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Holiday Edition 2026

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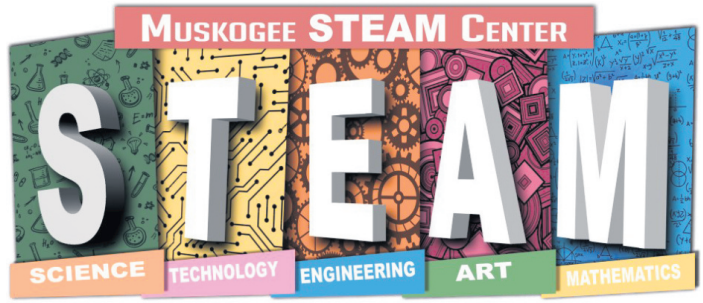

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6 GREEN
Green home offers warmth with old and new decor

12 EGDORF
Egdorfs bring Christmas family traditions to Honor Heights area chateau

20 TENNANT
Tennant family builds Christmas traditions, indoor forest

26 GOAD
Kay Goad and friends prepare home for holiday visits

34 BEYOND THE LISTING -505 N. 57TH ST W.
Timeless brick home offers privacy, accessibility

42 COOKS PANTRY
Owner of historic home goes for traditional Thanksgiving fare

50 SCENE & BE SEEN
Catch a few of your friends in these photo spreads of local events.

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ON THE COVER



The Tennants' staircase features one of 11 full-sized Christmas trees placed throughout their festive home.

Photo by Mandy Corbell

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Green home offers warmth with old and new decor

By **Kellie Vann** | *Photos by* **Mandy Corbell**



For Rachel Green of Fort Gibson, decorating for the holidays is about creating an experience for anyone who steps into her family's space.

From the foyer to the bedrooms, the thoughtfully decorated home invites holiday cheer and the creation of memories.

"I want it to feel warm, like the house is giving them a hug," said Green, who designs and decorates the interior herself. "I really like a cozy, traditional feel."

Green said she doesn't like to feel her decor is over the top, and she avoids a cluttered look.

"When I designed the home, I really tried to make it something that was beautiful before I decorated it, and then whatever I decorated with just would add to what is here," she said.

Many of Green's Christmas decorations have sentimental value – whether handed down from relatives, such as the Santa Claus figures from her







grandmother, or associated with childhood memories.

But she also incorporates something new each year.

"I pick out ornaments that signify something significant that happened that year for each person [in the family]," said Green. "Since I was little, my parents did this. For example, when I got a cell phone, I got a cell phone ornament. That's probably one of my favorite traditions."

Now, she and her husband carry on the tradition with their own children. Green said even though she's accumulated a lot of ornaments over the years, she still manages to get them all on the tree.

The tree stands between the living and dining areas, inviting exploration of the history it holds. Because Green doesn't add ribbons or other trimmings to the "memory tree," it complements the home's understated holiday atmosphere.









"I try not to shout at people that it's Christmas," Green said.

That subtlety carries through to every room. In the kitchen, noticing the snowman behind the glass door at the top of the cabinet, or finding the pine cones gathered about the kitchen window ledge, requires taking a moment to pause and deliberately appreciate the elements that give the space its calming presence.

Green's decorating style also incorporates natural materials, from the fir branches that hang from the ceiling in the bathroom to the reindeer made of twisted wood on the lawn.

"Natural is definitely a theme here, because our floors are also made of stone. I think when I was designing the house, I just really wanted a lot of texture and a lot of natural elements to make it feel indoor-outdoor, in a sense," said Green.

The uncluttered spaces also




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make the home welcoming for large gatherings. Green said they have up to four Christmas parties each season. The parties include gatherings for friends and for both sides of the family.

She and her husband had the home built in 2024, with accommodating their large extended family in mind.

"The weekend before Christmas, we host my dad's side of the family, and there are about 50 of us, so that's our big Christmas party," said Green.

Green admits that having a beautifully decorated home isn't easy. After all, she has a Christmas tree in every bedroom, but she's made the process routine enough that the results are worth the effort.

Green usually begins decorating at the start of November.

"I'll go ahead and put the trees up, but I don't put anything on them until after Thanksgiving. I try to give Thanksgiving its respect," said Green.

