

There's No Place Like Home for the **HOLIDAYS**

- **Season's Greetings from area businesses**
- **Holiday Movie Traditions**
- **Beware of Product Recalls**
- **Gift giving ideas for everyone on your list**

A Special Supplement to the Newton County Enterprise, Brook Reporter and Morocco Courier • December 2016

'T WAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS...

when all through the house

Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;
The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,
In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there;
The children were nestled all snug in their beds;
While visions of sugar-plums danced in their heads;
And mamma in her 'kerchief, and I in my cap,
Had just settled our brains for a long winter's nap,
When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,
I sprang from my bed to see what was the matter.

Away to the window I flew like a flash,
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash.
The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow,
Gave a lustre of midday to objects below,
When what to my wondering eyes did appear,
But a miniature sleigh and eight tiny rein-deer,
With a little old driver so lively and quick,
I knew in a moment he must be St. Nick.

More rapid than eagles his coursers they came,
And he whistled, and shouted, and called them by name:

"Now, *Dasher!* now, *Dancer!* now *Prancer* and *Vixen!*
On, *Comet!* on, *Cupid!* on, *Donner* and *Blitzen!*
To the top of the porch! to the top of the wall!
Now dash away! dash away! dash away all!"

As leaves that before the wild hurricane fly,
When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky;

So up to the housetop the coursers they flew
With the sleigh full of toys, and St. Nicholas too -
And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the roof
The prancing and pawing of each little hoof.

As I drew in my head, and was turning around,
Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound.
He was dressed all in fur, from his head to his foot,

And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot;
A bundle of toys he had flung on his back,
And he looked like a pedler just opening his pack.
His eyes - how they twinkled! his dimples, how merry!
His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry!
His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow,
And the beard on his chin was as white as the snow;
The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth,
And the smoke, it encircled his head like a wreath;
He had a broad face and a little round belly
That shook when he laughed, like a bowl full of jelly.
He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf,
And I laughed when I saw him, in spite of myself;
A wink of his eye and a twist of his head
Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread;
He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work,
And filled all the stockings; then turned with a jerk,
And laying his finger aside of his nose,
And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose;
He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle,
And away they all flew like the down of a thistle.
But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight -

**"Happy Christmas to all,
and to all a good night!"**





THERE WAS A TIME when Geek and Nerd were considered four letter words. They identified someone outside the norm and maybe a little socially challenged. Times have changed and these words are now chic. Geeks have taken over pop culture and they deserve it. The new found love for this population has allowed many “closet geeks,” to come out and let the world know that they love comic books, action figures, anime, monsters and cosplay (costume role play). Do you have a geek on your holiday shopping list? If so, here are few ideas to make you the most awesome of gift givers.

First you need to determine what your Geek is into. Let’s start with comic books, but it’s not that simple. What kind of comics do they like and which characters are their favorites? If your Geek is a true comic geek, you should probably stay away from buying them actual comic books. The world of comic books is vast and confusing to the non-comic person. Instead you would probably be best suited buying

them comic related swag (stuff). If you community has a LCS (local comic shop), start there, but be warned. These places are heaven to geeks, but a little off putting to the general public. First, it will most likely smell like old news print, from the old comics. You are not walking into a big box store, so you will need help finding something. Tell the staff what your geek is into, after a few questions, they will be able to help.

If your town doesn’t have an LCS, the Internet is a great place to shop for swag. Most comic book lovers also love action figures. Ebay is a great place to find just about any character from comics, movies, TV and so on. Just be sure to comparatively shop, some folks sell thing for much more than they are actually worth. While we’re on the Internet, let’s stay there. While many stores now carry these types of pop culture items, the Internet is going to provide you with the most variety.

Comic book lovers often collect actions figure, but they also might collect anything related to their favorite characters. This means, posters, print,

glassware, wall hangings, etc. If they have a Mr. or Mrs. Geek in their life, start by asking them for advice. The key is to zone in on their favorite character or superhero group. From there, use your imagination.

Some folks are into sci-fi, monsters and things that go bump in the night. The same theory applies. Find out if they love werewolves or vampires and go from there. Again, the Internet is your best tool. Just search werewolf gift ideas and something will come up. It doesn’t mean you have to buy it from the Internet, but it’s great for ideas. You might be surprised how much fun you have shopping for these type of gifts.

Don’t forget DVDs. You can buy entire seasons of series they may love. Just make sure they don’t already have it.

When you dissect what it means to be a Geek, it’s about loving something and being very passionate about it. Just because someone’s hobby is following the world of Batman, doesn’t make them odd. People have all kinds of hobbies; this one just involves the world of sci-fi and fantasy.

Enjoy your search, use your imagination and give your Geek the best holiday ever!

Films contribute to cherished holiday traditions and inspire gifts

(MS) — Tradition plays a pivotal role during the holiday season. While each family has its own unique holiday traditions, certain traditions are embraced and shared by families far and wide.

The tradition of watching holiday films together as a family is one custom that has endured for generations. Grandparents may have their favorite films, while moms and dads no doubt have their own must-see holiday movies as well. And no holiday film session is complete without including at least one movie that celebrates the magical impact that this time of year can have on youngsters. This year, holiday shoppers can even draw some gift-giving inspiration from some classic holiday films that appeal to family members of all ages.

“The Polar Express” (2004)

Children love this tale of a young boy who lives out many kids’ holiday fantasies by embarking on a magical, unpredictable journey to the North Pole. Along the way, the boy becomes a true believer in the spirit of Christmas when he picks up a loose sleigh bell that falls off of Santa’s sleigh. Santa ultimately entrusts the bell to the boy, referring to the bell as “the first gift of Christmas.”

