



OUR COMMITMENT to Improving Researcher Services CONTINUES!

Starting mid July–November 2010, we will be installing equipment for wireless networks (Wi-Fi) in the public areas of the National Archives Building (Washington, DC) and Archives II (College Park).

Wireless Networks (Wi-Fi) at the National Archives in Washington, DC, and College Park, MD

Wireless connection (Wi-Fi) is coming to the National Archives buildings in Washington, DC, and College Park, MD! Soon you will be able to access the Internet via the National Archives' free Wi-Fi network in the public areas.

Knowing that researchers have been asking for this for a long time, Archivist of the United States David S. Ferriero challenged his staff to make it happen. Implementation started this summer after receiving partial funding by the Foundation for the National Archives.

In July, contractors began installation the Wi-Fi cables, and now the wireless hardware for both buildings is complete. The next step includes another round of usability evaluations conducted with researchers and with evaluation feedback, completing the “look and feel” of the wireless portal and registration process. The final steps include additional testing, system certification, and transition to operations.

Wireless capability will be available in Autumn 2010 with a current researcher card.

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OUR ARCHIVES

Our Voices. Our History. Our National Archives.

Our Archives Wiki

by Rebecca Warlow

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) is excited to announce the launching of a public wiki pilot project, called **Our Archives**. You'll find Our Archives online at

<http://www.ourarchives.wikispaces.net/>.

Our Archives is an online space for researchers, educators, genealogists, and Archives staff to share information and knowledge about the records of the National Archives and their research.

Researchers can participate by

- Creating new pages
- Editing existing pages about historical subjects and records
- Sharing resources
- Getting advice for conducting research at various NARA facilities
- Adding images
- Adding published transcriptions
- Adding personal annotations of documents
- Adding videos and research tutorials

Our Archives wiki has some initial seed pages on genealogy, research topics, record groups, and NARA facilities that are waiting for researchers and staff to input and share their findings and knowledge.

If you have made a great find in NARA's records or if you have a story to tell related to our records, we invite you to come share it on the Our Archives wiki!



Preservation Tips

To help us protect the records . . .

- Remove boxes from shelves or carts by pulling the string at the bottom of the box, and not by pulling on the box flaps.
- If there is no string on the box, support the entire box with both hands and avoid pulling on the flap, if at all possible. Pulling on the flaps bends them outwards. It makes boxes more likely to snag on shelving or carts in the stacks, or even on the flaps of other boxes. It can cause container spills or other potential damage to the records.
- You may have already noticed damaged flaps on records you are using. Please bring a damaged container to the attention of a staff member when turning in your records, so that we can repair/replace the box as necessary.

When is Classified National Security Information Declassified?

by Neil Carmichael

The question is easy enough to answer in looking at the December 2009 Executive Order 13526: "Information shall be declassified as soon as it no longer meets the standards for classification under this order." However, this one sentence covers a multitude of processes that are incredibly complex and time-consuming.

The order is clear that an original classifying authority must determine the length of time the information can remain classified. Both the Clinton and Bush executive orders institutionalized the concept of automatic declassification at 25 years—unless the information was determined to meet the standards for classification and exemption from the provisions for automatic declassification by approval of the Information Security Classification Appeals Panel (ISCAP) beyond 25 years.

President Obama, in his new Executive Order 13526 covering the classification and declassification of national security information, further affirmed the concept of automatic declassification at 25 years. Two notable exceptions were made in light of the declassification experience gained under the Clinton and Bush executive orders dealing with records declassification since 1995. These exceptions include

- (1) any information that could identify a human intelligence source; or
- (2) any information that would reveal key design concepts of weapons of mass destruction.

They can be marked for an additional 50 years from the onset of classification.

Since World War II, the United States has classified millions of pages of information that warranted protection and could demonstrably

damage national security if compromised. In the past, both Presidents Eisenhower and Kennedy promoted the concept of systematic declassification of documents, programs, plans, and other media to prevent the accumulation of classified documents. While the concept of systematic review has had support at the highest levels of government, the execution of the reviews depended upon public requests for the information followed by a lengthy review process. By 1995, the Information Security Oversight Office estimated that since 1940, over a billion pages of historical Federal records remained classified and unavailable for research.