Once Thanksgiving has passed, she adds the ornaments and finishing touches throughout the house, lining a tiny row of trees along a cupboard in the kitchen, resting a small elf against a pillow on a bed, and adding all the other little details that make her home special.





Scents complete the experience. Green chooses candles with holiday scents, including fir. Another easy method Green has found is filling a crockpot with cinnamon sticks and water for an inviting aroma that travels throughout the home.

"I love Christmas. It's my favorite holiday," said Green. "It means a lot to me to be able to decorate and make memories for my kids."













Egdorfs bring Christmas family traditions to Honor Heights area chateau

By **Cathy Spaulding** | *Photos by* **Mandy Corbell**

Tulsans Lee and Tiffany Egdorf found an ideal new home with a French eclectic chateau near Honor Heights three years ago.

"We wanted something that had a country feel that's not really in the country," Tiffany Egdorf said.

Lee Egdorf, who works with Cherokee Entertainment, recalled wanting the house when he first saw it.

"We loved the Charles Faudree design on the exterior," he said.

Faudree, a Muskogee native, was a famed Tulsa designer and philanthropist. He was known for his French Country decor.

"That was kind of a bonus when we found out Faudree had done the original interior design," Tiffany said. "He was so specific about his wallpaper and his fabric upholstery covers he designed his own."

The five-bedroom, 7,000-square-foot home was the ideal place for an Egdorf family Christmas.

"We put up five full-size Christmas trees,



5 to 7 feet, plus smaller trees inside bedrooms," said Tiffany, a nonprofit consultant. "The fun thing is we have theme trees. Some are specifically family trees; one has ornaments I made as a kid."

Lee said the blended family inherited beautiful decorations from both sides, and they found new decorations when they moved in.

"Basically we have enough decorations to fill the whole house," he said.

One of the newer trees graces the marble floor in the entry. Lee said the tree is pre-lit with colors that can change by a remote.

"You can see the tree through glass front doors," he said. "You can see dining room tree through a window. When you look from outside, you'll see trees in different rooms."

They decorate every year. A garland with gold orbs wraps up the curved entry staircase. The red, green and tan ottoman dates to the 1960s and came with the house. Lee said they kept so much of the original furniture, they wound up selling some of the furniture they brought from Tulsa.









The Christmas tree in the library features more family heirlooms, including handmade ornaments and Easter Seals ornaments Tiffany's grandparents collected. The tree also bears a Drew Brees New Orleans Saints ornament.

The dining room has the tallest and most formal tree. Its green, gold and brown hues complement the gold wallpaper.

"That's king of our nature tree," Tiffany said. There are a lot of squirrels, deer and fox ornaments on the tree."

The Egdorfs consider themselves Christmas traditionalists. They wait until after the Thanksgiving feast to put up the ornaments, and take them down after Epiphany, Jan. 6. The front tree stays up until Mardi Gras, but the Christmas decorations are replaced with gold and purple ones. Lee grew up in New Orleans.

As much as they hold to family tradition, the Egdorfs find new ones as well.

"Our family tradition has changed a lot in the past few years," Tiffany said. "Lee and I have both lost our moms in the past three years. All our grandkids are in Mississippi. Sometimes we get to see them, sometimes







not. We roll with whatever tradition happens."

Sometimes the two visit family in Mississippi. Other times, family visits them in Muskogee. This year will bring a Mississippi visit.

"No matter what, our house is decorated in the Christmas spirit," Tiffany said. "So whoever swings by, hopefully they feel it."

Warm holiday throws cover leather chairs in one room. A red wall behind the bookcase highlights the book collection, including a set of Hardy Boys mysteries. Lee is slowly giving the books to his oldest grandson. He said he was part of a Hardy Boys club in the 1950s and often got a new book.

"I would read it as fast as I could," he said. "I want my grandson to know how that feels."

The purple- and gold-decked tabletop tree in one room invokes memories for Tiffany.











"Mom was with us before she passed in October 2023," Tiffany said. "We moved here that November. That was her tree in her bedroom. She loved color."

A thin tabletop tree stands by an heirloom spindle bed in another bedroom. The mattress is so high, sleepers need a step stool. The bed was custom-made for Tiffany's grandparents in 1956 by Cumberland Valley.

Bedrooms feature trees of all sizes.

"We just want to make sure all our Christmas guests have a Christmas tree in their rooms," Tiffany said.







