December 2017
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A CLAUS FOR DEBATE

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You are invited to join the *Peggy V. Helmerich* Women's Health Center Labor of Love program for access to fun pregnancy perks such as free parenting classes and in-hospital amenities. We will even help you find a health care provider and insurance if you don't currently have a health plan.



To sign up or learn more about the Helmerich Women's Center Labor of Love program, visit LaborofLoveOK.com, call 918.579.8085 or e-mail LaborofLove@Hillcrest.com

Kylee has had brain surgery, so when she learned she was pregnant, her excitement quickly turned to caution. After speaking with her doctor, she learned a c-section would be the safest option for delivery. Although disappointed she couldn't have a natural childbirth, she understood it was for the best. Fortunately, the *Peggy V. Helmerich* Women's Health Center at Hillcrest Medical Center offers gentle c-sections, allowing Kylee and daughter, Gracelynn, to bond immediately after birth. She remembers the moment Gracelynn was laid on her chest; it is a memory she will never forget.

To learn more about Kylee's life-changing experience at the Peggy V. Helmerich Women's Health Center, visit Hillcrest.com.

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tulsakids
December 2017

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www.tulsakids.com

HOLIDAY TRADITIONS

A CLAUS FOR DEBATE

BY CLAIR COMBS









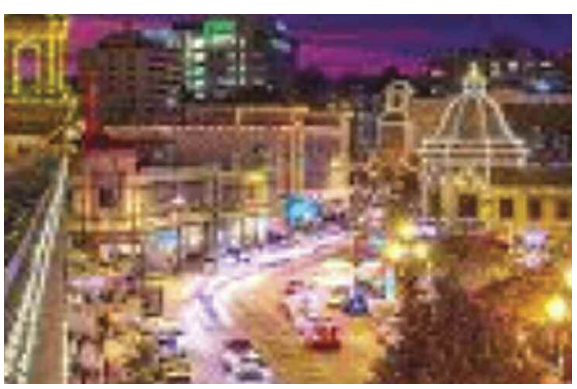
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Warm Wishes!

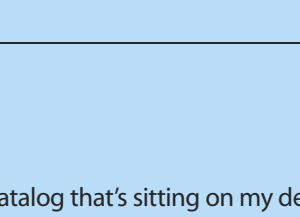
I stole that title from the back of a Lands End catalog that's sitting on my desk because, well, editors are like everybody else – we get a little distracted by the on-coming onslaught of the holidays. I can't think of anything to write about. Warm wishes is a nice thought.

Get this. Last night I was lying awake thinking about whether or not my mom said she would bring pumpkin pie to our Thanksgiving meal, or whether she had just signed on for pecan. And then I fell asleep and had a long dream about an evil number – I think it was 235 – that left me with a bad, bad feeling. So, if any of you therapists care to help me interpret that one, my email is editor@tulsakids.com. It could be a repressed emotion caused by my life-long aversion to numbers. I don't know….I can't wait to see what Christmas stress will unearth.

But, for all of the hubbub around cooking, shopping, cleaning and juggling family, friends and work, it's balanced by hugs from (for me) kids returning home and – yes – warm wishes!

Speaking of which, I think this particular issue of TulsaKids is full of warm wishes – warm drinks, fun toys, family food traditions, even family philosophies about Santa. And, as always, we have compiled pages of holiday films, performances, parades, activities and fun ways to spend time with your family.

So, don't let your warm wishes be co-opted by marketing. I'll re-introduce cynicism into my psyche after the New Year. Until then, sincere, heartfelt warm wishes to you all!



Betty Casey, editor





ON OUR COVER:
BRYNLEE AND EMORY GET READY FOR CHRISTMAS.

PHOTO BY: LESLIE HOYT PHOTOGRAPHY

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If you like to read TulsaKids, you may not know that you can watch us, too! Every Thursday morning on Tulsa's Channel 8, the local ABC affiliate, join Editor Betty Casey on Good Day Tulsa for tips to plan your family's weekend and more. Watch Good Morning Oklahoma on Tuesdays for tips on timely topics and family information you'll want to know.

Good Day Tulsa

RED PANDA AT THE TULSA ZOO



The Lost Kingdom at the Tulsa Zoo has a new resident. Bo, the red panda, is now entertaining visitors at the Lobeck Taylor Family Foundation Red Panda/Binturong Exhibit and Aviary.

Two-year-old Bo is a cold-weather animal, so he will share the exhibit with binturongs, which are hot-weather animals. Bo will be in the exhibit during cold weather months, while the binturongs stay warm in their climate controlled home.

Some interesting facts about red pandas include: they are an endangered species; they use their tails for balance, camouflage and warmth; their tear-drop making and white eyebrows provide camouflage and glare reduction; they are solitary, and spend much of their lives in trees; they have an extended wrist bone that is used like a thumb.



PRIMROSE SCHOOL OPENS IN TULSA

Franchise Owners Kelli and Andrew Miller hosted a grand opening for the Primrose School of South Tulsa in October. The 12,500-square-foot school opened on Oct. 16, 2017, and can serve more than 200 children.

"Andrew and I are thrilled to be coming home to Oklahoma to provide high-quality early education to Tulsa," said Kelli. "Our family knows what a struggle it can be to find premier child care, and we want to give parents the peace of mind that comes from knowing their children are well-cared for and happy."

The Primrose School of South Tulsa has 11 classrooms for children 6 weeks to 6-years-old. It also provides before- and after-school care for children up to age 12. The school has wireless technology throughout, and four age-appropriate playgrounds. It features a garden, a safe room for threatening weather, and a Primrose Schools Safe School Plan to ensure comprehensive safety measures are in place.

The school uses a "balanced learning approach," blending purposeful play with nurturing guidance from teachers to encourage curiosity, creativity, confidence and compassion in children.

Primrose School of South Tulsa is located at 10185 South 85th East Avenue. To inquire about enrollment, please call (918) 364-0021 or visit www.PrimroseSouthTulsa.com.



THE LOOP OFFERS FREE DOWNTOWN RIDES

The Loops is a free downtown trolley service that runs on Friday and Saturday evenings from 5 p.m. to 2 a.m. It connects the BOK Center, OneOK Field, the Blue Dome District, the Tulsa Arts District and the Deco District.

Not only is it free – it's fun! The Loop bus is equipped with a sound system and laser lights. You can keep track of it with your Tulsa Transit Bus Tracker App.

Fun, free fare. What's better than that?

CORRECTION

The caption for November's Green Country Grown-up, Chris Siemens, incorrectly identified her children who were not pictured. Chris and her husband, Brian, were pictured with children Jay, Cameron and Jordan. Two other children, Kyle and Alex, were not pictured. Their foster children were also not pictured.

continued next page

TEACHERS CAN BUY RUSH TICKETS TO SIGNATURE SYMPHONY



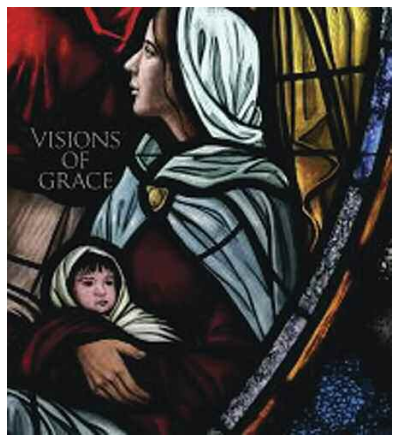
Signature Symphony at Tulsa Community College expands who can buy rush tickets to include teachers and educators. Students and teachers can now buy rush tickets for $5 one-hour prior to show time for any Signature Symphony performance.

"The mission of Signature Symphony focuses on education and it is important for us to recognize the hard work of our area educators. This is one way we can help show our gratitude and appreciation for educating our state," Andrés Franco, Signature Symphony music director, said.

Rush tickets can be purchased at the TCC Southeast Campus VanTrease Performing Arts Center for Education Box Office at 10300 East 81st Street, located on East 81st Street at Highway 169. Teachers, as well as students, must show a valid student or employee ID from any educational institution and can purchase up to two tickets. Rush tickets are best available seats at the time of purchase.

The Signature Symphony at TCC's 2017-2018 "From the Heartland: Tulsa Music Connections" season is a year-long celebration of music with Tulsa ties.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN'S VISIONS OF GRACE



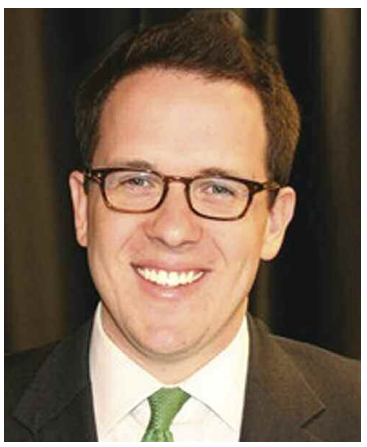
Visions of Grace is a liturgical art book which observes and celebrates the anniversary of First Presbyterian Church in Tulsa, the 5th anniversary of new construction and rennovations, the 25th anniversary of Dr. James (Jim) D. Miller as pastor, and the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation.

Reverend Ryan Moore, co-pastor of First Presbyterian Church, suggested the umbrella theme of the "Ancient Order of Worship" as the organizational framework of the book. "We gather, we hear the word, we celebrate the Eucharist, and we go out to serve." The 96-page hardback publication is the combined effort of volunteers and professionals, including Joan Williams Hoar, project coordinator; Elaine Horkey, contributing writer; Tom Gilbert, photography editor; Mark Brown, editor; Carl Brune, designer; and First Presbyterian Chursh of Tulsa staff embers Lauralee Dick and Carly Rivers.

The book is available to purchase by calling Elaine Horkey at 918.584.4701 or visit Firstchurchtulsa.org



JOHN A. GABERINO



MAYOR G. T. BYNUM

FREEDOM FUND BANQUET TO BENEFIT YOUTH CENTER

The Christian Ministers Alliance, Inc., the NAACP, Tulsa Chapter, and the SCLC are sponsoring the first annual Freedom Fund Banquet to benefit a youth center in north Tulsa. The center will provide programs and activities to work to reduce drug activity, gang violence, poverty, to improve literacy and to prevent teenage pregnancy.

The banquet will be held on Friday, Dec. 8, 2017, at 6:30 p.m. at the Downtown Doubletree Hotel. The keynote speaker will be Attorney John A. Gaberino, Gable Gotwals. Other speakers include Tulsa Mayor G. T. Bynum and State Senator Kevin Matthews. Neile Jones, news anchor for Oklahoma's News Channel 8, will emcee the event. Entertainment will be provided by the Booker T. Washington, Edison, and Union High School choirs.

Single tickets and sponsorships are available. For ticket information, call Rev. W.R. Casey, president, Christian Ministers Alliance, at 918.951.7407.



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BY KILEY ROBERSON

tips for dining with toddlers

A few months ago, my extended family shared a meal at a local Italian restaurant. Before our appetizers had arrived, my then 2-year-old son had spilled a drink, played 12 games of "guess which hand the sugar packet's in," dropped two spoons, and climbed out of his chair three times. As we were leaving, I overheard a couple say, "He's adorable, but I'm glad we're past that stage." As anyone with a 1- or 2-year-old knows, taking a toddler to a restaurant can be tough. It requires patience, planning and usually a glass of pinot.

When you take a toddler out to eat, you're basically including a guest who finds it difficult to sit still, is prone to tantrums and may not like trying new foods. Still, experts say dining out can be a great way to encourage flexibility and, let's face it we can't stay shut in our homes for the first four years of their lives, right?!? If you're ready to brave the restaurant scene with your toddler, try these tips.



Choose the Right Restaurant

You don't have to limit yourself to fast food, but do pick a place that's family friendly. If you go to a restaurant that's too fancy, you're just setting your child up to fail. You'll feel embarrassed and angry if your kid is disruptive, when really it's not his fault. So look for restaurants with a children's menu and high chairs – and maybe most importantly — where they're used to a little (or a lot of) noise.

Never Take a Tired Toddler Out

Talk about a recipe for disaster! When you make your reservation, plan around your child's regular sleep schedule. If she typically naps at 1 p.m., an early dinner is a much better idea than lunch at noon, for example.

Bring Supplies

Finger puppets, sheer scarves for peekaboo, and sorting toys that fit on a high-chair tray are all great for keeping little kids occupied. As for electronic devices like your smartphone, experts say they're not fans of using electronic distractions. If your child is busy watching a screen, he might be missing out on the experience of interacting with people, which is part of what dining out is about.

Pick Your Plate ASAP

If you want time to actually eat your meal before a tantrum sets in, place your order as quickly as possible. You might think it's helpful to order your kid's meal first, but that tactic can backfire in the likely scenario that she finishes eating before your food even arrives – and then she'll need something to occupy her while you eat. A better plan: Order together (don't be shy about asking the waiter to put a rush on it) and offer your kid some favorite snacks you've brought from home, which should keep her satisfied until her meal comes. Another word to the wise: You can usually check a restaurant's menu online ahead of time, which will save precious minutes at the table.

Respect Other Diners

Even if you're at an inexpensive family restaurant, other customers have the right to enjoy a meal in relative peace. If your child is getting restless or agitated, cart him out of the restaurant to settle down. If he still becomes loud and rowdy at the table, apologize to nearby folks as you walk out (you'll be surprised how many will give an empathetic "been there" nod). And don't forget to tip generously if you've left a mess behind.

Be Prepared To Leave

Even the most well-planned meal can turn into a complete dining disaster when an unpredictable toddler is involved. If things get really ugly, you may have only one choice: Take your food to go, put your child to sleep in his crib, and then enjoy your meal at home – preferably by candlelight.



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BY BETTY CASEY

beware of button batteries

During the holidays, flashing decorations and flameless candles are displayed; remote control devices and car key fobs are tossed on tabletops; musical cards line bookshelves, and toys are exchanged. What many of these seemingly harmless items have in common is that they can be lethal to children because they contain coin-sized lithium batteries, or "button batteries."

According to Safe Kids Worldwide, each year more than 2,800 kids are treated in emergency rooms after swallowing button batteries. Button batteries are used in many common devices, and curious children may put them in their mouths, ears or nose.

While many people assume that the biggest risk from swallowing button batteries is choking, that is not the case. The biggest risk is burning, says Beth Washington with Safe Kids Tulsa Area, led by The Children's Hospital at Saint Francis.

"When a button battery is swallowed, the saliva triggers an electrical current," Washington said. "This leads to a chemical reaction that can cause severe damage to kids in as little as two hours. Once burning begins, the results can affect a child for a lifetime."

Washington related the story of a child who ingested a button battery and spent more than



eight months in a pediatric ICU. He has endured more than 30 surgeries, including a partial reconstruction of his esophagus and airway.

Parents should be vigilant in identifying devices powered by button batteries and in keeping them out of reach and sight of children. For items such as a remote control, placing a piece of duct tape over the battery opening can make it more difficult for a child to access. Always keep loose batteries locked away.

If parents or caregivers suspect that a child has swallowed a button battery, the child should be immediately taken to the emergency room, even if the child is not yet showing symptoms. Do not allow the child to eat or drink. Do not try to make him or her vomit.

"We mainly see ingestion [of batteries], and, unfortunately, there may not be any signs at first," Washington said. "Kids can still breathe with the coin lithium battery in their throat. Symptoms of button battery ingestion, such as coughing, drooling and discomfort, may be similar to symptoms of other childhood illnesses. After time, the child may vomit blood."

If you need help, call the National Battery Ingestion Hotline at 202.625.3333.

Symptoms to Look For

A child may not immediately show symptoms, so if you suspect your child has swallowed a button battery, immediately go to the emergency room.

If your child swallows a button battery, he or she may have the following symptoms:

- Fever
- Irritability
- Not wanting to eat or drink
- Throat pain
- Vomiting

If your child puts a button battery in his or her nose or ear, look for the following symptoms:

- Fever
- Irritability
- Fluid drainage coming from ears or nose
- Pain or swelling around the ears or nose

Sometimes there are no symptoms.

Staying Safe

- Look for every battery-powered device in and around your home and where your children stay. Make sure that the battery is secured, only accessible using a tool, such as a screwdriver. If this is not an option, keep electronic devices well out of the sight and reach of children.
- Keep loose batteries out of the sight and reach of children and store them in a locked cabinet or container.
- Watch children carefully while they are using devices that contain batteries.
- Act fast if you suspect your child has placed a battery inside his or her body. Go IMMEDIATELY to the nearest emergency department.
- Share this information with other people, so everyone can stay safe.

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BY NATALIE MIKLES

hot toys for every age

I was in third grade when Cabbage Patch dolls were at the height of popularity. I remember well watching the news and seeing people fighting in the toy aisles, pushing and shoving for the last dolls. A mom from my elementary school bought extra and sold them out of the trunk of her car in the school parking lot. That's where my mom got mine, a brown-haired girl with glasses I named Sally. It would be well over 30 years later that my mom once again came through on the hot toy of Christmas, only this time for her grandchildren. My mom got lucky last year when she went to Kiddlestix to buy a birthday present and saw the Hatchimals on a display table. She had never heard of them, but the woman behind the desk told her there were only five left in the store. Lucky for my mom, she has five grandchildren.