Parents who want to make the tradition of watching holiday films together with their children even more special for kids can give the First Gift of Christmas Sleigh Bell Gift Set (<https://www.etsy.com/shop/LilyDeal>), provid-

ing their youngsters with the same sense of magic and wonderment the boy feels when Santa gives him the sleigh bell in the film. The set includes a large sleigh bell, a red- and snow white-striped gift box, forest green ribbon, and large bow. A leather strap connected to each bell allows kids to hang the bell to include as part of their home holiday decor, or kids can carry the bell with them during the holiday season and show it off to friends and family alike. Each bell comes in a velvet gift bag, making the set an ideal memento for shoppers who want to give kids something they can unwrap and enjoy each Christmas for years to come. In addition, each bell comes with a Certificate of Authenticity that is signed by Santa and lists the name of the elf who inspected the bell, the reindeer name and the location of the bell on the reindeer’s harness.

Shoppers looking for stocking stuffers for young fans of the film can opt for the Polar Express Round Trip Train Ticket. At 8” by 3”, the ticket fits easily into standard Christmas stockings and can be customized to say “BELIEVE” or any word up to eight letters.

“National Lampoon’s Christmas Vacation” (1989)

A holiday favorite among a slightly older crowd, “Na-

tional Lampoon’s Christmas Vacation” continues the tale of lovable family man Clark Griswold (Chevy Chase). Clark is determined to provide a traditional family Christmas for his wife, children and their large extended family, only to have his dream holiday derailed by a stingy boss. When shopping for gifts for fans of this holiday classic, shoppers can scour an array of homemade items on Etsy.com, from coffee mugs to T-shirts to home furnishings and more, celebrating Clark Griswold and all the mayhem his family hilariously endures en route to enjoying a merry Christmas together.

“It’s a Wonderful Life” (1946)

Grandparents are no doubt very familiar with this beloved holiday classic, which tells the tale of frustrated businessman George Bailey (Jimmy Stewart). Contemplating suicide on Christmas Eve, George is saved when his guardian angel, Clarence (Henry Travers), intervenes and shows him what life would have been like for George’s loved ones had he never been born. Holiday shoppers looking for something special for a parent or grandparent who loves the story of George Bailey can peruse Etsy.com to find a host of items and replicas that recall some of the film’s most memorable scenes.

This year, shoppers can make the tradition of watching holiday films together as a family even more special by incorporating some beloved holiday movies into their gift-giving.

Celebrate New Year's Eve with us

Prime Rib 10 oz. \$15.99
Shrimp DeJonghe \$15.99
Other Drink and Dinner Specials

Serving at 4PM

Jordy & Jax BBQ

Lake Holiday Plaza DeMotte/Roselawn
Next to Fagen Pharmacy • 219-270-9071

New Years Eve BASH!!!

DJ, Drink Specials
We have Pizza!
Dine in or carry out
Champagne Toast at Midnight!

2017 MERRY NEW YEAR

COUNTY LINE **POUR HOUSE**

9801 N. 1280 W • DeMotte, IN 46318
BL 10 & County Line Road (by the Stop Light)
NEW OWNERS: Bill & Nina Waltz

Wishes Merry & Bright

We appreciate your business and wish you a happy, healthy New Year.

Tim Downing D.D.S.
765-884-0740
809 N. Washington Ave.
Fowler, IN 47944

FOWLER

FAMILY DENTISTRY

★ Providing all your healthcare needs for over 25 years ★

George Ade Memorial Health Care Center

3623 E. SR 16,
Brook, IN 47922-8800

219-275-2531

holiday greetings

STATE STREET AUTO

201 E. State Street, Morocco, IN 219-285-2554

GIFT CARDS AVAILABLE

MURPHY'S FOOD KING

302 E. Dunlap St., Kentland, IN
219-474-5055
HOURS: Mon.-Sat. 7 a.m.-8 p.m.; Sun. 7 a.m.-6 p.m.

Holiday Party Trays, Specialty Cuts of Meat, Fruit Baskets

Seasons Greetings

Kentland Federal Savings & Loan Association

Established 1920
James A. Sammons, President
116 N. 3rd St., Kentland
219-474-5888

The True Meaning of Giving

The holidays are made up of many things. They provide a time for family and friends to gather, a time to reflect on the good fortune of the year and of course time to eat some really good food. But for some folks, especially kids, it's a time for gifts, both giving and receiving them. This time of year provides the perfect opportunity to teach children about giving and what it really means. A time to teach them it's not about the cost of a gift, but the meaning behind it. Here are a few ideas to help kids understand the true meaning of giving.

Children's lives are relatively simple. They consist of family, school, toys, games and protesting bed time. Most kids don't see the struggles that some people face on a daily basis. The holidays are a good time to show them that life can be difficult, but more importantly, how they can help.

One way for your kids to help other children is to share their good fortune. This could mean cleaning out their clothes and toys. Show your children the things they no longer want or need may benefit others. Help them go through the clothing that no longer fits or the toys they no longer play with and donate them. Of course the clothes should be in good shape and the toys should be intact. Some programs like Toys for Tots ask for new and unwrapped toys, but there are plenty of organizations that would gladly take toys that have been "pre-loved."

Have your kids be creative and make cards and artwork. There are plenty of people in plenty of places who would love a special card or drawing. These works of art can be given to hospitals, nursing homes, veterans' homes, shelters and many other places where they would bring a smile. Don't forget about our brave men and women serving in our military. These folks are far from home defending our freedom and could use a warm greeting.

Teach your kids that their time is also a gift. Volunteer with them to gather food for the needy, make care packages for our troops or visit hospitals and nursing homes. They can also help our four legged friends. Kids love animals and many animal shelters have volunteer opportunities.