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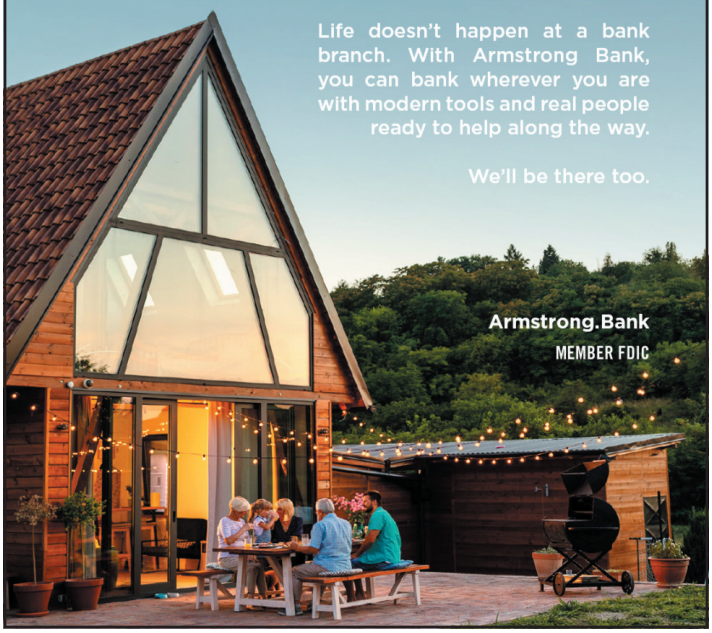

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Tennant family builds Christmas traditions, indoor forest

By **R.L. Kizzia** | *Photos by* **Mandy Corbell**

The scent of homemade chocolate mint cookies wafts through the air, while Bing Crosby croons classic carols on the radio. Christmas trees twinkle, laden with heirloom ornaments, each a reminder of holidays gone by.

The scene isn't from a Hallmark movie or a tale from generations past. It's just how the Tennant family does Christmas.

Tiffany Tennant said her love of Christmas decorations came from her paternal grandmother.

"She was the one who would go all out for holidays," she said.

Tiffany's husband, Reagan, gained an appreciation for festive decor from his father.

"His dad loved Christmas, was Christmas obsessed," Tiffany said.

But the number of trees in the Tennant home is unique to Tiffany, Reagan, and their four children.

"As we built our life up and bought the next house and had room for another tree, we





would add one," Tiffany said. "The older our kids got, the more they loved it, and then they would encourage adding things to it. So now it's become this winter wonderland that takes weeks to put up."

The Tennants' Christmas tree collection features 11 full-sized trees and a small interactive Advent Jesse tree.

"Every night, we read a devotional out of that book and then we open up an ornament," Tiffany said. "Whoever's turn it is to open the ornament gets to hang the ornament on the tree."

Each of the Advent Jesse ornaments holds a special memory.

"A group of moms, 10 years ago maybe, got together and everybody handmade two days















of the ornaments, and so all the ornaments are actually handmade ornaments that a group of my friends and I made," Tiffany said.

Tiffany said Christmas traditions are important to her, because her goal is to establish a welcoming environment for her children.

"I always want to create a calming kind of magical retreat from everyday life, where they can always know they can come home and it's warm and inviting, and they can relax," she said. "Just kind of that cozy, comforting place, like when the world is falling apart, this is where I land."

She hopes her children will always love Christmas, since it is central to the family's faith.

"Christmas is one of our best holidays. It's a big deal," Tiffany said. "All of this is pretty, and it's great and it's nice to sit in. But at the end of the day, celebrating Christ's birth is really what it's about."

There are early indications that the Tennants' Christmas spirit will carry on to the next generation, especially when it comes














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to the Advent Jesse tree.

"My oldest has already asked, 'Will you make me one of these when I have a family?'" Tiffany said.

Tiffany hopes her children will someday bring their own children home for the holidays, to share in the unique brand of holiday magic the family has built. But for now, she and her husband are savoring the moments while everyone is still in the nest.

"There's usually something always cooking. The girls and I have made homemade candies and fudges," Tiffany said. "There's these Christmas cookies that I make every year. So those are typically baking a lot because they go through them very fast."

The Tennants begin holiday decorating in November, gradually replacing fall decor throughout the house.

