

# SEASONAL SANITY TIMES

VOL. 3 \* PROTECTING PUBLIC PEACE OF MIND SINCE NOVEMBER 17.

## CHRISTMAS MUNCHING MANIA!



### PASSING PATTERN LINKED TO UNPLANNED HOLIDAY NIBBLING

Officials report a rise in unplanned holiday nibbling driven by what researchers now call the Passing Pattern. The behavior begins not with hunger but with micro boredom, the brief mental lull that occurs between tasks. When citizens wander during these moments, the brain searches for a quick reward. Treats placed along familiar office routes supply the fastest hit, which prompts an automatic grab. Analysts note that most individuals do not want the treat itself. They want relief from the transition. One official stated that citizens assume they are choosing the snack, although they are really soothing the pause. Authorities warn that repeated exposure to treats along daily paths reinforces the loop and makes the behavior feel intentional even though it is fully automatic.

### ONE BITE SHOWN TO TRIGGER AUTOMATIC SEARCH FOR MORE

Researchers report that a single bite of a holiday sweet can activate the Sugar Prime Effect, a reaction that causes the brain to seek more sugar even when the individual is not hungry.

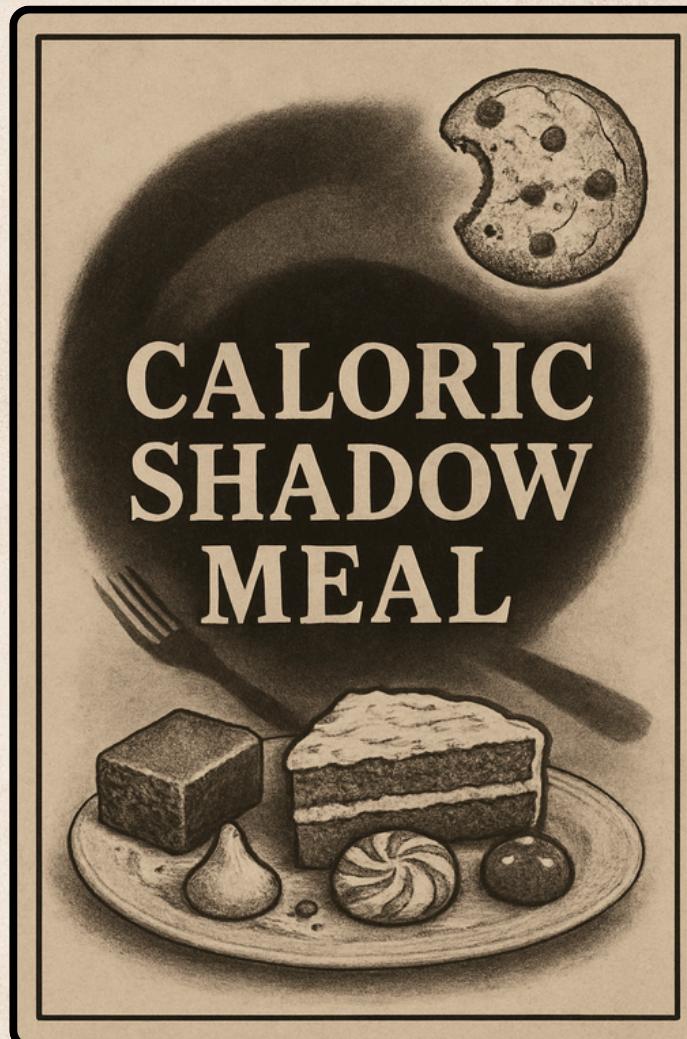
The first bite raises dopamine expectation and shifts attention toward nearby treats, which creates the feeling of wanting another.

Analysts note that this response is strongest with seasonal items such as fudge and decorative cookies, because the brain assigns them higher value. Officials advise that the most effective strategy is simple awareness. Once citizens recognize the Sugar Prime Effect in real time, the automatic search loses much of its influence.



# THE FESTIVE EXCEPTION FALLACY

Researchers report that citizens often slip into the Festive Exception Fallacy, a mental state where anything viewed as “holiday” is treated as an automatic allowance. Once a treat enters this category, the brain stops evaluating it and assumes it belongs in a separate, temporary rule system. Experts note that this shift happens quietly. People who hold firm boundaries all year often relax them in December without noticing the change. Officials say that recognizing the fallacy in real time is enough to weaken its pull.



## HOLIDAY NIBBLES CREATE “CALORIC SHADOW MEALS”

A new investigation has uncovered what experts call the Caloric Shadow Meal, a hidden total created by the day's scattered holiday bites. Officials examined the average workplace treat tray and found that the fragments most citizens consider insignificant caramel drops, broken cookie corners, icing smears, and orphaned fudge ends collectively add up to 500 to 900 calories by day's end. Researchers state that none of these items feel like food in the traditional sense. They are consumed absent-mindedly, often with one hand, and rarely with any memory attached. The problem is not the treat itself but the invisibility of the total. Authorities emphasize that simply realizing the Shadow Meal exists is the most effective intervention. Once citizens see the accumulation, the quiet drift toward excess weakens.

## CINNAMON CLOVE HOLIDAY STEEP

Authorities recommend this simple warm drink to calm seasonal nibbling urges. The heat slows impulsive eating and the spices provide enough holiday flavor to satisfy curiosity without calories.

To Prepare:

Add one cinnamon stick and a few whole cloves to hot water. Steep until fragrant.

Suggested Use:

Sip during moments when treat tables appear.

