helped propel Major General Andrew Jackson to the presidency, although Old Hickory later told a biographer, "Community organizer! That's what I meant to sign up for instead of major general."

Although the War of 1812 weakened the Native Americans and emphasized the value of the U.S. Navy, most historians consider it a military/political stalemate. The status quo remained, and there were no boundary changes. That's right: It changed nothing. ("Sort of like Mom's birthdays," sighed Prince Charles.)

Spend Jan. 8 remembering the war's casualties. And contemplating life with a Bruce Springsteen anthem. ("Yaaaaaankee Doodle's comin' to town... Yaaaaaankee Doodle's comin' to town...")

— ©2015 Danny Tyree. Danny welcomes reader e-mail responses at tyreetyrades@aol.com and visits to his Facebook fan page "Tyree's Tyrades." Danny's weekly column is distributed exclusively by Cagle Cartoons Inc. newspaper syndicate

"One lasting aspect of the War of 1812 was our national anthem. The unsuccessful British bombardment of Baltimore's Fort McHenry inspired Francis Scott Key to pen "The Star-Spangled Banner."

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Community generosity greatly appreciated

Editor,
Thanksgiving and Christmas were made a little brighter by volunteers for the Community Fellowship Dinners. Volunteers came from area churches, businesses and homes. There were 814 meals served on Thanksgiving Day. The dinner was a traditional Thanksgiving feast with roasted turkey, mashed pota-

toes and gravy, veggies, a cornbread roll, a huge variety of pies and assorted beverages. Our Christmas day meal, which served 561 meals, included baked ham with raisin sauce, mashed potatoes, ribbon-cut carrots, fruit salad, roll, pies and assorted beverages, along with a limited amount of roasted turkey.

Thank you to all the volunteers, participating churches and local businesses who make this ministry possible. Your gifts of money,

time and products continue to be a blessing to those who participate. Everyone's generosity is greatly appreciated. Your support and donations bless many throughout our community.

May God continue to bless the generosity and caring to neighbor to neighbor in and throughout our community and the surrounding areas.

Laurie S. Ball-Kiser, Organizer
Community Fellowship Dinners

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Letters Policy

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