

WHAT'S NEW?

Holiday

GREET THE SEASON WITH A BEAUTIFUL WREATH

Although wreaths certainly are a thoughtful gift year-round, come this time on the calendar, a seasonal assortment of fresh holiday-themed wreaths is most welcome. Family owned and operated Creekside Farms, Greenfield, Calif., offers a bevy of beauties.

The Berried Cone Wreath is a wonderfully traditional, fragrant, and festive addition that is sure to ignite holiday spirit with fresh eucalyptus, fir, and salal accented with vibrant pepperberries and pine cones. The Berries and Moss Wreath is made with a blend of fresh fir and seeded eucalyptus—and artfully adorned with pine cones, moss, Artemisia, and pepperberries. The Magnolia Pepperberry Wreath includes fresh magnolia, cedar, and juniper and is decorated artfully



Creekside Farms Berried Cone Wreath

with bright pepperberries, making this an exquisite, one-of-a-kind creation.

Dozens of other gorgeous themed wreaths are on display at www.CreeksideFarms.com as well as in high end home decor retailers and catalogs, including Williams-Sonoma, Pottery Barn, Sur La Table, Front Gate, Pro Flowers, Orvis, and Harry and David.

HEAVENLY CHRISTMAS CD FROM JAN MULDER

Composer and pianist Jan Mulder has released "Christmas," featuring Andrea Bocelli and the London Symphony Orchestra. Mulder composed and arranged the music for the new CD,



which contains beautiful Christmas songs such as "O Holy Night," "O Come All Ye Faithful," "Silent Night," and "Angels We Have Heard On High." He composed new music for "Christmas: The Birthday of a King," "Prince of Peace," and "Mary's Lullaby." Bocelli, the guest artist, sings the beautiful "A Choir of a Thousand Angels."

Mulder conducted the London Symphony Orchestra at Lyndhurst Hall and played the piano solos simultaneously. Sound engineer Geoff Foster is a three-time Grammy Award winner. This CD is warm and emotional. Mulder's previous album, "Love Divine," also featuring the London Symphony Orchestra, went Gold and Platinum. For more information or to order (\$14.99), go to www.janmulder.us.

CHRISTMAS CANDLES RING UP A BIG SURPRISE

Diamond Candles' Holiday Collection comes in some wonderful seasonal scents, including Christmas Kitchen, Candy Cane, Winter Festival, Mistletoe, and Cinnamon Pinecone. These 100% soy wax candles make a great gift for friends, housewarming, hosting, or "just be-



Diamond Candles Mistletoe

cause." They are produced in the U.S. from beginning to end—even the soy wax is made only from locally-grown soy beans.

Moreover, as the Ring Candle burns down, customers will discover a \$10 ring and a code that gives them the chance to win another ring worth \$100, \$1,000, or \$5,000. The Ring Reveal code directs customers to www.diamondcandles.com/reveal where they can find out the value of their code. Once entered, customers "spin" a virtual wheel that activates the video camera on their computer or mobile device, giving them the opportunity to record and capture their immediate reaction upon learning their code's worth. Reactions later can be shared on social media platforms, including Facebook. Those who win high-value rings have the opportunity to select their style and size from Diamond Candles' curated ring boutique.

Diamond Candles, Durham, N.C., has more than 50 scents in its fresh, fruity, floral, and exotic collections—all for \$24.95 each.

IT'S GOOD TO BE HOME WITH AIRWICK

There's nothing quite like the comforting feeling of being home—so create the perfect ambiance with the help of Air Wick's Good To Be

You're a Popular One, Mr. Grinch



Gift Guide



Mrs. Claus' Apple Pie

Home candle collection. Crafted by Air Wick's fragrance specialists, the candles provide comforting fragrances that accent your home decor. With easy peel-off labels, the designs complement any room.

The collection contains natural essential oils

and is available in the following scents:

Mrs. Claus' Apple Pie. A delicious and joyful treat, Mrs. Claus' sweet and simple fresh baked apple pie with warm spices will add just the right touch to your holidays.

Frosted Vanilla & Cupcake Delight. Fill the air with a sweet treat, an appetizing blend of vanilla bean whisked frosting and perfectly baked cupcakes.

Evergreen Adventure. There's nothing quite like searching for the perfect Christmas tree—an exhilarating and fragrant adventure

that you will cherish all through the season.

The Good To Be Home Holiday Collection (\$4.99 each) is available at Walmart. To learn more, go to www.airwick.us.

SOCK IT TO ME SOCK IT TO ME

Socks with dinosaurs, cupcakes, ninjas, mustaches, unicorns and other things magical—at Sock It to Me, Portland, Ore., they strive to make quality products with unique and original designs. They honestly love their socks and hope you do, too, especially their holiday collection, which includes:



Men's Tangled Lights

Men's: Burger, Bacon, Holiday Sweater (dark green background showcasing red and green reindeer-adorned Christmas sweaters), Tangled Lights, Superhero! Gold & Green, Merry Mustache (an argyle-inspired red with mustache pattern), Santa Rex festively wearing Santa hats and Christmas lights.

Women's

Knee Funky: Tacky Holiday Sweater, Reindeer Games, Bacon, Merry Mustache, and Santa Rex.

Women's Crew: One says "All I Want for Christmas," other says "Is You" with happy cat under a mistletoe.

Junior Crew: Super Hero! Blue/Yellow, Winking Cat, Sock Monkey Love.

This crazy footwear is made of varying blends of cotton, polyester, and spandex. Be sure to wash them with like colors in cold water. Visit www.sockittome.com for more information.

Women's Knee Funky Tacky Holiday Sweater



THESE BOOTS WERE MADE FOR HIKING—& FASHION

If you are the ultimate hiker, the Hi-Tec Valkyrie i WP (\$130) is perfect for all terrains, with its VibramA rubber outsole that is durable — with lots of traction. A water-

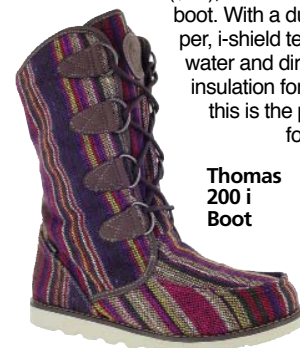


Hi-Tec Valkyrie i WP Boot

proof leather upper provides durability and comfort while the Dri-Tec breathable membrane keeps feet dry. An abrasion-resistant rubber toe and heel give added protection.

The OrthoLite sockliner delivers superior cushioning and has anti-odor and -microbial properties, while a steel shank provides trusted support and stability to every step.

For women, Hi-Tec has the Thomas 200 i (\$80), an ideal winter lifestyle boot. With a durable textile upper, i-shield technology to repel water and dirt, and Thinsulate insulation for winter warmth, this is the perfect apres boot for any condition. In addition, the OrthoLite sockliner provides cushioning and a durable, cleated high-abrasion EVA outsole absorbs impact.



Thomas 200 i Boot

"Dr. Seuss' How The Grinch Stole Christmas! The Musical" is returning to The Theater at Madison Square Garden, New York, Dec. 5-28. The limited engagement has been called "100 times better than any bedside story," by one critic. Audiences will find their hearts growing a few sizes (along with the Grinch's heart, of course) when they witness the magic of the holiday tale on stage, which features the hit songs, "You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch" and "Welcome Christmas," both from the original 1966 animated television special.

Max the Dog serves as the story's narrator as the scheming Grinch plans to steal Christmas away from The Whos, the lovable characters that understand and embrace the true meaning of the holiday. When the Grinch realizes that he cannot take Christmas away from Whoville by absconding with presents, he returns the gifts and decorations and joins the festivities,

Images courtesy of Paparazzi By Appointment



proving that all it takes is a little kindness and joy to make any Grinch not so mean after all.

"Dr. Seuss' How The Grinch Stole Christmas! The Musical" showcases sets specially designed for The Theater, with costumes inspired by Dr. Seuss' illustrations, while the musical, with book and lyrics by Timothy Mason, accentuates this timeless narrative. The 2014 production is directed by Matt August and choreographed by Bob Richard, based on the original choreography by John DeLuca and originally created by three-time Tony Award-winning director Jack O'Brien.

FEET STAY WARM AND DRY WHILE "STORMIN"

The Kamik Stormin three-season boot (\$79.99) is attractive and practical, just what your little guy (or girl) needs to stay warm and dry through all



Camouflage Boot

types of weather. First off, it is available in many different colors: Solid Black, Charcoal, Magenta, Navy Pixel Print, Black Pixel Print, Magenta Flower Print, Black Flower Print, Lavender Flower Print, and Camouflage. Beyond that, it is 100% waterproof with a comfort rating well below zero degrees. It features a lightweight injected rubber shell, an adjustable weather collar, an antibacterial removable footbed, and a self-cleaning Zeus Rubber outsole. Stormin stands 9.25 inches high and weighs just 1.84 pounds.

A DOLLHOUSE AS BIG AS A HOUSE

With a high-quality 100% pine wood frame and standing at six feet tall and five feet wide, My Girl's Dollhouse from Goodtoy is the perfect "big gift" this holiday season, no matter which of two styles you choose.

The Sweet Bungalow home has a soft exterior



My Girl's Dollhouse

with yellow siding and pink, purple, and floral details. The interior is filled with a purple and pink pallet, with a graphic purple room and ballet room upstairs, and two pink rooms downstairs. The Country French home has a sophisticated exterior with gray siding, white trim, and a red door. The interior also is filled with a purple and pink pallet, with a graphic purple room and ballet room upstairs, and two pink rooms downstairs. All floors in both models are medium brown, while the attic is light yellow.

My Girl's Dollhouse is ideal for all 18-inch dolls, furniture, and accessories, including American Girl, Journey Girls, and Our Generation. Keep all of your dolls and their accessories inside; it even includes a closet rod for extra storage. Invite your friends—and their dolls—over; they're sure to be impressed with your new home.

Available at Target for \$299. Go to www.mygirlsdollhouse.com to learn more.

Travels Like a Tablet, Works Like a Laptop

The braintrust at Hewlett-Packard, Palo Alto, Calif., is always looking for new ways to provide consumers with better productivity and more flexibility—for both work and play. One of their latest efforts is the HP Pavilion x2 detachable PC designed for customers who want to simplify their life with a single device that transforms from tablet to laptop.

This is a full-featured 10.1-inch diagonal Windows tablet that shifts to a full-featured laptop with a detachable dual-purpose keyboard/cover that both protects the screen and serves as a multiposition stand. It is powered by the latest-generation Intel Atom



HP Pavilion x2 Detachable PC

processor, and features front-firing speakers with DTS sound and a battery that lasts up to 11.75 hours for serious staying power to shift from work to play without missing a beat.

The high-definition touchscreen ensures clearer, brighter web chats with a difference you can see and hear. The innovative fanless design allows this PC to run cool and quiet, with no noisy hardware or unsightly vents, while the Quad core Intel processor allows you to keep up with your most demanding tasks with speed and responsiveness while preserving battery life. Type comfortably with the

tactility of a real keyboard without compromising size. Office 365 Personal one-year subscription included. Available in a variety of colors.

Go to www.hp.com to learn more about the Pavilion x2 (\$329.99) as well as HP's new Chromebooks.

STOCKING STUFFERS FOR EVERYONE, BIG & SMALL

Petite and oh-so-cheap, here is a roundup of some ideal stocking stuffers—for him, her, and even the little ones.

For him and her, there is Supersmile Icy Mint Quikee (\$18), which allows both of you to stay kissable and picture-ready all night long, whether at holiday parties or on the go. This Quikee is an instant whitener and breath freshener; it even removes red wine stains. The quick-dissolve formula means there is no need to rinse.

Couples also can—*together or separately*—enjoy using the FragranceNet Perfume Travel Atomizer (\$8.99). This lightweight, portable perfume sprayer makes it convenient to have your favorite scent with you anytime, anywhere. At just three inches long and holding .136 ounces, the sleek design is great for both sexes. Simply remove the nozzle from your big fragrance bottle, pump the atomizer up and down on the tube, and you can be ready to go in just a few seconds.