Helping others is clearly something we should do all year round, but the holidays are a great time to introduce kids to the concept.



While the folks in need benefit from our help, your kids will as well. Volunteering and seeing the positive impact it has will do great things for their self esteem. They will learn that they can make a difference and that their actions are important.

Giving should come from the heart and giving of yourself is its truest form.



As if the holidays aren't stressful enough, there are rules. Some folks live for the holiday and love giving and receiving gifts and some just want it over with. No matter which one you are, there are a few things to keep in mind when giving gifts.

First make sure you have a complete list of gift recipients, you don't want to leave anyone out. This is a judgment call on your relationship to the person, your level of friendship and whether they might surprise YOU with a gift. After all, the best defense is a good offense. Be ready, just in case.

For those who make your list, give their gifts some thought. Would they like something practical like a gift card or something frivolous? There is no right or wrong answer, it's whatever you think they would like. This brings up an interesting rule; don't ask a person what they want. The thought behind this rule is that it obligates the person to buy for you. However this rule doesn't really apply to family or someone for who you normally give a gift. These folks are usually close to you, so the surprise 'sneak attack' gift is not a concern.

Try not to get into a buying war. This means don't try to match what you think they are spending on you. A gift should come from the heart. Buy them something that really shows your affection. Many people would rather give than receive, but that doesn't mean that you have to break your

bank account. Take some time, give it some thought and give from the heart.

The next rule seemingly benefits one party over the other. The rule states that you buy for the couple and not the individuals. It can get lopsided when it is far more likely that a man and woman will get something for the home rather than a tool or something for the man cave. Be that as it may, buy for the couple. Try to find something that they both would like. Even if a couple is same sex, it's likely that one person will like the gift more than the other. Good luck with this one.

Next consider receipts and re-gifting. Always include a receipt. Not everyone nails the perfect gift and the receiver should be able to get something they really want. There is no shame in this. You buy the gift to make someone happy or to show them that they are special to you. If that is truly the case, you should want them to be able to exchange it if they prefer something else. There is also no shame in re-gifting. Did you receive something you really don't like, but know someone else would? If so, re-gift it. The important part here is to remove any signs that this was originally given to you.

Holiday gift giving can be stressful, even for those who enjoy it. The best thing you can do is follow these rules, use common sense and give from the heart.

PEACE & Joy

Bus: 765-884-1106
katrina@katrinamolter.com

Katrina Molter,
Agent
214 E. 5th Street,
Fowler, IN 47944-1444
Toll Free 866-247-2476

Free Gift Wrapping!

Peace on Earth

20% Off
Ladies & Children Clothing
Expires 12/31/16

SHARPE'S
STORE

Downtown Kentland
219-474-5741
Hours: Mon.-Fri. 9-5; Christmas Eve 9-1

MERRY CHRISTMAS

ELK DOG MOTORS - Inc. -

9541 N. 300 W.
Lake Village, IN
(219) 992-9131

Daniel C. Blaney
dblaney@blaneyandwalton.com

BLANEY & WALTON
Attorneys at Law
124 E. State St., Morocco, IN
219.285.2008

MAY Peace & Christmas Joy BE WITH YOU

Alisa L. Rude
alisa@blaneyandwalton.com

SINCE 1978

THE STATION
304 WEST MAIN STREET
BROOK, INDIANA 47922
(219)275-3800

SERVING HOT BREAKFAST
AND LUNCH MONDAY THRU FRIDAY
PIZZA KING OPEN FRIDAY &
SATURDAY FROM 4:30PM-8:30PM

PEPSI MONSTER ENERGY M&M'S CANDY BUTTERFINGER BUNS BACON GROCERIES HOSTESS FROZEN DONUTS DORITOS TORTILLAS HUNT'S TOMATO SAUCE PIZZA 12 PACKS BEER

MOUNTAIN DEW LAYS POTATO CHIPS DR. PEPPER SPRITE FOUNTAIN POP SUGAR FREE BREAD BREADS PHONE CARDS DIESELS ICE CREAM GONZO RICE NYQUIL TIENOL ADVIL CANDY KEROSENE

ARIZONA ICED TEA 12 PACKS MARLBORO LP TANKS

Share the spirit...

"Christmas is the Spirit of Giving, Without a Thought of Getting."

Where there is help, there is

HOPE

Newton County Community Services
108 E. State Street • Morocco, IN • 219-285-2246

Office Hours: Monday thru Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.



Alright guys, the holidays are near and the pressure is on. She is expecting the gift that end all gifts. She is expecting the gift that will show her how much you really care. This is no time to phone it in boys!

So where do you start? My advice, start from the heart. This means looking back on your relationship and remembering the important moments, your first date, your first kiss, the first "I love you." Even if you have forgotten these moments, chances are, she hasn't. Now take those experiences and work from there. Is there some way to tie your first date into a gift? The same thing goes for your first kiss or the first I love you.

When guys think gifts for their wife or girlfriend they unusually think jewelry. This is fine, if they like jewelry, but simply buying a necklace or bracelet, might not impress her. Go back to those important moments, can one of those events be engraved on a piece of jewelry or be represented in another way?

Keep in mind that the cost of your gift doesn't really matter if it comes from the heart. If an expensive piece of jewelry doesn't fit your budget, that's OK. Again, go for the heartfelt gift. Let's

go back to those important moments. Are there photos related to them? Is so, print one, write something special on it and frame it. Create something with those memories, use photos, songs you share, mementos from places you have been together. It doesn't have to be perfect, it just has to come from your heart and don't play that "real men don't show emotion" nonsense. If you want to give her something special, dig deep and man up cowboy!