The hot toys for the holidays this year are lots of fun, with wheels and gears, magnets and music. You can't go wrong wrapping any of these toys and tucking them under your tree.

Babies and Toddlers

Spinagain – Stack and sort and watch them spin. Then lift the corkscrew, let the disks spin and start over. Babies are mesmerized by the spinning action. $29.99 at Learning Express.

Smart Max My First Safari Animals – Easily click-together, extra-large, magnetic pieces to create safari animals. Helps young kids discover the magic of magnetism. $21.99 at Kiddlestix

Funtime Tractor – Gather your animals in the back of the farm tractor. Includes five animals that make sounds. Tractor moves on its own, plays a melody and makes engine and horn sounds. $29.99 at Learning Express

Preschool

Coco Interactive Guitar – Recreate music from the movie "Coco," with this interactive guitar with functioning strings and lights. It also comes with sheet music. $24.99 at Toys R Us

Star Diner Kitchen Set – A play kitchen with a dining set so kids can cook and then serve the play food to their guests in the built-in booth. $199.99 at Kiddlestix

Plasma Car – A fun ride-on toy for hours of fun. Hold the steering wheel and wiggle to get it going. This durable little car will last for years. $49.99 at Learning Express

Boogie Board Play N Trace – Trace pictures, words or 3D objects with the see-through writing surface. Artist's palette shape







is comfortable for little hands. Watch as the screen magically erases with the push of a button. $34.99 at Learning Express

Elementary

Laser X – This two-player laser tag set can be played indoors or outdoors, day or night. Includes two laser blasters and two receiver vests. $49.99 at Learning Express

Lux Blox – These versatile construction blocks easily interlock for kids to create anything they can imagine, including things that move. The perfect STEM-stimulating toy. Ages 6 – adult. Toy Depot.

Fingerlings – This little pet can sit on kids' fingers and go everywhere. Fingerlings respond to noise, motion and touch. Gigi the Unicorn is the newest member of the Fingerling family. $14.99 at Toys R Us

Ultraglow Air Power Soccer Disc – A cross between a soccer ball and air hockey. This disc floats on a cushion of air, hovering right above any smooth surface. Finally, you can let the kids play soccer in the house. $19.99 at Kiddlestix

Squishables – These big food-shaped pillows are fun for all ages. Toast, donut, taco, sushi,

continued next page

















avocado and many more. Fun to collect and to pile on a bed. Also available in small backpack clips called Squishies. Big pillows range from $35 to $45 at Kiddlestix.

Pre-Teen

Sing Along Pro Karaoke Microphone – This Bluetooth microphone with built-in speaker will sync to your phone or iPad and is compatible with any karaoke app or YouTube. $39.99 at Learning Express

Lego Boost – Build, code and play with this interactive Lego set. Kids can build robots and then code what they would like them to do. The next level for Lego fans. $159.99 at Kiddlestix

Jellyfish Lamp – These jellyfish look so realistic in their tank with LED lights that change colors. Great as a nightlight. $24.99 or $99.99 at Learning Express

Sky Viper GPS Streaming Video Drone – The search for the ultimate drone ends here. Young drone pilots can have an immersive flight experience with this set that includes an adjustable wide-angle camera lens perfect for video streaming. Also includes a "return to home" button that summons the drone back to its launch point with the push of a button. $149.99 at Toys R Us

Scooter – This smooth-riding, durable scooter is perfect for elementary-age kids through teens, whether they're gliding down the sidewalk or doing tricks at the skate park. $79 and up, find locally owned Decked Out Scooters at www.deckedoutscooters.com.

Toy Safety Tips from Safe Kids (www.safekids.org)

Find the Perfect Toy for the Right Age

1. Consider your child's age and development when purchasing a toy or game. Read the instructions and warning labels to make sure it's just right for your child.

2. Before you've settled on the perfect toy, check to make sure there aren't any small parts or other potential choking hazards.

Don't Forget a Helmet for Riding Toys

1. If your children have their hearts set on a new bike, skateboard, scooter or other riding equipment, be sure to include a CPSC certified helmet to keep them safe while they're having fun.

2. Learn more bike safety tips and watch our helmet safety video.

Store Toys After Play

1. After play time is over, use a bin or container to store toys for next time. Make sure there are no holes or hinges that could catch little fingers.

Sign Up to Receive Product Recalls

1. Safe Kids compiles product recalls specific to children and sends twice-monthly e-mail alerts for recent recalls. Sign-up for the latest recall information.

2. Go to www.recalls.gov for additional information about product recalls related to kids.

Local toy-store owners have carefully chosen products, and staff that can answer questions about the toys. Look for the hot holiday toys in these Tulsa favorite toy shops.

Kiddlestix:
3815 S. Harvard Ave.

Learning Express:
108th Street and
South Memorial Drive

Tulsa Toy Depot:
10114 S. Sheridan Road

BY NANCY A. MOORE

Taylor King's season of giving

Clean water is something that people living in the U.S. are accustomed to, but for others around the world, it can be a scarce commodity. Taylor King was only 17 years old when she learned that children in rural areas of Ethiopia didn't have easy access to clean drinking water. This fact, coupled with her desire to help others, led her to spearhead a project to raise money that would help provide water filtration systems to schools in Ethiopia. As a result, over 4,000 children have benefitted. And, most recently, the foundation's focus on giving back has expanded to include a local partnership with New Hope Oklahoma.



ETHIOPIAN WATER PROJECT.

TK: Tell us about you.

Taylor: I was born and raised in Tulsa. I went to Edison Middle School and Bishop Kelley High School. Both my older brother, Brody, and my younger brother, Jaxson, attended Bishop Kelley as well. I am currently a sophomore at the University of Michigan – Ann Arbor where I am studying political science. In a few months, I will be moving to Washington D.C. to conduct research on our criminal justice system and to work a full-time internship through a program at my university called Michigan in Washington.

TK: How did Children's Prosperity Project begin?

Taylor: My foundation started my junior year of high school when I needed to organize a capstone project. I began with the desire to bring clean water to rural areas of Ethiopia. Eventually, my idea was refined to bringing water filtration systems to schools in Aserado Mero, Ethiopia. We raised so much money that I decided to make an actual non-profit out of my project, and now we install filters in Ethiopian schools, and provide notebook computers to Oklahoma children of incarcerated parents upon the students' graduation from high school.

TK: How did the name of the foundation originate?

Taylor: I wish there was a funny or interesting story for the origin of the name, but it really just came up during a brainstorming session in the car with my parents. I knew I wanted something about helping children, but I also wanted something that wasn't too much of a mouthful to say.

TK: Who does the Children's Prosperity Project help?

Taylor: Children's Prosperity Project helps students at schools in Ethiopia and the children of incarcerated parents right here in Oklahoma (with our partnership with New Hope Oklahoma).

TK: What levels of assistance does the foundation offer to children in need?

Taylor: In Ethiopia, we install water filtration systems in schools which serve to further incentivize education in those areas because there are few places with easily accessible, clean water. Additionally, I partnered with my cousin, Shay, for her Bat Mitzvah service project. We raised money to put bookshelves and books in a few schools of Shay's choosing in Ethiopia. In Oklahoma, we work with New Hope Oklahoma by giving notebook computers to high-school graduates of parents in prison.

TK: To date, how many children have you been able to help?

Taylor: We have helped well over 4,000 students around the world so far!

TK: How can someone who is interested in helping your organization become involved?

Taylor: Right now, most of our work is done at a distance or through partnerships with other organizations. If one wishes to volunteer at an event, they can email us at childrensprosperityproject@gmail.com. If they want to donate, they can make a tax-deductible donation on our website. All donations go straight to our projects to benefit students.

continued next page



LAPTOP PRESENTATION.

TK: Can you share a success story from the foundation?

Taylor: I have seen a number of students from New Hope go on to college or to careers beyond high school who have used their computers to help further their goals! Additionally, some of my family went to Ethiopia this year and reported to me that the filtration systems are still working in wonderful condition at the schools.

TK: How are people able to find out about your organization?

Taylor: People can find us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/ChildrensProsperityProject or on our website: www.childrensprosperityproject.org.



"Jim here added 200 more twist ties, and made the plastic thicker. It will take the parent one hour to open the gift. He is a shining example of what this company is all about."

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-Corey McCormick
Parent, Class of 2023 and 2026

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HOLIDAY TRADITIONS

A CLAUS FOR DEBATE

BY CLAIR COMBS

Reader advisory: This piece is about Santa Claus traditions. It includes a variety of grown-up perspectives about Santa. Please take that under advisement if you are reading with or around children.

Santa is a magical mainstay for many Americans who celebrate Christmas, but some families have chosen to avoid that particular seasonal tradition. So why do some parents prefer "ho, ho, ho" while others prefer to say "no"?

In our case, including Santa in our family's Christmas celebrations felt less like a conscious parenting choice and more like a natural continuation of the traditions we loved as children. Sarah Vespasian is a mom of two who says that Santa also plays a big role in her childhood memories, so she was happy to pass that tradition on to her sons.

"Growing up, we were super into Santa at our house," says Sarah. She has warm memories of waking up on Christmas morning to unwrapped gifts from Santa under the tree. It was a tradition her late mother took delight in, and now Sarah is embracing the opportunity to give her boys similar Santa memories of their own.

But her kids aren't the only ones who enjoy the experience. Sarah and her husband, Grant, also look forward to the big reveal. "Because our Santa gifts aren't wrapped, you get that immediate reaction [from the kids]," says Sarah. "It's so fun."

Tulsa mom Heather Johnson grew up with Santa traditions in her home, too, but in third grade, when she discovered the same special wrapping paper that was reserved for Santa's gifts in her parents' bedroom, she remembers understanding very clearly what that meant.



THE VESPASIAN FAMILY.



THE JOHNSON FAMILY.

"It honestly kind of crushed me," says Heather. "I would secretly feel sad [on subsequent Christmases] because it wasn't as magical."

Still, because it was such a familiar tradition, she always assumed that when she became a parent she would introduce her kids to Santa. However, her daughters' father grew up in a home that did not participate in Santa traditions. When they talked about it, he told Heather that he was not interested in telling their kids about Santa because he saw it as dishonest.

"The more I thought about [the wrapping paper experience] and how it affected me, [the more] I agreed with him." Heather says she still fills stockings and leaves unwrapped gifts under the tree, but she has always been clear with her children that she is the one leaving these presents.

>



THE BICKERS FAMILY.

Tim and Karen Bickers have four young children, and the couple has also chosen to abstain from Santa gifts. The Bickers are practicing Christians who say that celebrating the Christmas holiday is important to their family, but that Santa traditions can feel problematic.

Karen is a Tulsa-based nurse and Tim works with an organization that provides humanitarian assistance in Zimbabwe. He travels to Africa every few months and Karen and their son, Timmy, have recently accompanied him. Karen explains that the family's connection to Zimbabwe and their first-hand insight into the poverty that many children there face helped inform the position they take on Santa in their own home.

"Many of our close friends who live [in Zimbabwe] feel like family," says Karen. "How could we explain to our kids why Santa bought them gifts and didn't bring gifts to their African friends?"

Whether or not Santa is a part of your family's holiday celebration, at some point most kids will find themselves navigating an environment where some children believe while others do not.

"We use [that situation as an] opportunity to teach a life lesson of kindness, being gracious, and humility," says Karen. "It is never our job to tell people what to believe or to prove other people wrong. We also tell our kids that it is the responsibility of each child's parents to tell them about Santa, not theirs. So if someone asks them what they got from Santa, they can just smile and tell them what their parents or family has given them."

Heather says she explained to her children that different families celebrate Christmas in different ways. "I wanted it to be like our family secret, so they wouldn't ruin it for anybody else," she says.

Dr. Johna Smasal is a clinical psychologist and mother of two elementary-aged kids. Johna and her husband, Dave, have welcomed Santa traditions into their home, but say they are careful to approach skepticism in a way that encourages critical thinking.

"Dave and I have walked the line a bit with our kids," says Johna. "We've never insisted on the existence of mythical creatures, but we do practice Santa, the Tooth Fairy, and the Easter Bunny."

It's normal for kids to ask practical questions about Santa, like how he can visit so many children in one night, or why he seems to be all over Tulsa in the weeks leading up to Christmas. Some parents help their kids imagine magical solutions to these practical concerns, while others prefer to answer directly or ask follow-up questions.

Johna says that when her kids have expressed concerns about real-world logistics, she will put the questions back to them with responses like, 'How do you think there's a Santa at Philbrook and also at the mall on the same day?'

"We have the Elf on the Shelf," says Sarah Vespasian. "...which is a giant regret for me," she adds with a smile. "He moves from spot to spot in the house, and he goes back to Santa every night to tell him if you've been naughty or nice. So we akin the role of multiple Santas [around town] to the Elf on the Shelf."

I distinctly remember a moment last December when my husband and I were huddled at the kitchen table trying to decipher one scribbled line on our son's letter to Santa. It was slotted neatly in between the other lines of deliberate and entirely legible print. Finally, we gave up and called him over.



THE SMASAL FAMILY. PHOTO CREDIT: TPDPHOTO.COM

"Hey buddy," I said. "I think you might want to re-write this. See this part here? It's hard to read, and we wouldn't Santa to misunderstand."

"Santa is magic, so he will know," our then 7-year-old son replied sagely, almost as if he had been expecting the question. "Santa will know." Then he turned and walked away.

And that is how Santa was tested in our house. No fanfare, no tears. Just scribbles.

Sarah also has a clear memory of how she came to understand her parents' role in her own magical holiday experiences."It was raining, and the Easter Bunny left us a note that said the eggs were inside. I noticed the note was in my mom's handwriting." The Easter Bunny revelation led Sarah to question the existence of Santa.

On that December day at our kitchen table, I remember feeling a twinge of sadness, but some part of me knew that this was exactly how this was supposed to go. My husband and I want to raise critical thinkers, and here was an example of that in action. Our son had developed a hypothesis and devised his own kind of experiment to test it.

"Finding a balance between teaching children to be scientific thinkers while maintaining the enchantment and magic of childhood is very difficult," says Johna. But, she says, there are benefits to navigating those difficulties. "Holiday traditions that incorporate cultural myths build precious memories that strengthen relationships and bring family members of all ages together."

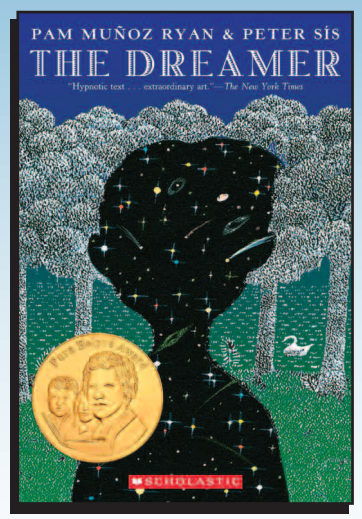
In the end, it's important for each family to cultivate an approach that works for them based on their shared values and worldview. This Christmas, we'll be talking to our kids about gratitude, generosity, and privilege -- and I will also be reminding them that that it never hurts to "be good for goodness sake."

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Mr. Henry's Books is a program of the Tulsa City-County Library, sponsored by the Tulsa Library Trust, made possible by a grant from the Anne and Henry Zarrow Foundation.

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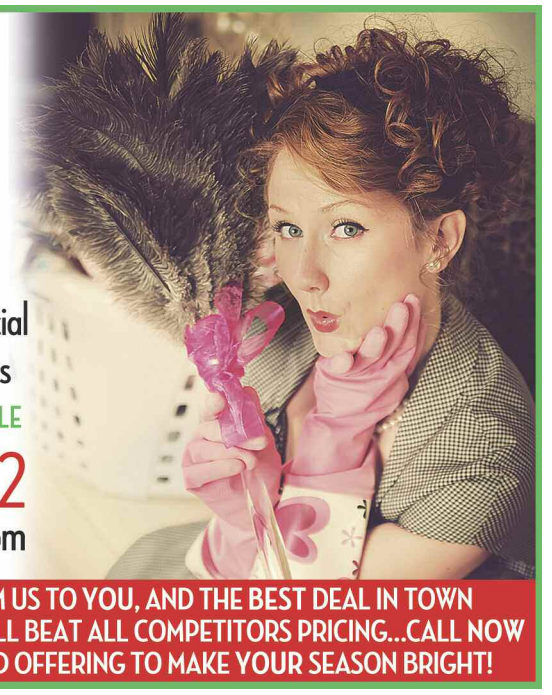
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Discovery Lab

Give the gift of discovery this holiday with a year-long membership to Discovery Lab! At Discovery Lab, families enjoy meaningful, hands-on play through exhibits, The WorkShop, and, of course, the iconic tape tunnels and slide. The museum offers an environment where education and fun meet with ever-changing experiences designed to encourage process skill development and support STEAM curricula. **560 N. Maybelle Ave.; 918.295.8144; www.tulsachildrensmuseum.org; www.facebook.com/DiscoveryLabTulsa; www.instagram.com/discoverylab**

Kringle's Christmas Land

Take a ride on the Kringle Express at Kringle's Christmas Land, a one-of-a-kind, ride-through experience. You and your children will feel as if you've entered a life-size Christmas storybook, narrated by Mr. And Mrs. Kringle. The unique animated characters were made in the USA between the 1940s and 1990s – you'll visit a Vintage Christmas Town, Candy Cane Lane, Santa's House, Toy Shop, Reindeer Barn, Nativity Scene and more. Up to 12 people can ride together. **Nov. 24 – Dec. 31, Tues. – Sun., closed Christmas Day. Tickets $10; Lower Level, Promenade Mall, 41st & Yale; www.KringlesChristmasLand.com**

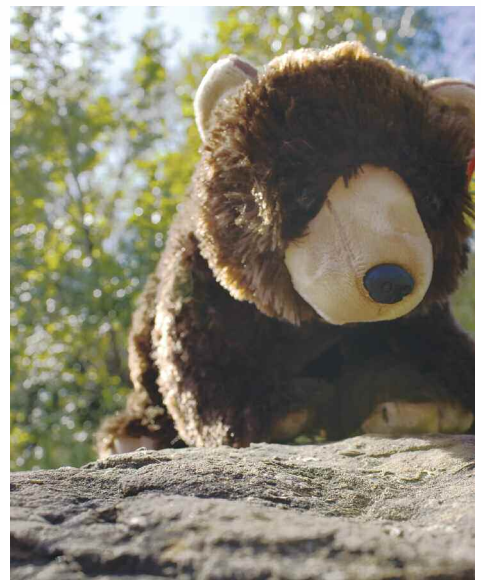
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Local author/illustrators Arigon Starr (pictured) and Melanie Gillman will be signing books at Impulse Creations on Saturday, Dec. 2.