Supersmile Icy Mint Quikee



Supersmile Crystal Toothbrushes

For her, Sebamed Hand & Nail Balm (\$12.99) was developed by dermatologists; its mild, deep-moisturizing formula relieves dry, chapped hands and maintains the strength of nails against breakage naturally. Non-greasy and rapidly absorbed, it is enriched with allantoin and vitamin B5 to support skin health.

Also for her is Jane Iredale Eye Shere Liquid Eye Shadow

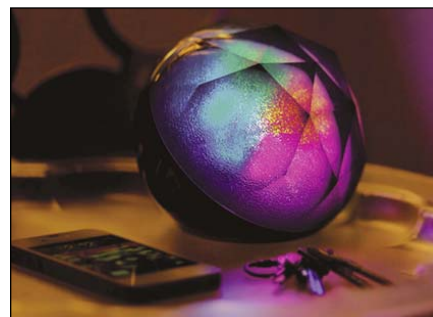
in Gold Silk and Opal Silk (\$17). This quick-drying liquid eye shadow has a smooth and luxurious formula that will not crease or smear as it helps to camouflage shadows and veins on the eyelids.

For kids, Supersmile Crystal Collection Toothbrushes (\$15) feature a slim, lengthened Lucite handle, ergonomically shaped with a series of indentations to guide hand-positioning to the American Dental Association-recommended 45-degree brushing angle, as well as five tufted rows of soft, rounded nylon bristles. A flat bottom also enables each brush to stand upright for hygienic drying. Available in Orange Sunstone, White Coral, Pink Diamond, Green Peridot, and Blue Lapis.

THE DIAMOND WON'T LEAVE YOU BLUE

Yantouch, known for music and light consumer electronics designs, has produced the world's first three-in-one Bluetooth speaker, the Diamond+Bluetooth, with 300% sound boost and patented audio technologies; ambient wash wall light with a multitude of colors that pulsates to the beat of the music; and a wakeup/sleep feature with natural sunrise and sunset lighting.

It's great for camping and outdoor/indoor parties, an all-in-one entertainment system. This



Diamond+Bluetooth Speaker

constant party-in-a-box features planetarium-like music and light modes for solid, bright, saturated, flashing, and alternating lights with variations of pink, purple, blue, fuchsia, orange, gold, green, white, and red. The light can be set up against a wall to create a wash wall effect or be placed in the center of the room or party as a conversational piece.

The Diamond+Bluetooth is an N-class 2.1 speaker system with patented sideways stereo effect with right and left woofer tubes on the sides of the device as well as Neodymium Super Magnet technologies and a Bass Resonant Tube that pumps up the bass with 300% sound boost for vibrant music that fills the party with booming crystal-clear sound.

The Natural Sleep feature works with the Diamond's music and lighting system to emulate sunset to help you fall asleep naturally, gradually dimming the light and music. The Natural Wake-up function provides a sunrise effect to bring you from deep to shallow sleep in 30 minutes, then wake you up slowly with the sound of singing birds.

It also functions as a bedside reading lamp, with soft white light (no heat thanks to energy saving LEDs), and has a rechargeable Lithium battery that lasts more than seven hours, with USB/AC power cable for charging and attached audio cable for use with non-Bluetooth devices and computers. There is automatic Bluetooth pairing and the unit is portable and lightweight. It comes with a remote control that turns on/off, and adjusts volume, tracks, and color modes—with slot to store the remote.

The Diamond+Bluetooth (\$149) is available in Black (BlackDiamond+) or White (IceDiamond+) and distributed by Aplars.com, an e-commerce store for electronic products and accessories. Go to www.yantouch.com to learn more.

PETZL HEADLAMPS LIGHT THE WAY

Do you need powerful, intelligent lighting for technical activities? The new Petzl TIKKA R+ (\$74.95) and RXP (\$89.95) bring reactive lighting to compact headlamps, utilizing a built-in sensor to adjust brightness and beam pattern automatically to meet the user's needs. The result is an ideal amount of light with minimal manual adjustment. This self-adjusting lighting mode also results in more efficient use of the rechargeable battery.



Petzl TIKKA R+

THIS LIFE JACKET IS A SOUND SAVER

The ultra-rugged Life Jacket iMW575 portable wireless Bluetooth speaker is designed to deliver Altec's studio-quality sound anywhere your adventures take you. Featuring an IPX7 rating for durability as well as a heavy-duty, washable rubberized skin, the Life Jacket is waterproof, shock-resistant, and constructed to withstand dirt, sand, and dust to be sure the music never stops. At just six inches long, two inches high and weighing in at one pound, you can take it just about anywhere.

No power? No worries: the Lithium-ion battery ensures up to 16 hours of continuous play-

back on a single charge. A USB connector even turns the Life Jacket into a charger for any smartphone or device with or without AC power—and, because it's from Altec Lansing, the Life Jacket packs an audio punch with aptX CD-quality audio and dual 2.5-inch Neodymium drivers with passive radiator. Here's a bonus: pair the Life Jacket with any Apple Android or BlackBerry phone and it doubles as a speaker-



Life Jacket iMW575 Portable Wireless Bluetooth Speaker

phone, with an onboard microphone for clear hands-free calls and spoken-caller ID that makes it easy to accept, reject, and terminate calls with voice commands.

With a 30-foot signal range, the Life Jacket pairs easily with—and remembers—up to eight devices, including any Bluetooth-enabled tablet or laptop, plus any other device with a built-in 3.5 mm port.

NUGREEN DESK LAMP IS QUITE AN UPGRADE

NewerTech, Woodstock, Ill., a performance upgrades and accessories company for Macs, PCs, iPhones, iPads, and iPods since 1988, has added to its list of impressive products with

the NuGreen LED Desk Lamp with flexible neck for the brightest workplace with no heat. Featuring 50 energy-efficient light emitting diodes (LEDs), this cool-touch lamp produces bright light similar to natural daylight and makes the perfect gift for college student dorm rooms, apartments, and bedrooms. In addition, the lamp features a flexible gooseneck that lets you position the light beam exactly where you need it to read or work without disturbing your roommate, coworker, or spouse with irritating glare.

NuGreen (\$69.99) saves money and the environment—50 LEDs use only 3.6 watts of total power and last up to 45,000 use hours (that's 22 times longer than tradition bulbs), and are recyclable since they contain no mercury. Boasting a stylish modern aluminum design with a fingertip on/off feature, NuGreen is safe for all to use and is cool to the touch.

Visit www.newertech.com for more information.



NuGreen LED Desk Lamp

YET ANOTHER ZIPLOC HOME STORAGE SOLUTION

Let's face it: life can throw a lot at you, especially during the holidays. Whether it's countless hours spent shopping for the perfect gift or trying to pick out the best decorations this time of year can leave anyone feeling a bit overwhelmed. Have no fear, though; 'tis the season for Ziploc, the ultimate organizational and storage ally.

Ziploc's latest innovation—containers with one press seal—will help you control holiday chaos. The containers are designed to be nest-

Casio Is There in Case You Run Out of Fingers

Whether you're a teenager trying to get through high school math or a homeowner trying to balance a household budget, having a decent calculator at hand is a must. Casio has a well-respected line ranging from basic to scientific to graphing calculators.

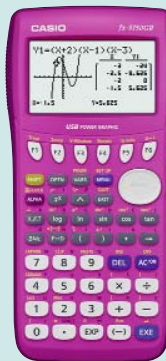
Students will love the 9750GII model (\$49.99) that comes with advanced features and numerous enhancements. It performs AP Statistics, Pie Charts, and Bar Graphs, and has a REF/RREF Function, Random Integers, Unit Conversions, and Chi-squared GOF function. It can Graph X=f(Y) and has new types of regressions and nine new probability functions. The 9750GII features a generous screen size and an icon-based menu to add to overall intuitive usability. A faster processing speed results in quicker calculations and enhanced overall performance. USB connectivity allows direct connection to Casio projectors, and data transfer from the unit to a computer or another unit.

This model compares with the TI-83 and TI-84 Plus and is permitted on the College

Board AP Exams, SAT and SAT II, PSAT/NMSQT, and ACT.

Casio's latest standard scientific calculator features Natural Textbook Display and improved math functionality. The FX-300ES PLUS (\$12.99) has been designed as the perfect choice for middle school through high school students learning General Math, Trigonometry, Statistics, Algebra I and II, Pre-Algebra, Geometry, and Physics. It offers intuitive functions, improved math functionality, and Natural Textbook, allowing students to enter the expression as written in the textbook. The FX-300ES Plus can perform trigonometric, hyperbolic, power, and sexagesimal functions; exponents and logarithms; fractions; calculations using the radical or pi symbols; recurring decimals; and statistical calculations using standard deviation and regression analysis. What's more, it can perform prime factorization and greatest common divisor/least common multiple functions with the touch of a button.

For more information on Casio's line of calculators, visit www.casioeducation.com.



Casio 9750GII Calculator

WHAT'S NEW?



Holiday Ziploc Containers

anything else that needs organizing.

The Holiday Collection Ziploc Brand Containers with One Press Seal and Holiday Collection Ziploc Brand Bags are the perfect complements to the season. So, go get everything straightened out before Santa arrives.

I'LL TAKE MINE RICH AND BLACK

For a coffee connoisseur, there's nothing quite like the aroma of freshly ground coffee. The only thing better is actually drinking from the source of that heavenly scent. With the Black & Decker Mill & Brew 12-Cup Programmable Coffee Maker (\$89.99), you can grind and brew your favorite whole bean blends or ground coffee in the

ed within each other when empty and stacked when full, giving you more space for party leftovers, ribbons and bows, ornaments, or

same basket.

The Quick-Touch programming panel includes controls for brew strength, time settings, and an auto brew feature that lets you wake up to a fresh pot of coffee every morning. The Duralife carafe holds up to 12 cups, which also makes entertaining a breeze. Mornings—and the rest of the day, actually—just got a lot more bearable.



Black & Decker Mill & Brew 12-Cup Programmable Coffee Maker

JUICEPRESSO: LESS BULK, MORE POWER

Beyond its sleek design, Juicepresso has the smallest footprint of any in-home slow juicer. Internally, Juicepresso houses a powerful DC motor, which is why it is guaranteed to last at

least seven years with daily juicing. Other cold pressed juicers use larger and less powerful AC motors, leaving you with a bulky appliance on your countertop. While other cold press juicers operate at 80 RPM, this beauty operates at 40 RPM. Although juicing time remains the same as traditional speed juicers, fruits and vegetables are pressed slower, providing maximum juice extraction. Juicepresso provides up to 40% more juice than loud, old-fashioned juicers and, since pressed juice lasts up to three days in your fridge, you can juice less often.

Inside the clear plastic drum lies Juicepresso's greatest feature—its patented three-in-one screw. Other cold press juicers have several internal parts. Juicepresso (\$399.99) has one, making it easy to clean. Simply pull the three-in-one screw out of the drum, rinse, and place in the dishwasher. It's that easy—and BPA-free.



Juicepresso

CREATIVITY RULES AT NICKELODEON

The hits just keep coming at Nickelodeon—whether it be the ongoing success of the *SpongeBob SquarePants* series, the revival of *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*, the updated

programming for the now-adolescent *Dora the Explorer*, or the newfound popularity of *Peter Rabbit*.

Dora the Explorer Explore & Play Pad

The spinoff games, DVDs, electronic equipment, furniture, bedding, stuffed animals, musical instruments, and oral care products are something to behold as well:

Dora the Explorer Explore & Play Pad (\$19.99) by Smartplay. With Dora as a guide, kids can discover the alphabet, numbers, letter sounds, simple words, and more—in either English or Spanish. It also features volume control and auto shut-off and includes three AA batteries.

GUND Peter Rabbit Plush (\$20). Snuggle up with the adorable Peter Rabbit, now available as an



GUND Peter Rabbit Plush

11.5" plush toy. Made of the softest and finest fabric, it features Peter's classic jacket and satchel from the animated series, and he's adorned with his favorite snack, a radish, sewn into his paw.

GUND Benjamin Bunny Plush (\$20). Peter Rabbit's lovable sidekick is irresistible as an 11" plush toy with huggable fabric. He wears a green and red winter cap, a brown jacket, and a playful expression. A radish (Peter's favorite) is sewn into his paw.