In 1995, President Clinton's Executive Order 12958 required originating agencies to identify reasons to exempt information from the onset of automatic declassification, as opposed to agencies performing declassification reviews to satisfy public requests. Since 1995, the United States Government has declassified over 1.4 billion pages of formerly classified information while still protecting the most sensitive national security information. The process for declassifying the information was slowed by the loss of institutional knowledge in the originating agencies as to what information required protection and what could be disclosed and therefore not damage national security.

The National Archives has been the center of the declassification process within the executive branch of the Government and coordinated the review efforts of the various government agencies. NARA's partnership over the past few years with the

Intelligence Community; Armed Services; and Departments of Defense, Energy, and State has grown with the development of the National Declassification Initiative (NDI), which has facilitated an increased awareness of the many challenges to systematic declassification review.

In December 2009, President Obama, with the signing of Executive Order 13526, created the National Declassification Center (NDC) to work on the final stages of the declassification process that has been in progress since 1995. The NDC still has an estimated 408 million pages of classified information to process and open by 2013. Over the past several months, the NDC has revised the process for records for which the primary originating agency has completed its review. The NDC now must facilitate the final declassification processing of the remaining documents. The NDC, with cooperation and support of the various departments and agencies of the executive branch, will meet the 2013 deadline and open documents to tell previously hidden stories in our country's history.

Contact Us
National Declassification Center (NDC) National Archives and Records Administration, Room 3400 8601 Adelphi Road College Park, MD 20740-6001
E-mail: ndc@nara.gov
Phone: 301-837-3110
Fax: 301-837-3633

Correcting Errors on Digitization Partner Web Sites

By Mary Rephlo

An exciting aspect of the Internet is the ability to have digitized historical document images available online. However, National Archives' vast holdings preclude more than a small portion of them to be available in this way (at least in the foreseeable future). Fortunately, NARA's partnerships enable more images to be made available because the partners bear most of the expense of digitizing.

NARA entered into digitization partnerships with **Ancestry.com**, **Footnote.com**, and the **Genealogical Society of Utah** (Family Search) in 2007. Under these agreements, the partners have created approximately 60 million digital copies of our records. There are also an additional 70 million images of NARA records on Ancestry.com that Ancestry created prior to entering a digitization agreement with us.

Given the huge scope of this endeavor, errors will creep in despite everyone's best efforts. NARA is working with our partners to improve their digital products as we discover errors or problems and as they are brought to our attention. Our partners want to rectify errors and are cooperating in doing so.

If Ancestry or Footnote indexers have interpreted a name, place, or other bit of information incorrectly, each web site provides tools that allow the researcher to input the correct information. By doing this, the correct term is immediately added to the search index of the database so that the next person searching on that term will find a "hit" on that page with that correction.

Because context is so important to archives, NARA is playing a more active role when there are errors affecting the browsing structure of the records.

Here is an example of a browsing structure error:

Passenger arrival lists may be browsed by port, thereunder by year, and thereunder by ship. If our partner indexed the year incorrectly for a particular ship's arrival, the passenger list will not appear correctly in the browse structure. While using the browse feature, a web site user who knows the year of arrival and the port will not find the ship's list because of this error.

You can report errors that affect the browse structure so we can then bring them to the attention of our partners. NARA has created the e-mail address digitization@nara.gov for this purpose. Our partners are committed to rectifying errors within 30 days of notice, unless there are rare and extenuating circumstances. As a result of alert and willing researchers, a number of browse structure errors have been corrected.

If you see an error affecting the browse structure and wish to report it, e-mail digitization@nara.gov with the needed correction, give a full description of the problem, and be sure to provide the URL where the problem appears.

For a full list of our digitization partnerships, visit www.archives.gov/digitization/partnerships.html.

Electronic and Special Media Records

Access to Archival Databases (AAD)

By Lynn Goodsell

The [Access to Archival Databases \(AAD\)](http://aad.archives.gov/aad/) (<http://aad.archives.gov/aad/>) provides online access to a selection of the National Archives' electronic records from archival databases. This resource allows you to search and view electronic records, and access additional materials about the records.