Friday December 1

MOMMY & ME YOGA [FREE]
Enjoy a yoga session especially for moms and their little ones, courtesy of Sky Fitness & Wellbeing. For toddlers and preschoolers and their moms. Broken Arrow Library, 300 W. Broadway Ave., 10:30-11 a.m. www.tulsalibrary.org

FIRST FRIDAY ART CRAWL [FREE]
First Friday Families can find many options from kid-friendly gallery shows to live music in the park. Brady Arts District, 6-9 p.m. www.thebradyartsdistrict.com

Saturday December 2

HAND SEWING FOR TEENS [FREE]
Learn how to hand-sew small pieces of fabric together to create a classic daisy quilt pattern piece. Seating is limited. Call 918.549.7323 to reserve a seat. For ages 10-18. Zarrow Regional Library, 2224 W. 51st St., 2-3:30 p.m. www.tulsalibrary.org

BOOK SIGNING WITH ARIGON STARR & MELANIE GILLMAN [FREE]
Don't miss this opportunity to meet two amazing local artists/Tulsa Artist Fellows! Starr and Gillman, who both write graphic novels and other works, will be on hand to sign copies of their books (with books available to purchase as well). These award-winning creators have amazing stories to tell with a variety of work to appeal to a wide audience, and you won't want to miss this chance to meet them both! Impulse Creations, 8228 E. 61st St., Ste. 121, 2-4 p.m. www.facebook.com/tulsaartists

RIVERFIELD ROCKS! AT CAIN'S BALLROOM
Riverfield Rocks is a rock music program that includes 13 bands, music theory, rock history, and songwriting and composition classes. Hear the talented young musicians who are part of this program perform on the Cain's Ballroom Stage! All proceeds go to benefit the Riverfield Rocks program. Cain's Ballroom, 423 N. Main St., 6 p.m. www.riverfield.org

Sunday December 3

SUNDAY DRAWS AT GILCREASE
Sunday Draws is for anyone who wants to learn to draw or to learn to draw better and have fun doing it. A teaching artists will guide participants using various drawing techniques, and different drawing tools and materials. This program is for adults and children age 8 and up. All supplies are provided, including drawing journals to keep. Gilcrease Museum, 1400 N. Gilcrease Museum Rd., 1-2:30 p.m. www.gilcrease.org

Monday December 4

DON'T STOP THE MUSIC [FREE]
Join the Hardesty Library staff for a fun children's program all about music and movement. Shake, shimmy and dance your twinkle toes to the bebop boogie with Ms. Julia and Ms. Maureen. For

preschoolers and toddlers. Hardesty Library, 8316 E. 93rd St., 11-11:35 a.m. www.tulsalibrary.org

STENCIL SCREEN PRINTING [FREE]
Head to the Central Library for an instructional demonstration of how to screen print using stencils. Afterward, you then can make appointments to use the equipment for your own prints. Seating is limited. Register online at www.tulsalibrary.org/events or call 918-549-7323. For adults and teens. Central Library, 400 Civic Center, 6-7 p.m. www.tulsalibrary.org

Tuesday December 5

HOUR OF CODE: TEENS AT YOUR LIBRARY [FREE]
Bring you pad or laptop and go to the Helmerich Library for an hour of coding, plus learn about littleBits. Helmerich Library, 5131 E. 91st St., 5:15-7 p.m. www.tulsalibrary.org

Wednesday December 6

Tulsa City-County Libraries host a variety of storytimes throughout the week. Go to www.tulsakids.com/storytimes for a complete list.

Thursday December 7

MUSEUM BABIES
Museum Babies is designed to nurture the needs of both parent and infant/toddler. Parents will enjoy a casual experience in the galleries, learning about the art of Gilcrease Museum, then it's "baby time" with activities to stimulate the five senses and refreshments. Gilcrease Museum, 1400 N. Gilcrease Museum Rd., 10:30-11:30 a.m. www.gilcrease.org

CAR SEAT SAFETY CHECK [FREE]
Make sure your child's car seat is installed correctly at this free safety check. Broken Arrow Fire Department Station 6, 3151 N. 9th St., Broken Arrow, 1-3 p.m. www.safekidstulsa.com

FIND THE SCIENTIST AT TULSA CHILDREN'S MUSEUM
Grab an activity sheet and mark where you find the famous scientists hidden around Discovery Lab. This game is a favorite of museum staff! Tulsa Children's Museum, 560 N. Maybelle Ave., 4-5 p.m. www.tulsachildrensmuseum.org

Friday December 8

CRAYONS IMPROV COMEDY SHOW
Crayons Improv uses audience suggestions, participation and drawings to create unique one of a kind scenes that are hilarious and for all ages. Crayons is committed to wholesome G rated material and is a great night out for the whole family. Only $5. Ages 5 and under are free. Woodlake Youth Center, 3229 S. 73rd E. Ave., 7-8:30 p.m. www.crayonsimprov.com

Saturday December 9

2ND SATURDAY TOUR: DECO IN DECEMBER
Tulsa boasts one of the nation's best collections of gorgeous Art Deco architecture. Join the Tulsa Foundation for Architecture on their monthly downtown walking tour to learn what all the fuss is about! Tulsa Foundation for Architecture, 633 S. Boston Ave., 10 a.m.-12 p.m. www.tulsaarchitecture.org

SECOND SATURDAY AT PHILBROOK [FREE]
Bring out the inner artist in each member of the family and experience Philbrook in a whole new way! Visit on the second Saturday of each month for free family-friendly art activities, tours and scavenger hunts for kids of all ages. Philbrook Museum, 2727 S. Rockford Rd., 10 a.m. www.philbrook.org

NARNIA WINTER WONDERLAND PARTY [FREE]
Step through the wardrobe for a Narnia celebration. Enjoy crafts, tea and light refreshments. Sorry, Mr. Tumnus, no sardines on toast! Costumes are welcome. For all ages. Zarrow Regional Library, 2224 W. 51st St., 2-3:30 p.m. www.tulsalibrary.org

Sunday December 10

SENSORY-FRIENDLY FAMILY FUN TIME
Every month, on the 2nd Sunday, the Tulsa Children's Museum will host a Sensory-Friendly Family Day event. This event will be geared toward families with children on the autism spectrum and those who have sensory processing disorders. Discovery Lab will open two hours early for our families to explore. Once the doors open to the public, you are free to stay and explore the rest of the museum. Tulsa Children's Museum, 560 N. Maybelle Ave., 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. www.tulsachildrensmuseum.org

Monday December 11

STEAM WORKSHOP [FREE]
Homeschoolers, this program is for you! Enjoy STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, mathematics) activities for ages 5-12. Class size is limited. Register online atwww.tulsalibrary.org/events or call 918-549-7323. Central Library, 400 Civic Center, 2-3 p.m. www.tulsalibrary.org

Tuesday December 12

BASIC INTRODUCTION TO FACEBOOK AND SOCIAL MEDIA: WHAT NOT TO DO ON FACEBOOK DURING THE HOLIDAYS [FREE]
This class is a basic introduction to Facebook and social media generally, with a focus on proper online etiquette and common pitfalls to avoid during the holidays. For adults and teens. Martin Regional Library, 2601 S. Garnett Rd., 7-8 p.m. www.tulsalibrary.org

Wednesday December 13

GAMER LAB [FREE]
Gamers get the computer lab all to themselves for two hours, without the hassle and distraction of other customers. For teens. Martin Regional Library, 2601 S. Garnett Rd., 3-5 p.m. www.tulsalibrary.org

BATH BOMBS [FREE]
Create your own bath bomb. Supplies are limited. Registration is required. Call 918-549-7323 to register. For sixth- through 12th-graders. Bixby Library, 20 E. Breckenridge, 4-5 p.m. www.tulsalibrary.org

Thursday December 14

HANDS ON! [FREE]
Busy hands, busy brain! Preschoolers learn through hands-on activities. We will explore, experiment and create. Be ready to get messy! Central Library, 400 Civic Center, 10:30-11 a.m. www.tulsalibrary.org

TARC KIDS CONNECTIONS [FREE]
This social skills group his designed for children, grades K-5th grade, on the autism spectrum. Kids Connections meets on the second Thursday of each at the TARC office in Tulsa, 2516 E. 71st St., Suite A, 4:30-5:30 p.m. www.ddadvocacy.net

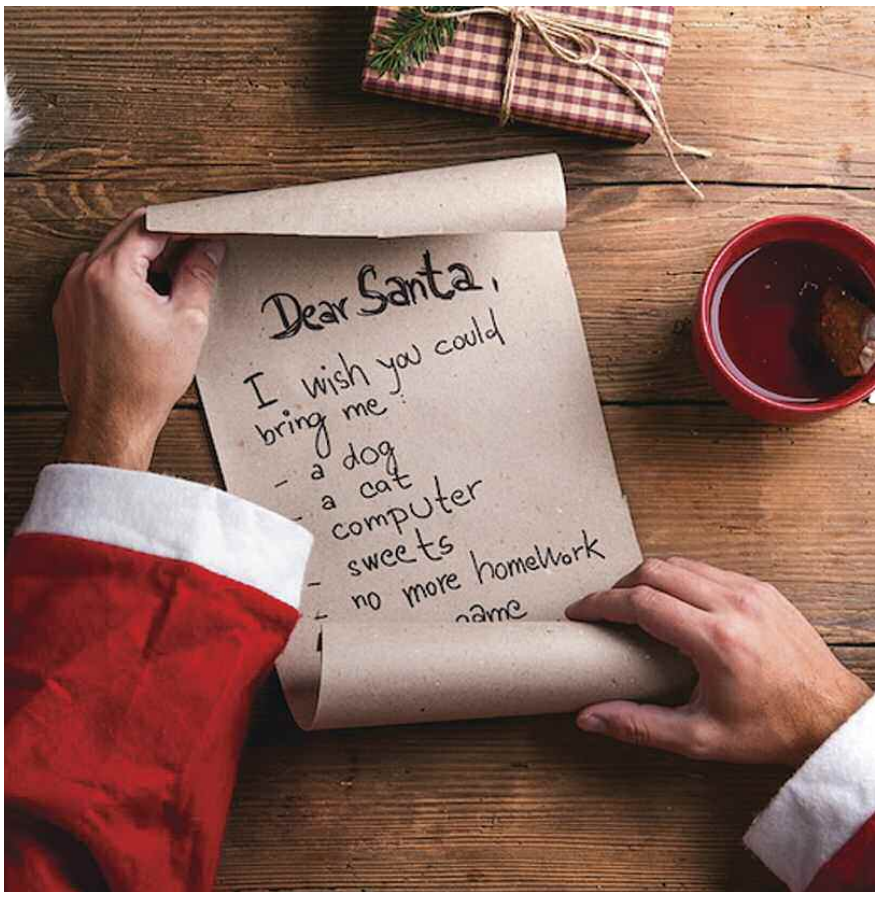
Friday December 15

TULSA OILERS AT THE BOK CENTER
The Tulsa Oilers are playing Colorado! Come watch this exciting game of hockey at the BOK Center, 200 S. Denver Ave. 7 p.m. tulsaoilers.com

Saturday December 16

READ OR DIE ANIME CLUB [FREE]
Hang out with us as we watch anime, talk manga (and other stuff) and eat snacks. Come in cosplay or as you are! For ages 12-18. Broken Arrow Library, 300 W. Broadway Ave., 12-2 p.m. www.tulsalibrary.org

SPECIAL MO WILLEMS PROGRAM! [FREE]
Love Mo Willems? So do we! Join us for fun stories, activities and even a photo booth. Enjoy the adventures of Piggie, Elephant, Pigeon and other familiar characters. For all ages. Maxwell Park Library, 1313 N. Canton, 3-4:30 p.m. www.tulsalibrary.org



Sunday December 17

FUNDAY SUNDAY AT GILCREASE [FREE]
Funday Sunday is an afternoon of museum fun for the whole family. Visitors can enjoy various art-making stations in the museum, each offering different materials and themes as well as teaching artists to help guide and inspire. Activities are from 12:00 - 4:00 p.m. The museum is open and free from 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Plus, this Funday Sunday features a visit from Santa Claus! Gilcrease Museum, 1400 N. Gilcrease Museum Rd., 10 a.m.-5 p.m. www.gilcrease.org

Monday December 18

LEGO BUILD [FREE]
Get hands-on experience with engineering principles as you design and build with LEGOs. For ages 5-18. Broken Arrow Library/South, 3600 S. Chestnut Ave., 10:30-11:30 a.m. www.tulsalibrary.org

Tuesday December 19

BIXBY TEEN MANGA/ANIME CLUB [FREE]
Discuss your favorite manga characters and books while making a craft. For sixth- through 12th-graders. Bixby Library, 20 E. Breckenridge, 5-6 p.m. www.tulsalibrary.org

JAZZ NIGHT FEATURING DEVRE JACKSON AND THE MIKE LELAND TRIO
Visit Gilcrease Museum and hear local legends perform America's Music. Live Jazz will take place in the Vista Room from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., with museum galleries remaining open until 8:00 p.m. Free for museum members, $8 for not-yet members. A buffet dinner is available for an additional $8. Gilcrease Museum, 1400 N. Gilcrease Museum Rd., 5:30-7:30 p.m. www.gilcrease.org

Wednesday December 20

BOOKS PEOPLE ARE TALKING ABOUT [FREE]
Join us for our monthly book discussion and holiday party. No one writes eccentric and charming characters better than the British ... and Fannie Flagg! For adults. Helmerich Library, 5131 E. 91st St., 12:15-1:15 p.m. www.tulsalibrary.org

Thursday December 21

CODING FOR TEENS [FREE]
Learning to code can be intimidating. Join us as we learn to code using JavaScript and HTML. Class size is limited. Registration is required. Register online at www.tulsalibrary.org/events or call 918-549-7323. Central Library, 400 Civic Center, 1-2 p.m. www.tulsalibrary.org

Friday December 22

See our Holiday Events pages for additional activities.

Saturday December 23

FAMILY STUDIO SATURDAYS
Each month, Family Studio Saturdays explores one big idea through art, making art in the studios and exploring in the galleries. Both studio and gallery activities are specially designed to engage families with children in creative thinking, idea exploration, and collaboration. Included with Museum admission. Philbrook Museum of Art, 2727 S. Rockford Rd., 12:30-3:30 p.m. www.philbrook.org

Sunday December 24

See our Holiday Events pages for additional activities.

Monday December 25

Merry Christmas!

Tuesday December 26

See sidebars for additional and ongoing activities.

Wednesday December 27

HOLIDAY BREAK: LETTERBOXING @ YOUR LIBRARY [FREE]
Join us for adventure! Class size is limited to 12 on a first-come-first-serve basis. Register in advance to reserve a seat. For teens. Helmerich Library, 5131 E. 91st St., 2-4 p.m. www.tulsalibrary.org

TARC TEEN "CONNECTIONS" GROUP [FREE]
This a social skills group for middle and high school students with Asperger's and high functioning autism. The Teen "Connections" group meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month at the TARC office in Tulsa, 2516 E. 71st St., Suite A, 4:30-6 p.m. www.ddadvocacy.net

Thursday December 28

FREE CPR TRAINING [FREE]
This FREE American Heart Association course is perfect for any tween or adolescent willing to learn how to save a life! This course teaches the lifesaving skills of adult HandsOnly® CPR, child CPR with breaths, adult and child Automated External Defibrillator (AED) use, infant CPR and relief of choking in an adult, child or infant. Preregistration is encouraged. Register online or call 918-551-7300. Osteopathic Founders Foundation, 8801 S. Yale Ave.; two classes, 9-11 a.m. and 1-3 p.m. www.osteopathicfounders.org

Friday December 29

LADIES NIGHT STAR WARS PARTY [FREE]
You don't have to go to a galaxy far, far away to enjoy this all-ages ladies night at Gardner's Used Books & Music! Guests will get buy-one-get-one-free on all used merchandise, free snacks, door prizes and the opportunity to participate in a costume contest! Gardner's Used Books & Music, 4421 S. Mingo Rd., 8-11 p.m. www.gardnersbooks.com

Saturday Decemer 30

TULSA OILERS VS. KANSAS CITY
Come see the Tulsa Oilers play Kansas City at the BOK Center! 200 S. Denver Ave., 7 p.m. www.tulsaoilers.com

Sunday December 31

Happy New Year! See our sidebar for special New Year's Eve events.