Peter Rabbit Jittery (\$9.99) by Infantino is perfect for travel, making a great companion for any infant. Pull him down and watch this fun friend climb back up. It links easily to car seats and strollers, and is made of soft textures and includes crinkle, knotty, and rattle sounds for nonstop playtime.

SpongeBuddy SquarePants (\$29.99) by Just Play. *SpongeBob* fans of all ages can soak up the laughs with their favorite talking sponge who now talks and giggles along. *SpongeBuddy* stands 9.5" high and entertains with more than 50 phrases and sound effects that are activated when he's flipped, touched, and squeezed. His eyes and mouth come to life as he talks, and the jokes keep coming the



SpongeBuddy SquarePants

harder he's pressed. With his clean comedy routine and off-the-cuff remarks sure to rouse a chuckle, *SpongeBuddy* is a great pal and the life of any party. Includes two AA batteries.

SpongeBob SquarePants Headphones (\$29.99) by Kid-Designs are stylish and packed with the ultimate *Crabby Patty* power. Featuring padded ear cushions, adjustable headband, in-line volume control, and detailed rich audio. *Sponge buddies* are guaranteed to have an awesome listening experience.

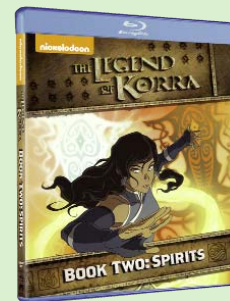
SpongeBob SquarePants Waste Can (\$14.99). Stay tidy and clean by adding this cheerful can to the bathroom.

The Legend of Korra, Book 2: Spirits (\$19.99 DVD/\$34.99 BD).

After defeating Amon and the Equalists in their anti-bending revolution, Korra and Team Avatar embark on a new journey deep into the mythology of the mystical Spirit World, encountering creatures like nothing they've seen be-



SpongeBob SquarePants Headphones



The Legend of Korra, Book 2: Spirits

BLENDER TO THE STARS—AND YOU

Harley Pasternak is a fitness and nutrition guru to Hollywood stars and *New York Times* bestselling author. Pasternak found a need to



Harley Pasternak Power Blender

create a blender that is powerful and affordable, and so he partnered with leading manufacturer Salton to introduce the Harley Pasternak Power Blender, a high-performance device featuring a unique eight-blade blending system, with a BPA-free Tritan Vortex-shaped jar to blend, crush, emulsify, chop, puree,

and liquefy whole fruits, vegetables, and more.

The Variable Speed Dial and Pulse features allow you to create recipes to your exact specifications. The blender also features a friction heat option to prepare hot foods, including soups and sauces, and comes with a recipe book for healthy inspirations and a portable bottle to take your creations on the go.

The Harley Pasternak Power Blender (\$249.99) is available at major retailers throughout the U.S. and Canada, including BedBathandBeyond.com, BestBuy.com, Kohls.com, Canadian Tire, Linen Chest, Personal Edge, Home Outfitters, Kitchen Stuff Plus, and Home Hardware. For more information, visit www.salton.com.

FAT OUT, FLAVOR IN—NOW THAT'S GRILLING

Bring the complete cooking center to your kitchen with the George Foreman Evolve Grill System, which allows you to get restaurant-quality results for every meal. The three-in-one cooking capabilities and simple digital controls will change the way you prepare food. Use the durable ceramic grill plates for your traditional needs, and then swap them out for the sliders plates to create that perfect appetizer dish.



George Foreman Evolve Grill System

The Evolve (\$79.99) can cook a wide range of foods thanks to the digital temperature and time controls, which include a searing option that raises the grill to 500°F. Each plate is completely removable and dishwasher-safe. Moreover, the adjustable cooking angle and hinge allows you to grill with a fat-removing slope or, if you prefer, on a horizontal plane for thick Paninis and more. In addition, the advanced ceramic is scratch and stain resistant, as well as durable and nonstick for faster clean-up.

fore and discovering the truth about the very first Avatar.

Orajel Bubble Guppies Anticavity Fluoride Toothpaste & Toothbrush (\$3-\$5). The



Bubble Guppies Toothpaste & Toothbrush

toothpaste strengthens and protects teeth with a fin-tastic fruity flavor, and the toothbrush has soft, elongated bristles for hard-to-reach places, plus a colored bristle guide to show kids where to place the toothpaste.

Colgate Oral Care: Dora the Explorer, SpongeBob SquarePants, or Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (\$3.75-\$5). Brush

up on dental hygiene with kid-sized manual toothbrushes, powered toothbrushes, and toothpaste, each adorned with your choice of Nickelodeon character.

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles Wavy Tumbler (\$18.99). Keep drinks hot or cold with this fashionable Tervis 10-ounce tumbler featuring an exclusive design. Each is microwave, freezer, and dishwasher safe.

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles Saucer Chair (\$24.99). Even crime-fighters need to take a break, and this chair (16.5"x18") is just the way to do it. Kids will enjoy reading a book, watching television, or playing a video game from the comfort of their very own child-size chair. Constructed on a sturdy metal frame, the seat is covered by polyester upholstery and contains a poly-fiber cushion filling. It folds for quick storage and is easy to clean with a damp cloth.

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles "We are Heroes" Micro Raschel Throw (\$19.99) by The Northwest. This is perfect for TMNT fans old and

young. It's made of micro Raschel fabric, known for its softness and colors that stay vibrant after repeated machine washings, so it will look great in the bedroom, and will keep you warm at a game or on a picnic. It measures 46"x 60" with decorative binding around the edges.

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles Duck Tape (\$5.99). Fun yet practical, it features high-performance strength, tears easily by hand without curling, and adheres to uneven surfaces with ease. Ideal for a variety of crafts and projects (1.88" x 10 yards).

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles Junior Drums (\$149.99) by Peavey Electronics. This set has just what beginner drummers need to get started: bass drum, snare, and tom with a



Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles Junior Drums

crash cymbal. The kit also includes an adjustable drum stool, bass pedal, and sticks. All drum heads are tunable.

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles Combination Car Seat (\$149.99). Ride in style with this harness booster car seat, with extended-use five-point harness and larger seat that accommodates kids 22 pounds to 65 pounds—and a booster seat that fits 30

pounds to 100 pounds. Features include:

- Easy-to-install latch connectors with a quick push-button attachment/release.
- One-handed harness adjustment—just one pull for a snug and secure fit.
- Built-in belt guides.
- Patented two-position crotch strap and three-position headrest adjust to accommodate growing kids.
- Contoured, shell-shaped seat to support child's spine and legs in comfort, even on long car rides.
- Deeper seat and deeper "wrap-around" headrest provide superior side-impact protection.
- High-density EPS foam to absorb energy in the event of a collision.
- High-impact thermoplastic seat shell engineered with ribbing and reinforcements for added strength and superior protection during a collision.
- Patent-pending high-position top tether system controls forward movement of the child's head during sudden stop or collision.
- Dual cup holders fit most cups and have an open-bottom design that won't collect loose objects.
- Seat cover can be removed easily and is machine washable.



Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles Combination Car Seat

SONIC BOOM VIDEO GAME PREQUELS FOR TV SHOW

A new branch of the Sonic the Hedgehog universe has arrived with a fresh look and feel for Sonic, Tails, Amy, and Knuckles. The latest video games from Sega, **Sonic Boom: Rise of Lyric** for Wii U and **Sonic Boom: Shattered Crystal** for Nintendo 3DS, serve as prequels to the stories revealed in Sonic's first CG-animated series, which debuts this month on Cartoon Network. In these unique adventures, Sonic and his team work together to stop an ancient evil, Lyric, their most powerful enemy yet.



In **Sonic Boom: Rise of Lyric**, Sonic and his friends encounter an ancient tomb sealed deep within an island, where the powerful, snake-like villain Lyric is released. The group must put aside their differences to save the world from Lyric's evil

plan and his army of war-mongering robots. In **Sonic Boom: Shattered Crystal**, Amy discovers a secret language and manuscript detailing the history and whereabouts of a Lost Crystal of Power. The vile Lyric kidnaps Amy in his eagerness to get his claws on this long-forgotten power that has been hidden throughout the jungles and canyons of the island. Sonic must gather his remaining friends to rescue her.



Proving that they are stronger when working together than they are when apart, each game delivers a different experience and both take advantage of the innovative hardware of the Wii U and 3DS. **Shattered Crystal** contains comic mischief and mild cartoon violence and is Rated E. **Rise of Lyric** is Rated E10+ for cartoon violence.

SMALL-BATCH BAKERY BARS INFUSED WITH WINE

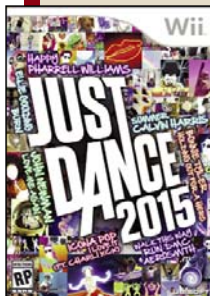
A limited-edition holiday collaboration between Silverland Bakery, Chicago, Ill., and Estancia Winery, Monterey County, Calif., has produced the Estancia Wine-Infused Bakery Box. Drawing inspiration from Estancia's two most beloved wines, Silverland Bakery created the Chardonnay White Chocolate Caramel Bar and the Pinot Noir Bakery Bar—the ideal sweet for this holiday season.

The Estancia Wine-Infused Bakery Box (\$28) brings together the mouthwatering notes of the



THE ACTION IS FAST AND FURIOUS

Featuring a completely updated track list, Ubisoft's **Just Dance 2015** takes gameplay to a new level by allowing fans to power the game with its Community Remix mode. For the first time, players can star in Just Dance by using the camera on their console to record themselves dancing and then share it in-game. The Just Dance team will select the best recorded videos to create a remix featuring 15 to 30 players per song that anyone in the world will be able to dance along to or score on. While enjoying the latest hits, such as "Bang Bang" by Jessie J



featuring Nicki Minaj and Ariana Grande, "Black Widow" by Iggy Azalea featuring Rita Ora, and legendary favorites like "Walk This Way" by Run-DMC and Aerosmith, players can keep track of all that's happening in the Just Dance community thanks to the Just Dance Wall, which enables them to share their stats and wildest dance performances, and vote on others' videos, and more. Another new feature, Dance Challenger, allows players to dance against anyone in the world (friends, family, top Just Dancers) at any time. World Dance Floor offers exciting online tournaments, global leader boards, and fun stats about other players around the world, with a social-friendly interface. Rated E10+, **Just Dance 2015** is available on Wii, Wii U, Xbox 360, Xbox One, PS3, and PS4.

From the creators of Halo and the company that brought Call of Duty, Bungie and Activision's **Destiny** invites players to "Defeat our Enemies. Explore New Worlds. Become Legend." As Guardian of the last city on Earth, players are able to wield incredible power, explore the ancient ruins of our solar system—from the red dunes of Mars to the lush jungles of Venus—and defeat Earth's enemies to reclaim all



that has been lost. This epic action adventure has rich cinematic storytelling where the mysteries of our universe are unraveled and what was lost at the fall of our Golden Age awaits. Players can personalize and upgrade every aspect of how they look and fight with a nearly limitless combination of armor, weapons, and visual customizations. This first-person shooter game is Rated T for animated blood and violence, and is available on PS3, PS4, Xbox One, and Xbox 360.

Disney Infinity: Marvel Super Heroes (2.0 edition) features more than 20 new interactive figures from across the Marvel universe. With original storylines penned by award-winning Marvel comic writer Michael Bendis, and an all-new Toy Box mode that makes it easier for players to create and share their one-of-a-kind levels and mini-games with family and friends, fans have the freedom to explore and take adventures with favorites like Loki, Iron Man, and the Hulk. In addition, all characters and power discs from last year's release are compatible with the Marvel Super Heroes Toy Box. Rated E10+, the game is available on PS3, PS4, Xbox 360, Xbox One, and Wii U.



EA Sports NHL 15 is the start of a new generation of hockey video games, where the sights, sounds, and feel of the fastest team sport on the planet come to life in a way never before experienced. Utilizing the power of next generation consoles, for the first time in any sports game, real-world physics affects every player through every on-ice collision. Fans will experience the hard-hitting chaos of NHL hockey through true-to-life secondary collisions, net scrambles, and player pile-ups, capturing the desperation of every shift. With new voices for a new generation, **NHL 15** welcomes to the broadcast booth the NBC Sports com-

Chardonnay and Pinot Noir with the delicious small-batch bakery bars for which Silverland Bakery is famous. The box contains one dozen bars, six of each variety, making it the ideal hostess gift, holiday treat, or anytime indulgence. Go to www.SilverlandBakery.com to learn more.