Last winter, we added the 1976 electronic State Department telegrams to AAD as part of the Central Foreign Policy Files series. The Central Foreign Policy Files consist of electronic telegrams and an index to related microfilmed material such as airgrams, memoranda, correspondence, reports, and diplomatic notes. There are more than 340,000 releasable 1976 telegrams and 97,000 entries in the related index to microfilmed material for that year. For example, there is a telegram from President and Mrs. Ford thanking Queen Elizabeth II of England for her good wishes on the bicentennial celebration of America's independence and her visit to the United States in July 1976. There are telegrams from other nations also congratulating the United States on its bicentennial celebration, along with telegrams describing bicentennial activities in other parts of the world.



President Gerald Ford, First Lady Betty Ford, Queen Elizabeth II, Prince Philip, Vice President and Mrs. Nelson A. Rockefeller, and Secretary and Mrs. Henry A. Kissinger listening to Bob Hope's monologue during the entertainment portion of the State Dinner held in honor of the Queen of England, 07/07/1976 (ARC 186833)



Aleut boy in front of barabara, 1914; part of Index to Photographs of Social and Economic Life, Environmental Conditions and Cleanup Operations on the Pribilof Islands, Alaska, available via AAD

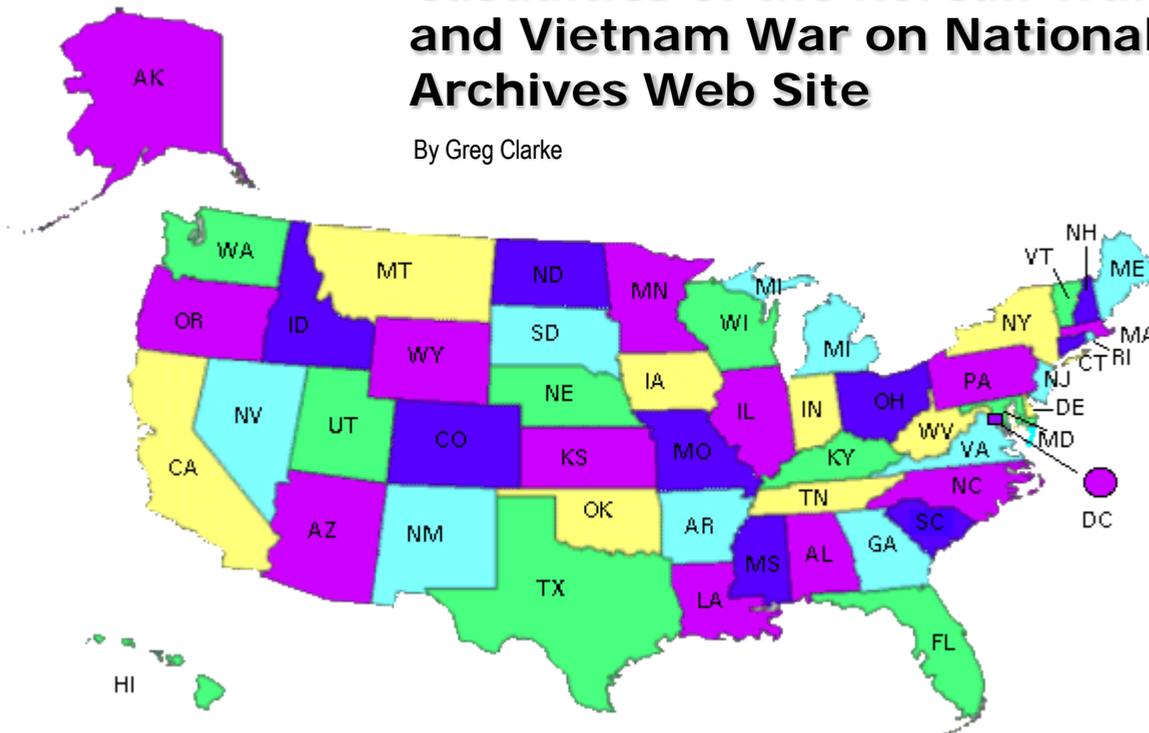
We also added the series *Index to Photographs of Social and Economic Life, Environmental Conditions, and Cleanup Operations on the Pribilof Islands, Alaska*. This series includes 2,609 scanned or born-digital images relating to the Pribilof Islands from as early as 1886 to 2006. Some of the images include pictures of native Aleuts and Aleut culture, the influences of the original Russian settlements, wildlife, and environmental cleanup activities.

The 1976 State Department telegrams, along with telegrams from 1973 through 1975, and the index to photographs relating to the Pribilof Islands are available online for searching and viewing at www.archives.gov/aad. Please contact the electronic records staff at cer@nara.gov with any questions about AAD.

