



THE ANCHOR

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM ANCORA WEALTH PARTNERS

December 2023

We send Christmas blessings to you and your family from all of us here at Ancora!
Have a safe and **Merry Christmas!**

Holiday Hours:

Our office will be closed Monday December 25th and Monday January 1st

Angie, Melissa, Kyle & Kasey

Market Recap for November 2023

Index	12/30/2022	11/31/2023	Monthly Change	Monthly % Gain/Loss
DJIA	33,147.25	35,950.89	2,898.02	8.77%
NASDAQ	10,466.48	14,226.22	1,374.98	10.70%
S&P 500	3,839.50	4,567.80	374.00	8.92%

Index	2023 YTD Change	2023 YTD % Gain/Loss
DJIA	2,803.64	8.46%
NASDAQ	3,759.74	35.92%
S&P 500	728.30	18.97%

The information contained in this email does not purport to be a complete description of the securities, markets or developments referred to in this material and does not constitute a recommendation. The Dow Jones Industrial Average (DJIA), commonly known as "The Dow" is an index representing 30 stocks of companies maintained and reviewed by the editors of the Wall Street Journal. The S&P 500 is an unmanaged index of 500 widely held stocks that is generally considered representative of the U.S. Stock market. The NASDAQ composite is an unmanaged index of securities traded on the NASDAQ system. Keep in mind that individuals cannot invest directly in any index and index performance does not include transaction costs or other fees, which will affect actual investment performance. Individual investors' results will vary. Past performance does not guarantee future results. Investing involves risk and investors may incur a profit or a loss.

Trivia Questions:

1. What's the best-selling Christmas song of all time?
2. What comic actor sang the now gold-certified "The Chanukah Song"?
3. Which classic Christmas movie featured the debut of "White Christmas"?

Answers on



SAVINGS CENTER

Utilities

Blanket your electric water heater. If your electric water heater is warm to the touch, fitting it with an insulating jacket that can cost \$20 to \$40 will help prevent heat from escaping and it will pay for itself in about a year. Some utilities offer these blankets at a rebate. Some will even install one for free.

Groceries

Use coupons when ordering online. The average grocery shopper could save more than \$300 per year by using online coupons for at-home purchases, a CouponFollow survey shows. Install a browser extension such as Honey, Cently or Rakuten to automatically find and apply the codes for you at checkout.

Personal Finance

Transfer your balance. The typical balance transfer credit card offers 12 to 15 months without interest and some cards have balance transfer periods up to 21 months. That can be a huge savings with interest rates rising to an average of more than 20% for cardholders.

Source: AARP July/August 2023

PERSONAL FINANCE TIPS

Create a Financial Calendar

If you don't trust yourself to remember to pay your quarterly taxes or periodically pull a credit report, think about setting appointment reminders for these important money to-dos in the same way that you would an annual doctor's visit or car tune-up.

Make Bite-Size Money Goals

One study showed that the farther away a goal seems, and the less sure we are about when it will happen, the more likely we are to give up. So in addition to focusing on big goals like buying a home, aim to also set smaller, short-term goals that will reap quicker results-like saving some money each week in order to take a trip in six months.

Don't Ever Co-sign a Loan

If the borrower-friend, family, significant other, whoever-misses payments, your credit score will take a plunge, the lender can come after you for the money and it will likely destroy your relationship. Plus, if the bank is requiring a co-signer, they don't trust the person to make the payments. Bonus tip for parents: If you're asked to cosign a private loan for your college student, first check to see if your kid has maxed out federal loan, grant, and scholarship options.

Source: the muse

PEARL HARBOR REMEMBRANCE DAY

December 7, 2023 marks 82 years since the Naval Base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii Territory was attacked by Japanese planes.

President Franklin Roosevelt called December 7, 1941, “a date which will live in infamy”.

On that day, at 7:55 am, the bombing of Pearl Harbor killed more than 2,300 Americans. It completely destroyed the American Battleship USS Arizona, capsized the USS Oklahoma, sank or beached a total of twelve ships and damaged nine others. It also destroyed 160 aircraft and damaged another 150. The attack marked a pivotal moment in world history.

Our nation joined the free people of the world in battle against the forces of tyranny that sought to enslave the masses and impose a new world order of blind hatred and oppression. The long struggle that ensued came to a merciful end on September 2, 1945.

The wreckage of the USS Arizona remains as a monument to the events of World War II and to the legacy of those who sacrificed their lives to preserve our most cherished values and secure victory. So to honor those who died as a result of the attack, the American flag should be flown at half-staff and we should observe a moment of silence.