TASTY & HEALTHY: MY KIND OF SNACK BAR

There's healthy. There's tasty. Then there's healthy and tasty. The folks at Kind believe in ingredients that you can see and pronounce. In fact, they maintain that, if you can't pronounce an ingredient, it shouldn't go into your body. Actually, it shouldn't even go into your pantry. What began with just eight bar varieties in 2004 has grown to more than 22 bars and six Healthy Grains snackable clusters.

All Kind Healthy Snacks are made from all-nat-

ural whole nuts, fruits, and whole grains. There are no secret ingredients and absolutely nothing artificial—just a delicious way of obtaining fiber, protein, and antioxidants. These bars are made from 100% whole ingredients: almonds, pumpkin, and hemp seeds; pea crisps; and spices—delivering 10 grams of protein per bar. Some 22% of each bar is protein, and because it's from a



Kind Cube

combination of legumes, nuts, and seeds, it contains all nine essential amino acids. Why peas? Pea protein is an easily-digestible, non-genetically modified organism source of plant-based protein.



mentary team of Mike "Doc" Emrick and Eddie Olczyk. Leveraging the same Vision A.I. foundation that the players have, and just like a live broadcast, Doc and Eddie anticipate plays and ramp up their intensity

to match the action on the ice with more than 35,000 lines of new dialogue. NHL 15 features real-world pre-game video reels with the duo, blurring the lines between the real world of sport broadcast and the game. For the first time in franchise history, NHL 15 adds a third commentator, TSN analyst Ray Ferraro, to provide game insights at ice level. During replays and stoppages in play, Ray chimes in on developing stories and recent in-game events. Rated E10+, the game is available on PS3, PS4, Xbox One, and Xbox 360.

EA Sports **FIFA 15** brings soccer to life in stunning detail so fans can experience the emotions of the sport like never before. Witness the intensity of the crowds chanting and cheering, and listen to commentators guide fans through the story of the game. For the first time, all 22 players on the pitch are connected with Emotional Intelligence, allowing players to react to opponents and teammates within the context, and relative to the narrative of the match. Next Generation and Authentic Player Visuals show grass that wears and tears as the match progresses, and competitors that are lean, athletic, and true to their real-life appearance. Player Control heightens the responsiveness of player movement, gives athletes more control



and personality on the ball, and makes Man-to-Man Battles more rewarding. Fans are center stage, and feel the emotion and intensity of the world's greatest sport. Goalkeepers now look, move, and think like their real world coun-

terparts, anticipating shots and passes and displaying a new array of save animations. Additionally, New Team Tactics give teams a contextual awareness of the game, allowing opponents to take more risks when trailing and play more conservatively when leading. FIFA 15 is rated E, and is available on PS4 and Xbox One.

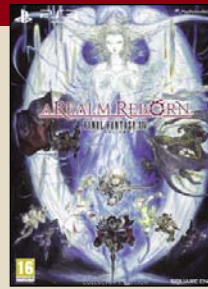
Two of the most celebrated RPGs come together in beautiful high definition in the Limited Edition of **Final Fantasy X / X-2 HD Remaster** from Square Enix. Fans, old and new alike, can relive the fateful journey of Tidus, the star blitzball player, and the young and beautiful summoner Yuna on the quest to save the world of Spira from an endless cycle of destruction wrought by the colossal menace Sin. X-2 returns to the world of Spira two years after the beginning of the Eternal Calm. Having been shown a mysterious but familiar image in a sphere, Yuna becomes a Sphere Hunter and,



along with her companions Rikku and Paine, embarks on a quest around the world to find the answers to the mystery within. Final Fantasy X / X-2 HD Remaster offers more than 200 hours of gameplay, including the International version content never before released in North America, and fully remastered HD Visuals and rearranged music. The Limited Edition Airbook Packaging has 24 pages of artwork and concepts from the world of Spira and a foreword by Yoshinori Kitase, the game's original producer. For the PS3, it's rated T for mild blood, mild language, suggestive themes, and violence.

A Realm Reborn: Final Fantasy XIV is a massively multiplayer online role-playing game that invites fans to explore the realm of Eorzea with friends from around the world. Players will forge friendships, mount chocobos, and board airships while creating unique stories. Set out alone or enlist the aid of friends to undertake epic quests, battle familiar Final Fantasy monsters, and become the hero Eorzea needs. Rated T for language, mild blood, sexual themes, use of alcohol, and violence, the game is available on PC, PS3, and PS4.

cepts from the world of Spira and a foreword by Yoshinori Kitase, the game's original producer. For the PS3, it's rated T for mild blood, mild language, suggestive themes, and violence.



Square Enix's **Thief** lets players become one with the night as Garrett, Master Thief. In a city teetering on the edge of a bloody revolution and an oppressive regime subsisting on the rising tide of fear, an extraordinarily skilled thief lies in the shadows thwarting even the most cautious citizens out of their best-guarded possessions. But as the uprising

begins to emerge, Garrett's abilities may be the only thing that will prevent the streets from running red with the blood of the people. Players slip into the silent shoes of the dark and solitary Master Thief and sneak through the City unnoticed and unsanctioned, using unmatched stealth skills to perform the most challenging heists and infiltrate luxurious mansions to relieve the residents of their valuables. Thief represents a visceral first-person experience through the power of your next-generation console. Intended for players 17 and older, Thief is Rated M for blood, nudity, strong language, strong sexual content, use of drugs, and violence. Available on PS3, PS4, Xbox One, Xbox 360, and Microsoft Windows.



Alien: Isolation is a first-person survival horror game capturing the fear and tension evoked by Ridley Scott's 1979 classic film. Players find themselves in an atmosphere of constant dread and mortal danger as an unpredictable, ruthless Xenomorph is stalking and killing deep in the shadows. Underpowered and underprepared, players must scavenge resources, improvise solutions and use their wits, not just to succeed in the mission, but simply to stay alive. Intended for ages 17 and up, Alien: Isolation is rated M for blood, strong language, and violence. Available on the PS3, PS4, Xbox 360, Xbox One, and Wii U.



The Kind Cube (\$32) contains an assortment of 16 bars. The Healthy Indulgence Variety Cube (\$39.50) has 20 bars. Among the flavors are Almond & Coconut, Fruit & Nut Delight, Dark Chocolate Nuts & Sea Salt, Madagascar Vanilla Almond, Almond Cashew, Cranberry Almond, Peanut Butter Dark Chocolate, Blueberry Pecan, Apple Cinnamon Pecan, Dark Chocolate Cherry Cashew, and Pomegranate Blueberry Pistachio. Go to www.kindsnacks.com to learn more.

UNBEATABLE COMBO: MATTEL & FISHER-PRICE

Year in, year out, Mattel and Fisher-Price toys inevitably find their way under our tree, whether for our own kids or the offspring of friends and family. This holiday season is no exception:

Disney's Planes Fire & Rescue Fire Blastin' Dusty Crophopper from Mattel (\$49.99, ages four years and up). Help town

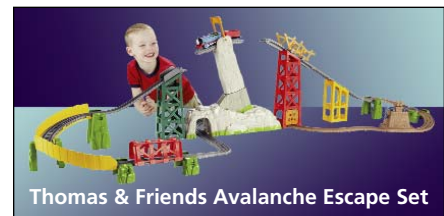


Disney's Planes Fire Blastin' Dusty Crophopper

them out. Realistic sounds and phrases triggered by "Smart Sound" technology enhance the play.

Thomas & Friends TrackMaster Avalanche Escape Set from Fisher-Price (\$64.99, ages three years and up). Enjoy the fast and powerful motorized engines that make for the most action-packed Thomas adventures of all. Thomas will reach new heights and speeds as he makes his way up a 30-degree incline before crossing

hero Dusty Crophopper put out the blaze by scooping up water balls and racing to the rescue. Then, take aim, pull the lever, and shoot the water balls at the fire targets to take



Thomas & Friends Avalanche Escape Set

an avalanche gap and racing down the other side. The TrackMaster engines have been redesigned for enhanced power and performance.

Bounce-Off from Mattel (\$17.99, ages eight years and up). This is the ultimate head-to-head competition for anyone



Bounce-Off

WHAT'S NEW?

eight to 88. To play, flip over a card to determine the pattern, then race to form it by bouncing balls into the grid. The first color to complete the pattern wins the game.

Little People Wheelies City Skyway from Fisher Price (\$39.99, ages one to five years). Standing more than three feet tall, this playset ramps up the zipping, zooming racing fun when youngsters send a vehicle down the ramp at the top and decide which way it will come out, using the "randomizers" throughout that will switch the car to different paths. Creative play is encouraged with a realistic crane, stop sign, gas pump, and parking meter.



Little People City Skyway

MEET A ROBOTIC BOOTY SHAKER AND JOKE TELLER

Kids will be on their feet as they play their favorite tunes and dance along and chat with DiscoRobo from Tomy Robotics, an intuitive robot that uses beat detection technology to match the music with 56 booty-shaking dance moves. Once activated, kids can get the party started simply by tapping DiscoRobo on two different touch points that will trigger random phrases or funny gestures. With a free app (available for IOS, An-



DiscoRobo

droid, and Windows), kids can talk to their new friend or even choreograph its dance steps.

In chat mode, kids type in questions and DiscoRobo responds with witty remarks. If two DiscoRobos are paired facing each other, the robots will chat together. In dance mode, a shake of the phone or a swipe across the virtual DiscoRobo on screen make the actual robot react and mimic the movements. Kids even can control the robot's actions as they view it through their own cellphone cameras while they play their favorite songs from their own music libraries. In addition, press any button from 0-9 on the TV remote and DiscoRobo will sing, dance, or tell a joke.

DiscoRobo comes with its own stage—a portable MP3 player speaker with internal memory for music storage and music device connectivity. This battery-operated system comes in four colors to match each DiscoRobo (blue, pink, red, and purple).

DiscoRobo (with stage, \$75; without, \$45) and DiscoStage each require eight AA batteries (not included).

RUN REAL RUN TRUE

The folks at Skora, Seattle, Wash., view "Real Running" as running how nature intended—efficient, effective, and with ease. As the foot strikes the ground, contact is made in the middle of the foot, not at the heel. Running with a whole-foot gait results in less impact energy and force shock transmitted throughout the body.

Real Running is not something your body

PLAYMOBIL: 40 YEARS OF FUN, AND COUNTING

Playmobil is a world of play in miniature. By appealing to a child's imagination, Playmobil's themes from the past, present, and future encourage young minds to develop and understand the world around them. Everyday situations can be re-created through role-play for hours of unlimited fun.

New to the Playmobil playlist:

- Four Limited Edition 40th Anniversary Compact Sets that each include a bonus: Knight's Tournament (bonus Cannon Wagon); Pony Pasture (bonus Pony Wagon); Fire Rescue Operation (bonus Quad); and Princess Island (bonus Romantic Gondola).

- All princesses are welcome at the Unicorn Jewel Castle, where she can sleep in a bed decorated with sparkling jewels—and the secret hiding place at Magic Crystal Lake contains a treasure chest.

- Spend the day shopping at the new Furnished Shopping Mall. Browse through the latest styles at the Clothing Boutique, or have your hair styled at the Beauty Salon. There even is a Playmobil Toy Shop filled with miniature Playmobil toys.

- The Family Camping Trip is underway. The whole family can explore the new Camp Site. At night, everyone will sleep peacefully in a Pop-Up Tent. The next morning, take a shower and then enjoy



Knight's Tournament

a snack at the Camping Cafe.

- Embark on an outdoor adventure with Mountain Life. Take the Cable Car up the mountain, enjoy the Festival, go rock climbing, or spend time at the Alpine Lodge, which has a cozy fireplace and an attic where you can take a nap after such an eventful day.

Of course, no month of December is

complete—or nearly as much fun—without a Playmobil "Advents Kalender." There are plenty of choices for themes, including Santa's Workshop, Unicorn Fairyland, Dragon's Treasure Battle, Pirates Treasure Cove, and many others.