Can you write? How about a poem written and framed? How much do you know about her childhood? Is that something she would like? Find something she loved as a child, a doll, a knick-knack, whatever. This means talking to her family and doing some digging, but if you can hone in on something, it could be gift gold. With Internet sites like Ebay you can find all kinds of vintage things from years past.

Speaking of getting some help. Most guys would never consider buying her clothes. Most wouldn't know what to start, but her mom, sister or best friend would. Mostly likely they know her style and her size. These ladies can be great allies, use their knowledge. Imagine giving her a sweater, dress or blouse that

she really likes and it fits. You would be looking pretty good.

A word of warning - DO NOT GET HER A GIFT CARD. This screams, I didn't put any thought into this.

If you want to make your wife or girlfriend happy this holiday season, give her gift some thought. Take some

time and use your head. She is not like your buddies with whom you show affection with mocking and name calling, she deserves something nice, something from the heart.

Good Luck!



Guy Gift Giving

Some say they are hard to buy for, some say they will like anything. Either way, if you've got a guy on your gift giving list, it may take some thought. First consider your relationship to the guy. Is he your husband, brother, father or just a friend? This may impact what you spend or how much time you want to put into looking. Next, set a price point, based on your relationship.

What do guys like? Stereotypically, guys like sports, cars and the outdoors. These categories don't include all men, but let's start here. If your guy loves sports, he probably has a favorite sport and a favorite team. Determine if

many. Apparel is always a good place to start. You can choose from shirts, jerseys, jackets and what guy doesn't love a cap? Beyond clothing, think decor. Does he have a "man cave"? If so, it could probably use some decor of his favorite team. This means, pictures, posters, rugs, pillows, garbage cans, wall hangings and bobble heads, just to name a few things. This is just the tip of the iceberg for sports related shopping, but you get the idea.

What about the outdoorsman in your life? Again, you will need to answer some questions. Is he a hunter, hiker, fisherman? If he hunts, what

does he hunt? What kind of fishing does he enjoy? Once you have the answers, you can get started. These outdoor sports can be very specific, so get the advice from someone who knows what he likes or needs.

You don't want to get him something that is not

it's football, baseball, basketball, or none of the above. Does he prefer college or professional sports? What is his favorite team? Odds are this is someone close to you, so answering these questions shouldn't be too tough.

Once your homework is done, your options are

the quality of the equipment he normally uses. You can also talk to the folks at the sporting goods store, they may have suggestions and will certainly know what merchandise is for the serious outdoorsman. If all else fails, there's always a gift card.

Next, the gear head or car lover. This one is even more specialized than the outdoorsman. Do not attempt to buy specific car parts or accessories without knowing what he really wants or needs. That is not to say that other car related gifts aren't available. Think man cave again. There are posters, model cars, wall hangings, clocks, rugs, etc. How

about a subscription to a car magazine? You don't have to be a mechanic to buy for the car lover.

Gift giving to the guy(s) in your life doesn't have to be hard. Find out what they like and get specific once you do. All in all, guys are pretty simple. And if they don't like the gift you give, then just fill them full of holiday food.



Did you know?

Many Christmas traditions are older than you may think

Many Christmas traditions are older than some celebrants might think. The tradition of lighting up a Christmas tree, for example, dates back to the days before Christmas lights. Before electric-powered twinkle lights were invented and even before electricity was discovered, people used actual candles to adorn the Christmas tree. As one can imagine, having an open flame next to a dried-out tree was risky, so it was customary to keep a bucket of water next to the tree in the case of fire. As if fire wasn't enough, the tinsel used to decorate trees was made from strips of silver and even lead -- something that is now known to be a

health hazard to adults and children alike. Although we've come a long way since candles and lead, even now trees that are overly dry and decorated with lights that have frayed wires can just as easily lead to fires. Plus, plastic tinsel can be a choking hazard for children and pets. One Christmas staple that has lost its status as a safety hazard is the poinsettia plant. It has long been thought that poinsettias are poisonous to people and animals. While there is some toxicity to the plant, it would require the ingestion of hundreds of leaves to get a toxic dose of a plant's poison.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

W.T.I. Truck Accessories

304 N. Fairground Rd., Kentland, IN
219-474-6393

Season's Greetings

EMERSON-SONDGERATH

CHEVROLET CHEVROLET BUICK

"Your Hometown Dealer."
US 24 West at Kentland, IN
219-474-6144 • TOLL-FREE 1-866-423-6144

Let it snow

Applegate's Seed House

Office 219-275-3664
Cell: 219-863-2136
76 E 700 S • Brook, IN
Native Grasses & Wildflowers
Seed for all Government Programs,
Lawn Seed & Pasture

DeMotte State Bank is **CELEBRATING** a CENTURY

100

1917 2017

DSB

www.netdsb.com

DeMotte 219.987.4141 Morocco 219.285.2255 Rensselaer 219.866.0013 Roselawn 219.345.4141 Member FDIC

happy holidays

from Dr. Reed & Staff!

DARRELL R. REED, Optometrist, Inc.

105 N. Third Street, Kentland, IN 47951
(219) 474-6334

Warm Holiday Wishes

Brouillette

Heating, Cooling & Plumbing

www.BrouilletteHVAC.com

Fowler, IN • 765-884-0176
"We do it right the first time"

Agri-Town Agency

Tax Preparation & Accounting

Elaine English, RTRP, EA
Owner

320 S. Newton St.
P.O. Box 475
Goodland, IN
Ph: 219-297-3329
Fax: 219-297-3329
agritownusa@embarqmail.com

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Great gifts to help make the holidays special for seniors

Every holiday shopper ends up with at least one loved one on their shopping list who they can't seem to find anything for. Some people seem to have it all, while others may be less than forthcoming with regard to items they may need or want.