"On years we host Thanksgiving, I do keep my living room mantle Thanksgiving, and my front porch and my dining room will typically stay pumpkins and other stuff until the night or day after Thanksgiving," Tiffany said.

Tiffany has the perfect response for people who object to Christmas decorations going up before December.

"I believe that I'm very thankful for Christmas," she said. "I can be thankful for the beauty of the trees and I can eat my turkey at the same time."





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Kay Goad and friends prepare home for holiday visits

By **Cathy Spaulding** | *Photos by* **Mandy Corbell**

Decorating for Christmas this year is a team effort at Kay Goad's home in Grandview Heights.

Goad said her sister and four or five of their friends contributed Christmas trees, quilts, Santa Clauses, tableware and other decorations.

"When I told them we were going to do it, everyone was just on board," Goad said.

Statuary roosters and a Basset hound figurine in Santa caps will greet visitors outside. Inside, visitors will see several communities of Santa Clauses, many from Goad's collection.

"When I worked at the hospital for 23 years, at the gift shop, they always had these unusual Santas," she said.

The love of those Santas made her easy to buy for.

"I don't know how many are in the collection," she said. "I might have 100."

Three of her favorite Santas are in front of her TV. Goad said her daughter bought













her the "I love New York" Santa during a Christmastime visit to New York City. That one makes music.

Goad, a member of Muskogee Art Guild, painted a Santa with holly and bells in 2019. It hangs in the family room. A life-sized Santa, borrowed from a friend, sits on a chair. Others include a praying Santa, a Possible Dreams collector Santa, and a Santa in pajamas.

The kitchen has a Santa cookie jar, and the sun room features Santa throw pillows. More delicate ones are displayed in a corner hutch.

"I just like the idea of Santa Claus," Goad said. "He brings out the joy of Christmas."

She said she never told her children Santa Claus was real.



"I just told them he was for fun, and I think he was for fun," she said.

The house offers other hints for the holidays. One bedroom is decorated in pink. A friend loaned the white tabletop tree. Snowmen, carolers and various Jim Shore figurines line shelves. Another Santa sits on a pink chair.

"I found the Santa at the dollar store the other day," Goad said.

Two Christmas quilts provide warmth to the sunroom. One features traditional blocks, and the other has poinsettias and candy canes.

Christmas trees can be found throughout the house, including in Goad's bedroom.

Goad painted a snowy scene with cardinals surrounding a wagon. A buffet table is covered with a red tablecloth with Christmastime China sets and red goblets. Santa Claus and the Missus adorn the centerpiece.









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A Christmas stocking features artist Bob Ross saying, "There are no mistakes, just happy accidents."

Even things not intended to have a Christmas flavor add to the seasonal flair. The fireplace and the wall behind the white bookshelf are painted red.

"We really didn't do it for Christmas," Goad said. "We collected teapots over the years; some are holiday, some are not."

The bookshelves display the teapots, adorned with garlands.

Goad said she used to decorate a lot when she lived in another house.

"But since we moved here, we kind of downsized," she said. "We went to the Christmas tour every year, so we decided to do it."

Goad's sister, Gayla Brown, shares the house. Brown worked at the Sam's Club in Midwest City for 30 years before moving to Muskogee in 2022.

"We always had Christmas, but growing up, we didn't have a lot," Brown said.

Brown recalled being inspired by a 2025 Muskogee home tour, which benefited Muskogee Habitat for Humanity.





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"I think they do great things for people, all the houses they give away," she said.

Goad said Christmas was still meaningful for her while growing up. One childhood memory sticks in her mind.

"I remember one time we lived around by the schoolhouse," Goad said. "There was this box; it said 'piano.' I didn't know what that spelled; I couldn't figure out what was in that box. It was a little piano someone had bought me for Christmas. I was thrilled."







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BEDROOMS: 4
BATHROOMS: 3 full, 2 half
APPLIANCES: Stainless steel
FLOORS: Hardwood, carpet, tile
SCHOOL DISTRICT: Muskogee Public Schools
OTHER FEATURES: Garage space for four cars, gas fireplaces, storm shelter, generator, in-ground pool
INFORMATION: Holly Rosser Miller, Interstate Properties, 918-348-9848

By **R.L. Kizzia**



Birdsong, stately trees and grazing deer are what buyers expect to find miles outside of city limits, but the brick home at 505 N. 57th St W. in Muskogee features all three.