Santa's Workshop

For those traveling this holiday season, keep in mind that there is a Playmobil Fun Park in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., that is open seven days a week. Go to www.playmobil.us to learn more about the 40th anniversary celebration, product line, and theme park.



Family Camping Trip

needs to learn, but rather be reminded of. As children, we all Run Real; it is only as we grow older and become accustomed to conventional running shoes that we forget how to run naturally. With enough practice, your body will relearn how to Run Real. Remember to focus on the quality of your run, not the quantity of miles.

The 3Rs of Real Running are:

Reconnect. The mind-body connection provides important feedback (proprioception). How? Keeping the feet closer to the running surface reconnects the sense of touch and facilitates a light landing that is consistent with a whole-foot gait. Why? Awareness of how your feet connect with the running surface helps give your body greater control and efficiency.

Reposition. The position of your body greatly affects your running form. How? Maintain an upright posture, aligning the hip to the head. Land with your feet under your body, not in front. Keep your knees slightly bent, and avoid landing with an outstretched, straight leg. Why? A good running body position enables the legs and feet to absorb impact energy and forces throughout the body naturally.

Rhythm. The rhythm of your stride is an important part of maintaining good form. How?

While every body and gait is different, a good stride rhythm is around 180 footsteps per minute. Why? A shorter stride length encourages a whole-foot landing that allows your entire body to work as efficiently and biomechanically correct as possible.

For those wishing to put the Real Running philosophy to a road test—in other words, Real



Men's & Women's FIT Trainer

Running in the real world—Skora presents FIT (\$95), a lightweight trainer that offers balanced cushioning ideal for the road or gym. With the new year around the corner, this is the motivation you've been looking for. The FIT (6.6 ounces for women; 8.2 ounces for men) features a seamless stretchy airmesh upper designed for comfort and durability. The 3D printing and inter-

nal arch-band provide structural support, while the asymmetrical lacing offers better fit and increased comfort across the top of the foot. With a fully-curved, zero-drop outsole made of high abrasion rubber, CM EVA midsole, and total stack height of 16 mm, FIT offers cushioning without sacrificing natural running benefits.

The ladies' version comes in Fluorescent Pink/Cyan/White (with white laces), while the guys are decked out in Fluorescent Red/Black/White (with black laces). Actually, the Fluorescent Red leans more toward Orange, but no matter—the point is, you'll be spotted easily in these reflectivity colors, something definitely worth considering when running in the gray winter months when it gets dark so early.

NO MORE CAMOUFLAGING THOSE DIRTY FLOORS

Electrolux recently teamed up with Realtree to launch a limited edition Ergorapido camo print stick vacuum. The Electrolux Ergorapido Xtra is a two-in-one cordless stick vacuum with pop-out hand vac that sports Realtree's realistic Xtra camo pattern.

This machine is ideal for cleaning on and above bare floors. The variable speed and 12-volt NiMH battery give users an extended run time. The 180° swivel head helps you twist and turn around furniture with ease. Moreover, the lightweight bagless design makes it easy to go up and down stairs and carry from room to room. The crevice tool and dusting brush store in the handle, so it's easier to clean crevices, stairs, and upholstered surfaces.

Ergorapido (\$150) is available at select Walmart stores nationwide

and on www.Walmart.com, as well as select Mills Fleet stores and on Amazon.com.



Electrolux Camo Print Stick Vacuum

BE DELECTABLE FROM HEAD TO TOE

One of the leaders of the dessert beauty trend, be Delectable from Cake Beauty is renowned for its naturally-scented hand creams and luxurious body products. To make this holiday season even sweeter, be Delectable is offering an array of limited-edition sets, perfect for stocking stuffers and hostess gifts.

The Big Holiday Get-Together Set (\$18). Give your body the luxury treatment with this triple moisture body lotion sampler sweetened with a special bonus—Sweet Mint & Cream Triple Moisture Body Lotion blended with shea butter, coconut oil, and aloe vera. It comes in four scents: Coconut & Cream, Strawberry & Cream, Lemon & Cream, and Vanilla & Cream.

Be Your Sweetest & Smoothest from Lips to Fingertips Set (\$14). This tempting combination includes an ultra-nourishing hand cream in the brand's best-selling Strawberry & Cream scent with a hydrating sweet mint Evolution of Smooth lip balm, formulated with coconut oil, aloe vera, and shea butter.

Hair & Body Mist Set (\$14). Whether to spritz on after yoga or on the way to after-work drinks, this is the new essential. Blended with fruit extract and aloe vera, it won't stain clothing and is a great alternative to traditional fragrance options.

Hand Cream Set (\$14). Shea butter and coconut oil help nourish and soften skin and cuticles to keep hands looking beautiful. This never-greasy hand cream absorbs in the skin quickly and leaves it feeling light and smooth.



Hand Cream Set

All are free of parabens, sodium chloride, phthalates, genetically modified organisms, mineral oil, petrolatum, gluten, and tricosan—and are not tested on animals. Exclusive to Kohl's. Learn more at www.be-delectable.com.

BLOW YOURSELF AN AIR KISS

Get ready to be blown away. Introducing the first ever 100% natural, chemical-free continuous spray moisturizer. Kiss My Face Air Kiss is a two-in-one light moisturizing lotion that hydrates instantly and protects skin against free radicals with naturally nourishing antioxidants, including aloe vera, chamomile, and calendula. Available in three variations, Aah Lavender Shea, Mmm Tropical Coconut, and Fragrance Free Olive & Aloe.

The tedious task of daily moisturizing never has been easier, faster, or felt so good. Packaged in an ergonomic air-powered container, it utilizes compressed air technology, as opposed to chemical propellants, to provide a light—yet powerful—continuous moisturizing mist to cover hard-to-reach areas.

Absorbing immediately without leaving a

greasy, sticky residue, there is no downtime between dressing, reducing the amount of time it takes to get out the door. Accelerating the morning routine, Air Kiss (\$9.99 for six ounces) is a savior for those who are constantly rushing and guilty of cutting beauty and grooming corners—



Kiss My Face Air Kiss

which, let's be honest, is pretty much everyone.

As the skin absorbs 60% of what is put on it, feel good knowing that Kiss My Face focuses not only on what is in the formulas, but what is left out—intentionally. All Kiss My Face products do not contain parabens, phthalates, or animal ingredients. A pioneer in the natural and organic skincare industry, Kiss My Face kisses with a purpose. For more than 30 years, the brand has been obsessively passionate about providing naturally effective products with a healthy respect for our fragile planet.

One Kiss is all it takes for light and healthy skin therapy. Get Air Kissed and go.

ROLLER COASTERS TO LOG CABINS, K'NEX HAS IT ALL

There are building sets and then there are building sets. K'NEX definitely fits into the latter category. For years our kids have been enjoying the simple and the complex that K'NEX has to offer. Happily, it will be more of the same this year thanks to Thrill Rides: Hyperspeed Hangtime



Hyperspeed Hangtime Roller Coaster Building Set

FOR BASEBALL FANS, TOPPS ARE TOPS

If you're looking for what die-hard baseball fans consider luxury gifts, you can't top Topps when it comes to baseball cards.

The 2014 Topps Stadium Club Baseball Set (\$80) brings collectors the new generation of stars along with some of the greatest ever to play the game, and guarantees an autographed card—perhaps Mark McGwire—as well as a co-signer card featuring two stars, such as Ken Griffey Jr. and phenom Mike Trout.

The 2014 Topps High Tek Set (\$50) features the cards all baseball fans came to know and love in the 1990s and early 2000s. The set showcases eye-popping color with some of the most exquisite cards ever featured in a Topps set. Each box guarantees one on-card autograph from an MLB icon or current star. No two High Tek packs will be the same, making this a great gift for the avid baseball fan in your life, both young and old.



The 2014 Topps Baseball Complete Set (\$60) includes both Series 1 and Series 2. That's 660 cards featuring veterans, rookies, more future stars, the 2013 award winners—MVP, Cy Young, and Rookie of the Year—as well as your favorite All-Stars. This set also has parallel cards, commemorative relic cards, insert cards, autographed cards, and strata cards.

The 2014 Topps Baseball Update Series (\$45) allows you to continue celebrating the just-completed campaign. It includes 330

cards featuring veterans, rookies, 2014 All-Stars, and Home Run Derby participants, and rookie debuts, along with the top 25 Power Player performers.

All the sets are available at hobby shops, Walmart, Target, Toys "R" Us, and Topps.com. To find a hobby shop near you, visit Topps.com/holiday.

WHAT'S NEW?



Lincoln Logs: Collector's Edition Homestead

Roller Coaster Building Set and Lincoln Logs: Collector's Edition Homestead.

With Thrill Rides (\$69.99, ages nine and up), there are more than 600 pieces to build a Roller Coaster over 2.5 feet high. The exclusive inverted blaster motor launches your hanging coaster car through 18 feet of track. For more fun, download instructions for a second coaster.

Homestead (\$99.99, ages three and up) is the biggest Lincoln Logs set ever created. It features 330 pieces, including real wood logs, a frontiersman figure, a buildable covered wagon, and two horses. The set also comes with colorful, step-by-step building instructions. When playtime is over, put the parts back into the handy storage container for a quick and easy clean-up.

There's tons more to see and learn if you go to www.knex.com.

PLAYSKOOL: LIGHTS, MUSIC, ACTION!

We can't help ourselves—or at least our



Tumble 'n Glow Froggy

youngest can't. Toys that light up and play music inevitably are the go-to, must-haves of the holiday season, and Hasbro's Playskool division always seems to have what we're looking for. This year, it's the Tumble 'n Glow Froggy and the Stack 'n Spin Monkey Gears.

Froggy certainly provides plenty of light-up,

musical, ball-dropping fun. Simply feed him by putting balls into his wide-open mouth and watch as they go down the ramps in his stomach, setting off a chain reaction of lights and music. Monkey Gears, meanwhile, comes with nine interchangeable gears that light up and turn to make fun sounds and music—and perhaps start your child on an early engineering career. Visit www.hasbrotoyshop.com/playskool to find out more about the brand's great lineup.



Stack 'n Spin Monkey Gears

HASBRO HAS IT—PHYSICAL AND CEREBRAL

Sometimes, you just want to sit down and enjoy a game that requires a little thinking. Other times, it's more fun to get out and run around—perhaps taking “shots” at your siblings or friends. In either case, Hasbro has what you want.

As for the shoot 'em up fun, Hasbro's line of Nerf products is a can't-miss (pun intended) proposition. The N-Strike Elite XO 2-in-1 Demolisher fires ammo as far as 90 feet—don't fret parents; the darts and missiles are soft and padded, so as not to injure. Marksmen are able to unleash a powerful barrage of elite darts and the larger missiles (at the same time) with motorized acceleration trigger blasting. There's a de-



N-Strike Elite XO 2-in-1 Demolisher

tachable stock with integrated missile storage and a 10-dart banana clip.

Need to sharpen your shooting eye? Then hone your skills with the Firestrike Elite Precision Target Set, which comes with 10 suction darts, precision light beam (for perfect aim), and, of course, a target with various point values. Keep score by yourself or engage a friend in a shooting contest.

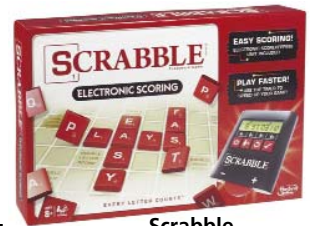
Now, when the mission calls for secrets to be sent and shared, the young ladies on your team can show their spy style with the Nerf Rebelle ar-



Firestrike Elite Precision Target Set

row launcher, perfect for the aspiring archer. Messages can fly back and forth between you and your team, hiding them in plain sight on Message Darts. Red reveals what the designs conceal—arm your friend with the decoder so she can discover your secret messages. There is an electronic sight to line up your shot and the arrows whistle in flight so the recipient knows it's coming.