FESTIVAL

Celebrate the holiday season with Philbrook!

Nov.17–Dec.31, 2017

Day, night, any time. The Museum comes alive with festive holiday events, décor, and thousands of lights reflecting the spirit of the season. Gather the whole family for unforgettable experiences.

Enjoy the most beautiful place in Oklahoma during the most wonderful time of the year.

philbrook.org/festival

#philbrook #festival

On select nights, experience the glowing gardens from the Terrace to the Tempietto with tens of thousands of lights. Enjoy concessions (hot cocoa, cash bar), live music, and more.

(Members & kids always free!)

On the following nights, the garden lights glow until just before Museum closes at 9 p.m.

NOVEMBER 2017

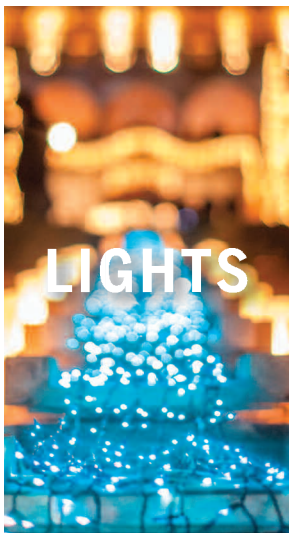
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DECEMBER 2017

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(24)	25	26	27	28	(29)
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FESTIVAL

FESTIVAL NIGHTS

Free for Members and Youth under 17, $9 Adults.

Friday 11/17
Drawing Rally Night One (Main)
VIP Experience available*

Friday 11/24
Movie Night: *The Nightmare Before Christmas**

Saturday 11/25
Festival Night

Friday 12/1
Drawing Rally Night Two (Philbrook Downtown)

Friday 12/8
Holiday House Party

Friday 12/15
Limo Light Night*†

Friday 12/22
Movie Night: *Die Hard**

Sunday 12/24
Movie Night: *Elf**

Friday 12/29
Silent Night

*requires a separate ticket
†member-only event

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KIDS
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BY JUDY M. MILLER

10 tips for a happy and bright holiday season

The holiday season, exciting and magical when experienced as a child, often creates chaos and stress for parents, burning us out before we even get to celebrate with our families. Shopping, family commitments, and never-ending to-do lists often aggravate a season that is supposed to be focused on family and fun. So, how can you handle the demands and expectations you have as well as those of your family while preparing for the holidays?

Manage Your Expectations

What is most important to you? What do you want the season to be about? Focus on a good balance that works for you and is easy to adhere to, especially when the demands of the holiday season increase. Prior to becoming parents many couples travel between their respective families; however, after the arrival of their first child, they often discover they wish to establish their own family traditions at home. Their nuclear family becomes their priority.

Prioritize Your To-Do List

Prioritize what is important to you. Decide what you have and do not have time for, what may create stress for you. Pare your list down. Create your to-do list; write it down. For example, do you need to mail out all of those seasonal cards? I long ago let go of mailing cards. They took a lot of time, and were expensive. I email friends with updates on our family if I find I have the time, however only if the more important priorities have been accomplished.

Slow Down and Manage Your Time

The holiday season is festive, beautiful, noisy, and oh-so-busy. Resist doing too much. Move from multi-tasker to monotasker. What else can you take off of your to-do list? Get started as early as possible. Create your plan of action. How you are going to complete your to-do list? Sit down with your calendar and plan ahead. Schedule certain blocks of time and establish deadlines for accomplishing what you want.

Manage Your Budget

Create your budget and stick to it. I try to use cash for purchases as much as possible because it helps me stay within my budget. Consider using layaway or redeeming credit card points for the bigger ticket items, if available. Begin your shopping early to spread the expenses out.

Control Your Kids' Demands

Turn off the TV and do not shop with your kids. Like us, they are barraged with advertising. Have you ever walked through a toy store with a young child? A calm happy child can turn into a whiny one within minutes.

Go over your children's expectations prior to the season. Take each of them to the store for a "looking" trip. Explain ahead of time that this is what you're doing.

Set a gift rule. We have a three-gift limit, tying into the story of the Three Wise Men. Some families set their limits by usage, for example something to read, to wear, and to enjoy.

Create New Traditions or Honor Old Ones

In our family baking is a tradition I enjoyed with my mom and later introduced into our family. Baking takes a lot of time, but offers the opportunity to slow down, connect, and create. I carve out chunks of hours, weeks ahead of the holiday season. We freeze the cookies, bars and breads until we are ready to gift or consume them.

Flip the Switch on Giving

Kids can come to appreciate giving while they learn about greed and receiving. Watch *A Christmas Carol*. Focus on others who are not as fortunate as you and your family, especially during the holiday season.

There are plenty of opportunities to teach your kids about giving and compassion for others. Look for local toy drives, or a giving tree, where you can provide for a child or a family. Encourage your kids to be as involved as possible with wrapping and gift delivery.

Create a Holiday Playlist

Listening to music relieves stress and anxiety, and lowers blood pressure. Holiday music can help to bring on the cheer. Crank it up. Sing along.

Get Outside

Communing with nature is good for your body, mind and soul, regardless of the time of day. Being outside can improve your immune functions and elevates the mood. When did you last take the time to gaze at the clouds or stars, or sit close enough to listen to the soothing sound of running water? When did you last sled, throw snowballs, or build a snowman?

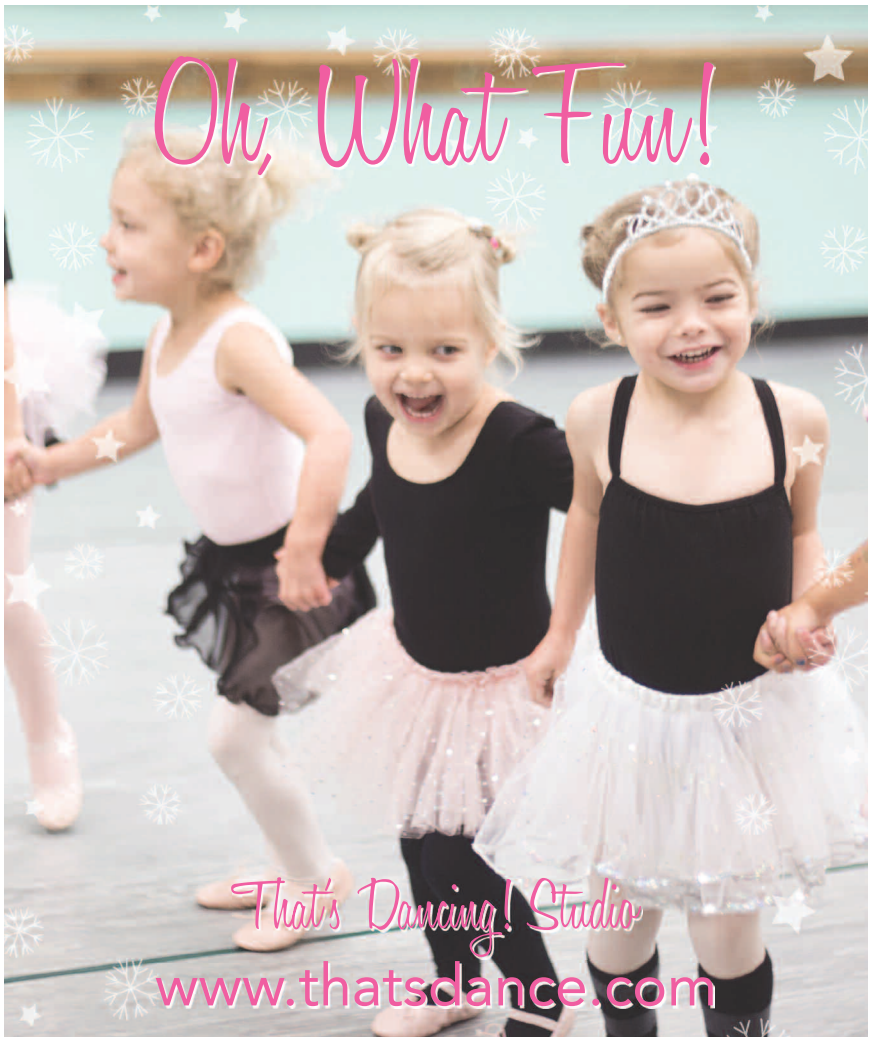
Take Twenty

Be sure to schedule "me time," when blocking time to accomplish your to-do list. Enter this important respite into your smart phone or your planner. Take a minimum of 20 minutes to decompress, listen to music, read, walk, etc.

Clear your head. Every day. It is difficult to manage the needs of the other members of your family if you do not address your needs.

Focus on keeping your holiday season simple and family-oriented. You will find that you and yours will be happy and bright.


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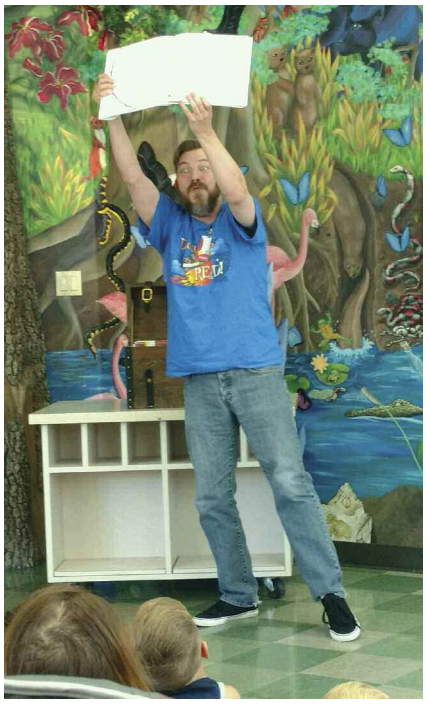

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BY PAUL SHECKARSKI, CHILDREN'S LIBRARY ASSOCIATION, HARDESTY REGIONAL LIBRARY

movement makes a child's brain **say "yay!"**

TIPS FROM THE LIBRARY TO MAKE ANY BOOK KINETIC







Does your child become a squirmy worm while you're reading a book to her? Does your child find any excuse to get up and run around during lap-sit storytime? That's great! Physical movement is a great way to convert energy into literacy.

Personally, I love to get on my feet and read books standing up, letting the stories find ways into my arms, hands, legs and feet. Sometimes, I hear kids describing my story times as a "show," like it's a big production! "Let's go see the show!" they'll say.

Here are some easy, ready-to-use tips for unleashing the kinetic energy stored up in our picture books.

When the characters move, you move. If they go on a long journey over the mountains, take a few steps to your left. When they walk back home over the mountains, take a few steps to your right. If the hero gets "hopping mad," put on an angry face and then jump up and down, one, two, three times! Here's one of my favorites: If someone gets a hug in the story, give the book itself a hug.

Look for key words such as "shake," "fly," "jump," and "wave." You can turn any active verb into a gesture. Figure out which body part will be best for bringing it to life – your fingers? Hand? Your whole arm? Tell your child, "Let's turn our fingers into fireflies. Hold out your hand like this, and now wiggle your fingers back and forth!"

Keep an eye out for objects in the story that you can simulate with the book itself. If a character walks into a dark cave, hold the book open above your head and then take tentative steps underneath the pages. A book can become any animal with flapping wings or snapping jaws.

Demonstrate opposites physically. Picture books love to use phrases like "near and far," "fast and slow," "hot and cold," and so on. Show them with your body the difference between those adjectives – first one, and then the other. Don't make the mistake of muddling the two movements together. Keep them distinct and clear.

When in doubt, act it out! Keep your movements under control. It's easy to damage the book, knock lamps over or bump someone's head if you're not paying attention. Get caught up in the moment, yes, but don't lose track of your surroundings.

If you're reading *Roller Coaster* by Marla Frazee (and I recommend that you do), you can have your kiddo hold on to your hips from behind, forming a human train. When the roller coaster ride begins, play follow-the-leader, dipping, diving and swooshing your way around the

continued next page

house. Hold the book out in front of you as you go.

Any book about travel or transportation inspires movement. Books with various kinds of animals evoke their particular perambulations — hopping, flying, squirming. Stories with weather are an easy opportunity to put rain in your fingers and wind in your hair.

Here are a few of my personal favorites, all available at the Tulsa City-County Library: *Where the Wild Things Are* by Maurice Sendak ("Let the wild rumpus start!"), *We're Going on a Bear Hunt* by Michael Rosen, *The Croaky Pokey!* by Ethan Long, *A Beach Tail* by Karen Lynn Williams, *Pete the Cat: I Love My White Shoes* by Eric Litwin.

Here are a few books about transportation you can try:

· *McToad Mows Tiny Island* by Tom Angleberger

· *Cars Galore* by Peter Stein

· *Red Light, Green Light* by Anastasia Suen

· *The Wheels on the Bus* by Jane Cabrera

Playing is one of the five Build-A-Reader skills we emphasize at TCCL story times. Any time you give your child a chance to become part of the story, you're building those early literacy skills. So next time they're bouncing off the walls, try reading them a story about bouncing!

Second Saturday Silents

Live organist + Silent film+ Felix the Cat cartoon



The silent film series featuring Circle's 1928 theatre pipe organ!

Second Saturday of the month at 11:00AM!

$5 adults - $2 for age 16 and under

The historic Circle Cinema is located at

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Once upon a child®

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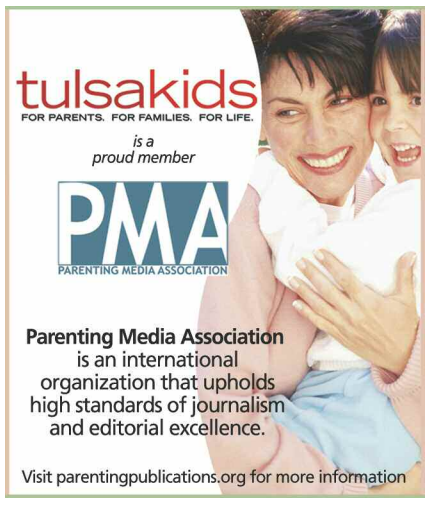
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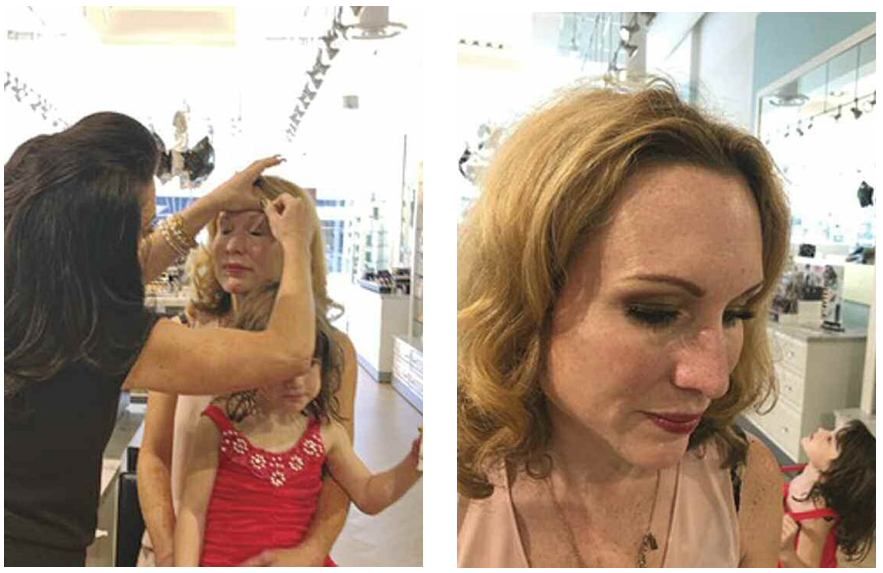


Vampire Facials and Snail Slime: Hip Mom Gets Made Up

BY JILL VANTREASE

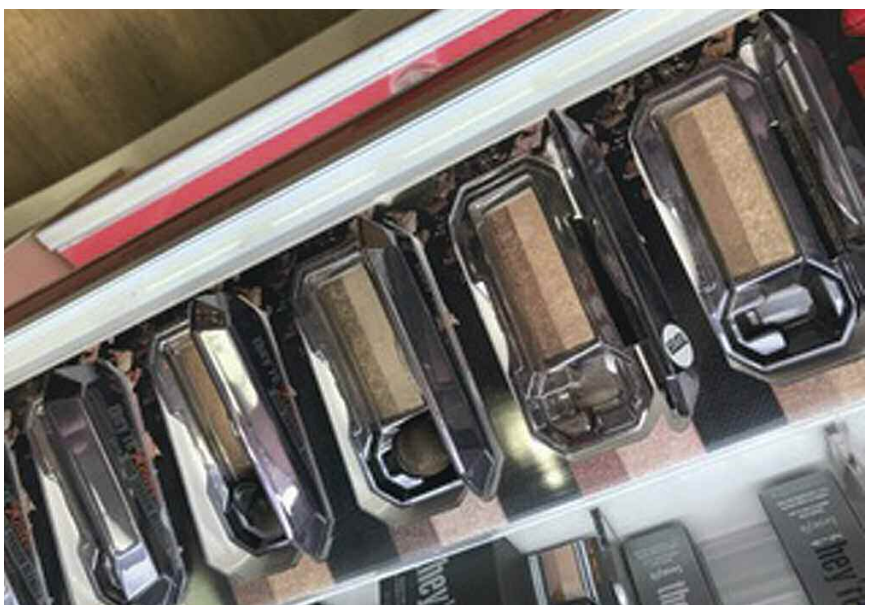
(Author's note: as I was finishing up this article, I attempted - without parental supervision - to light our fire pit for our girls to roast marshmallows. The gas was on too high, fire burst up and rather horribly singed my face and hair. I will spend many, many weeks looking really hideous. The irony of the situation is not lost on me!)