"It's a beautiful neighborhood out on the far west side of town," said Holly Rosser Miller, of Interstate Properties. "What's great about that neighborhood is you've got a large lot, and you have some privacy while still being close to town."

Located within the Muskogee Public Schools District, the four-bedroom residence would be ideal for families with children, seller Cindy Stafford said.

Stafford has enjoyed the past four summers in the house, particularly grilling on the patio next to the in-ground pool.

"Days off, we are outside on the patio, and it's all one level," Stafford said. "That's probably been my favorite part. And the privacy – being in town, but we feel like we're out in the country."



Stafford and her husband, Greg, are both tall, so they appreciated the high ceilings inside.

"That's always been on our wish list; you walk in, and it's just wide open," she said. "The spaciousness of the home is amazing."

Stafford said she appreciated the accessibility features when her handicapped aunts came to visit.

"The doors are 36 inches wide. You can accommodate handicap so easily," she said. "It was a nice way to be able to let them navigate on their own, to be independent here."

Stafford said her husband's job requires them to move













to Montana, which is why the house is on the market.

"If we could stay, we would. It ticked everything off my list when we were looking for homes," she said.

Hardwood floors and a brick exterior give the home a classic but current personality.

"This home is timeless. I think that's what I really like about it," Stafford said. "It's an elegant design, in my opinion."

Four garage bays, one of which is a porte-cochere style, provide ample room for vehicles, storage and hobbies.

"We have the home-attached garage where Greg can do his thing, and I love that," Stafford said.

The house is also prepared for Oklahoma's wild weather



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seasons, with a storm cellar set into the garage floor and a generator capable of seamlessly powering the entire house.

"When we first moved in here, we moved in May and there was a bad storm," Stafford said. "The entire neighborhood was without electricity, and I was vacuuming. The neighbor lady came over. She said, 'Oh, I guess you have power.' And I'm like, 'Is it out?' I had no idea the generator kicked in!"

The house features two gas fireplaces, one in the main living room and another in what Stafford dubbed the "chat room."

"That's a great fireplace, to sit in there and read," she said. "It would be a nice element to a formal dining room."














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Stafford said the mature trees on the lot provide privacy and attract local wildlife.

"Birds, butterflies, we have a lot of deer out here," she said. "There are probably six to eight deer every evening in our yard."

Despite the woodland atmosphere, the house is close to city amenities.

"Walmart is minutes away," Stafford said. "You're just so close to town, but yet you feel like you're in a rural location."

Stafford may be moving, but she has fond memories.

"We really love the house," she said. "We've taken good care of it, and we hope the next folks that buy it enjoy it as much as we have."









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OWNER OF HISTORIC HOME GOES FOR TRADITIONAL THANKSGIVING FARE

By **Melony Carey**
Photos by **Mandy Corbell**



Ray and Gigi Webb.

Family tradition is everything for Gigi Webb.

She and her husband, Ray Webb, moved to Muskogee from a 175-acre working farm in southern Oklahoma to be closer to family.

"I visited my sister in Founders' Place Historic District during the holidays, and knew then that I wanted a historic home," said Webb. "I fell in love with a 100-year-old house once owned by Lawrence Rooney, founder of Manhattan Construction Co."

Webb describes Muskogee as a small city with a big attitude.

"It has so much important Oklahoma history. It's a great place to live and work," she said.

Thanksgiving is a staunch part of that family tradition, one in which the order of events for the day – from appetizers and champagne toasts, cooking together, to the first Christmas movie – have become an





institution in themselves.

"You just don't mess with Thanksgiving," Webb said with a laugh. "You can serve lasagna at Christmas or be creative with a hot dog cookout at Easter, but I've learned people will be mad at you if you vary the traditional Thanksgiving recipes."

A failed spinach and artichoke soufflé and an unpopular deviation from the traditional green bean casserole cemented her belief in the traditional menu.

Because friends of her daughter, Laura, constantly asked for Webb's recipes, she created a YouTube channel, "Gigi's Kitchen," to teach the younger generation the recipes, cooking tips and techniques. Webb produces the episodes with her daughter, often doing the filming and editing herself.