Of course, even active warriors enjoy word games, so once the shooting battles of the day have been settled, it's time to exer-

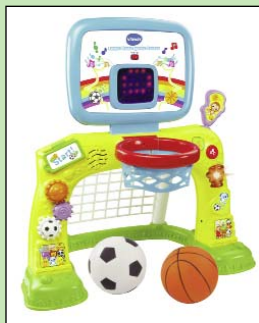


Scrabble Electronic Scoring

VTECH: PLAYTIME GOES WILD WITH LEARNING

Having fun while enhancing development is the VTech way—and our family wouldn't have it any other way:

Smart Shots Sports Center (\$39.99, 12-36 months). Parents can cheer on their little sports stars, as this electronic sports center features a soccer goal and basketball hoop for a fun two-in-one experience. Kick the soccer ball into the net to hear fun sounds or toss the basketball into the hoop and the magic sensor will count up to 10 each time a basket is



Smart Shots Sports Center

scored. Three buttons introduce shapes, numbers, opposites, sing-along songs, and more. Turn the gears or flip the page to hear fun phrases and sounds. The Sports Center also features a light-up screen that plays a

variety of fun animations and shows numbers, shapes, and letters to reinforce learning. Score, win, and learn.

Chomp & Count Dino (\$19.99, 12-36



Chomp & Count Dino

months). Children can learn about colors, foods, shapes, and counting with this adorable Dino. Simply insert one of the eight brightly-colored play pieces in Dino's mouth and watch as he eats and recognizes each piece. Play in either meal or counting mode and Dino responds with rewarding sounds and phrases all while introducing colors, numbers, shapes, and foods. By pressing the question button, kids can answer Dino's questions by feeding a specific food piece or by feeding a specific number of pieces to show what they've learned. Five shape buttons help kids learn shapes and numbers. Spinning the disc on Dino's back will play sing-along songs. Dino also can be pushed or pulled by a string. He will recognize the movement and play fun melodies.

Sit-to-Stand Smart Cruiser (\$39.99, six to 36 months). Cruise into the learning zone. This two-in-one toy grows with children and transforms from a floor play toy with detachable

months). Children can learn about colors, foods, shapes, and counting with this adorable Dino. Simply insert one of the eight brightly-colored play pieces in Dino's mouth

steering wheel activity panel to an exciting ride-on toy. The interactive steering wheel features driving, learning, and music modes with more than 80 songs, sounds, and phrases that introduce animals, opposites, and first words. Turn on the engine, move the gear shifter or press the horn to hear realistic driving sound effects. Children can pretend to drive to six different fun locations with arrow buttons teaching the concept of direction and road safety.



Sit-to-Stand Smart Cruiser

Attach the steering wheel to the Cruiser and it becomes a fun ride-on toy. There also is a front activity panel and under-seat storage children can fill with small toys for more fun on the go.

Lil' Speller Phonics Station (\$24.99, three to six years) lets children build and learn words with fun sounds, melodies, and animations that

cise your brain with Scrabble, complete with electronic scoring, which tracks the word counts of up to four participants. You also can play faster by using the timer to speed up the game.

Then there's Trivial Pursuit Hints—fast-pass trivia with hints to help you guess. Read your hint. Guess the answer or get another hint. Use fewer hints, get more points. Easy play, quick setup, auto scoring. Enjoy.



Trivial Pursuit Hints

OLDER AND WISER, THEY STILL LOVE VTECH

There's no turning back, even for the little ones among us. It indeed is a Computerized/WiFi/App/Internet/Web/Social Media World. That being the case, VTech still has the answers you need as a parent of young children:

InnoTab 3S Plus (\$79.99, three to nine years). InnoTab 3S Plus lets kids learn, create, and connect using a kid-safe Wi-Fi connection to the Internet. Now children can search VTech and parent-approved websites as well as communicate in real time with Premium VTech Kid Connect on their very own kids tablet. Exchange text and voice messages, photos, drawings, and fun stickers with smart phones using the exclusive app available for free on the App Store and



InnoTab 3S Plus

Google Play. In addition to the Rechargeable Power Pack and 16 included apps, children will have access to more than 650 additional cartridges, software and apps that can be downloaded from VTech's Learning Lodge. The Wish List Maker lets children explore games, e-Books, videos, music and more, and send their favorites right to mom or dad's e-mail. Movie Maker allows kids to become their own director, using their photos to create amazing movies. Unleash children's creative sides with Art Studio and watch them color, draw, paint, and decorate with special stickers. Age-appropriate content includes a recommended age and grade range to meet each child's unique needs. The expert-supported curriculum includes reading, math, social studies, handwriting, science, problem solving, geography, and much more. Use the tilt sensor to interact with games, use the D-pad controller to choose directions and talk into the microphone to add to the fun. Children will love taking photos using the 180-degree rotating camera with more than 55 special effects and using the video recorder to make movies. They even can import and listen to their own MP3s with the music player.

Kidizoom Smartwatch (\$59.99, four years-plus). This interactive device lets kids capture photos, add photo effects, record videos, and play built-in games for learning fun on the go. Complete with an easy-to-use 1.4-inch color touch screen, as well as more than 50 digital and analog clock displays, the multi-functional Kidizoom Smartwatch is perfect for kids learning to tell time. Boasts a rechargeable battery, alarm clock, timer, stopwatch, voice recorder with five voice-changing effects, and parental game controls. Made just for kids, this watch features a durable design to withstand drops and bumps and is splash and sweat proof. Kidizoom Smart-

watch is PC and MAC compatible for uploading photos, videos, and recorded voice files and offers access to VTech's Learning Lodge app store,



Kidizoom Smartwatch

where parents can download even more games and watch displays to extend the learning fun.

YOU'LL ALWAYS KNOW THE SCORE—AND TIME

ScoreBand Pro has everything a recreational athlete could ask for in a scorekeeping watch. It features three quick-touch scorekeeping modes—Golf, Tennis, and All Score—as well as Stopwatch and Time modes:

- **Golf Mode.** Keep track of strokes by hole, view running stroke total, post-round score summary (total and by hole), and elapsed time of round.
- **Tennis Mode.** Keep score point-by-point, view current set score, post-match score summary by set, serve indicator, tie-break scoring option, and elapsed time (with pause function).
- **All Score Mode.** Keep score point-by-point with series score view for most sports, includes post-game summary and elapsed time



ScoreBand Pro

encourage interactive learning and reinforce words. They can discover letter names and hear their sounds by plugging in the letter blocks one by one, or learn letter order by determining which letter is missing, then plug in the correct block to complete the order. With the help of the Spelling Bee, kids can learn to spell more than 200 common three-letter words. When they've mastered the basics, they can take the Spelling Bee's challenge. If they spell the words correctly, they advance to a bonus rhyming game. The Lil' Speller Phonics Station includes 26 letter blocks and four extra blocks to spell words like "mom" and "dad." It also features a handle and all of the blocks can be stored inside for easy travel.

Record & Learn KidiStudio (\$39.99, three to six years). Now children can perform and record like a rock star. Kids can explore a variety of musical instruments, adjust the tempo, and sing along while recording a masterpiece to share with family and friends. The light-up keyboard lets them follow the lights and learn to



Record & Learn KidiStudio

play their favorite melodies. Kids can choose an instrument and use the keyboard to play that instrument's different sounds, or press the cymbal or tap along on the drum to add a beat to the song. They even can pretend to be a DJ with the scratch disc sound effect and speed up or slow down the tempo to match their style. Sing along to 20 melodies in Rock, Hip Hop, Jazz, and Techno styles with a real voice-changing microphone.

Go! Go! Smart Wheels Ultimate Amazement Park Playset (\$59.99, one to five years). Place the race car at the top of the tower, pull the flag, and watch as it races through the 360-degree loop, spiral, or ramp. Drive the included SmartPoint race car over the eight SmartPoint locations to hear fun music and sounds. The whole shibang can be connected to other Go! Go! Smart Wheels or Go! Go! Smart Animals playsets (sold separately) to encourage creative play. It's playtime with miles of learning fun.

Go! Go! Smart Animals Zoo Explorers Playset (\$39.99, one to five years). Playtime goes wild with learning on a tour of the zoo with the SmartPoint rhino as



Go! Go! Smart Wheels Ultimate Amazement Park Playset

he responds to the zoo's seven SmartPoint locations with different phrases, music, and fun sounds. Children can strengthen their motor skills with eight manipulative features including a turning gate, spinning water tank, and sliding elevator. The colorful tracks can connect to other Go! Go! sets to encourage

children's creativity. The zoo also features an electronic entrance that teaches animal names, animal traits, letters, colors, and plays music.

Switch & Go Dinos Turbo Bronco the RC Triceratops (\$44.99, three to eight years). This is the first remote control Dino from Switch & Go—it transforms from a fierce Triceratops to a sleek race car with the push of a button on its remote control. Use the remote to move forward,

backward, and left and right in both vehicle and Dino modes. Then use the turbo charge lever to give it a speed boost. Press the buttons on the remote to turn on headlights, hear realistic sound effects, and learn neat Dino facts. Bronco's LCD screen displays cool dinosaur eyes and driver animations, and kids can choose from four different styles.



Switch & Go Dinos Turbo Bronco the RC Triceratops

(AllScore mode also works for keeping golf statistics or other counts).

- **Stopwatch Mode.** Standard start/stop/split functionality and 10-lap count capacity.
- **Time Mode.** Current time, date, seconds with 12/24 hour mode option.

ScoreBand's unique Databar display offers the option of viewing Total Score, Elapsed Time, or Current Time within any mode. With its sleek, modern design, ScoreBand makes a stylish timepiece when not in play. It is water resistant and includes a backlight, "hibernate"

mode to conserve battery, low-battery indicator, replaceable three-volt lithium battery, and a one-year warranty. Available with black or white strap, and in small or large sizes. It retails for \$49.95 at www.scoreband.net.

A MOST TREASURED GIFT TO AMERICA

The exhibition "Magna Carta: Muse and Mentor" is designed to celebrate the 800th anniversary of the Magna Carta and to illustrate the great charter's influence on laws and liberties throughout the centuries. The centerpiece of the exhibition will be the Magna Carta on loan from Lincoln Cathedral in England. The rare document and 76 items drawn from the collections at the Library of Congress will be on display through Jan. 19, 2015.

"Magna Carta: Muse and Mentor" features medieval manuscripts, published works, prints, photographs, maps, posters, and annotated draft opinions by justices of the U.S.



Lincoln Cathedral

Joseph Martin Kronheim's 1868 painting of King John signing the Magna Carta.

Supreme Court. The Library's exhibition will show how the interpretation of the Magna Carta through the centuries led to the constitutional guarantees of individual liberty brought forth by America's Founding Fathers. It will describe how a number of the most basic principles of the Constitution—consent of the governed, the right to a trial by jury, the right to due process of law, freedom from unlawful imprisonment, and limited government under the law—can be traced to the Magna Carta. Also, liberties associated with the Magna Carta are not just for the history books; many of those liberties are still being litigated in U.S. courts today.

The exhibit's narrative starts with the creation of the Magna Carta ("Great Charter"), which was sealed in 1215 in a grassy meadow at Runnymede, by the Thames, when barons coerced King John into granting a number of rights and liberties. It will cover this conflict, the contents and purpose of the Magna Carta, and its re-issue by subsequent kings and Parliament. As the storyline contin-

ues, the exhibition will focus on the Magna Carta's rediscovery in the 17th century, when English jurists, especially Sir Edward Coke, made the Magna Carta into the fundamental source of constitutional guarantees of individual liberties; the Magna Carta's adoption and interpretation in Colonial America; and the Magna Carta's influence on the creation of American written constitutions.

The exhibition shows the relevance of the Magna Carta by tracing important areas of constitutional jurisprudence from their medieval origins through present-day litigation in the Supreme Court. A small section highlights the interpretation of the Magna Carta in art, music, drama, and cultural commemorations.

Highlights of the items on display include:

- A miniature manuscript of the *Statutes of England* from the 14th century—one of the Law Library of Congress' most treasured books.
- *The Second Part of the Institutes of the Laws of England* (1681) by Coke, one of the most important jurists in the history of English law, was one of the basic textbooks from which young lawyers learned the law in the 17th and 18th centuries and contains a commentary on the Magna Carta that became enormously influential in Great Britain and America.
- George Washington's annotated copy of the Committee of Style's draft of the Constitution from Sept. 12, 1787, which is the core document for the exploration of the antecedents of some critical phrases and principles in the Constitution. Few critical alterations were made to the Committee of Style's draft before it was signed by the delegates in Philadelphia on Sept. 17, 1787.
- A first-edition copy of the *Federalist*, also known as the *Federalist Papers*, written for the most part as a series of newspaper articles by James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, and John Jay during the debate that led to the ratification of the Constitution.

