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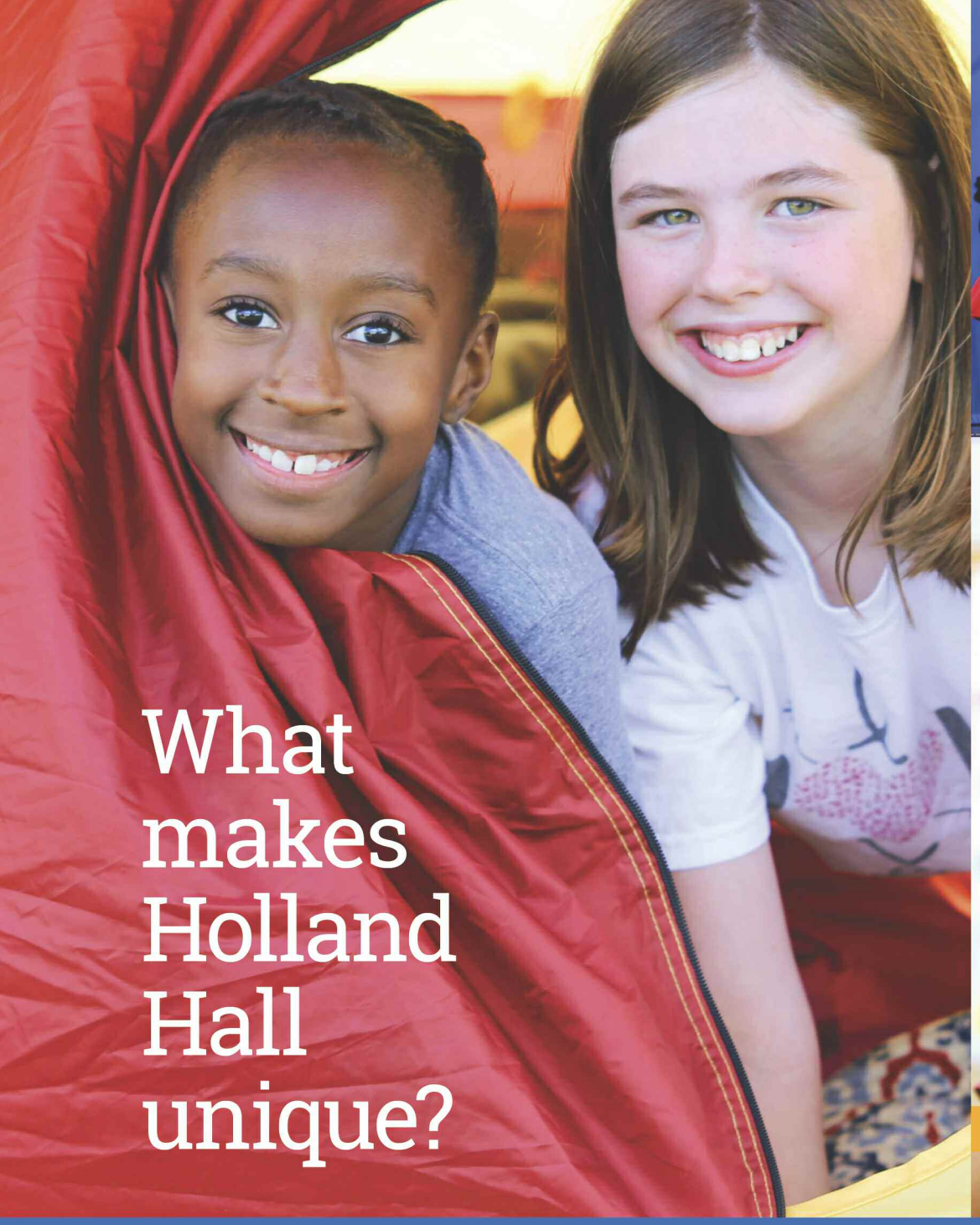
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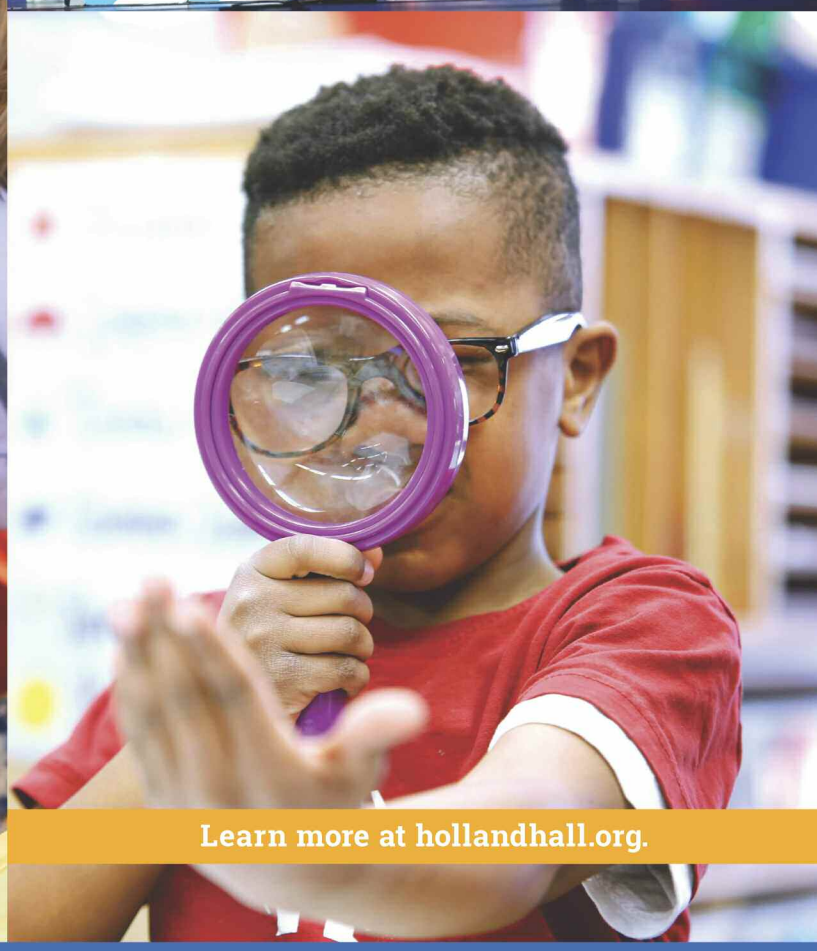
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editor's note