Many seniors tend to fall into the latter category. Shopping for holiday gifts for seniors can be difficult if shoppers don't know what seniors want. But the following are a handful of gift ideas that might make this holiday season that much more special for seniors.

Books

A 2015 survey from the Pew Research Center found that 69 percent of adults age 65 and over acknowledged reading at least one book in the previous 12 months. That makes books a good bet for shoppers who don't know what to get their 65-and-over loved ones this holiday season. But shoppers might want to opt for more traditional print books rather than e-books, as the survey found that only 15 percent of readers age 65 and over had read an e-book in the previous 12 months.

Gym membership

According to the Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, more than 80 percent of adults do not meet the guidelines for aerobic and muscle-strengthening activities. That can be especially troubling for seniors, who are at greater risk for osteoporosis, a medical condition in which age-related tissue loss contributes to brittle, fragile bones. Physical activity, including

muscle-strengthening activities like weight training, can help combat osteoporosis. Family members stuck on what to get aging loved ones may want to consider gifting a membership to a local gym. Many gyms offer heavily discounted memberships to seniors, and such gyms may even offer senior fitness classes at no additional cost.

Travel gifts

Many retirees love to travel, but not every senior has the means to take off for parts unknown. A 2013 survey from the Transamerica Center for Retirement Studies® found that 25 percent of retirees admitted they wished they would have saved more for retirement travel. Holiday shoppers can light up seniors' smiles by gifting travel gifts this holiday season. One idea is to transfer airline miles to an elderly loved one so he or she can get a free or discounted flight. If that's not a possibility, some new luggage or a Global Hotel Card™ sponsored by Orbitz®, a gift card that can be redeemed at 70,000 hotels across the globe, is sure to please.

Family time

Shoppers who are especially stuck on what to get seniors for Christmas can just resolve to spend more time with their elderly loved ones. Many seniors genuinely have everything they need, and such men and women may only want to spend more time with their children and grandchildren. Make a New Year's resolution to spend more time with the special seniors in your life if the perfect gift is eluding you.



Holiday Giving FOR THE SWEET TOOTH

The holidays mean a lot of things, one of which is giving and receiving gifts. For some folks this is the best part of the season, for others it's a chore. One way to keep it simple, include a lot of people and satisfy your sweet tooth all at the same time is to have a cookie exchange. It takes some coordination and some baking skills, but it's a great way to spend time with friends and exchange your special creations.

The first thing to do is to determine your guest list. There is no limit, but you probably want to include your friends and family with at least some baking skills. That is not to say non-bakers shouldn't be invited, after all, it is the holidays. Just make sure they aren't expected to learn how to bake overnight. If need be, they can pick something up at the bakery.

Next set a date and time and send out your invitations. Let your guest know that you expect homemade cookies and how many cookies to bring. The amount of cookies each guest should supply is based on how many people you invite. The next part can be tricky. You also want your guests to send you their recipes ahead of time. This is done for two reasons. First you want to be able to supply these recipes to each guest. Second, you want to make sure that not everyone is bringing sugar cookies.

The problems may arise if someone considers their recipe secret. If this is the case, ask them to choose another recipe, one they don't mind sharing. Another problem may arise if several guests are planning on bringing the same type of cookie and they don't want to compromise. This is when your relationship to the guest and level of comfort comes into play. Hopefully at least a few to them will compromise. Invitations can be sent out by mail or email, whichever is easier for you.

Once you have gathered the recipes, sharing them can be done many different ways. One way is to put them all on paper and hand them out the each guest. A more festive way is to print them out individually and place them by each cookie display.

Speaking of displays, decorations for the event should include several tables with a platter for each guest's goodies. Once the cookies are on their platters, each guest can walk around collecting the types of cookies they want. You should supply each guest with festive bag or bakery type box to carry their treats home.

You should also have snacks, drinks and maybe a game or two to play. Include festive holiday music and activities for the kids, in case they come with their parents.

Holiday gift giving doesn't have to be a chore. You don't have to worry about sizes, colors and who likes what. Everyone likes sweets. Consider throwing a cookie exchange and give everyone a break from shopping.

Learn about product recalls for safe holiday giving

Shopping for the perfect gift and then hiding it under the tree adds to the excitement of the holiday season. Knowing the recipient will display a big smile when tearing away the wrapping paper makes gift givers feel good.

Each year, certain gifts emerge as trendy crowd favorites. However, no matter how coveted a gift may be, it pays to investigate its reputation for safety and to find out if any product recalls have been instituted.

The hoverboard craze of the 2015 holiday season provided a recent example of the need to investigate an item's reputation for safety. Thousands upon thousands of these devices flew off of the shelves. Children across the country took their hoverboards for test runs early Christmas morning. Yet many hoverboards soon ignited while charging or in operation. Some even ignited while sitting idle. As of July 2016, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission indicated at least 60 reports of hoverboard fires totaling more than \$2 million in property damage.

Similar problems arose with certain Samsung Galaxy Note 7 phones in late 2016. The phone was recalled officially in the United States through Samsung, and the company launched exchange programs in other countries. Even replacement models continued to have problems, as some caught on fire in early October. Samsung ultimately told Note 7 owners to stop using the phones and return them before permanently discontinuing the product. Shortly thereafter, the U.S. CPSC officially issued a second recall.

Those are just two instances of how products that might have made great holiday gifts posed safety issues.

Consumers should learn how they can protect themselves and others from injury, even when giving holiday gifts. Searching for product recalls is one way to safeguard loved ones this holiday season. Reading product reviews from previous customers is another effective safety measure.