Electronic and Special Media Records

New State Lists of U.S. Fatal Casualties of the Korean War and Vietnam War on National Archives Web Site

By Greg Clarke



We are pleased to announce the recent addition of new state lists of U.S. fatal casualties of the Korean War and Vietnam War on the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) web site.

These new lists replace the old state lists of U.S. fatal casualties of the Korean War and Vietnam War formerly posted on the NARA web site. These old lists were replaced because they were generated from electronic record series that are no longer our most current casualty data. The old Korean War state lists of U.S. fatal casualties were based on data from the late 1970s or early 1980s. The old Vietnam War state lists of U.S. fatal casualties were based on data from 1997.

The new lists are generated from the Defense Casualty Analysis System (DCAS) Extract Files (Archival Research Catalog ID #2163536), part of Record Group 330, Records of the Office of the Secretary of Defense, and are current as of April 2008. Additional information regarding these new lists and access to them is available on the National Archives web site.

See State-Level Lists of Fatal Casualties of the Korean War (6/28/1950—3/10/1954) and the Vietnam War (6/8/1956—5/28/2006) at

- www.archives.gov/research/korean-war/casualty-lists/index.html
- www.archives.gov/research/vietnam-war/casualty-lists/index.html

If you have any questions or comments regarding this change, the new state lists, or the Defense Casualty Analysis System (DCAS) Extract Files, please contact the Electronic and Special Media Records Services Division, National Archives and Records Administration. This unit can be contacted via e-mail at cer@nara.gov, by telephone at 301-837-0470, or by surface mail at 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, MD 20740-6001.

Visit the Archives Library

by Nancy Wing

The Archives Library Information Center (ALIC) is the formal name for the library at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). ALIC is located at the National Archives Building, Washington, DC, and the National Archives at College Park, MD. The library's collections are available for researchers to use in furthering their research; whether exploring their genealogy, authoring a book, performing independent research using NARA records, or writing a school paper. Researchers may not check out books, but are free to use them within the library.

The primary focus of the library is to support the records maintained at NARA. Therefore, the collection focuses on the history of the United States including naval, political, military, and archival sciences. Because the records are divided between the Washington, DC, facility and the College Park, MD, facility, the library collection is similarly divided. Generally, materials relating to the period before World War I are located downtown in Washington, DC, and the materials related to World War I and after are at College Park, MD. Library materials move between the two facilities as needed.

Although the two facilities are essentially different, their collections are similar in some respects. They both have reference books, including the *Public Papers of the Presidents*, *Statutes at Large*, *U.S. Code*, recent copies of the *Federal Register*, *Code of Federal Regulations*, and *Who's Who in America*. In addition, both libraries have periodicals, encyclopedias, dictionaries, atlases, and indices.

If your research is within a specific ethnic group, the library in Washington, DC, has a number of books in specific ethnicities that may be helpful to genealogical research. These books include those on Canadian, French-Canadian, African-American, German, Welsh, Scots-Irish, Italian, Swedish, Latin American, Mexican, European, and Eastern European ethnicities. The reference shelves have published passenger arrival lists and the series of *Germans to America and Italians to America*. Also on hand are *Migration from the Russian Empire* (Lists of



Photo by Jermaine Scott

National Archives Library, Washington, DC

Passengers Arriving at the Port of New York) and *Emigration from the United Kingdom to America*.

Computer terminals are available for use by the public to perform research. A number of databases including Heritage Quest, ProQuest (*Historical Washington Post* and *Historical New York Times*), Biography and Genealogy Master Index, JSTOR, America: History and Life, Digital National Security Archive, and ArchivesUSA are available at either library and at any of the NARA regional facilities around the country.

The library also maintains pages on the NARA web site, including [Reference at Your Desk](http://www.archives.gov/research/alic/reference) (<http://www.archives.gov/research/alic/reference>). This link will lead you to various topics with sources to explore. These sources will aid in your research and help make your visit to NARA more successful. The [online library catalog](http://www.archives.gov/research/alic/tools/online-public-access-catalog.html) URL is <http://www.archives.gov/research/alic/tools/online-public-access-catalog.html>, or the catalog is on the library's web page by first using the Researchers link on NARA's home page and then the link to the [Archives Library Information Center](http://www.archives.gov/research/alic) (<http://www.archives.gov/research/alic>). Be sure to go to the library's web page to locate the above-mentioned items.