It doesn't feel very dignified to admit that as a college-educated mother of many - one who takes her vocation to raise these kids into functioning adults Fairly Seriously - that I just adore makeup. Oh, but I do! I could discuss primers, lashes, foundations, BB and CC creams, and various skincare regimens until the wee hours. What works? What doesn't? It's an endlessly fascinating topic for me, especially as my tired, old skin starts to show some real wear and tear. But of course you have to find a little regime that works for your schedule; I don't think most of us have time for false lashes and eyebrow brushes every morning (a corollary: dear sweet young 20-somethings, why are you wearing any makeup at all besides a bit of lipstick? Your dewy, glowy skin is as good as it gets. Covering up your sweet duckling skin with makeup makes you look like me - a tired 40-something!). But, as the holidays approach - and perhaps an invitation or two to a sexy (ish) night out arrives - it's fun to try to up the ante beyond our normal daily regime (for me, that's primer, mascara, eyeliner and lipstick. Without these I would really horrify the good people of Target and my kids' schools!). So, I set out to some makeup meccas for some help from the professionals.



HIP MOM AT BLUEMERCURY.

My first stop is Bluemercury on Peoria. I recently discovered this gem of a cosmetic paradise; it's actually a chain, but fairly new to Tulsa. Bluemercury boasts a lot of the fancy, pricey brands (Natura Bisse, La Mer, Darphin, Caudalie), but also lots of more affordable brands such as Kiehl's, Bumble and Bumble, Lune and Aster. But what's great about Bluemercury is the lovely women who work there will help you with cosmetic trickery above your skill level! When I visit, the lovely April (you will know her by her gorgeous dark mane and Sleeping Beauty eyelashes) creates a very chic holiday eye look. Now, I'm not sure I could recreate it at home, but she uses several different eye shadows, a fantastic concealer, and a newfangled thing called eyebrow mascara (I overtweezed back when that was the thing - the Mesozoic era - and have no brows. Bald brows are no longer bueno). And then April introduces me to something I've always been scared to try on my own: false eyelashes. Bluemercury sells these wonderful "Lash Power" faux lashes. For a mere $25, you can have traffic stopping



SHADOW DUOS AT ULTA.

Therapeutic screenings are still free at the McCarty Center

The J. D. McCarty Center for children with developmental disabilities conducts FREE therapeutic screenings of children who have unique challenges or a disability, or for parents who have concerns about their child's development.

Our screening team is composed of a pediatrician, nurse, social worker and psychology clinician. When the team has completed their screening process they will sit down with you to review what services are available for your child at the McCarty Center as well as other community, state and federal programs.

Today, more than ever before, we are an important resource for Oklahoma parents. We have been working with children for 71-years to help them achieve their highest level of function and independence.

The screening is absolutely free-of-charge. Call 405.307.2800 and ask to speak to a social worker for more information and to make your appointment.



J. D. McCarty Center
for children with developmental disabilities
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405.307.2800
www.jdmc.org



SHEET MASKS AT ULTA.

lashes too! Now I'm such a newbie, I didn't even know you have to glue the things on (it's cheap, you can get glue anywhere like Walgreen's). But April painstakingly glues them on for me and wow! It is quite a dramatic effect. I am not totally sure if it's "me" — maybe I feel a bit like a, um, woman of the evening? And for a while, I feel like I have baby caterpillars playing around my eyes, but I eventually get used to the feeling. April says she even sleeps with hers! In the end, I decide not to wear my eyelashes out — I feel like maybe they make me look like I am trying too hard? — but now that I have this little weapon in my arsenal, I shall be sure to wield it when necessary!

April also points out several beauty tricks to get your skin party ready, too: Natura Bisse has a 4-step "Diamond Instant Glow" which I buy and it works — my skin looks much livelier and dewier, like I've just had a relaxing facial. She notes that Lune and Aster is a great, reasonable brand for moms. I use their BB cream because it is perfect one-step coverage. Nars has a great "Man Ray" collection for the holidays, and the colors are rich and opulent. And, if you haven't used Nars eyeliner, get some now! It's self-sharpening and lines perfectly. I will never use another eye liner again!

Next, I head to Ulta, that bright and sparkly beauty emporium for the masses. Audrey shows me all kinds of great delights for the holidays — or any day! Brow Powder is another easy answer to sad brows; just brush it on and boom — realistic brows. Another invention I just love is Duo Shadow Blender by They're Real. Instead of having to somehow recreate the gorgeous eyeshadow art done by professionals, you just swipe these on with one brush, and, voila, you have two complementary colors! Exactly what I need. In the same vein, she shows me a lipstick with the lipliner included — just apply and your lips are automatically lined as well. Audrey shows me her favorite concealer, Brightening Concealer by Benefit. It lights up and conceals those pesky dark circles under your (well, my!) eyes. I snatch some up on the spot. And then, for a cheap and easy fix the day of an event, she recommends a sheet mask - just peel them, press on to your face and hang out for a few minutes. Brighter, happier skin in just minutes. Sheet masks come in all sorts of varieties - Rejuvenating, Brightening, Soothing - whatever your poor face needs! She also shares with me her favorite foundation primer — the POREfessional. This is just great for filling pores and wrinkles before applying foundation. I used to think primer was a bit over the top, but now I rarely leave the house without it; I often use it in lieu of foundation.

During the course of my "research," I also learned about some new-fangled skincare trends: one is - put down your beverage - snail mucus! Oh, yes. Many Korean beauty lines — including K Beauty — include snail mucus in their skincare products. My friend Meg raves about her snail serum. Gulp!

Another wild, cutting-edge face thing? Microneedling. Well, you might have heard of it as the "Vampire Facial." Oh, yes. A doctor takes blood from your arm, spins it in a centrifuge to separate the red blood cells and plasma, and then your plasma is injected into your face with little needles! Seriously. It's supposed to produce fabulous results. I'll try it all, ladies, but you're going to have to wait until my current "chemical peel" heals. In the meantime, go out and find yourself some fun makeup for all the parties coming up — even if it's just your kid's Christmas play.



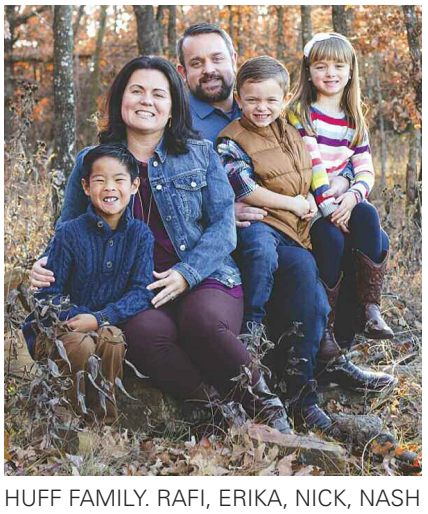
BY NATALIE MIKLES

family recipes bring holiday traditions home

During the holidays, our food and memories become entwined. We become sentimental, nostalgic and even emotional about what we cook and eat.

That especially goes for the recipes we've acquired from friends and family. And aren't those the best? All year, I try recipes from magazines and Pinterest, but at Christmas, I turn to my aunt's shortbread, my friend's cranberry salad and my grandma's lemon chess pie. During the holidays, we crave the familiar.

We asked some Tulsa moms to share their favorite recipes of the season. Each is tried and true, tested and loved.



HUFF FAMILY. RAFI, ERIKA, NICK, NASH AND BLYTHE HUFF

The Huff family remembers Nick's mom, Jackie, all year long with great memories. This Christmas, they'll be thinking about her when they make one of her wonderful recipes. These crepes are perfect for Christmas brunch. They can be made ahead and baked the next day.

Jackie Huff's Sausage Crepes

Crepes:

- 3 eggs
- 1 cup milk
- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- 1 cup flour
- 1/2 teaspoon salt

To make the crepes: Beat the eggs, milk and oil together. Add flour and salt. Beat until smooth.

Spoon 2 tablespoons of the batter into a 6-inch nonstick skillet, tilting to spread the batter.

Repeat process until all the crepes are made.

Crepe Filling:

- 1 pound sausage
- 1/4 cup chopped onion
- 1/4 teaspoon marjoram
- 1/2 cup shredded cheddar cheese
- 3 ounces cream cheese

Crepe Topping:

- 1/2 cup sour cream
- 1 stick butter

In a saute pan, cook the sausage and chopped onion until browned and cooked through. Drain, then add marjoram, shredded cheese and cream cheese. Mix until the cheese is melted.

Now you are ready to fill your crepes. Put 2 tablespoons of filling in a crepe and roll. Repeat until all your crepes are filled with the filling. Crepes can be cooked immediately or made ahead of time to be cooked the next day.

Bake at 375 degrees for 35 minutes. While crepes are cooking, combine sour cream and butter in a saucepan on medium-low heat until melted. Set aside.

Remove crepes from the oven, and cover the top of the crepes with the melted crepe topping. Cook 5 more minutes, or until lightly browned, and remove.

Nan Winton makes tea cake cookies every Christmas. The recipe comes from her great-grandmother from rural Arkansas. Nan says to bake the cookies in advance and freeze before Christmas. She has the frosting ready, and lets her kids, Claire, Rupert and Beatrix, decorate for Santa on Christmas Eve.

Nan Winton's Tea Cake Cookies

- 1 cup butter, softened
- 2 cups sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 2 eggs
- 4 cups flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 2 teaspoon cream of tartar
- 2 tablespoons milk

Cream butter and sugar. Add vanilla and eggs.

In a bowl, combine flour, baking soda and cream of tartar. Alternate adding dry ingredients and milk to butter mixture, beating well to combine.

Roll dough to at least 1/4-inch thick. Cut into shapes. Bake 9 minutes at 350 degrees.

Royal Icing

- 2 large egg whites
- 2 teaspoons lemon juice or ¼ teaspoon cream of tartar
- 3 cups confectioners sugar

Mix until combined. Tint with food coloring, if desired.

You'll love having these little fudge cakelettes in your holiday repertoire. Nan says the tops will have a crackled effect and are pretty on a cookie gift plate. They also freeze well, so long as you let them cool first and don't stack more than two layers in a large Ziploc bag.

Nan Winton's Fudgies

Makes 6 dozen

- 4 ounces semisweet chocolate
- 2 sticks butter
- 1 1/2 cups chopped nuts
- 1 3/4 cups sugar
- 1 cup flour



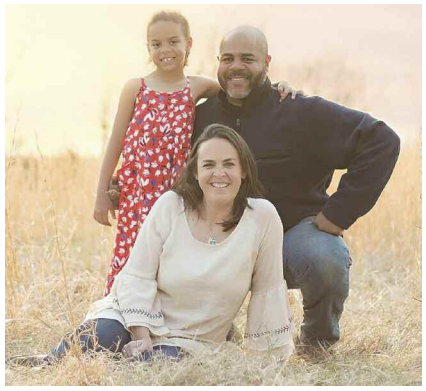
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• 4 eggs
• 1 teaspoon vanilla

Melt chocolate and butter. Add nuts, and stir until coated.

In a separate bowl, mix together sugar and eggs. Add flour. Blend well, but do not beat. Stir into chocolate mixture. Add vanilla.

Fill paper liners of tiny muffin cups almost to top. Bake at 325 degrees for 25 minutes. Freeze well.



FARLEY FAMILY. SARAH, JENNIFER AND DAVID FARLEY

The Farley family has many good cooks. One of the best is Jennifer Farley's Aunt Ann. This trifle will be a favorite at the adult's table.

Aunt Ann's Kahlua Chocolate Trifle

• 1 box devil's food chocolate cake
• 2 small boxes instant chocolate pudding mix
• 4 cups milk
• 2 (8-ounce) tubs Cool Whip
• 1/2cup Kahlua
• 6 Heath candy bars

Bake cake as directed on box. Cool.

Prepare chocolate pudding. Set aside.

Break half of cake into chunks in bottom of trifle bowl. Pour ¼ cup Kahlua over cake. Put half of prepared pudding on top of cake. Add 1 (8-ounce) tub of Cool Whip. Top with half the crushed Heath bars. Repeat layers. Refrigerate 12 hours before serving.

Catherine and Billy Grona's four kids love helping in the kitchen. This pumpkin cookie is a favorite to make and eat for Christmas.



GRONA FAMILY. SOPHIE, CHLOE, JOSIE AND STUART GRONA.

Grona Family Pumpkin Cookies

• 1 cup sugar
• 1 cup shortening
• 1 egg
• 1 teaspoon vanilla
• 1 cup pumpkin puree
• 2 cups flour
• 1 teaspoon baking soda
• 1 teaspoon baking powder
• 1 teaspoon cinnamon
• 1/2 teaspoon salt
• 1/2 cup chopped walnuts

Cream sugar and shortening. Add egg, blending well. Blend in vanilla and pumpkin.

In a large bowl, sift flour, baking soda, baking powder, cinnamon and salt together. Add to pumpkin mixture. Fold in walnuts.

Drop by teaspoonfuls onto greased cookie sheets. Bake in a preheated 350 degree oven for 10 minutes.

Cool and frost.

Frosting

• 1/2 cup brown sugar
• 3 tablespoons butter
• 1/4 cup milk
• Powdered sugar

Combine brown sugar, butter and milk. Bring to a boil, and boil for 3 minutes. Remove from heat. Add enough powdered sugar to make a spreading consistency.

Candy Padley makes these cheese grits, along with biscuits, sausage and quiche, on Christmas morning.

"We've had cheese grits every Christmas morning for as long as I can remember," she said.

Candy's Cheese Grits

• 1 cup grits, uncooked
• 4 cups chicken stock or broth
• 1/2 pound sharp cheddar cheese
• 8 ounces Velveeta cheese
• 1 teaspoon salt
• 1 stick butter, cut into cubes
• 1 tablespoon garlic powder

Bring chicken broth to a boil in a saucepan over medium-high heat. Gradually whisk in grits, and bring to a boil. Reduce heat to medium-low, then simmer 10 minutes or until thickened, stirring occasionally. Stir in cheeses, salt, butter and garlic powder. Stir until cheese is melted and mixture is blended.

We like the cream cheese and combination of vanilla and almond extracts in these cookies. Use your favorite frosting to decorate.

Mikles Family Sugar Cookies

• 1 cup butter, softened
• 3 ounces cream cheese, softened
• 1 cup sugar
• 1 egg yolk
• 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
• 1/4 teaspoon almond extract
• 2 1/4 cups all-purpose flour
• 1/2 teaspoon salt
• 1/4 teaspoon baking soda

In a large bowl, cream the butter, cream cheese and sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in egg yolk and extracts.

Combine the flour, salt and baking soda, then gradually add to creamed mixture.

Cover and refrigerate for 2-3 hours or until cold but workable.

On a lightly floured surface, roll dough to 1/4-inch thick. Cut with your favorite cookie cutters.

Place cookies on baking sheets. Bake at 375 degrees for 8 minutes (or longer, depending on how big the cookies are). Edges should just begin to turn light brown. Cool for 2 minutes before removing from pan to wire racks to cool completely. Let cool completely before frosting.



MIKLES FAMILY.





PADLEY FAMILY. CANDY AND CHASE PADLEY

SANTA AT WOODLAND HILLS MALL
When: Nov. 4-Dec. 24, times vary—find schedule online
Where: Woodland Hills Mall, 7021 S. Memorial Dr.
Take your photo with Santa at Woodland Hills Mall! Santa will be located at the Lower Level Dillard's Court.

SANTA AT UTICA SQUARE
When: Nov. 25-Dec. 24, Monday-Saturday, 11 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sunday, 12-6 p.m.
Where: Utica Square, 21st and Utica
Visit Santa in his cozy cottage at Utica Square! Walk around and enjoy Utica Square's other holiday displays while you're there!