A recall is an action taken by a manufacturer or the government. Some recalls will ban the sale of an item, while others require the consumer to return the item for repair or replacement. The U.S. government recommends visiting these websites to find the latest safety recalls and information on items that may turn up on holiday wish lists.

- Recalls.com posts government-initiated recalls from federal agencies.
- Safercar.gov offers safety information on vehicles and car equipment, such as children's safety seats.
- SaferProducts.gov enables consumers to report incidents and safety concerns with regard to consumer products.
- Cpsc.gov/Recalls/ includes recalls published by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.
- HealthyCanadians.gc.ca/recall-alert-rappel-avis/index-eng.php publishes recent recalls and alerts for Canada.

The holidays should be a safe and happy time. To ensure the season stays safe and happy, consumers should familiarize themselves with any product recalls or published safety hazards prior to shopping for gifts.




Season's Greetings
Stay Safe During Holiday Travels!

RMT
Transport Inc.
MOROCO, IN

114 N. Polk St. • Morocco • 219-285-2307



KINELL INSURANCE SERVICES, LLC

Tidings of Great Joy

Tom, LeAnn, Donna & Marge

Auto-Owners INSURANCE
LIFE • HOME • CAR • BUSINESS

219-474-6088
101 N. 6th St. • Kentland



Happy Holidays

BARBER SHOP

TOM'S

Goodland, Indiana
219-297-4511



Season's Greetings

Here's to a season that will make you smile!

Sheets Family Dentistry

Dr. Robin D. Sheets
Dr. Kyle O. Sheets

98 S. 100 E., Suite B., Fowler, IN
765-884-0018
sheetsfamilydentistry.com



FOUNDATION REAL ESTATE & INSURANCE

STATE STREET Title & Abstract

| | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Shaun Wynn, Broker/Owner | Ryan Kindig, Associate Broker |
| Gary Hancock, Insurance Agent | Trisha Dowden, Associate Broker |
| Lana Wynn, Title Agent | |

217 East State St., P.O. Box 501, Morocco, IN 47963
Office: (219) 285-2700 Cell: (219) 809-1777
myagent@foundationhome-auto.com
www.foundationhome-auto.com



Green-Hill Manor

502 North Lincoln Avenue, Fowler, IN 47944
Tel: (765) 884-1470 / Fax: (765) 884-1932
www.ghmanor.com



Gift Giving at the Office

Nothing says holiday fun like gift giving at the office. It's a tradition that most of us are forced into. We go along to get along because you don't want to be the Scrooge who doesn't want to participate. If you are forced into participating, here are some ideas to make this awkward tradition a little less painful.

The classic office gift giving tradition is of course, Secret Santa. Everyone randomly draws the name of a co-worker who then becomes the person that you give a gift. There is normally a limit on the amount of the gift, so things don't get out of control. In some cases, smaller, less expensive gifts are purchased and left with clues. When the big gift exchange occurs people then try to guess the identity of their Secret Santa.

A tradition that is a more cutthroat is the White Elephant gift exchange. Each person buys a gift. When the gift exchange occurs, one person starts. The next person then picks, but has the option to take the previous person's gift, thus forcing them to pick again. It's kind of like "Let's Make A Deal," but on a smaller scale. One way to keep the atmosphere light and avoid hard feelings is the make sure the gifts are gag gifts.

For the studious office, there is the book gift exchange. Everyone offers their favorite book as a gift. The books can be given randomly or in Secret Santa fashion. The interesting part of this tradition is to see what kind of literature your co-workers like.

Maintaining the theme idea, how about a coffee mug exchange? Most people drink coffee or tea at work. Coffee mugs come with practically anything printed on them. This is best used with an assigned recipient. That way you can match the mug to the personality.

To make sure they get what they want, you could do a gift card exchange. Not a lot of surprises here, but most folks like to shop. To keep it interesting, have everyone supply 3 places that they like to shop. Leave it up to the giver to decide from which place to buy the gift card.

Remembering to buy gifts for your co-workers is just one more thing to do during the holiday season. But if you make it fun and creative, it might not be so bad.

Holiday dangers for pets

You always thought that once the children were all grown up you could finally give free rein to your imagination and go crazy with the decorations. But, unfortunately, you forgot to take your pet into account. That's right; even with pets, it's important to follow some safety rules in order for Christmas to be a success.

Firstly, your Christmas tree poses several risks. If it is natural, ensure that your cat doesn't drink the water, and keep it well away from fallen needles. Also ensure that the tree is stable and won't fall over if your cat suddenly decides to jump into it. After all, you don't want the tree falling over and injuring your beloved pet.

Tree ornaments also pose a threat to the health of your pets; they can suffocate a pet or damage its intestines if they are swallowed. So avoid using tinsel icicles and make sure any dangerous ornaments, such as artificial snow and small decorations, are inaccessible. In addition, keep dogs and cats away from strings of lights, as they could electrocute themselves by chewing on them. Finally,



Lots of guests can be stressful, so let your pets have access to a quiet place where they can hide during the festivities.

opt for plastic ball ornaments rather than glass ones, which are easily breakable.

Position poinsettia plants out of the reach of animals, as they are toxic. Also, be careful where you set up candles, and never leave them burning unattended.

Sweets, leftovers, alcoholic drinks, ribbons, and small toys can all be dangerous if ingested by your pet. Sure, you can still decorate your home and entertain guests, but be sure to take a few precautions.



Gifts for Those Who Teach



The holidays can be both wonderful and hectic. You want to include everyone on your gift giving list and you want to make their gift special. One special person who shouldn't be overlooked is that person who is so important to your child. They spent months with them, being patient, watching them grow both intellectually and physically and your child's life would not be the same without them—they are our teachers.