As a talented photographer, Webb believes cooking is an art,




Thanksgiving 2026



too, combining human creativity and the vision to see an end product. She may artistically reverse engineer a dish she tastes at a restaurant, going from the finished dish through the taste profiles that created it. "Gigi's Kitchen" is designed to nurture that creativity in chefs of all ages.

Webb also knows that coming together for a traditional meal is foundational to nurturing ties with family and friends.

"When people talk about magical holidays, we get the image of superficial things like presents and twinkling lights,











and that is part of it," said Webb. "But the core of the magic goes much deeper than that – it comes from the deep human longing for family and connection, intangible things that encourage our souls. It is nurturing the whole, and when one family member starts it, it spreads to others, and eventually influences the whole family and even the community."

Webb advises sticking with the traditional, whatever that means to your family.









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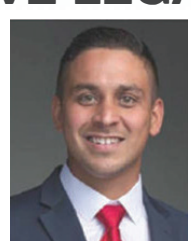
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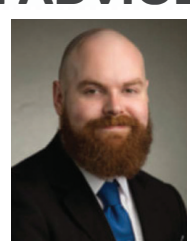
Matthew Price

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord ~ Luke 2:11

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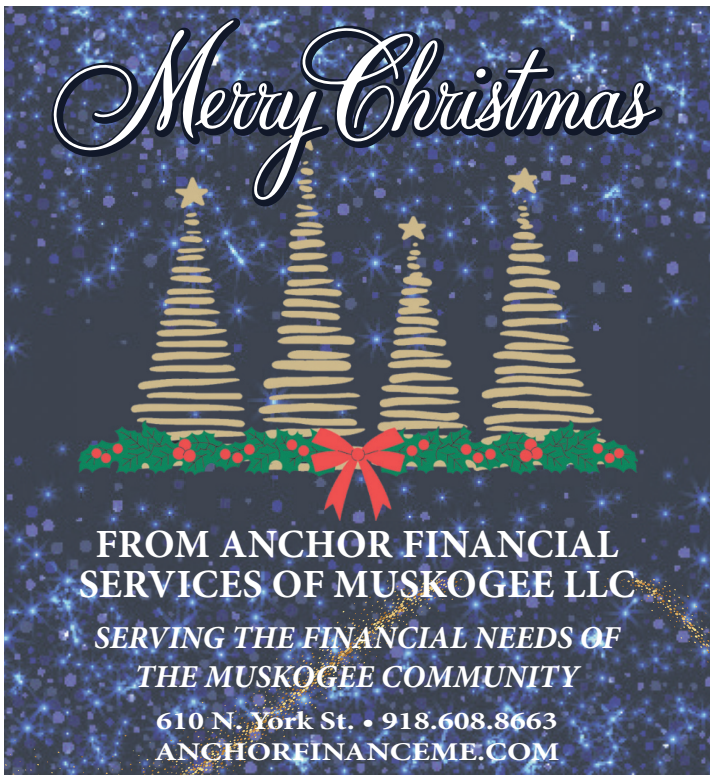
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Catch all of Gigi's recipes on her YouTube channel. Here she shares a few of her holiday traditionals with readers.

Sausage and Herb Dressing



- 12-ounce package of classic dry bread and herbs
- 1/2 pound of pork sausage (can use sage sausage)
- 1 cup chopped onion
- 1 cup chopped celery
- 1/2 stick butter
- 1 cup chicken stock
- 1 to 2 cups dry white wine

Fry sausage in large skillet. Add butter onions celery, sautéing until soft. Place in large bowl. Add bread crumbs. Stir and mix in stock and wine until soft and held together. Place in greased casserole dish and cover with lid or foil. Bake 30 minutes at 375 degrees. Uncover and continue to bake until toasty.

Mexican Black Pepper Cheese Ball



Cream together the following:

- 1/2 brick softened cream cheese
- 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese (I like sharp cheddar)
- 1 teaspoon Mexican/taco seasoning
- 1/4 teaspoon chili flakes
- 1 tablespoon chopped pimentos

Form mixture into a log or ball. Roll in fresh cracked ground black pepper. Serve with your favorite crackers.

Gigi's Best Cranberry Sauce Hack!