The exhibition also celebrates the 75th anniversary of the Lincoln Cathedral Magna Carta's first visit to the Library of Congress. In 1939, after a six-month public viewing of the Magna Carta in the British Pavilion at the New York World's Fair, the document traveled to the Library of Congress for safekeeping during World War II. The Library placed the Magna Carta on exhibit until the U.S. entry into the war, when it then sent the treasured document to Fort Knox, Kentucky. The Magna Carta returned to England in 1946.

Only four issues of the Magna Carta from 1215 exist today. Two are held by the British Library, one by Salisbury Cathedral, and the fourth, held by Lincoln Cathedral, is considered to be in the best condition.

WOW! DID THEY REALLY DO THAT?

The global authority on record-breaking achievement has announced the records to have made it into the *Guinness World Records 2015*, the 60th anniversary edition of the world's best-selling copyright book. The latest edition reflects on the last 60 years of record-breaking, while also including an array of new superlatives, including talented pets, humongous hair, colossal collections, titanic tongues, and more:

Longest golf club. In the realm of sports, golfers can be quite particular about their gear. Denmark's Karsten Maas has taken his love of the game to the extreme with his longest "usable" golf club: 14 feet, five inches. Maas used his enormous creation to drive a ball a distance of 542 feet, 10.16 inches.

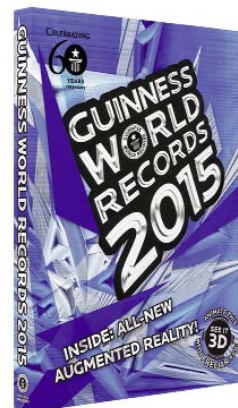
Longest tongue. California native Nick "The Lick" Stoeberl's longest tongue comes in at 3.97 inches from tip to closed lip. "My dad was a huge KISS fan, and may have wanted me to be a rock star."

Largest yo-yo. The colossal construction built by Ohio's Beth Johnson is 11 feet, nine inches and weighs 4,620 pounds. It took a year and a half to complete, and is fully operational.

Largest collection of comic books. Since the age of eight, California's Bob Bretall has

amassed 94,268 comic books—as of May 1. Bretall's collection weighs an estimated 8.3 tons. The 52-year old maintains he never will sell any of his comics, and will "leave that to [his] kids when it becomes their inheritance to do with as they will."

Readers looking to extend their *Guinness World Records* experience beyond the book



can download the free See It 3D Augmented Reality App, where they can see how they compare with the tallest man ever, Robert Wadlow, explore the solar system, learn about the most venomous spider, play games, and interact with tons of digital content.

On the latest edition, Editor-in-Chief Craig Glenday comments: "This is an important landmark edition for *Guinness World Records*, giving us the opportunity to look back at how records have changed over these six extraordinary decades. Of course, we've still had to process around 50,000 claims in this past year alone, giving us plenty of new and updated records to choose from and making it a really difficult task to decide what makes the final cut."

Guinness World Records 2015 (\$28.95) is available wherever books are sold. For more information, visit www.guinnessworldrecords.com/2015.

BOOKS

BLOOD FEUD The Clintons vs. the Obamas

BY EDWARD KLEIN
REGNERY PUBLISHING, WASHINGTON, D.C.
2014, 302 PAGES, \$27.99

Edward Klein—ex-editor of *Newsweek*, former editor-in-chief of *The New York Times Magazine*, and a contributing editor to *Vanity Fair*—has authored 12 books, including several bestsellers. For *Blood Feud*, a sequel to *The Truth About Hillary: What She Knew, When She Knew It, and How Far She'll Go to Become President* (2005) and *The Amateur: Barack Obama in the White House* (2012), Klein interviewed several hundred people, including close friends of the Clintons and Obamas. Klein acknowledges he gained much of the information for the book from what journalists call “deep background,” meaning that he could use the information but could not identify sources. Wherever possible, he used more than one source to reconstruct a scene and to double-source dialogue. He interviewed several of the people close to the two couples more than a dozen times to check for accuracy and consistency.

Readers will understand why Klein resorted to deep background: much of the book concerns intimate facts contributed by very close friends of “secrets” revealing embarrassing situations. In using detailed information, Klein explores what the Clintons and the Obamas are really like. The title accurately describes how the two couples feel about each other and why they feel the way they do.

The book opens with Hillary's May 2013 visit with six members of her Wellesley College class of 1969. Hillary told her friends she “was not sure what Bill and [she] expected from the Obamas, but there was bad blood between [the couples] from the start.” For as long as her friends had known her, Hillary had “been driven insane by her enemies.” She kept an “enemies list of ingrates and traitors,” including 2008 Obama supporters.

The “thing with Obama is that there is no hand on the tiller half the time, and you cannot trust the [expletive],” Klein quotes her as saying. “Obama has treated Bill and me incredibly shabbily and we are angry. We tried to strike a deal with him. We promised to support him when he ran for reelection, and in return he would support me in 2016. He agreed to the arrangement. His word isn't worth [expletive]. The bad blood between us is just too much to overcome.” So goes the theme of the book—

the Obamas and Clintons have a deeply ingrained, blood-level distrust of each other.

Obama relied on his two closest advisors: David Plouffe, his chief in-house strategist, and Valerie Jarrett, his closest friend and director of activities. In August 2011, 15 months before Obama ran for reelection, his prospects looked “iffy at best.” Only 41% of the public approved of his performance. Aware that something had to be done, Plouffe suggested asking Bill Clinton to help “excite the base.” However, members of Obama's inner circle, especially Jarrett, widely despised Clinton.

Jarrett suggested Oprah Winfrey, who had agreed to help elect Obama in 2008. Ultimately, Winfrey went “all-out” for Obama, headlining massive rallies and raising hundreds of thousands of dollars. In return, Obama had promised Winfrey unique access to the White House if he won. Winfrey intended to make “her unique White House access”

part of her new network. However, none of that ever happened. Winfrey soon realized the Obamas had no intention of keeping their word even though they credited her with pulling in more than 1,000,000 votes. After the Obama betrayal, Winfrey swore she would sit out the 2012 reelection campaign. Hurt and angry, Winfrey has never “made up with the Obamas.”

Plouffe, whom Obama had asked to do whatever was necessary to win the election, insisted they needed Bill Clinton. Jarrett finally agreed but suggested

that, even though Plouffe might promise Clinton anything, he should ultimately do nothing for Clinton. Jarrett and Plouffe embody different and often irreconcilable sides of Obama's personality. Jarrett's job was to protect Obama from the unpleasant and to conceal “his inexperience and shocking immaturity.” In contrast, Plouffe worked to drag the “childish and amateurish” Obama back to cold, harsh political realities and tell the candidate the unvarnished truth.

In the summer of 2011, Obama's chance of winning reelection looked uncertain. He had



Pres. Barack Obama and former Pres. Bill Clinton confer in the White House.

White House photo

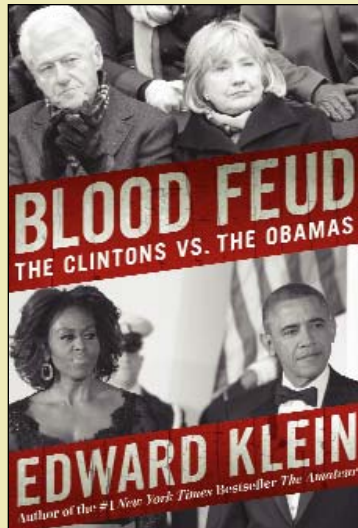
suffered one crushing setback after another. Michelle Obama, who “despised the Clintons even more than her husband did,” exercised enormous behind-the-scenes power in the White House. When Michelle heard Plouffe intended to use Clinton in the 2012 campaign “she went ballistic.” She and Jarrett had opposed Obama's decision to offer Hillary the post of Secretary of State; they argued Hillary would be difficult,

if not impossible, to control. Jarrett swore to Michelle that, after the election, Bill Clinton would be “shut out no matter what. She would personally see to it.” Jarrett favored “the Chicago Way”: let Obama pat Clinton on the back so he would know later “where to stick the knife.”

Allowing Clinton to give the nominating speech during prime time made a bitter pill for Obama to swallow. His concession to use Clinton was one of the rare instances in which Obama did not follow Jarrett's advice. Obama's advisors planned to allow Clinton 25 minutes to blast the Republicans and Mitt Romney and to support Obama. Heading up the advisors, David Axelrod insisted Clinton show a draft of his speech. Ultimately, Axelrod authorized only 3,279 words of Clinton's original speech. However, as Clinton delivered his nomination speech, it expanded beyond the “approved script” until it was 80% longer. Clinton had memorized what Obama's advisors had cut and inserted not only the original words but expanded beyond his own original script. The speech received a standing ovation, and the mainstream media was “spellbound, wonderstruck by Clinton's masterful theatricality” during his 49-minute presentation. He had told the Obama story “better than Obama had ever done.” Clinton's rousing speech clearly pleased Obama.

As far as Bill was concerned, the Clintons had a deal with their support for Obama in 2012 and Obama's support for Hillary in 2016. However, Clinton seemed to forget one of his own political maxims: “Loyalty does not exist in politics; there is no such word in the political rulebook.”

When Clinton asked Obama to appoint one of Clinton's friends as chairman of the Democratic National Committee, Obama completely ignored Clinton's list. Furious, Clinton phoned the President to complain, but Obama refused his call. Later, Obama told Clinton that it was too early to make a decision about 2016. Obama wanted to “keep his options open.” “Speechless with rage,” Clinton realized Obama had taken him for a ride. Obama never had any intention of supporting Hillary. “The amateur had outsmarted the master.”



BOOKS

Klein examines both the Clintons and the Obamas as couples and as individuals. The Clintons not only have personal troubles, they have physical problems as well. Hillary told old friends “she and Bill live very separate lives.” They avoid sleeping in the same bed and “haven’t had sex for something like 20 years.” Their frequent arguments sometimes become wild. The Obamas also “live quite separate lives in the White House.” They have gone on separate vacations several times: he likes to play golf with men, and she likes to bond with women friends. Both of the Clintons have physical problems: Hillary has trouble with blood clots, and Bill has ongoing heart complications. Bill told Hillary he had concerns about his health and, if he should die, she should “make a positive thing out of it.” He instructed her to maximize his death—“it should be worth a couple million votes.”

Individually, Klein finds many faults in each of the four. However, he absolves Hillary of responsibility for what happened in Benghazi; Clinton’s team of legal experts concluded Hillary had a plausible defense for allowing her to “escape personal blame.” She had kept the mission open because Obama had asked her to. She had been following orders. However, the author faults Hillary for her trait of stubbornness; when she makes up her mind to do something, “she puts her head down and bulldozes her way through to her goal, whether or not it is morally defensible.”

Bill’s major problem concerns women. With Hillary overseas, Bill toured the country with various women for several weeks. He is known to “hit on women when their husbands are only a few feet away.” Otherwise, Klein has high praise for Bill, who, as one of the most respected politicians in the country, can “create an atmosphere of intimacy, which enables him to connect on a visceral level with his listeners.”

Klein has learned that Michelle constantly second-guesses her husband. She never has forgiven him for giving Hillary the State Department position. She is “obsessed with jealousy.” She breaks into meetings with women to see if she can catch Obama in a compromising situation.” Michelle seems to prefer spending time with Jarrett rather than Barack. Jarrett, who moved permanently into a room in the family’s quarters, has “more power than the president’s chiefs of staff.” On many evenings, the two women spend “an inordinate amount of time together in a quiet corner of the White House.” They have decided “on a mutual future”—just the two of them: “Barack could do his own thing.” Michelle proposes to “write a book, and then the two of them will travel abroad.”