Both libraries have professional librarians; staffs in Washington, DC, specialize in genealogy. The librarians rotate between facilities giving them familiarity with both collections, thus enabling them to better serve researchers. You are encouraged to ask questions in order to make full use of the facilities. The librarians want to help make your experience at NARA a successful one.



New Microfilm Publications



by Rebecca Crawford and Claire Prechtel-Klusens

The National Archives continues to process microfilm that documents arrivals into the United States, turning this film into National Archives microfilm publications. Staff recently completed the following National Archives microfilm publications:

These are listed by Record Group (RG) then by microfilm publication number.

Record Group 85, Records of the Immigration and Naturalization Service

- A3476, *Manifests of Alien Arrivals at Blaine, Washington, July 1905–June 1924* (9 rolls). 16mm. Contains over 28,000 manifests.
- A3479, *Manifests of Alien Arrivals at Northgate and Saint John, North Dakota, 1910–1921* (1 roll). 16mm. Contains over 1,400 manifests.

Record Group 92, Records of the Office of the Quartermaster General

- M2113, *Applications for Headstones for U.S. Military Veterans, 1941–1949* (278 rolls). 16mm. Contains more than 331,000 applications relating to casualties of World War II, as well as veterans of World War I, the Spanish-American War, Indian Wars, the Civil War, and even some from earlier conflicts.

For a listing of microfilm publications from 2000 to the present, visit www.archives.gov/genealogy/microfilm/2010.html.

Through Order Online! you can request reproductions of certain types of records and pay for your order with most major credit cards. Visit www.archives.gov/order/.



New Publications by Staff

Periodically, staff publishes articles in order to expand research community awareness of the National Archives' holdings. By targeting state and local historical and genealogical societies with articles about the agency's holdings, we hope to reach people who otherwise would not think of the National Archives as a resource for their research. During the past few months, the staff has published the following:

John Deeben (published):

- "Vital Records of the Post Chaplain: Births, Marriages, and Deaths at Fort Union, New Mexico, 1870–1889," *New Mexico Genealogist* 49:2 (June 2010): 91–100.

John Deeben (forthcoming):

- "Stealth Warfare Along the Monongahela: Rangers, Scouts, and Spies in Western Pennsylvania Militia Units, 1791–1795," *Western Pennsylvania Genealogical Society Quarterly* 36:3/4 (2010): 5–19.
- "Documenting the Forgotten Dead: Confederate Death and Burial Records," *NGS Magazine* 36:3 (July–September 2010): 40–46.
- "From the North Atlantic to the Great Lakes: Researching U.S. Naval Service During the War of 1812," *American Ancestors* (Summer 2010).

Claire Prechtel-Klusens (published):

- "Irish Immigrants on the *Vermont*, June–July 1812," *NGS Magazine*, Vol. 36, No. 2 (April–June 2010): 42–46.

Photo by Jermaine Scott



John Deeben

Photo by Michael Kluskens



Claire Prechtel-Klusens



About The Program

The National Archives Customer Services Division presents the Know Your Records Program. These are free events about our holdings in Washington, DC, and College Park, MD. The Know Your Records Program offers opportunities for staff, volunteers, and researchers to learn about the National Archives' records through lectures, ongoing genealogy programs, book discussions, workshops, symposia, the [annual genealogy fair](#), an online [genealogy tutorial](#), and editions of *Researcher News*.

SCHEDULE

CP = National Archives at College Park (Archives II)

OCTOBER 2010

	Tuesday, October 5, at 11 a.m.	Privacy Act and Personally Identifiable Information (PII)	Lecture
	Wednesday, October 6, at 11 a.m.	Introduction to Genealogy	Lecture
CP	Thursday, October 7, at 11 a.m.	Privacy Act and Personally Identifiable Information (PII)	Genealogy Lecture
	Tuesday, October 12, at 11 a.m.	Records from the Senate Investigation of Wall Street during the Great Depression	Lecture
CP	Thursday, October 14, at 11 a.m.	Records from the Senate Investigation of Wall Street during the Great Depression	Lecture
	Saturday, October 16, at 10 a.m.	Beyond the Basics: Immigration Records	Genealogy Lecture
	Saturday, October 16, Noon–4 p.m.	“Help! I’m Stuck”	Clinic
	Tuesday, October 19, at 11 a.m.	Footnote.com	Lecture
	Wednesday, October 20, at 11 a.m.	Beyond the Basics: Medicine on the Civil War Battlefield	Lecture
CP	Thursday, October 21, at 11 a.m.	Footnote.com	Genealogy Lecture
	Tuesday, October 26, at noon	American-Made: The Enduring Legacy of the WPA: When FDR Put the Nation to Work	From the Records Book Group Pre-Program
	Tuesday, October 26, at noon	American-Made: The Enduring Legacy of the WPA: When FDR Put the Nation to Work	From the Records Book Group Discussion