Sources: pearlharborevents.com, americanslibrary.gov

WHAT AMERICANS REALLY WANT FOR CHRISTMAS

Americans were asked to choose what they wanted to receive the most during the holiday season; from a choice of a big-ticket household item, cash or gift cards, clothing or accessories, electronics, an experience or trip, or toys or games. More than half of Americans, 54%, said that cash and gift cards topped their Christmas wish list. Additionally, 38% said cash and gift cards were the best presents they ever received.

“Gift cards are great because they let the recipients get something they really want,” said Cameron Huddleston, personal finance expert and GOBankingRates’ Life + Money columnist. “Just be sure to get a gift card for a retailer that sells a variety of products such as Amazon, Target or Walmart - that is, unless you know what the recipient’s favorite store or restaurant is.” Huddleston said you can save money by using sites such as Cardpool and Raise to buy gift cards at a discount. Although cash and gift cards were by far the most popular choice, the No. 2 choices were clothing and accessories, and an experience or trip, each of which were selected by 13% of those surveyed. Electronics and high-tech gadgets came in third with 12%, followed by toys or games at 5% and a big-ticket household item coming in at 3%.

So think twice before splurging on a new refrigerator for your mom or significant other. Survey takers were also asked if they would choose any of the following over a traditional gift: lower credit card debt, lower housing or rent expenses, lower student loan debt, more paid time off or quality time with family and friends. They could also choose to stick with a traditional gift. The most popular choice was quality time with friends and family, which was selected by 41% of the Americans surveyed. The next-most-popular choice was sticking with a traditional gift, with 24%.

Source: [yahoo! finance](http://yahoo!finance)



DECEMBER *and a smidgen of* JANUARY HOLIDAYS AND FUNDAYS

- December 05: Bathtub Party Day
- December 06: St. Nicholas Day, Put on your own Shoes Day
- December 07: Chanukah begins, Pearl Harbor Day
- December 09: Christmas Card Day, National Pastry Day
- December 10: Human Rights Day, Nobel Prize Day
- December 12: Poinsettia Day, National Ding-a-Ling Day
- December 14: Roast Chestnuts Day, International Monkey Day
- December 16: National Chocolate Covered Anything Day
- December 18: Bake Cookies Day, National Roast Suckling Pig Day
- December 19: Look for an Evergreen Day, Oatmeal Muffin Day
- December 20: Go Caroling Day
- December 21: Winter Solstice, Bah Humbug Day
- December 24: National Eggnog Day, National Chocolate Day
- December 25: Christmas Day
- December 26: Kwanzaa, National **Candy Cane** Day
- December 28: Card Playing Day
- December 31: New Year's Eve, Make Up Your Mind Day

- January 01: New Year's Day, National Hangover Day
- January 02: Run up the Flagpole and See if Anyone Salutes Day
- January 03: Festival of Sleep Day, Fruitcake Toss Day

Source: holidayinsights.com

"I stopped believing in Santa Claus when I was six. Mother took me to see him in a department store and he asked for my autograph." – Shirley Temple

A GUIDE TO FRAUD

Look for signs that you are being stalked by crooks

Texts from strangers - When you get a text from someone you don't know, it's natural to respond politely by letting them know they have the wrong person. But that can open the door to fraud. Delete the text and mark it as junk to block further contact. Even if it was an honest mistake, it's safer not to answer.

A message about your Netflix account being suspended - If you get an email or text about your streaming service being suspended, don't freak out! Go into your account via the legitimate website. Do *not* call the number or click on any links in the email or text. This is how criminals steal from you. If you provide any personal information through this link, they can commit identity theft in your name.

Car warranty offers - Criminals prey on our anxiety about facing large vehicle repair bills by pitching worthless car warranties. Often these scams come via a phone call, but they also come in the mail. Federal regulators have recently shut down groups that have stolen hundreds of millions of dollars through deceptive auto warranties. But others are out there.

Fake business emails - If you receive an email from Amazon, Netflix, etc. claiming there was a suspicious purchase on your account, do not respond or call the number listed. Go directly to the company's website and log in to your account or call customer service. Crooks mimic big-brand emails in links that take you to a fraudulent site to get personal information or some kind of payment.

Gift cards - Consumers lost \$228 million in gift card scams in 2022, says the Federal Trade Commission. Scammers prefer them because they have fewer protections for buyers compared with payment options such as credit cards.. If you are asked to pay for something by sending the codes off a gift card, it is very likely a scam.

Social media friend requests - Anytime you get a new friend request on social media, especially on Facebook, Don't accept! It's best to turn down the requests from strangers as they might be seeking personal information or intending a fraud attempt.