'Tis the Season….

….for conflict. Getting together with family and friends during the holiday season can be as saccharine as a Hallmark movie, but sometimes it can also be as artificial as the fake snow and the script.

Often, too much togetherness can highlight differences, and nowhere are those differences more likely to create heightened emotion than when they involve children. Partners may be able to ignore parenting conflicts when the kids are on a regular schedule and the household is running smoothly. But, parents who have never come to a compromise, or even discussed, their views on discipline may find that the holidays shine a spotlight on those differences. Before you find yourself under the glare, take some time to read our feature story about conflicting parenting styles by Christa Melnyk Hines. It will give you some tips and insights to help you parent harmoniously with your partner through the holidays and beyond.

And, if you're like me when buying gifts, and find yourself scouring the internet, wandering glassy-eyed through the mall, or settling for gift cards, we've got you covered. Whether you're looking for gifts for teens or adults, Julie Wenger Watson and Jill VanTrease have some unique suggestions.

Of course, we haven't forgotten the kids. We've combed through the toys from the National Parenting Product Awards (NAPPA), and highlighted a few in these pages. NAPPA has been honoring the best in family products for 28 years, so we wanted to share some of their 2018 winners with you.

Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without treats. If you are going to a cookie exchange or hosting one, Natalie Mikles has some irresistible cookie recipes. (We've already passed them around the office).