For many children the relationship that they form with a teacher is something they will remember for a lifetime. That teacher may have inspired them, shown them that anything is possible or just been the person they needed at that time in their life. Here are a few gift ideas for these very important people.

Let's start off with the practical approach. It's no secret that these very important people aren't paid what they are worth. So, if you don't have a problem with it, how about some cash? Some folks might find this inappropriate. If you are not one of these people and you think your teacher isn't either, give them the gift of cash. Another way to go, somewhat like cash is the classic gift cards. Make sure you child knows where their teacher likes to shop or eat and get them a gift card.

It's safe to say that teachers love kids and what better gift from a child, no matter how old, than something homemade? It doesn't have to be anything elaborate; it just has to come from the heart. For younger kids, get out the crayons and construction paper. For older kids, maybe it's a

letter or a picture with something inscribed.

How about some tasty treats? Does your teacher have a sweet tooth or how about something salty? Foods for gifts are universally appreciated, except maybe fruitcake.

Instead of fighting with administration over classroom supplies, how about giving them as a gift? Some teachers probably don't have the supplies they want or need. Find out what supplies would make their job easier or more rewarding and give them as a holiday gift.

Our teachers are overworked so how about giving them your time? Volunteering to help them with whatever they need might be a welcome surprise. Time is valuable and your time might make all the difference in the world.

Consider going big. Contact other parents and pool your money. The gift could be specifically for the teacher or again, something to make their job easier. Most teachers love what they do and something that can benefit their whole class usually makes them happy and proud. Maybe it's supplies or maybe it's something bigger like a computer or a SMART Board. If you pool your money, you might be able to give them something really special.

Our teachers are a great and sometimes underappreciated part of our children's lives. With the fast pace of the holiday season, it's easy to forget these heroes. Take the time, find out what would make them smile and include them on your gift giving list.



O'NEIL REPAIR SERVICE

ASE Certified Mechanic
106 S. Iroquois, Goodland, IN
(219) 297-4536



STEINKE
FUNERAL HOME

101 E. Beaver St.
Morocco, Indiana
219-866-5151

steinkefuneralhome.com

TIDINGS OF PEACE AND JOY





Stop in for a chance to win a \$50 Gift Card

HOLIDAY HOURS

December 24th close at noon,
Closed for Christmas Day and reopen on Tuesday, December 27th

December 31st close at noon,
Closed for New Year's Day and reopen on Tuesday, January 3rd

www.kentlandbank.com

KB

KENTLAND BANK

KENTLAND Ph. 219-474-5155
RENSSELAER Ph. 219-866-4142
LAKE VILLAGE Ph. 219-992-3313
ROSELAWN Ph. 219-345-4646
LAFAYETTE Ph. 765-448-1300

Happy Holidays!



ASHLAND PLACE SENIOR APARTMENTS

We offer affordable housing for those 62 and older, or disabled, regardless of age. All single story with private entrances. On-site laundry & maintenance free.

Stop in for more information or visit our website at www.ashlandplaceapts.com

Ashland Place Senior Apartments

Lori Myers, Property Manager
122 N. Iroquois St., Goodland, IN
219-297-3921 or TDD# 800-743-3333
www.ashlandplaceapts.com

We are an equal opportunity provider and employer.



STOP KNOCKING ON WOOD



Scott Hanger
Agent | Indiana Farm
Bureau Insurance
Office: (219) 345-2700 Ext. 2892
Cell (219) 712-7215
Scott.Hanger@infb.com

Best Wishes for a Joyful Holiday Season!




YATES
Construction Inc.
P.O. Box 41, Kentland, IN
219-474-6542



Happy Holidays!
USEFUL PRODUCTS LLC
www.usefulproducts.com
(219) 297-3154
429 West Jasper Street, Goodland, IN



Infinity Grain Systems
INC.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS from everyone at
CUSTOM GRAIN SYSTEM DESIGN,
SALES, REPAIR & PARTS
infinitygrainsystems.com
219-275-2600
Brook, Indiana



Hair Haven By Becca

• Hair • Nails • Tanning & Spray Tan • Massages



Wishing You a Warm & Cozy Christmas



115 N. Third Street • Kentland, IN 47951 • 219-474-3028



Happy HOLIDAYS!

Dear readers and advertisers,

It is with great pleasure that we bring you quality news from our vibrant community every week. We also feel it is a privilege to be the media most chosen by local business owners to showcase their products and businesses. We are proud to be a newspaper that focuses on promoting the local economy.

Our whole team thanks you for allowing us to be an integral part of your daily life during the past year. We wish you a fantastic 2017.

Warmest wishes from
Greg, Gregory, Betty and Vicki!

NEWTON COUNTY ENTERPRISE
BROOK REPORTER
MOROCCO COURIER

 newtoncountyenterprise.com 



Reduce waste this holiday season

The holiday season is a time for families to gather and express their love and appreciation for one another. Exchanging gifts has become a big part of the holiday season, and while such a tradition is well-intentioned, gift-giving annually produces substantial amounts of waste.

Food plays a big role at many holiday celebrations, and uneaten food contributes heavily to the excess waste during the holiday season. Time magazine reports that an estimated 1.3 billion tons of food, or about one-third of global production, is lost or wasted each year.

Food is not the only thing wasted during the holiday season. Everything from packaging to gift wrap to the number of gifts purchased can contribute to excess holiday waste.

As big a problem as holiday waste has become, there are several simple ways to reducing holiday waste.