Pop-up adds - These suddenly appearing ads have been around for years. Scammers insert code into the pop-up that, if clicked on or tapped, downloads malware to your device.

Computer virus alerts - Most people have seen those computer pop-ups claiming your device has been infected with a virus; sadly, this crime continues to work for scammers. Never call a number listed or click on the link provided. If you are having problems that suggest a computer virus, get in touch with a reputable computer tech support service.

Phone calls from numbers like yours - Free software exists that lets a caller falsify the caller ID number that appears on a target's phone. Criminals might use a number that looks similar to yours, your bank, a government agency such as the IRS, Medicare or police department, to get you to answer. Let all suspicious or unexpected calls go to voicemail. Note that federal agencies will never call and ask for your Medicare or Social Security number or other identifiers.

QR code directing you to a crypto ATM - Crooks can quickly and easily get you to send them money via a cryptocurrency ATM – then it is likely gone forever. They text you a QR code and instruct you to scan it at a machine at a store or gas station. Once you scan the QR code and make your payment, your money is in their hands.

Source: AARP.org/bullet

Christmas Memories

We wanted to share some of our favorite Christmas memories with you.

Angie

One of my most prominent Christmas memories is traveling to North Carolina since we lived out of state and spending time with our extended family. On my mom's side of the family, we would go the family cabin and have my grandparents, great aunts and uncles, aunts and uncles and cousins for Christmas dinner and opening presents. On my dad's side of the family, we would gather at my grandmother's house. My great grandmother would be there and would always give us each a dollar, this may seem like something small but she had over 20 great grandkids. We would spend Christmas time with both of these families and celebrate in the joy of all of us being together and the house full of laughter, love and excitement.

Melissa

Christmas morning! My siblings would get me to wake up Mama and Daddy since I was the baby and they would tell me, "they won't get mad at you!" even at 5am! I would then run back to my room and wait. We weren't allowed to look in the room where the Christmas tree was until Mama and Daddy had their first cup of coffee. That was the longest "first cup of coffee" in the history of "first cups of coffee"! Once they had some caffeine in their system, they would tell us it was okay to come see what Santa brought. Mama and Daddy would sit there, watch us, take pictures and smile. It was the very best part of Christmas.

Kyle

It was Christmas Eve and it was time for us kids to go to bed. One of our favorite shows was coming on TV so my brother asked if we could stay up and watch it. I decided to go on to bed so morning would come quicker. I could see the Christmas tree lights reflecting in the hallway and Mama was in the kitchen baking her pecan pies. Then my Daddy came in my room, knelt down beside my bed, and very softly sang Christmas songs to me. *Just me!* That was, is and always will be my most precious Christmas memory.

Kasey

My family would celebrate Christmas in the basement of my grandparents' house. We would open presents and then eat lunch. Afterwards, we **ALL** crashed on the couches in food comas! The basement was always so hot due to the wood burning fire place so we would have to open the outside door to cool it off. I loved the afternoons just relaxing with the family; full of good food and surrounded by those who love me most.

Local Company Spotlight

Mitchell's Accounting Service

Carol Mitchell and April Cutter
603 S Graham Hopedale Rd
Burlington, NC 27217
(336) 229-4633

Trivia Answer

1. Bing Crosby's "White Christmas"
2. Adam Sandler
3. Holiday Inn

SWEET POTATO CASSEROLE

Ingredients:

Casserole:

3 to 4 large, sweet potatoes-cooked **or**
1 large can sweet potatoes-drained
1 ½ cups sugar
¾ stick margarine-softened
2 eggs
1 can Carnation milk

Topping:

1 ½ cups crushed corn flakes
½ cup brown sugar
¾ stick margarine-softened
½ cup pecans

Instructions:

Preheat oven to 400 degrees.

Casserole:

Mash sweet potatoes. Cream sugar and margarine together, add eggs and milk. Mix with mashed sweet potatoes. Pour into prepared 9x13 casserole dish. Bake at 400 degrees for 20 minutes or until set.

Topping:

Mix crushed corn flakes, margarine, pecans and brown sugar together and sprinkle on to of cooked casserole. Bake an additional 10 minutes.



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<https://www.facebook.com/AncoraWP>



<https://www.instagram.com/ancorawealthpartners/>

We Welcome your feedback. Please email us at Angie@AncoraWealth.com with any questions or suggestions pertaining to this publication. We want the information we provide to be of value to you.

(336) 967-6497

2006 S. Church Street Suite A, Burlington, NC 27215

www.AncoraWealth.com

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