Have a happy holiday and, as the kids say, "see you next year!"

Betty Casey
associate publisher and
editor in chief





ON OUR COVER:

ELIANA, ALEJANDRO AND JAIRO ARE READY FOR THE HOLIDAYS. LESLIE HOYT PHOTOGRAPHY

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PUBLISHER: CHARLES FOSHEE
ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER & EDITOR IN CHIEF: BETTY CASEY
TREASURER & COMPTROLLER: DEBBIE TALLEY
WEB EDITOR: TARA RITTLER
ADVERTISING SALES: BRANDI MOORE, JOANNA SHATWELL
PRODUCTION: CHARLES FOSHEE
COVER PHOTO: LESLIE HOYT PHOTOGRAPHY
DISTRIBUTION: JOAN PEREZ
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS: CHRISTA MELNYK HINES, ELENA EPSTEIN, KILEY ROBERSON, MARY BETH RITCHIE, LCSW, JULIE WENGER WATSON, LAURA RAPHAEL, JILL VANTREASE, NATALIE MIKLES, NANCY A. MOORE, DIANE TRITT EATON, SHEEBA ATIQI

TK PUBLISHING inc.

TulsaKids is published monthly by
TK Publishing, Inc.,
1622 So. Denver Ave.,
Tulsa, OK 74119
(918) 582-8504
FAX (918) 583-1366
Website: www.tulsakids.com

©TK Publishing, Inc. 2018.
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Volume XXXI, Number 12

PUBLISHER
publisher@tulsakids.com
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
editor@tulsakids.com
CALENDAR
(submit by 10th of the month prior)
calendar@tulsakids.com

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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

TULSA PUBLIC SCHOOL TRANSFERS AND MAGNET SCHOOLS/PROGRAMS DEADLINES

For parents interested in applying to TPS magnet or special program schools, the deadline for completing an application is 4 p.m. Dec. 21, 2018, and the deadline for submitting all documents is 4 p.m. Jan. 25, 2019. These schools include: Dual Language Academy, Eisenhower, Mayo, Zarrow (elementary schools); Carver, Edison, Monroe, Rogers, Thoreau (middle schools); Booker T. Washington, Eidson, TEAM@Memorial, Rogers (high schools). Please note that many of these schools require that parents/guardians tour the school in order to apply. For an application and complete information, go to www.tulsaschools.org. You will find information about applying to individual schools as well as answers to frequently asked questions.

Students may apply to transfer to neighborhood schools (not magnet or special programs) between Nov. 5, 2018 and March 15, 2019. The required documents deadline is Jan. 25, 2019.

The online application is available at enroll.tulsaschools.org/apply. Applications can be filled out using a computer, tablet, smartphone, or other device that connects to the internet. If you need assistance or don't have a computer or device, visit the enrollment center at 2819 S. New Haven Ave., Mon.- Fri., 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. or call 918.746.7500 or email studentrecords@tulsaschools.org.

NEW CHARACTERS HIGHLIGHT ATTRACTIONS AT GATHERING PLACE







Three walk-around characters are the new ambassadors at Gathering Place. Blue the Heron, Tulsey Turtle and a Squirrel will help highlight the Park's attractions and activities for guests. As of this writing, the squirrel doesn't have a name. The park was holding a contest inviting kids to name the squirrel. The announcement is forthcoming.

Each character focuses on areas of programming in the Park. Blue the Heron's area is environmental programming and activities in the Wetland Gardens and Chapman Adventure Playground; Tulsey the Turtle champions sports programming at the SemGroup Sports courts and BMX & Skate parks; Squirrel will oversee reading and the arts, including the Reading Tree and dancing with the Gather Round Crew.