- 1 can whole cranberry sauce
- 2 heaping tablespoons orange marmalade
- Dash nutmeg
- Dash cinnamon
- 1 jalapeño, diced small, if desired

Melt ingredients in a medium saucepan on the stove over low heat until combined, about 5 minutes. Remove to serving dish and add diced jalapeño, if using. Refrigerate until chilled and ready to use.

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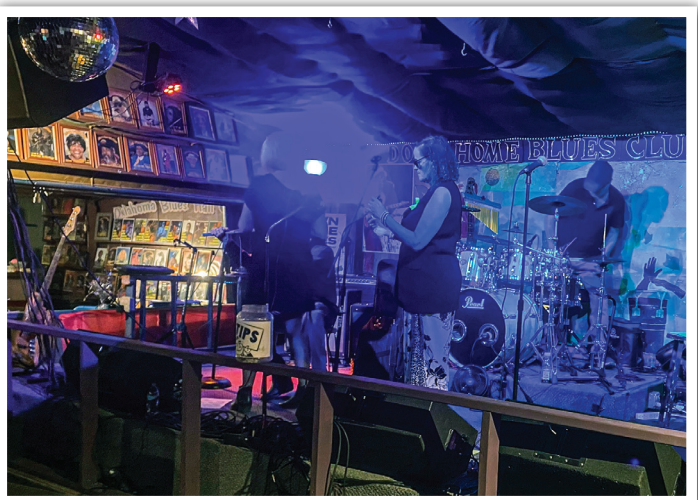






On The Menu

Guide to Area Dining











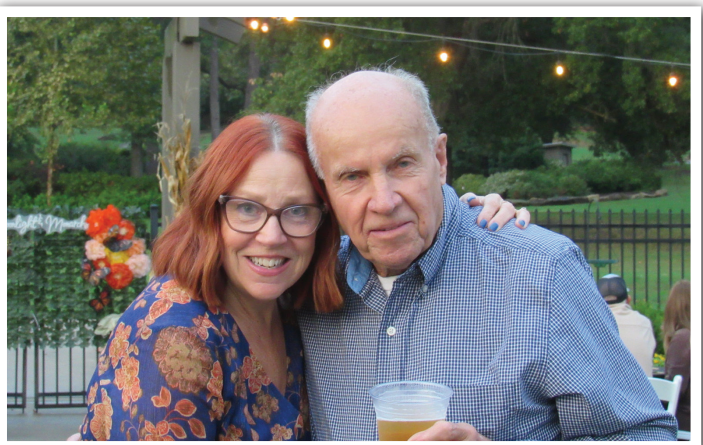
Moonlight and Monarchs

















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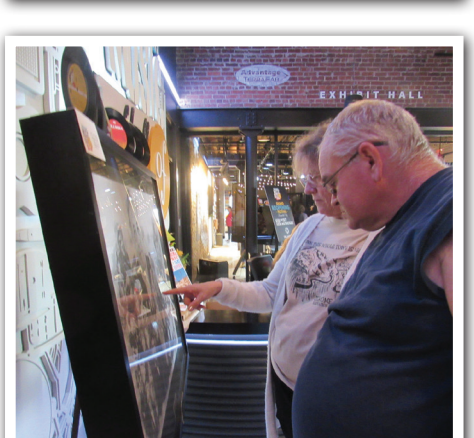





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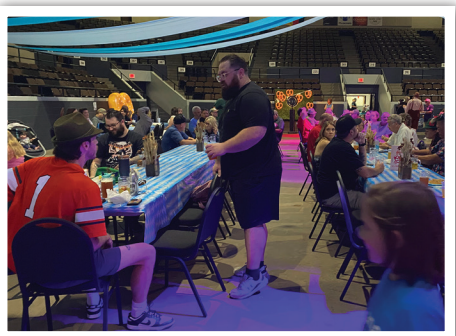



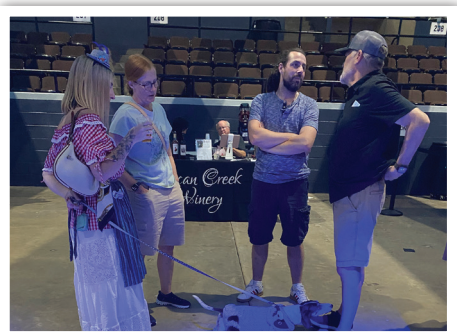







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