In *Blood Feud*, Klein’s criticism of Obama predominates. He finds the Obama White House “mired in dysfunction, scandal, and a general air of malaise.” He favors the *New Republic*’s terming Obama “the lamest of lame ducks.” To Klein, Obama’s behavior appears to be “borderline delusional; he seems to be strangely oblivious to the wreckage around him.” He quotes publishing executive Steve Forbes: “Internationally, Obama is the weakest president of the post World War II years.” Klein

lists Obama’s “horribles,” which conclude with his approval ratings and record lows “not seen since the dark ages of George W. Bush.”

The title *Blood Feud* epitomizes the feelings the two couples have for each other. One of the main reasons the Obamas hate the Clintons is their suspicion the Clintons hold a prejudice against blacks. The relationship between the Obamas and the Clintons originates in “a deep well of mistrust, bad chemistry, and painful memories.” With Clinton’s “burning desire” to make Obama pay for deception regarding an endorsement of Hillary, the Clintons and Obamas seem trapped in an ugly blood feud. The book reads like a soap opera; however, one cannot discount its validity based on Klein’s credentials and extensive research.

Reviewed by
RAYMOND L. FISCHER
Mass Media Editor

LET ME BE CLEAR
Barack Obama’s War on Millennials,
and One Woman’s Case for Hope

BY KATIE KIEFFER
CROWN FORUM, NEW YORK
2014, 298 PAGES, \$24.00

Political commentator Katie Kieffer has appeared on CNBC, MSNBC, and Fox Business network and served as a “lauded” public speaker and weekly columnist at Townhall.com. As

spokesperson for the Millennial Generation, people born between the late 1970s and early 2000s (although some put it at a more definitive 1981-98), a time frame that encompasses around 36% of the population.

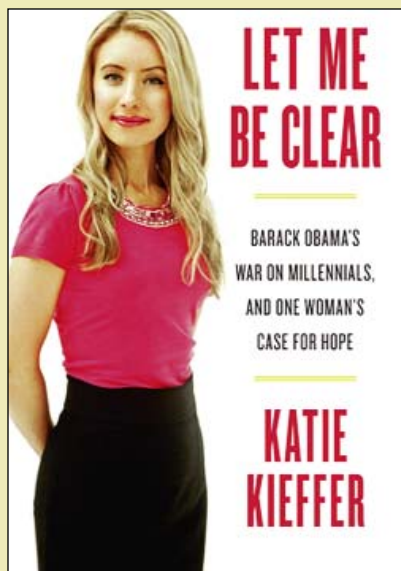
Let Me Be Clear—titled after an expression frequently used by Pres. Barack Obama—opens with a five-page letter addressed to the President. Kieffer requests Obama be accountable for “victimizing the Millennial Generation [also known as Generation Y] for political gain.” She accuses Obama of twice duping Millennials “into voting for [him] and [then] implementing unconstitutional decrees that robbed Millennials of the opportunities they deserve.” Obama “killed the hopes, careers, and dreams of young Americans for [his] own political gain” and caused “such extensive damage” to the Millennial Generation that Kieffer felt compelled to expose Obama’s duplicity. The author advises Obama “to read this book.”

The first generation to grow up with the Internet, Millennials instinctively e-mail and text. For Millennials, who are “fiscally conservative and socially libertarian,” the economy ranks as the No. 1 issue, and transparency is key. The Millennials mark the first generation “to do worse economically, educationally, and culturally than their parents.” Obama has “created an economic situation in which many Millennials find themselves jobless and their dreams out of reach.”

Kieffer defines the reasons Obama appeared on late night TV shows favored by Millennials, associated with lounge celebrities, gave a “massive sales pitch” on MTV, and “baited” 600,000 supporters on Facebook with “false promises of hope, jobs, and change.” As president, Obama not only “broke his promises, but . . . destroyed systems that had worked well.” He made Millennials who gave time, money, and votes a “global laughingstock.” They had “the hardest time finding jobs and escaping poverty.” Eventually, more than one-third of all Millennials had to return to their parents’ homes to live—a situation which Kieffer terms “shacking up against their will.”

Kieffer lists Obama’s legacy of “broken recovery promises.” Although Obama had promised to restore balance and fairness to the U.S. economy, he only helped “the rich get richer and the poor get poorer.” Close to 44% of Millennials now live below the national poverty threshold. Obama promised to invest in research and development of every form of alternative energy. Instead, he directed unconstitutional backdoor deals with taxpayer dollars to back green firms (clean-tech) “run by his buddies.” Kieffer followed 11 of these firms using misappropriated government start-up money to early failure. Kieffer suggests “Department of Inside Influence” more accurately describes the Department of Energy.

Obama promised to invest in American jobs by ending tax breaks for companies that ship jobs overseas. Obama’s major “action step” to reform the tax code found him working with fellow Democrats to ostracize Apple for following the law and making a profit. Obama expected for-profits to behave like nonprofits. As a result, more U.S. jobs moved overseas. Obama



a student at the University of St. Thomas, Kieffer founded and edited the *St. Thomas Standard*, an independent journal of thought and opinion. She has earned numerous public speaking awards and held various state and national leadership roles, including chair of the Young Professionals Forum of the National Association of Industrial and Office Parks. A member of the Ladies of Liberty Alliance Speakers Bureau, she considers herself a

vowed to “make good” on the debt owed past and future generations. Instead, he “added close to \$7 trillion to the national debt, now projected to reach \$10 trillion by the end of his presidency.” The Great Recession “hit Millennials the hardest.” Because Obama’s policies “destroyed the number of jobs in existence and development,” 95,000,000 Millennials “were fired before they had a chance to interview for the jobs for which they were qualified.”

Among the President’s programs, Obama-Care hurt Millennials most severely as they had to “bankroll the health insurance of older people instead of saving for their own health care later in life.” During his campaign, Obama had “pitched the perks of the bill, but left out the fine print such as how much young people could expect to pay.” As a result, “many Millennials who like their health insurance cannot keep it.” The author terms ObamaCare “a socialist scam” and suggests *The Audacity of False Hope* would have been a better title for Obama’s book.

Obama failed to make college a better investment even though he had “misled young people to think that he would help them achieve educational and career success.” Traveling from campus to campus, Obama conned students “into going into debt and becoming his groupies.” Obama used “rhetoric, celebrity comedians, the Department of Education, and college professors to flip students the bird.” Kieffer understands the need to reform the educational system—however, “we cannot trust politicians to reform any level of education.”

In analyzing Obama’s legacy, it is hard to understand “why he has done the things he did because his actions are so contrary to common sense,” except, perhaps, “he did as he did because he could.” Many Millennials “shacking up” with their parents are “experiencing psychological and emotional damage due to living at home.” In fact, “many are fighting off clinical depression.” An American Psychological Association study in February 2013 indicates “stress increased for 39% of Millennials in 2012,” more stress “than any other generation.”

Obama’s economic policies “disproportionately hurt black Millennials.” In speeches to blacks, Obama used dialect to sound compatible with “black celebrities who endorsed violent, demeaning, or unhealthy lifestyles.” In this way, he “fanned racial tensions instead of using his own mixed heritage to promote color-blind friendship among Millennials.” The Obamas “venerated the gangster life of pimps and pistols, encouraging negative role models who would only mislead their community.” Unfortunately for African-Americans—actually, for all Americans—Obama has a gift for singling out the pop, hip-hop, and rap entertainers, rather than “featuring black fathers who are worth emulating.” He failed to use his position as president to “break the cycle of disadvantaged black fathers.” His intimate friendship with the Carters (Beyonce and Jay-Z) placed an “unworthy mother-figure and an unhealthy father-figure on pedestals as role models for young people and the black family.”

Kieffer accuses Obama and his top brass

with “mistreating the military.” A 2013 membership survey conducted by veterans indicated “75% rated his performance on improving the lives of veterans fair or poor.” She charges both then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Obama with “incompetency” in responding to a foreseeable and preventable” Benghazi attack “that led to American deaths.” Kieffer, together with “one in four Democrats” believe Obama “ought to be impeached over Benghazi.”

Kieffer attacks Obama’s “lies about guns” because she believes “gun control is unnatural.” To end mass violence, murder, and suicide Kieffer advocates “loving more, not passing laws.” She implores people to “love each other, teach children gun safety, and overturn failed gun control laws.” She adamantly opposes more laws that violate “the civil right to self-defense.”

Because Obama will go down in history as the first “adolescent president,” voters must look for leaders “who possess certain qualities that Obama lacks—experience and a game plan.” In the past two presidential elections, “Republicans have been unlucky” largely because the “GOP continues to lose the youth vote.” Millennials must be educated to be less vulnerable to the likes of Obama. To win back the trust of young people, Kieffer is going to “keep educating Americans.” Kieffer trusts conservatives’ “solid, beneficial beliefs,” which Millennials must learn to value and understand “how they will benefit by sharing them.” Republicans must show they are a “party of options” and “run candidates who project consistency—a trait very important to Millennials.”

Kieffer considers *Let Me Be Clear* the story of “how Obama seduced an entire generation.” During Obama’s presidency, the U.S. has become “a far more dangerous place to live,” and Millennials have suffered far more than any previous generation. Millennials must “pick up the pieces of their shattered dreams and build new careers and dreams.” Kieffer displays confidence in her generation: Millennials can “dig themselves out of this mess through hard work, passion, and an entrepreneurial spirit.”

Serious and concerned about her subject, Kieffer has appeared on TV stations to explain her ideas and has incorporated her concerns in her weekly column at Townhall.com. *Let Me Be Clear* constitutes her latest efforts to get Republicans and especially Millennials interested in politics.

Reviewed by
RAYMOND L. FISCHER
Mass Media Editor

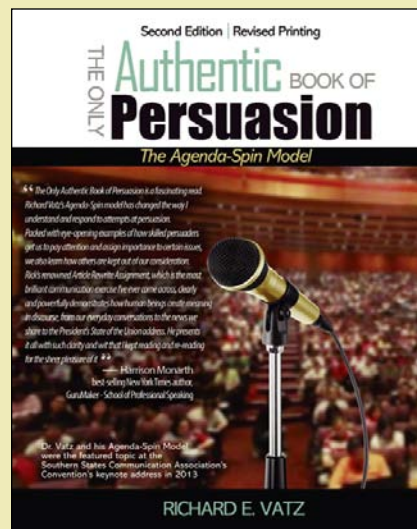
THE ONLY AUTHENTIC BOOK OF PERSUASION The Agenda-Spin Model

BY RICHARD E. VATZ
KENDALL HUNT PUBLISHING CO.
2014, 107 PAGES, \$39.99

Is it wrong to wish I could require every marriage therapy client and counseling-program graduate student to read this book? With that very sentence, I have laid out the parameters of

the discussion, skewing the likelihood that you will wonder what sort of book is relevant to bickering married couples and aspiring psychotherapists. In doing so, I have enacted one of the essential principles of persuasion described and explained so effectively in this enjoyable volume.

Richard E. Vatz makes explicit how the person who controls what is, and is not, up for discussion and how the discussion is framed sets an agenda. The way questions are worded impacts emotions and the kind of information that is recalled. We ignore large swaths of information, at-



tack the speaker, inject emotional arguments, or just switch topics. At age three, I responded to my beloved Nana’s attempt to tell me I was naughty by pointing out a flaw in her appearance. Spin starts young.

It is not all bad, of course: we psychotherapists use this routinely to help clients step outside their entrenched view of a problem to gain a new perspective, but it is a helpful reminder that everyone using communication is, in fact, engaged in some sort of persuasion, whether they acknowledge it or not.

Vatz includes a powerful section on the modern social-political technique of asserting that a “situation” exists as an absolute not up for discussion, and that the situation “demands” some sort of action. This approach evades the reality that more often situations are fluid, multi-faceted, and circumscribed by our response and description. A natural disaster is a definite event but, even then, how subsequent reactions and decisions are made is up for discussion: it is not a static “situation” requiring a particular response. Subsequent to a baseline discussion on persuasion and the ineluctable imposition of an agenda, Vatz applies this to the mainstream formula for discussing for various subjects, and addresses common applications of subtle manipulation of discussion that readers will realize have battered their sensibilities for years.

Reviewed by
DOLORES T. PUTERBAUGH
American Thought Editor