CASCIA HALL STUDENTS TO PERFORM AT CARNEGIE HALL



L TO R: TRAVIS GUILLORY, JOSEPH BARBOUR, MARGARET BARBOUR, CAMRYN HURLEY

Four Cascia students were selected for the 2019 High School Honors Performance Series at Carnegie Hall. Sophomore Travis Guillory and senior Joseph Barbour will be members of the Carnegie Hall Honors Concert Choir. Junior Camryn Hurley will be a member of the Carnegie Hall Honors Women's Choir, and junior Margaret Barbour will be a violinist in the Carnegie Hall Honors Orchestra.

High School students from around the world audition in hopes of becoming part of this prestigious event. The student musicians send in recorded audition material during the summer, and those whose applications are accepted are invited to perform on the Carnegie Hall stage in New York City in February.

The Honors Performance Series was established to feature talented young musicians on stage at one of the world's most famous music halls. Selected performers come together in New York City for several days of rehearsals with renowned conductors leading up to their performance at Carnegie Hall's Stern Auditorium/Perelman Stage. Though much of the performers' time between February 7 -11 is focused on performance preparation with their conductor, networking with peers and experiencing the sights and performance arts of New York City are also important parts of the experience.

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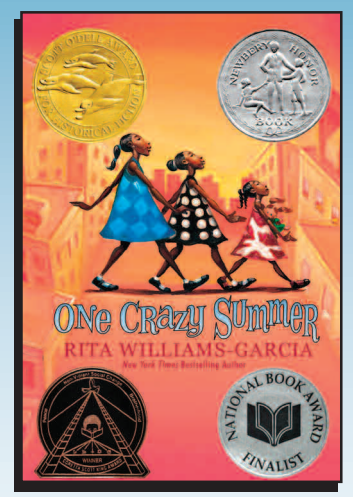
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- Be introduced to Tulsa City-County Library's Anne V. Zarrow Award for Young Readers' Literature and gain an opportunity to win a classroom visit by Williams-Garcia when she comes to Tulsa on Friday, May 3, 2019, to receive the award.

Continental breakfast will be provided. Every participant will receive their copies of *One Crazy Summer* at the end of the workshop, as well as an official continuing-education certificate.

Participants must be employed by a school district within Tulsa County.

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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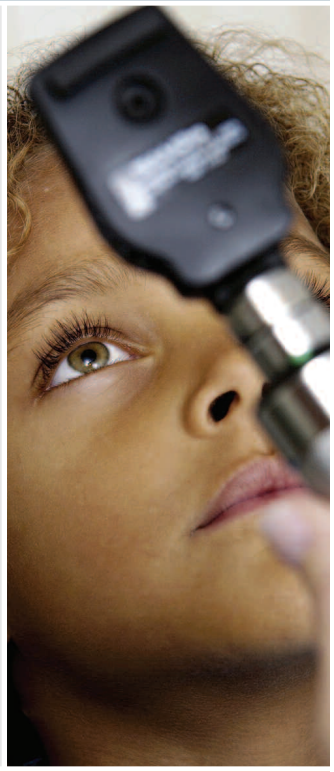
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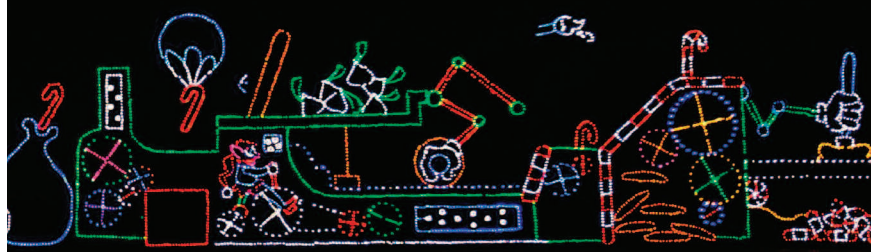


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BY KILEY ROBERSON

keeping the holiday peace

The holidays are upon us again and, if you're like many American families, it's off to Grandma's house we go. Visiting family is part of what the holiday season is all about, but it can also be part of what makes it so stressful. You love the together time, of course, but sometimes your well-meaning parents and in-laws can create a lot of tension by second-guessing, criticizing or even overriding your parenting choices, especially during this jolly time of year. The American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) has some tips for dealing with parenting power-struggles, and says the balance is in keeping the upper hand while also keeping the peace.