SANTA COMMUNITY PROJECT
When: Saturday,
Dec. 2, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
Where: Greenwood Cultural Center, 322 N. Greenwood Ave.
For the 28th year, The Mothers Group Inc. has invited Santa and Mrs. Claus to the historic Greenwood District to greet children. The delightful couple will bring with them their favorite gifts—brand new books— to give to the first 500 children who attend the event.

SANTA CLAUS VISITS THE TULSA TOY DEPOT
When: Saturday,
Dec. 2, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
Where: Tulsa Toy Depot, 10114 S. Sheridan Rd.
Santa and Mrs. Claus will visit the Tulsa Toy Depot for a fun and relaxing time with the kids. This event is free, but don't forget your camera!

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA
When: Saturday,
Dec. 2 and 9, 9-10:30 a.m.
Where: Tulsa Zoo, 6421 E. 36th St. N.
Celebrate the ho-ho-holidays while enjoying a scrumptious hot breakfast, arts and crafts, animal chats and most importantly, meet Santa Claus.

PICTURES WITH SANTA AT THE WILL ROGERS MEMORIAL
When: Saturday,
Dec. 2, 9 and 16, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
Where: Will Rogers Memorial Museum, 1720 W. Will Rogers Blvd., Claremore
Get your picture taken with Santa at the Will Rogers Memorial Museum. Admission is free.

CASCIA HALL SANTA BRUNCH
When: Sunday, Dec. 3, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
Where: Cascia Hall Preparatory School, 2520 S. Yorktown Ave.



Dine with Santa at Cascia Hall's first annual Santa Brunch, Dec. 3.

Calling all of Santa's Elves! Come to Cascia Hall on Sunday, December 3rd from 11:00 - 1:00 for our first annual Santa Brunch. Have your picture taken with Jolly Saint Nick and create a Christmas craft while you enjoy brunch with your family. Tickets are $15 each and are available through the Cascia Christmas Walk link on the Cascia Hall website.

SANTA STORYTIME
When: Monday,
Dec. 4, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Where: Owasso Library, 103 W. Broadway
Enjoy holiday stories and a special visit from Santa himself! Bring your camera. For all ages.

BREAKFAST WITH SAINT NICK
When: Saturday,
Dec. 9, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
Where: Tulsa Botanic Garden, 3900 Tulsa Botanic Dr.
Bring the family for holiday fun when our botanical St. Nick visits the Garden. Get started with a continental breakfast served from 9 to 10:30 a.m., then join in the tree-trimming party, make snowflakes and a "present" to take home for the birds in your yard. At 11 a.m. Saint Nick and Mrs. Clause will host a Holiday Story time. Preregistration required. Call 918.289.0330 to register.

SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO TOWN!
When: Saturday, Dec. 9, 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m.
Where: Bixby Library, 20 E. Breckenridge
Celebrate Christmas early by playing games, making crafts and welcoming Santa! Due to time constraints, registration is required to visit with Santa. Call 918-549-7514 to register. For ages 10 and younger.

SANTA AT WEST BEND WINTERLAND
When: Saturday, Dec. 9, 8-10 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 16 and 23, 5-8 p.m.
Where: Claremore Expo Center, 400 Veterans Pkwy, Claremore
Take a break from ice skating to get your picture taken with Santa at West Bend Winterland!

SANTA AT KIDDLESTIX
When: Sunday, Dec. 10, 1-3 p.m.
Where: Kiddlestix Toy Store, 3815 S. Harvard Ave.
Visit Santa—and maybe do a little Christmas shopping—when he comes to Kiddlestix Toy Store!

PAJAMA JAM: STORYTIME & SANTA!
When: Thursday, Dec. 14, 6-7 p.m.
Where: Schusterman-Benson Library, 3333 E. 32nd Pl.
Put on your best holiday pj's and head to the Schusterman-Benson Library for songs, stories and a visit from Santa! For ages 6 and younger with their caregivers. Each child will be able to visit with Santa while parents take advantage of the photo opportunity.

BIXBY VISIT FROM SANTA CLAUS
When: Friday, Dec. 15, 4-6 p.m.
Where: Bixby Community Center, 211 N. Cabaniss Ave., Bixby
Head to the Bixby Community Center for games, snacks and a visit from Santa! For ages 0-12.

SO-CO NA-CHO NORMAL SANTA BRUNCH
When: Saturday,
Dec. 16, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
Where: South County Recreation Center, 13800 S. Peoria Ave., Bixby
Experience all the joy and wonder that the South County Recreation Center's annual Brunch with Santa brings. But this year, it's Na-cho Normal Santa Brunch! Enjoy nachos and a bounce house until you tell Santa what is on your wish list! Limit 200 tickets. 4 tickets per adult. Free for all ages. Sign up at the SoCo Rec Center.

CHANDLER PARK SANTA BRUNCH
When: Saturday,
Dec. 16, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
Where: Chandler Park Community Center, 6500 W. 21st St.
Website: www.parks.tulsacounty.org
We know Santa likes milk and cookies for a midnight snack but what about brunch? Bring the family out to enjoy cookies & milk. Don't forget to bring your wish lists and cameras to get a photo with the man in red! The first 100 guests receive a gift! Free for all ages.

LAFORTUNE PARK—VISIT WITH SANTA!
When: Saturday,
Dec. 16, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
Where: LaFortune Park Community Center, 5202 S. Hudson Ave.
The next stop on Santa's tour of Tulsa's parks is LaFortune Park, where there will be games and snacks in addition to Old Saint Nick! For ages 0-12.

O'BRIEN PARK COOKIES & MILK WITH SANTA
When: Saturday,
Dec. 16, 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m.
Where: O'Brien Park,
6149 N. Lewis Ave.
What do you want for Christmas? Tell Santa when he visits O'Brien Park, while enjoying milk and cookies and games. For ages 0-12.

FUNDAY SUNDAY WITH SANTA
When: Sunday, Dec. 17, 12-5 p.m.
Where: Gilcrease Museum, 1400 N. Gilcrease Museum Rd.
Santa visits Gilcrease Museum 2:30 - 5:00 pm for a special Funday Sunday event! In addition to speaking with Santa, enjoy other Funday Sunday activities, including art-making stations and an art hunt.

STORYBOOK SANTA CLAUS
When: Wednesday, Dec. 20, 10:30-11:45 a.m. and 12-1:15 p.m.
Where: Owasso Library, 103 W. Broadway
Join Santa for a magical storytime including magic, storytelling, singing and puppetry. A professional photographer will take a picture of your child with Santa for free! For children of all ages. Parents receive full ownership of digital photos. Registration is required. Register online or by calling 918-549-7323. Please register each child separately.

tulsakids.com

What's Going On(line)?







NUTCRACKER PHOTO CREDIT: ANDREW FASSBENDER

Dear Reader,

We are excited to announce the **TulsaKids 12 Days of Christmas Giveaways!** Every day, from December 1-12, we will be giving away a fun item from a local business or organization. Items will include necklaces from The Vintage Pearl, tickets to the Tulsa Ballet's "The Nutcracker," a $100 gift certificate to The Melting Pot, and more! Follow @tulsakidsmagazine on Facebook, @tulsakids on Instagram or sign up for our mailing list at www.tulsakids.com to receive up-to-date information on giveaways.

If you've visited our website recently, you may have noticed the new "I'm a Tulsa Kid" menu button in the top menu. If you know a kid who is giving back to their community, has a unique hobby, etc., click this button for instructions on how nominate them for our monthly "I'm a TulsaKid" article! We are always excited to hear about amazing Tulsa kids!

Finally, Happy Holidays from all of us at TulsaKids!

Tara Rittler, web editor

TulsaKids 12 Days of Christmas Giveaways!

- Dec. 1: 4 Tickets to Tulsa Ballet's "The Nutcracker"
- Dec. 2: Hand-stamped Necklace from The Vintage Pearl (4 winners will be chosen)
- Dec. 3: $100 Gift Certificate to The Melting Pot
- Dec. 4: Autographed Copies of "May Finds Her Way," "That is a Hat," and "The Prince of the Prairie" by TulsaKids Editor and author Betty Casey
- Dec. 5: Holiday-Inspired Rustic Cuff Set
- Dec. 6: Magformers Log Cabin Set from Learning Express
- Dec. 7: Unlimited Family Fun Pack to Wheels and Thrills
- Dec. 8: Year-Long Membership + Merchandise from Tulsa Children's Museum
- Dec. 9: $50 Reasor's Gift Card
- Dec. 10: Will be announced soon!
- Dec. 11: Will be announced soon!
- Dec. 12: Will be announced soon!

BY DIANE TRITT EATON

Kansas City's Country Club Plaza **Lights Up for the Holidays**



COUNTRY CLUB PLAZA LIGHTS. COURTESY:VISITKC.COM

Tulsa's beloved annual Utica Square "Lights On" ceremony took place last month and, since that magnificent moment when the switch was turned on Thanksgiving evening, our beautiful outdoor shopping district will remain brightly illuminated like a starlit sky each night throughout this holiday season. It's a grand tradition that we as Tulsans have come to expect and adore. Sparkly white bulbs twinkle among the trees and along the storefronts and rooftops, and I can never seem to get enough of this joyful display.

If you are like me and seek to broaden your decorative lights horizons beyond the familiar streets of our hometown, then look no further than nearby Kansas City's Country Club Plaza, which offers a "Utica Square on steroids" family holiday experience. I thoroughly enjoy the Plaza for its atmosphere, the quality of the stores and the variety of places to kick back for good food and drink. The open-air mall has national retail chains such as Pottery Barn, Anthropology and The Gap, as well as unique, locally owned and operated stores.

History of Kansas City's Plaza Lights

Beginning as a "ceremony" that consisted of a short strand of lights hanging across one small street nearly 90 years ago, Kansas City's "Plaza Lights" display, has turned into the largest and most dazzling of its kind anywhere in the United States. The stunning Spanish architectural-style buildings, modeled after those found in Seville and punctuated with murals, sculptures, courtyards and fountains, are accented with a gazillion glimmering, gem-hued strands for all to admire as they shop, stroll, and dine throughout the holiday season.

Why Do We Love Lights, Anyway?

According to historians, the tradition of lighting the darkness dates back to the Norsemen's midwinter festival, Yule. During this time, they spent many a night celebrating and drinking Yule (a type of beer) while watching the burning Yule log. Over time, this Yule log tradition began to spread throughout Europe, and the folklore was that the flames fended off evil spirits. Over time, the Christians infused the tradition with a different meaning—-the light from their Yule Logs represented Jesus as The Light in the darkness. Today, the light theme has spread like wildfire. Kansas City's Plaza Lights will shine each night from 5 p.m. to 3

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a.m. from Thanksgiving through January 14, 2018.

Extra Holiday Treats

In addition to the lights and the shopping and dining, you can brighten your holiday season with these extra-special holiday activities. All through the season, carolers croon, horse-drawn carriages fill the streets, and local businesses extend their hours for visitors to maximize their enjoyment of this picturesque place.

Caroling In the Courtyards

A huge part of the Plaza's holiday tradition is live holiday music. A variety of singers, choirs and musical groups are invited to perform in 45-minute intervals at several of the courtyards. As they meander through the streets, visitors can sing along each morning starting at 10 all the way through to nearly 9 p.m.

Snuggle Up In a Surrey

Excitement extends beyond the lights when you cozy up in a carriage and tour behind a strong, beautiful pair of workhorses. There are old-fashioned, horse-drawn carriages, surreys and sleigh rides, which are always a big treat for everyone. Tours begin along Nichols Road and take you on a Norman Rockwell-esque ride through the decorated district. Although not required, tour operators recommend that you make reservations, especially during the holiday season. Visit www.kccarriages.com and www.surreysontheplaza.com.

Passport To Savings

To welcome holiday shoppers, the Plaza's Customer Service office, located on Broadway between Williams-Sonoma and Cole Haan, presents complimentary booklets to those who come from outside a 50-mile radius. The "Passport To Shopping" contains attractive discounts and special offers at more than 50 establishments. (Note: Be sure to have your driver's license or passport with you to qualify.)

Holiday Season Extended Hours/Special Offers

Through December 31, the general retail hours are Monday – Saturday: 10 a.m.-9 p.m. and Sunday: 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Holidays hours are as follows: Christmas Eve (Sunday): 11 a.m.-6 p.m.; Christmas Day (Monday): Closed; New Year's Eve (Sunday): Noon-5 p.m.; New Year's Day (Monday): 10 a.m.-7 p.m. During the holidays, all of the Plaza's parking garages are open to the public at no charge.

Stay and Play

Of course, to maximize your heartfelt holiday adventures and further enhance your spirits, you might wish to spend a night (or more) in or around the Plaza. There are nearly a dozen hotels to choose from, including the Courtyard by Marriott and Embassy Suites and the historic Raphael and iconic Intercontinental. For a full lodging list and complete details about stores and restaurants, check out www.countryclubplaza.com and www.visitkc.com .







WORDS AND PHOTOS BY KRISTI ROE OWEN

move over pumpkin spice: 6 can't-miss seasonal Tulsa treats

It's that time of year again.The air is cool and crisp, taking on a faded, ethereal Instagram-filter quality.Suddenly, the world is a sea of Northface jackets and Timberland boots, and, heaven knows, nothing goes better with Northface than a good old-fashioned pumpkin spice latte.

But what if this year, just once, as you begin to deck the halls and pretend like you lost your Fitbit but everyone knows you really just shoved it in a drawer, you shirk off the basicness of that old pumpkin spice standby and reach out for something new?

We're not asking you to give up that cup of pumpkin love, but if you are considering branching out this season, we've put together a list of six local can't-miss holiday alternatives to pumpkin spice worthy of dietary transgression.

1 Christmas Spirit at Shades of Brown

Over at Shades of Brown, the chumpkin gets all the love, and rightly so—it's a pumpkin spice chai latte to make angels weep. But if the chumpkin is from Heaven, the Christmas Spirit is straight from the North Pole. It's the kind of holiday drink happy little elves enjoy while they're crafting toys and jamming to Bob Marley as elves are wont to do.



There are usually two camps of people: those who love eggnog and would not be above drinking it straight from the carton, and those who find eggnog to be possibly the most abhorrent foodstuff under creation. But the Christmas Spirit uses eggnog flavoring sparingly, blending milk with the ideal coffee-to-nog ratio so that the result is a frozen latte with an almost milkshake quality. Topped with whipped cream and nutmeg, this lovely little treat is a spirit-lifter on those dark winter nights. It's also available sans caffeine for those already feeling jazzed up enough on holiday vibes.

2 Polar Bear at Coffee House on Cherry Street

CHOCS has long been a terrific place to unwind while escaping all the hullabaloo of the downtown scene. The polar bear is the perfect coffee after a long day of wassailing, whatever that is. This crafty coffee is a dreamy concoction made with espresso, milk, white chocolate, cinnamon, and vanilla that pairs nicely with gift giving, warm hugs, and their fabulous selection of holiday pies.

3 Café Viennois at Le Louvre

Le Louvre is a darling authentic French cafe located at 83rd and Memorial offering a lovely selection of boissons chaudes (hot beverages). Their café viennois is a perfect beverage for those who like their coffee a little on the fru fru side but don't want the fru fru-ness to overwhelm the richness of a good, strong coffee.

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The viennois consists of a double shot of espresso topped with chantilly, a rich whipped cream. Chantilly is thicker than traditional whipped cream and sweetened with vanilla, which means it sweetens the espresso as you drink your coffee and is basically everything.

4 Caramel Steamer at Gypsy Coffee House

Gypsy Coffee House has been serving up quality joe since the end of the '90s, and it has always offered up a decent slice of legit coolness while maintaining a manageable hipster factor. Its mellow vibe is enhanced by a college town artsiness and artful coffees to match. Some coffee shops can be replete with snooty baristas, like the local spot that suggested the perfect alternative to pumpkin spice was a return to black coffee for the holidays, as truly good coffee possesses its own rich flavors and does not require added flavoring and sugar.

Gypsy's talented baristas have no such judgments or qualms about loading you up with all the sugar and whipped cream your little basic heart desires, and that is why we are nominating these guys as the perfect place to stop over for a delicious caramel steamer. Essentially steamed milk served with caramel flavoring and topped with plentiful whipped cream, this is kind of like a more delicate alternative to hot cocoa.



5 Hot Cocoa at Ida Red

If you never got to visit longtime Tulsa staple Steve's Sundry, it was a darling little bookstore over on 26th and Harvard with an old-fashioned soda fountain in back where they served the same delicious malts since 1947 until their closing.

For those of us still pining for the good old days of frozen treats at Steve's formica countertop, Ida Red General Store & Soda Fountain is doing a pretty solid job of filling that gap right down to the bright red stools, and their rich hot cocoa would be suitable for a cold evening in the Gryffindor house. Enjoy this classic chocolate treat en route to Winterfest or on your way to a show downtown in the Tulsa Arts District.