- Make a list and stick to it. Retailers are very good at upselling and getting people to purchase items they do not need during the holiday season. Stick to a shopping list for food or other supplies for the holiday season and beyond. Do not be tempted to buy more than is necessary.
- Scale back the menu. If you typically

have lots of leftovers after the holiday, you're likely overestimating just how much people will eat. Learn from past experience and cook less this year.

- Reuse whatever you can. Diligently collect and store holiday wrappings and trimmings that are in good condition and put them to use again and again. Gift bags and boxes are easily reused.
- Compost food scraps. Eggshells, coffee grounds and vegetable peels can be put to use in the garden when composted.
- Give an experience rather than "stuff." When gifting, think about giving experiences rather than traditional gifts. Experiences may include trips to a museum or tickets to a concert or a play.
- Make your own gift tags and wrapping. When wrapping gifts, use comics, maps, old calendars, and items that you would otherwise discard.
- Purchase a rooted tree. Look for a tree that has the root intact so it can be planted afterward.
- Decorate with items from around the house. Costume jewelry and other trinkets can adorn the limbs of Christmas trees. Reducing waste during the holiday season can be accomplished without affecting the festive atmosphere synonymous with this time of year.

Christmas tunes spread holiday spirit

Some stores start stocking Christmas decorations and wrapping paper as early as the end of October, and some families begin decking their halls in holiday finery in late November. But for many people, the holiday season has not truly begun until the music synonymous with this festive time of year has hit the airwaves.

Few things can make a person feel as festive as the holiday songs they know and love. Many families have a favorite musical artist whose music they consider synonymous with their holiday celebrations. While families have their own unique holiday traditions, over time certain holiday songs have emerged as favorites. These are the tunes you're likely to hear played over and over on the radio. Billboard, which tracks the music industry's most popular songs, compiled its own list of the most popular Christmas songs. The list measures the volume of people who have been exposed to the song on the radio, and is based on ranking rather than exact figures of listeners, and the following are the 10 most popular songs based on those parameters.

10. "Happy Xmas (War is Over)," by John Lennon: This song debuted in 1971 and was written by Lennon and his wife,

Yoko Ono. Performed with the Harlem Community Choir, the song was originally a protest song about the Vietnam War before it eventually became a Christmas standard.

9. "Christmas Eve (Sarajevo 12/24)," by Trans-Siberian Orchestra: According to Nielsen, this instrumental mash-up of "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen" and "Carol of the Bells" is one of the best-selling Christmas digital singles in SoundScan history. A combination of full, classical orchestra and rock, "Christmas Eve" is a memorable and powerful piece of music.

8. "White Christmas," by Bing Crosby: Crosby crooned this tune in 1942 in the movie of the same name, and Irving Berlin's song soon became one of the most popular holiday tunes of all time. It has been covered innumerable times and has become a holiday season standard.

7. "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year," by Andy Williams: This popular

Christmas song was written by Edward Pola and George Wyle in 1963. The song celebrates the traditions and feelings of the Christmas season.

6. "Feliz Navidad," by Jose Feliciano: This Spanish-English pop song is recognized by the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers as one of the 25 most-played and recorded Christmas songs around the world. Puerto-Rican born Feliciano has said that the song has always been a bridge to the cultures that are so dear to him.

5. "A Holly Jolly Christmas," by Burl Ives: This song was written by Johnny Marks, an American songwriter. Ironically, Marks was Jewish, but he specialized in Christmas songs and wrote many of the holiday standards people love, including this upbeat tune and "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree."

4. "The Christmas Song (Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire)," by Nat King Cole: Believe it or not, this song was actually written in the summer when

composers Bob Wells and Mel Torme were trying to cool off with winter imagery. Snow-covered images and phrases eventually turned into lyrics for this popular song that was most memorably recorded by Nat King Cole.

3. "Jingle Bell Rock," by Bobby Helms: This song has been performed by many, but Helms' version of the is perhaps the best known. The song highlights the crossover style known as "rockabilly" and merges the classic "Jingle Bells" with rock n' roll references of the 1950s.

2. "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree," by Brenda Lee: Brenda Lee was a chart-topping female vocalist of the 1960s who owes much of her success to this beloved holiday classic. Despite the mature sound of her voice, Lee recorded this version when she was only 13 years old.

1. "All I Want for Christmas is You," by Mariah Carey: This up-tempo love song has become a Christmas classic and one of Carey's most popular hits. She cowrote and coproduced the song with Walter Afansieff. It is one of the few, modern, original Christmas songs to stand the test of time and become an official Christmas standard.



'TIS THE SEASON FOR MISTLE-TOW!

CR REPAIR and Towing

600 W. Main St., Brook, IN 47922
219-275-6100
 ~ 24 hrs/7 days a week ~
Ron Risley - Owner/Mechanic
 Licensed & Insured
 - Experience you can TRUST -

Kentland Veterinary Clinic, LLP
 504 W. Seymour St., Kentland, IN
219-474-5163

HAPPY HOWLIDAYS!

"Healthy Pet, Healthy Family"
 We specialize in making your pet feel at ease with compassionate, quality veterinary care.

Remember: We recommend a yearly physical exam for your pets.

From our family to yours...

Merry Christmas

DONALDSON EQUIPMENT, INC.
 On U.S. Hwy. 24 at the curve between Kentland & Goodland
219.474.6841

Seasons Greetings from Rodney, Gloria, Eddie & Brandi

B&G GARAGE & TIRE REPAIR

KENTLAND, IN • (219) 474-5171
 24-HOUR SERVICE AVAILABLE

Like Us On

Fowler State Bank

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

FOWLER STATE BANK
 85th ANNIVERSARY

Fowler · Kentland · Williamsport
800 - 439 - 3951
 www.fowlerstatebank.com

Member