First off, remember to be specific. You can't expect grandparents to pick up on your subtle, polite hints. While you may think it's completely obvious that you never spank your kids or that a third candy cane is overkill, you can't assume that grandparents will realize this without saying it. Instead, try to be very specific about your wishes, requests and rules.

Don't be a drama mamma…or daddy. Try to remove emotions from the equation. Don't take it as a personal insult if grandparents don't agree with you. Just be very even-toned about the issue you're raising or the problem you're confronting. And try to remember that, chances are, you're both coming from a loving place.



Pick your five non-negotiables. When it comes to your children, there are certain things you shouldn't budge on, like safety. And there are things you shouldn't have to budge on, like raising your kids a certain religion. AARP suggests parents determine their top five non-negotiable items and stress those to grandparents so there is no confusion.

Personally, one of my parenting non-negotiables dealing directly with holidays and special occasions is gifts. I know how grandparents love to spoil their babies with lots of gifts, but starting on our daughter's first birthday, we asked that in lieu of toys, everyone bring one book. Then at Christmas, we asked that the grands keep it to one to two gifts.

But make sure to explain yourself. As parents, you're certainly allowed the "because I said so" stance (they're your kids after all) but AARP family experts believe grandparents deserve an explanation as to why you choose to do something a certain way. They don't have to agree with it or even like it, but sharing the reasoning behind your decisions can help grandparents understand.

The gift rule didn't go over well with our families. We still had grandparents bring a book and a toy to the party or buy extra Christmas gifts. But, when we explained that we didn't want our daughter associating love with things you buy, they understood where we were coming from.

Try to let a few things slide. If grandparents are respectful of your non-negotiables, then try to let a few minor things slide. Allow grandparents to have some rules that are just for their house. You want your parents and in-laws to feel like they can love and spoil your children, and it's fun for kids to have special, only-at-grandma's-house rituals or treats. So if your kids get sugary candy at grandma's or grandpa lets them stay up an hour later than you'd like, try not to turn it into a big deal.

The holidays are a very special time for family and full of moments your children will remember and cherish. No matter how stressful things get, remember that grandparents are the same loving moms and dads that raised you and your spouse, so they must have gotten something right.



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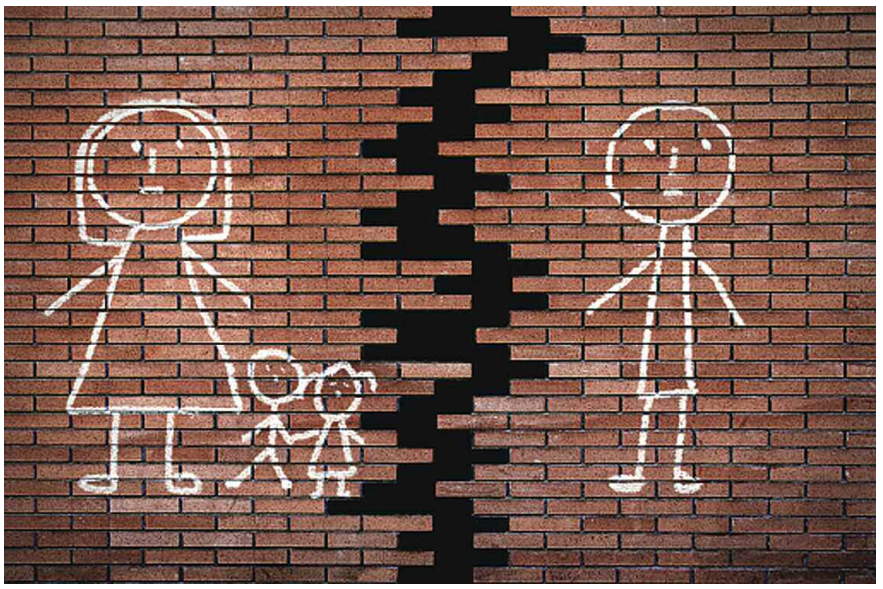
BY MARY BETH RITCHIE, LCSW