6 Mexicocoa at Mod's

Mod's Coffee and Crepes is known for having an adventurous and fun-loving side when it comes to food and drink, and the Mexicocoa epitomizes the sassiness that has made them a Tulsa fave. The Mexicocoa is one of twelve hot cocoas on the menu. This cocoa is a fun combination of vanilla, hazelnut, cinnamon, and cayenne pepper and comes topped with steamed milk.

Mod's also offers a banana nut bread chai and pumpkin pie chai if that is more your cup of...chai.

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Holiday Happenings



Enjoy some German comfort food while shopping for unique items such as nutcrackers and holiday ornaments at Christkindlmart, sponsored by the German-American Society of Tulsa, Dec. 1-3.

LIGHTS

RHEMA CHRISTMAS LIGHTS
When: Nov. 22-Dec. 31, 5:30-11:30 p.m.
Where: Rhema Bible Church, 1025 West Kenosha, Broken Arrow
Walk, drive or take a carriage ride (weather permitting) through Rhema's display of over two million lights!

GARDEN OF LIGHTS
When: Nov. 23-Jan. 1, 5:30-10 p.m.
Where: Honor Heights Park, 1400 Honor Heights Dr.
Honor Heights Park keeps the blossoming magic of spring alive through the holiday season with over 1 million lights and 132 acres of beautiful displays. Private trolley and hayrides are available. Stop by the Gift Shop for a sweet treat and hot cocoa!

WONDERLAND OF LIGHTS
When: Friday-Sunday, Nov.24-Dec. 23, 5-9 p.m.
Where: Woolaroc Ranch, 1925 Woolaroc Ranch Rd., Bartlesville
Stroll through a winter wonderland featuring over 750,000 lights, wagon rides, live entertainment, Santa Claus, hot chocolate, cider and more.

LIGHTS AT CHANDLER PARK
When: Nov. 24-Dec. 26, weekends 6-10 p.m., daily Dec. 18-16
Where: Chandler Park, 6500 W. 21st St.
The Chandler Park light display features millions of light lining roads throughout the park.

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

ROSE DISTRICT ICE RINK
When: Nov. 16-at least the first week of January
Where: Rose District Plaza
Last year, the Rose District's outdoor ice rink brought over 10,000 skaters and their families! When you're finished skating, explore some of the Rose District's fun shops or grab a bite to eat at one of the many restaurants in the district.

PHILBROOK FESTIVAL
When: Nov. 17-Dec. 31
Where: Philbrook Museum, 2727 S. Rockford Rd.
Celebrate the holiday season with Philbrook! The Museum comes alive with festive holiday events, décor, and thousands of lights reflecting the spirit of the season. Gather the whole family for unforgettable experiences.

CASTLE CHRISTMAS
When: Thursday, Nov. 23-Sunday, Jan. 31
Where: The Castle of Muskogee, 3400 W. Fern Rd., Muskogee
Drive through Castleton Village every night from Thanksgiving through New Years to enjoy over 2,000 holiday displays and thousands of lights! If you head to the Castle earlier in the day, take a train ride through the village, ride ponies, make ornaments in Santa's workshop, enjoy family movies, and more. Check their online calendar to see when Father Christmas will be making appearances!

KRINGLE'S CHRISTMAS LAND
When: Nov. 24-Dec. 31; Mondays, closed for private tours; Tuesday-Saturday, 12-8 p.m.; Sunday, 12-6 p.m.
Where: Promenade Mall, 4107 S. Yale Ave.

continued

Take a ride through Kringle's Christmas Land, a unique ride-through tour of Christmas with a voice-narrated story featuring hundreds of vintage, life-sized animated displays.

ARVEST WINTERFEST
When: Friday, Nov. 24-Sunday, Jan. 7
Where: Third Street between Denver & Frisco, just outside the BOK Center
Winterfest has become a favorite holiday tradition for many Tulsans. Enjoy skating under the Tulsa skyline, eating comfort foods, taking in the breath-taking sight Oklahoma's tallest Christmas tree, and more!

HOLIDAY LUMINARIES
When: Thursday, Nov. 30, Dec. 7, 14, and 21, 5 p.m.
Where: Tulsa Botanic Garden, 3900 Tulsa Botanic Dr.
Get in the spirit of the season with the warm glow of luminaries in the Garden. Local artists will help with drop-in holiday crafts for all ages. Enjoy holiday music while roasting marshmallows over fire for s'mores (s'more kits will be available for purchase in the Gift Shop.) Beer, wine and hot cocoa will be available for sale as well.

WILL'S COUNTRY CHRISTMAS
When: Friday-Saturday, Dec. 1-2, 5-9 p.m.
Where: Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch, 9501 E. 380 Rd., Oologah
Kids can take a photo with Santa, make crafts, listen to storytellers and carolers, and more, at the historic Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch. Admission is free; certain activities are available for a small fee.

HALLELUJAH HAYRIDE
When: Friday-Saturday, Dec. 1, 2, 8 and 9, 6-8 p.m.
Where: New Life Assembly, 12215 N. Garnett Rd., Claremore
The Hallelujah Hayride is a Christmas Event hosted by New Life Assembly. It is an old-fashioned hayride through the telling of the Christmas story of live actors and animals, and Christmas lights, narrated by Bob Cooper formerly of Cox Tulsa. There will be warm refreshments inside.

SCALE MODEL GINGERBREAD BUILDING COMPETITION
When: Saturday, Dec. 2, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
Where: Hardesty Library, 8316 E. 93rd St.
Judging will take place for the annual Scale Model Gingerbread Building Competition presented by AIA Eastern Oklahoma, Tulsa City-County Library and the Tulsa Regional STEM Alliance. Designed by contestants of all ages, the competition features gingerbread replicas of famous architectural buildings. After the judging, the gingerbread buildings will be on display in the library's Children's Department.

HOLIDAY CRAFTING STOP
When: Saturday, Dec. 2, 2-3:30 p.m.
Where: Maxwell Park Library, 1313 N. Canton
You don't have to buy Christmas decorations or go online to get the best. Just DIY! We'll create and decorate giant snowflakes and small ornaments. Limited supplies are provided. For all ages.

TSHA'S ANNUAL CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY PARTY
When: Saturday, Dec. 2, 2-4:30 p.m.
Where: Boston Avenue Methodist Church, 1301 S. Boston Ave.
TSHA's party is a time when kids with hearing loss are the center of all the attention, and when they can go and talk to a deaf Santa. The party is for children who are deaf, hard of hearing, or speech-impaired and hearing children of deaf adults as well as their families. Enjoy refreshments, games, crafts, prizes, AND a stocking filled with goodies!! Best of all, tell a signing Santa and a hearing Mrs. Claus what you want. You will also have a chance to get your picture taken with Santa. Email kwilson@tsha.cc for more information.

MERRY GRINCHMAS AT THE RIVERWALK
When: Saturday, Dec. 2, 3-7 p.m.
Where: Riverwalk Jenks, 300 Riverwalk Terrace
Celebrate the holiday season at Riverwalk, with carriage rides photo booths, carolers, and special treats and activities in the Riverwalk stores.

MAKING AND GIVING: DIY HOLIDAY GIFTS
When: Monday, Dec. 4 and 11, 4-5 p.m.
Where: Central Library: 400 Civic Center
We're using the laser engraver to show you how to make simple projects that you'll be able to take home. Space is limited. Register online at www.tulsalibrary.org/events or call 918-549-7323. For ages 10-18.

TERRIFIC TUESDAY: COME-AND-GO HOLIDAY CRAFTS
When: Tuesday, Dec. 5, 3-5 p.m.
Where: Judy Z. Kishner Library, 10150 N. Cincinnati Ave., Sperry
Spend some time with friends and family to make the holiday bright. Supplies are provided. For all ages.

COME AND GO CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS
When: Thursday, Dec. 7, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.
Where: Jenks Library, 523 W. B St.
Stop by the Jenks Library today and make an ornament to keep or give away. All ages are welcome to participate. Supplies are provided.

CHRISTMAS PARTY
When: Thursday, Dec. 7, 6-7:30 p.m.
Where: Glenpool Library, 730 E. 141st St.
Share the holiday cheer and join us for a fun evening of carols and crafts for all ages, featuring special guests Santa and Mrs. Claus. This is a drop-in event. For all ages.

WINTER WREATH WORKSHOP WITH ANTHOUSAI
When: Thursday, Dec. 7, 6-8 p.m.
Where: Made: The Indie Emporium Shop, 219 E. Archer St.
Learn how to make a lush and beautiful winter wreath using fresh winter greenery, berries, and other unique textures. Each attendee will have the opportunity to create their own wreath and take it home at the end of the class! All tools and materials are provided, and light snacks with be served.

LIVING NATIVITY AT SHEPHERD'S CROSS
When: Thursday-Saturday, Dec. 7-9 and 14-16, 10 a.m.-8:30 p.m.
Where: Shepherd's Cross, 16792 E. 45 Rd., Claremore
This special Living Nativity is held in a heated barn at an authentic working farm and is designed to encourage thoughtful mediation on the season. Suggested donation for admission is $5 and, beyond viewing the nativity, includes dramatic storytelling, live music, complimentary cider and cookies, crafts for children, and more. For additional fees, visitors can take a Christmas wagon ride, decorate a holiday ornament or make a farm-fresh holiday wreath.

HOMETOWN CHRISTMAS VARIETY SHOW
When: Thursday-Saturday, Dec. 7-9, 7-9:30 p.m.
Where: Herron's Crown Opry Theater, 1015 W. Main, Collinsville
Collinsville is bringing back their popular Hometown Christmas variety show for a second year this December. This Dickensian-themed variety show lasts two hours, with over 80 performers to entertain you with holiday songs and dances. This show promises to bring you an evening you will always remember and is a great way to celebrate Christmas with the entire family!

JINGLE BELL RUN
When: Dec. 9, 7:30-11 a.m.
Where: BOK Center, 200 S. Denver Ave.

continued



Support The Arthritis Foundation while creating holiday memories at the Jingle Bell Run, Dec. 9.

The Arthritis Foundation's original Jingle Bell Run is the longest-standing festive race around, helping champion arthritis research and bringing people from all walks of life together to say Yes to furthering a great cause. Bring your friends, family and co-workers to a fun-filled day of holiday cheer, where 100 percent of your registration fee and fundraising efforts go to charity.

WEST BEND WINTERLAND
When: Thursday-Sunday, Dec. 9-31. (see visitclaremore.org/241/Winterland-Schedule for specific times)
Where: Claremore Expo Center, 400 Veterans Pkwy, Claremore
Winterland is reminiscent of holiday memories with an ice skating rink, pictures with Santa, real reindeer borrowed from the North Pole for you to see and take pictures with up close, shopping from local artisans, a beautiful 50 foot live Christmas tree and more! Bring out your family to enjoy skating, hot cocoa and caroling. It's going to be a great holiday event for everlasting memories.

FELTED GIFT SOAPS
When: Saturday, Dec. 9, 10:30-11:30 a.m.
Where: Glenpool Library, 730 E. 141st St.
You'll never look at washing your hands the same old way again! We'll use wool to cover sweet-smelling soaps and make pretty designs on top of the wool to create unique, useful gifts for the holidays. All materials are provided. Please register in advance so we'll have enough supplies. Call 918-549-7323 to register. For ages 10-18.

CHRISTMAS TRAIN
When: Dec. 9, 16 and 17 (see schedule at www.oklahomarailwaymuseum.org)
Where: Oklahoma Railway Museum, 3400 NE Grand Blvd., Oklahoma City
All aboard! The Christmas Train is about the leave the station! New this year, first-class passengers can drink hot cocoa served in a souvenir mug and eat cookies during the ride. There will also be cocoa, cookies, Christmas carols and storytelling after the ride that everyone can enjoy.

MESSY ART CLUB: WINTER CRAFTS
When: Tuesday, Dec. 12, 6-7 p.m.
Where: Zarrow Regional Library, 2224 W. 51st St.
Join us for winter crafts and decorate a gingerbread character. All ages are welcome.

DIY UGLY CHRISTMAS SWEATERS
When: Tuesday, Dec. 12, 6-8 p.m.
Where: Central Library, 400 Civic Center
We'll show you how to make your own "ugly" Christmas sweater. Bring a plain cotton sweater. Seating is limited. Register online at www.tulsalibrary.org/events or call 918-549-7323. For adults and teens.

DOWNTOWN BIXBY CHRISTMAS WONDERLAND
When: Friday, Dec. 15, 5-8 p.m.
Where: Bixby Library, 20 E. Breckenridge
Watch the Bixby Christmas parade and then stop in afterward to make Christmas crafts, enjoy popcorn and sign up for a door prize! We are staying open until 8 p.m. For all ages.

HOLIDAY MINI MAKER FAIRE
When: Thursday, Dec. 21, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
Where: Central Library, 400 Civic Center
Make a variety of holiday crafts at the Central Library. For ages 5-12.

THEMED GINGERBREAD HOUSES
When: Thursday, Dec. 21, 4-5:30 p.m.
Where: Schusterman-Benson Library, 3333 E. 32nd Pl.
Come and make a themed gingerbread house as a team for the holidays. Register online at www.tulsalibrary.org/events or call 918-549-7323. For ages 10-18.

CELEBRATE KWANZAA!
When: Tuesday, Dec. 26, 6-8:30 p.m.
Where: Rudisill Library, 1520 N. Hartford Ave.
Join the African-American Resource Center in celebrating Kwanzaa, the African-American celebration of family, community and culture. Bring your talent for singing, dancing, spoken word, mime, drumming or a musical instrument to share with the community as a gift for the new seasons in our lives. We will honor our ancestors through song, dance and ceremony. Light a candle for the ones who have gone on before us. Youth ages 18 and younger will receive a free book. All ages are encouraged to sign up at Rudisill Regional Library to gift your talent in the "Mamanem" talent segment.

WINTER WORKSHOPS
When: Wednesday-Friday, Dec. 27-29, 1-4 p.m.
Where: Gilcrease Museum, 1400 N. Gilcrease Museum Rd.
Enjoy Gilcrease Museum during the holiday season and visit our creation stations to make holiday works of art. For families with children ages 3-15, who must be accompanied by an adult.

SHOPPING

BA BUZZ HOLIDAY POP-UP SHOPS
When: Nov. 16-Dec. 23, Tuesdays-Fridays, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Saturdays 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Where: Rose District, Broken Arrow
Broken Arrow's Rose District is already a fun place to shop, but the Holiday Pop-Up Shops make it even easier for holiday shoppers to find one-of-a-kind treasures!

CHRISTKINDLMARKT
When: Friday, Dec. 1, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 2, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, Dec. 3, 12-5 p.m.
Where: German American Society of Tulsa, 1429 Terrace Dr.
Modeled after the Christkindlmarkts found throughout Germany, this unique market features booths selling nutcrackers, imported Christmas tree ornaments, Christmas Stollen, and more, as well as a "café" where guests can

continued

order Wurst, Kartoffelpuffer, apple cider, hot chocolate and coffee.

CAROLS & CRUMPETS
When: Saturday, December 2, 8 a.m.-3 p.m.
Where: Tulsa Garden Center, 2435 S. Peoria Ave.
This unique craft fair, organized by the Tulsa Herb Society, features handmade items made by Tulsa Herb Society members as well as other vendors. Items include holiday wreaths, doggie treats, tree ornaments, and handmade soaps, as well as edible goods like herbal vinegars, jams and jellies. Shoppers can enjoy hot spiced cider and cookies in addition to the Snowflake Café, which will be open from 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

BIXBY HOLIDAY ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW
When: Saturday, Dec. 2, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Where: Bixby Community Center, 211 N. Cabaniss Ave., Bixby
Bixby's largest holiday arts and craft show, with over 70 booths! Gifts and treasures from all over Oklahoma.

36TH ANNUAL DARNABY ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW
When: Saturday, Dec. 2, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Where: Union Multipurpose Activity Center, 6836 S. Mingo Rd.
The Darnaby Arts & Crafts Show features high-quality items from more than 150 skilled artisans and crafters. Shoppers can find everything from monogrammed items to children's clothing and accessories to jewelry and more!

LAFORTUNE PARK CRAFTS BAZAAR
When: Saturday, Dec. 2, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Where: Buddy LaFortune Community Center, 5202 S. Hudson Ave.
Browse homemade items, decorations, scarves, jewelry, and other unique treasures for your holiday shopping list from quality vendors. Get out of the cold and enjoy stress-free shopping. No admission fee.

ETSY MADE LOCAL PARTY
When: Saturday, Dec. 2, 12-4 p.m.
Where: Made: The Indie Emporium Shop, 219 E. Archer
This holiday season, shop local artisans and find something you love right here in Tulsa! There will also be holiday refreshements, festive music, and a DIY ornament project.

CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE AT MEMORY LANE TEA SHOP
When: Thursday, Dec. 7, 5-8:30 p.m.
Where: Memory Lane Tea Shop, 209 N. Main St., Owasso
Get ready for the Christmas Holiday by shopping for that tea lover on your list while trying holiday teas and nibbling on finger foods. There's cookie decorating for the kids, and you can take your picture with Santa and Mrs. Claus.