NOVEMBER 2010

	Tuesday, November 2, at 11 a.m.	Ancestry.com	Lecture
	Wednesday, November 3, at 11 a.m.	Introduction to Genealogy	Lecture
CP	Thursday, November 4, at 11 a.m.	Ancestry.com	Genealogy Lecture
	Saturday, November 13, at 10 a.m.	Beyond the Basics: Headstone Application for U.S. Military Veterans	Genealogy Lecture
	Saturday, November 13, Noon–4 p.m.	“Help! I’m Stuck”	Clinic
	Tuesday, November 16, at 11 a.m.	A Special Mission: Hitler’s Secret Plot to Seize the Vatican and Kidnap Pope Pius XII	From the Records Book Group Pre-Program
	Tuesday, November 16, at noon	A Special Mission: Hitler’s Secret Plot to Seize the Vatican and Kidnap Pope Pius XII	From the Records Book Group Discussion
	Wednesday, November 17, at 11 a.m.	Beyond the Basics: The Weather and Family History	Genealogy Lecture
CP	Thursday, November 18, at 11 a.m.	Records of the Panama Canal	Lecture

SCHEDULE (cont.)

DECEMBER 2010

Wednesday, December 1, at 11 a.m.	Introduction to Genealogy	Genealogy Lecture
Wednesday, December 15, at 11 a.m.	Beyond the Basics	Genealogy Lecture

Program Locations

Events are held at the National Archives Building (Archives I), 700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20408, and the National Archives at College Park (Archives II), 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, MD 20740.

We publicize our offerings in NARA's *Calendar of Events* at www.archives.gov/calendar/ and on our home page at www.archives.gov/dc-metro/know-your-records/

Contact Know Your Records Staff

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 700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
 Washington, DC 20408-0001

Help *Researcher News* Go Green!

We love paper, but we hate to waste it! To receive *Researcher News* by e-mail instead of a print version, send your name and e-mail address to KYR@nara.gov. To view the newsletter online, visit www.archives.gov/dc-metro/newsletter.

MONTHLY USER GROUP MEETING DATES

Mark your calendar for the following dates and times:

- Friday, October 22, at 1 p.m., Room G-24, Archives I
- Friday, November 19, at 1 p.m., Lecture Room B, Archives II
- December – No meetings

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Minutes from previous meetings can be viewed at www.archives.gov/dc-metro/researcher-users-group/. Agenda items should be sent to Diane L. Dimkoff at diane.dimkoff@nara.gov or Nancy Fortna at nancy.fortna@nara.gov.

Reproduction Fee Schedule

As of May 3, 2010, NARA has a new reproduction fee schedule. See 36 CFR part 1258 for the complete fee schedule regulation at www.archives.gov/about/regulations/part-1258.html.

RESEARCH ROOMS HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

October 2010–January 2011

- Monday, October 11 – Columbus Day
- Thursday, November 11 – Veterans Day
- Wednesday, November 24 – Close at 5 p.m. (instead of 9 p.m.)**
- Thursday, November 25 – Thanksgiving Day
- Thursday, December 23 – Close at 5 p.m. (instead of 9 p.m.)**
- Friday, December 24^{*} – Federal Holiday
- Saturday, December 25 – Christmas Day
- Thursday, December 30 – Close at 5 p.m. (instead of 9 p.m.)**
- Friday, December 31^{**} – Federal Holiday
- Saturday, January 1, 2011 – New Year's Day
- Monday, January 17 – Birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr.

* December 25, 2010 (the legal public holiday for Christmas Day), falls on a Saturday.
** January 1, 2011 (the legal public holiday for New Year's Day), falls on a Saturday.

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