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*Puniw (It is Winter)*  
December 2007

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Susan Young - Editor

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**Wild Weather Facts**

Every day it seems we're being bombarded with news of strong weather events around the world. Here in Maine, we don't face the same weather extremes felt elsewhere in the country and all around the world. But just how extreme is extreme?

**Most Rainfall in a Day -**  
73.62 inches in Rounion, Indian Ocean, March 15, 1952.

**Most Rainfall in One Year -**  
1,041 inches (86.75 Feet!) in Assam, India, August 1880-1881.

**World's One Minute Rainfall Record -**  
In Unionville, Maryland, 1.23 inches of rain fell July 4, 1956.

**Most Snowfall in a Single Day**  
75.8 inches (over 6 feet!) in Silver Lake, Colorado, April 14 -15, 1921.

**Most Snowfall in a Single Storm**  
189 inches (15.75 feet!) in Mt. Shasta, California, February 13 - 19, 1959.

**Largest Hail Stone -**  
17.5 inches weighing 1.67 pounds in Coffeyville, Kansas, September 3, 1969.

**Fastest Surface Wind Speed -**  
231 miles per hour on Mount Washington, New Hampshire April 12, 1934.

**Fastest Tornado Winds -**  
286 miles per hour in Wichita Falls, Texas, April 2, 1958.

**Highest World Temperature -**  
136° F / 58° C, Al Aziziyah, Libya, September 13, 1922.

**Highest USA Temperature**  
134° F / 56.7° C, Death Valley, California, July 10, 1913.

**Lowest World Temperature**  
(Without windchill) *minus* 128.6° F/*minus* 89.6° C, Vostok Station, Antarctica, July 21, 1983.

**Lowest World Temperature in an Inhabited Area -**  
*minus* 90.4°/*minus* 68°, Oymyakon, Siberia (pop. 4,000) February 6, 1933 and also at Verkhoyansk, Siberia, January 3, 1885

**Lowest USA Temperature -**  
*minus* 79.8° F/*minus* 62.1° C, Prospect Creek Alaska, January 23, 1971.



*Silent Night, Solstice Night  
All is calm, all is bright  
Nature slumbers in forest and glen  
'Til in springtime she awakens again  
Sleep in Heavenly Peace  
Sleep in Heavenly Peace*

*Silent Night, Solstice Night  
Silver moon, shining bright  
Snowfall blankets the slumbering earth  
Yule fires welcome the sun's re-birth  
Hark the Light is re-born  
Hark the Light is re-born*

*Silent Night, Solstice Night  
Quiet rest 'til the light  
Turning ever the rolling wheel  
Brings the winter to comfort and heal  
Rest Your Spirit in Peace  
Rest Your Spirit in Peace*



**Word Search Answers**

Q	C	W	S	U	W	H	E	W	I	K	K
E	I	R	T	Y	U	I	M	E	O	P	O
A	P	I	W	S	O	Q	O	Y	S	D	C
L	N	T	U	W	A	K	O	N	L	O	
F	Y	O	G	P	U	N	O	S	H	J	K
K	A	M	L	E	M	O	S	S	N	B	I
V	H	I	C	Q	X	Z	Q	W	E	K	
R	T	H	T	A	Y	U	I	S	O	P	I
A	O	Q	S	T	D	F	G	H	J	K	L
M	Q	O	M	O	K	A	L	I	P	N	A
Z	X	S	C	Q	I	W	O	S	U	N	H
A	S	U	K	O	L	I	S	S	D	F	S

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- Tony Tomah - ext 221
- Sue Young - ext 202



### Rain Water Quiz by Christine Rinehart of Wright - Pierce: Water, Wastewater & Infrastructure Engineers of Topsham, ME

At this time of year we don't think too much about rain, it's all about snow! So try your hand at this quiz - You might be surprised. Test your knowledge about where the rain water in your neighborhood goes and how it can affect your favorite swimming hole, fishing stream or nearby lake.

- 1) When it rains, 40 - 70 % of the rain water that falls on your property
  - a) Soaks into the ground.
  - b) Evaporates.
  - c) Runs off your property.
- 2) Water that runs off a typical one acre house lot
  - a) Is the same quality as from an acre of forest land.
  - b) Has twice as much
- 3) Stormwater that drains into a storm drain is...
  - a) Treated by the wastewater treatment plant before reaching our waterways.
  - b) Untreated and flows into nearby lakes, rivers and streams, or estuaries.
  - c) Has 5 - 10 times as much contaminants as forest land.
- 4) Is polluted stormwater the largest source of water quality problems in the USA? Yes / No
- 5) Can you help prevent stormwater pollution? Yes / No



See Answers Page 3

### Under the Mistletoe



With the holidays approaching and kisses under the mistletoe, it's a good time to take a look at lipstick. Recent studies have shown that many lipstick brands contain lead.