JUNIOR LEAGUE OF TULSA HOLIDAY MARKET
When: Friday-Saturday, Dec. 8-9, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sunday, Dec. 10, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.
Where: Union Multipurpose Activity Center, 6836 S. Mingo Rd.
The Junior League of Tulsa's annual Holiday Market helps fund their mission of ending the cycle of poverty for women and children in Tulsa. While the adults browse 100s of one-of-a-kind items, kids can enjoy Cookies with the Clauses from 2-4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Kids can get their picture taken in front of Santa's workshop for $10 and purchase a Cookiedoodle cookie to decorate for $10.

THE ALLIDAY SHOW
When: Friday, Dec. 8, 6-9 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 9, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.
Where: Retro Den Tulsa, 1216 S. Harvard Ave.
Retro Den Tulsa's 8th Annual Alliday Show begins with a party Friday evening and continues Saturday with an all-day shopping event featuring some of Tulsa's most talented artists. Foolish Things Coffee Company will open a Pop-up shop on Saturday so guests can do some mid-shopping caffeinating, and Santa will visit from 12-2 p.m. Show up early because the first entrants will get some fun swag bags!


Visitors to Owasso Christmas Tree Farm can cut their own tree or purchase a pre-cut tree. Afterwards, visit their gift shop for hot apple cider and the chance to browse holiday ornaments and other items.

CHRISTMAS TREE FARMS

OWASSO TREE AND BLACKBERRY FARM
When: Opens Nov. 18, Monday-Friday, 1-7 p.m.; Saturday-Sunday, 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Closed Thanksgiving; Open Friday, November
Where: 11039 N. 129th E. Ave., Owasso
Phone: 918.272.9445
Paula and Bill Jacobs have owned the Owasso Tree and Berry Farm for over 40 years. It is the perfect place to find your family's Christmas tree, whether you choose to cut your own or choose a pre-cut tree. Warm up with complimentary apple cider while browsing through the gift shop.

PLEASANT VALLEY FARMS
When: Opens the Wednesday after Thanksgiving; Wednesday-Friday, 2-8 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 9 a.m.-8 p.m.
Where: 22350 W. 71st St., Sand Springs
Bring the old-time feel of Christmas back into your family's traditional celebration with the help of Pleasant Valley Farm. Wander through the rows of expertly trimmed Virgina Pine Christmas trees until you find the centerpiece of your holiday decor or browse our selection of imported, precut Fir trees. Use one of our saws to fell your tree or request the help of one of our Pleasant Valley woodsmen. Visit with Santa from 2-6 p.m., and finish your visit with some complimentary cider, cocoa or coffee and a hayride around the trees.

PARADES

CIVITANS CHRISTMAS PARADE
When: Saturday, Dec. 2, 10 a.m.
Where: Main Street in Broken Arrow

A STORYBOOK CHRISTMAS: TULSA CHRISTMAS PARADE
When: Saturday, Dec. 9, 2 p.m.
Where: Downtown Tulsa

CLAREMORE CHRISTMAS PARADE
When: Saturday, Dec. 9, 5:30 p.m.
Where: Historic Downtown Claremore

BIXBY ROTARY CLUB CHRISTMAS PARADE
When: Friday, Dec. 15, 6:30 p.m.
Where: Between S. Riverview Dr. and N. Kidd Street, along E. Daws Ave. and Breckenridge Ave.

Showtimes



The Tulsa Ballet's "The Nutcracker," set in 1920s Paris, returns to the Tulsa PAC December 9-23.

Photo by Andrew Fassbender

CHRISTMAS WITH AMY GRANT AND MICHAEL W. SMITH
When: Friday, Dec. 1, 8 p.m.
Where: BOK Center, 200 S. Denver Ave.
Michael W. Smith and Amy Grant's popular Christmas tour features a full symphony orchestra and special guest Jordan Smith, winner of ABC's 'The Voice' season 9.

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE—A LIVE RADIO PLAY!
When: Dec. 1, 2 and 8, 7:30 p.m.; Dec. 3, 9 and 10, 2 p.m.
Where: Sapulpa Community Theater, 124 S. Water St., Sapulpa
The Christmas classic comes to life as a live radio play. Don't miss this fresh take on the family classic!

HANSEL & GRETEL
When: Friday, Dec. 1 and 8, 7:30 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 2, 3, 9 and 10, 2 p.m.
Where: Spotlight Theatre, 1381 Riverside Dr.
Winter is gingerbread season, and what better way to celebrate this fact than by enjoying a performance featuring one of the most well-known gingerbread cottages—and some of Tulsa's talented youth actors?

POPS I: HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS
When: Saturday, Dec. 2, 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 3, 2:30 p.m.
Where: Lorton Performing Arts Center, 550 S. Gary Place
Kick off your holiday season with this family-centric blend of seasonal compositions! This night of diverse, classical-yet-jazzy collections will feature the acclaimed trumpeter Jeff Shadley along with members of the Tulsa Symphony Orchestra, led by guest conductor Ron Spigelman.

LINDSEY STIRLING: WARMER IN THE WINTER CHRISTMAS TOUR
When: Saturday, Dec. 2, 8 p.m.
Where: BOK Center, 200 S. Denver Ave.
An acclaimed violinist from Gilbert, Ariz., Lindsey Stirling has entered a futurist world of electronic big beats and animation, using her classical violin training to leap through the music industry with almost 10 million YouTube subscribers, over 1.9 billion views on her YouTube channel, 2 Billboard Music Awards, Billboard chart-topping hits and sold out tours worldwide. She's created a new music world where modern classical meets the infectious energy of dance and electronica.

HOLIDAY MUSICAL PERFORMANCE
When: Sunday, Dec. 3, 10 and 17, 2-3 p.m.
Where: Gilcrease Museum, 1400 N. Gilcrease Museum Rd.
Enjoy some festive holiday music sung by Tulsa-area student choirs.

BROWN BAG IT: TULSA FESTIVAL RINGERS
When: Wednesday, Dec. 6, at 11:30 a.m. and 12:45 p.m.
Where: Tulsa PAC, 110 E. 2nd St.
This festive lunch-time concert features the Tulsa Festival Ringers. Admission is free.

SIGNATURE SYMPHONY: CHRISTMAS IN TULSA WITH BARRY EPPERLY

When: Friday-Saturday, Dec. 8-9. 7:30 p.m.
Where: VanTrease PACE, 10300 E. 81st St.
Barry Epperly, founder of the Signature Symphony and its Artistic Director and Conductor for 35 years, returns to the stage for this special holiday concert.

A CHRISTMAS CAROL
When: Dec. 8-9, 13-16 and 18-23 at 7:30 p.m.; Dec. 10 and 17 at 2 p.m.
Where: Tulsa PAC, 110 E. 2nd St.
Robert Odle and Richard Averill's musical adaptation of Charles Dickens' beloved novella has been a Tulsa tradition for more than 40 years! Ebenezer Scrooge's ghost-inspired overnight transformation from miser to misery-reliever is an annual reminder of the basic message of the holiday season.

A CHRISTMAS STORY
When: Friday-Sunday, Dec. 8-10, 7:30 p.m.; Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 9-10, 2 p.m.
Where: Tulsa Little Theatre, 1511 S. Delaware Ave.
You won't shoot your eye out, but you may cry from laughing so hard at Encore! Tulsa's production of "A Christmas Story," based on one of the holiday's most beloved films and the writings of author Jean Shepherd.

TOMMY EMMANUAL CGP: CLASSICS & CHRISTMAS TOUR
When: Saturday, Dec. 9, 7:30 p.m.
Where: Cox Business Center, 100 Civic Center
Listen to the legendary Tommy Emmanual perform classic Christmas tunes as well as some new originals.

THE NUTCRACKER
When: Dec. 9, 15, 16 and 22 at 7 p.m.; Dec. 10, 16, 17 and 23 at 2 p.m.
Where: Tulsa PAC, 110 E. 2nd St.
Whether you're seeing it again or for the first time, The Nutcracker will capture your imagination and make your holidays shine bright. Perfect for the entire family, this fanciful tradition features Marie, the Nutcracker Prince, and all your favorite characters as they dance to Tchaikovsky's treasured musical score.

CHRISTMAS WITH THE ANNIE MOSES BAND
When: Sunday, Dec. 10, 7:30 p.m.
Where: Broken Arrow Performing Arts Center, 701 S. Main St., Broken Arrow
Experience the beauty of the Christmas season with the Annie Moses Band as the acclaimed classical crossover band performs stunning arrangements of holiday classics.

CHRISTMAS WITH BRIAN NHIRA & FRIENDS FROM 'THE VOICE'
When: Saturday, Dec. 16, 7-8:45 p.m.
Where: VanTrease Performing Arts Center, 10300 E. 81st St.
NBC's The Voice alumni and an array of gifted local musicians will be taking part in Brian Nhira's second annual Christmas concert at the TCC-VanTrease Performing Arts Center. Last years concert sold out two shows and helped raise 500 backpacks for kids in need.

SHERIDAN ROAD CHRISTMAS CABARET
When: Thursday-Friday, Dec. 21-22, 7:30 p.m.
Where: Tulsa PAC, 110 E. 2nd St.
Sheridan Road's holiday celebration features candlelight, nostalgia, a cappella carols, and swinging Christmas tunes in the elegant Westby Pavilion. With table seating for everyone, ticket prices include refreshments of wine, cheese, coffee and holiday desserts.

Holiday and Winter Break Movies

HARDESTY HOLIDAY MOVIE SERIES
Where: Hardesty Library, 8316 E. 93rd St.
"Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone"
Saturday, Dec. 2, 2-4 p.m.
"Krampus"
Thursday, Dec. 7, 6-8 p.m.
**Rated PG-13. Ages 13 and under must be accompanied by an adult.*
"Holiday Inn"
Saturday, Dec. 9, 2-4 p.m.
"The Nightmare Before Christmas"
Thursday, Dec. 14, 6-8 p.m.
"A Christmas Story"
Saturday, Dec. 16, 2-4 p.m.
"The Santa Clause"
Saturday, Dec. 23, 2-4 p.m.

"THE POLAR EXPRESS" PARTY AND MOVIE SHOWING
When: Thursday, Dec. 21, 3-5 p.m.
Where: Hardesty Library, 8316 E. 93rd St.

A VERY STAR WARS WINTER BREAK
Where: Brookside Library, 1207 E. 45th Pl.
"The Force Awakens"
Friday, Dec. 22, 2-5 p.m.
"Rogue One"
Friday, Dec. 29, 2-5 p.m.

FESTIVAL FILM: "DIE HARD"
When: Friday, Dec. 22, 6-9 p.m.
Where: Philbrook Museum of Art, 2727 S. Rockford Rd.

FAMILY CINEMA SATURDAY: "THE GRINCH"
When: Saturday, Dec. 23, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
Where: Central Library, 400 Civic Center

TEEN MOVIE: "GREMLINS"
When: Saturday, Dec. 23, 2-4 p.m.
Where: Zarrow Regional Library, 2224 W. 51st St.

"ELF" ON CHRISTMAS EVE
When: Sunday, Dec. 24, 6-9 p.m.
Where: Philbrook Museum of Art, 2727 S. Rockford Rd.

BOOKS TO FILM SERIES
Where: Broken Arrow Library, 300 W. Broadway
"The Polar Express"
Tuesday, Dec. 26, 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m.
"The Bridge to Terabithia"
Wednesday, Dec. 27, 1-3 p.m.
"Hugo"
Thursday, Dec. 28, 1-3 p.m.
"A Series of Unfortunate Events
Friday, Dec. 29, 1-3 p.m.

I'M A TULSA KID

WORDS AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY SHEEBA ATIQI

Wilson Hoyt: Cascia Hall Senior Singer

Each year, the prestigious Carnegie Hall and Sydney Opera House choose students from around the world to participate in the Honors Performance Series program. This year Cascia Hall Senior Wilson Hoyt has been selected to be part of the Carnegie Hall Honors Choir and the Sydney Opera House Honors Choir. Wilson will be performing with other finalists, including classmate Celyn Grigson, at Carnegie Hall in New York City. He will also rehearse and perform this summer with finalists from around the world at the Sydney Opera House in Sydney, Australia.



TK: When did you start singing?
Wilson: I started singing in early childhood, but not truly trained until 10th grade.

TK: How did you start singing?
Wilson: At the end of my freshman year, my parents had always heard me singing around the house, in the shower, etc and finally decided I was good enough to make it into Cascia's select performance ensemble. [I didn't feel I could make it], but they threatened to sit outside the school and not drive me home unless I auditioned. Needless to say, I made it, and can't thank my parents enough for that decision.

TK: What is your favorite type of music to perform?
Wilson: Modern Rock/Alternative

TK: How did it feel to be selected as a member of the Carnegie Hall Honors Choir and the Sydney Opera House Honors Choir?
Wilson: When I found out I was selected, it was a mix of shock and disbelief as it was the culmination of all my hard work over the past three years.

TK: What was the selection process?
Wilson: I was selected by creating a five-minute audition tape with two pieces, one classical piece in English and another in Italian.

TK: Who inspires you?
Wilson: My mom inspires me more than anybody as she consistently pushes me to be the best person I can be, even through her own struggles with her health since she had a stroke.

TK: Do you have any advice for future performers?
Wilson: My advice is to have fun! If you aren't enjoying what you are doing, you won't be able to make the audience enjoy your performance!

TK: What are your hobbies?
Wilson: One of my main hobbies is robotics and working on the mechanical team.

TK: What are your plans and goals for the future?
Wilson: My plan is to continue singing in college (hopefully a performance group wherever I end up) while pursuing a career to become a surgeon.

TK: What is a fun fact about you?
Wilson: I've been the biggest Star Wars fan since I was a little kid!

Orthopedic Care

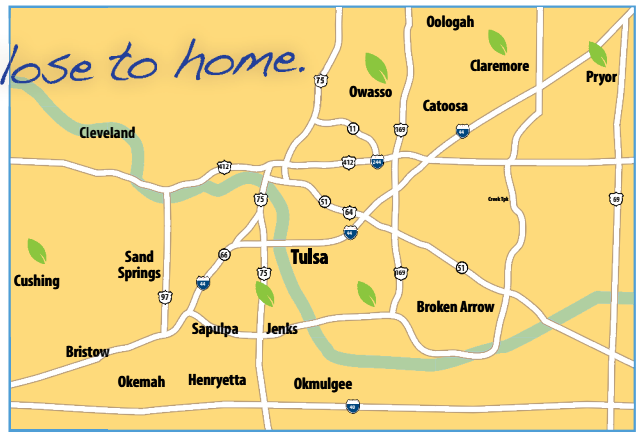


Standing: Dave Stoll, PA-C; Ashley Bruce, PA-C; Jason Joice, M.D.; Christian Luessenhop, M.D.; Zee Khan, M.D.; and Chad Crawley, D.O.
Seated: Mary Ferraro, APRN-CNP; Clint Cator, PA-C; and Jon Orjala, D.O.

The orthopedic health care providers at Utica Park Clinic offer exceptional care, diagnosis and treatment for a wide variety of orthopedic injuries, pain and disorders of the musculoskeletal system. This includes care of the:

- Bones
- Nerves
- Tendons
- Joints
- Muscles
- Ligaments

For health news, tips and information, join us on
or text TIPS to 95159



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Merry Christmas

Blessings from our family to yours

CUSTOMIZE YOUR TREE WITH YOUR FAVORITE COLORS



CREATE YOUR OWN

ORIGAMI CHRISTMAS TREE

The Children's Hospital at Saint Francis



STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS ON THE OTHER SIDE.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

from your friends

AT

THE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL
at SAINT FRANCIS

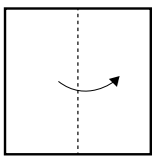
As the only children's hospital in eastern Oklahoma, The Children's Hospital at Saint Francis provides state-of-the-art technology and a dedicated staff to meet the medical needs of children. You can rest assured your child will receive the most comprehensive care available in this region.

WE WISH YOU AND YOUR FAMILY A HAPPY, HEALTHY HOLIDAY SEASON.

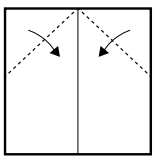
The Children's Hospital at Saint Francis

The Children's Hospital at Saint Francis | 6161 South Yale Avenue, Tulsa, OK | 918-502-6000 | saintfrancis.com/childrenshospital

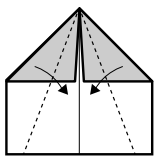
After cutting out the working area (where indicated), place the paper on a table, coloring side down. Then follow these steps (dotted lines indicate where to fold):



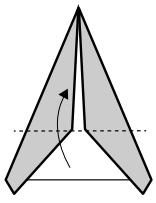
Fold the paper in half, making a vertical crease; then unfold.



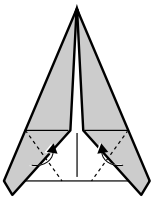
Fold the top corners into the center crease.



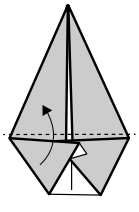
Fold the sides into the center crease.



Fold the bottom up to make a crease; then unfold.



Fold the bottom corners into the crease you just made.



Turn over and adjust base to stand the tree.

ADD THE FINISHING TOUCH WITH A TREE TOPPER.
Cut along the dotted line and glue to tree.