Considering the average woman ingests 4 pounds of lipstick in a lifetime, this discovery can have major health implications.

While you may not be able to test for lead by rubbing a gold ring on your lipstick as some urban legends suggest, laboratory testing initiated by the Campaign for Safe Cosmetics has found that some lipsticks from top brands do contain lead.

Lead is a potent neurotoxin and linked to numerous other health and reproductive problems -and it doesn't belong in lipstick.

According to independent lab tests initiated by the Campaign for Safe Cosmetics, yes, some lipsticks available for sale in 2007 contain lead. The report, "A Poison Kiss," names the brands tested and the levels of lead found in them. More than half of 33 top-brand lipsticks tested (61%) contained detectable levels of lead, with levels ranging from 0.03 to 0.65 parts per million (ppm). One-third of the lipsticks exceeded the 0.1 ppm FDA lead limit for candy - a standard established to protect children from directly ingesting lead. Among the brands tested found to have the highest lead levels were L'Oreal, Cover Girl and Christian Dior - showing that the more expensive brands are no safer than drugstore brands.

Continued next page

### Answers to Rain Water Quiz

Answers:

- 1) c. The Maine Department of Environmental Protection estimates that between 40 - 70% of rain and snow melt that falls on the average Maine residential lot runs off! Roofs, driveways, even most lawns do not allow water to soak into the ground. Watch after the next rainstorm. Where does your stormwater go?
- 2) c. Studies in Maine have found that the water running off even well maintained 1 - 2 acre lots contains 5 - 10 times as much phosphorus, a nutrient that leads to nuisance algal blooms, and other contaminants than from nearby forested land.



It can also contaminate drinking water sources.

- 4) Yes, both nationally and in Maine, polluted stormwater causes water quality problems in more miles of rivers and streams and more lakes and estuaries than discharges from industries or wastewater treatment plants. Because there are so many of us, we, as individuals, actually cause more pollution than industry.

- 5) Yes, you can help.

You can: • Plant trees, shrubs and grass to stabilize eroding soil. • Maintain vehicles and dispose of waste fluids at recycling centers. • Maintain ditches and driveways. • Clean up after pets and throw waste in trash

This quiz was prepared by Christine Rinehart of Wright-Pierce: Water, Wastewater & Infrastructure Engineers, Topsham, Maine.

In Our Back Yard is a weekly column of the Maine Dept. of Environmental Protection.

E-mail your environmental questions to [infodep@maine.gov](mailto:infodep@maine.gov) or send them to In Our Back Yard, Maine DEP

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Augusta, ME 04333.

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### Wild Weather Facts

(continued)

Lowest USA Temperature - minus 79.8° F/ minus 62.1°C,

Prospect Creek, Alaska, January 23, 1971.

Lowest USA Temperature - (48 Contiguous States) - minus 69.7°F/ minus 56.5°C, Rogers Pass, Montana, January 20, 1954.

Lowest Northern Hemisphere Temperature - minus 81° F/ minus 62.78°, Snag, Yukon Territory, Canada, February 2, 1947.



[www.FamilyFun.com](http://www.FamilyFun.com)



### Lead in Lipstick (cont)

The most recent scientific studies indicate that there is no safe level of lead - no amount of exposure is without harm. Lead is a proven neurotoxin that can cause learning, language and behavioral problems. Lead is also linked to infertility and miscarriage. Pregnant women and young children are particularly vulnerable to exposure because lead easily crosses the placenta and enters the fetal brain, where it interferes with normal development. Lead does not break down in the body, but builds up over a lifetime of exposures.

So next time you "put on your lips" remember there are safer alternatives out there.

For more information on this subject or the study contact: Campaign for Safe Cosmetics [www.safecosmetics.org](http://www.safecosmetics.org)

### Maliseet Word Search



Find These  
↓

- Animal **Weyossis**
- Bundle **Qiwosun**
- Candy **Sukolis**
- Caribou **Mokalip**
- Chickadee **Kocokilahs**
- Coal **Mokos**
- Cross **Cipiyahtoq**
- Firewood **Piwsoq**
- He is born **Nomihqosu**
- Sled **Suwhewik**
- Song **Lintuwakon**
- Spruce **Supeqatoq**
- Winter **Pun**

Q C W S U W H E W I K K  
 E I R T Y U I M E O P O  
 A P I W S O Q O Y S D C  
 L I N T U W A K O N L O  
 F Y O G P U N O S H J K  
 K A M L E M O S S N B I  
 V H I C Q X Z Q I W E K  
 R T H T A Y U I S O P I  
 A O Q S T D F G H J K L  
 M Q O M O K A L I P N A  
 Z X S C Q I W O S U N H  
 A S U K O L I S S D F S