two parents, two homes: easing the transition for children

Change does not come easily for most of us. This is especially true for young children. Yet, in the midst of this holiday season, many children are spending much of their time split between two houses. Divorce has become commonplace in recent years, but this doesn't make it any easier for our children. It seems these children are in a constant state of transitioning. They are frequently packing, changing houses and unpacking. They may be adjusting to new stepparents as well. They are commonly transitioning between two households with very different lifestyles. This is true all year, but it is even more prevalent during the holidays.

There are assuredly some positive aspects to sharing physical custody. With very few exceptions, children benefit from spending time with both parents. They love both parents, and both parents love them. However, there is a downside too. Sometimes parents don't realize how tough it is for children to grow up in two homes. How would you like to switch homes every week, or every few days?

Keeping rules and routines similar at both homes can make things easier for the children. Notice that I didn't say "identical." It is unrealistic to expect things to be exactly the same at both houses. However, consistency will help the children feel more comfortable among the turmoil of constantly changing homes. This may be easier said than done. Parenting differences may have been a contributing factor that led to the divorce. In my clinical practice, it has been common to see one parent who is the more responsible one, while the other one seems to mostly be interested in the fun aspects of parenting. It may be difficult for these two types of parents to agree on rules and routines. Look for as much common ground as possible. At least try to agree on some of the big things. Perhaps even these two parents can agree that homework needs to be completed before children are allowed to play video games or watch television.



It would be good if parents could agree on bedtimes for younger children. Adjusting to different sleep schedules each week can be detrimental to children. If one parent allows children to go to bed at 11:00, it is going to take time to adjust to the 8:30 bedtime at the other home. By the time the child makes the adjustment, it's time to move back to the other house. This type of chaos can lead to sleep disturbances. Sleep is important to both the physical and mental development of children. School-age children need approximately nine to 11 hours of sleep per night. Developing good sleep habits at a young age will benefit children as they progress into adulthood.

Parents should also try to agree on the importance of homework and how it should be handled. For example, children will arrive at the other home with all homework completed. I have seen cases where children visit one parent on weekends and return Sunday evenings. The parent having weekend visits may not look forward to spending time with homework assignments. However, this is part of parenting. It's selfish to have the children wait until Sunday evenings. Children need some transition time when returning to the other house. It's likely that they need some down time to relax after the visit too. Additionally, waiting until Sunday evenings to do homework may also make them

continued next page

late to bed and teach children to become procrastinators.

Once you have found all the common ground to be found, don't fret about the rest. There are also some advantages to growing up in two different types of homes. These children have the firsthand opportunity to experience that not all families live exactly the same. They can also learn to be flexible and resilient. In fact, we are regularly put into various settings which have differing expectations. School expectations often differ from those at home. As a teacher, I have frequently had to explain to students that certain words are not allowed at school. Children can be confused, because they are allowed to say these particular words at home. I must accept that I have no control over what is allowed at home. I can only focus on what is permitted in the school environment. Divorced parents must learn to do the same. Each parent can only be in charge of his or her own home. Children do learn which words are allowed at school and home, and they do adjust accordingly. There may also be an additional set of expectations for children when visiting grandparents. In fact, we may have different expectations for them at McDonald's than we do at a fancy restaurant. Learning to adapt to different surroundings is an important and valuable life skill.

Divorce is difficult on children, and constantly moving back and forth between houses after a divorce may leave many children feeling as if they are in a constant state of turmoil, chaos and transition. Parents can help to make this easier on their children by creating similar environments at both houses. This doesn't mean that things need to be identical. However, parents should work together to find as much commonality as possible to make the transitioning easier for the children involved. Remember, the best interest of the children matters most!

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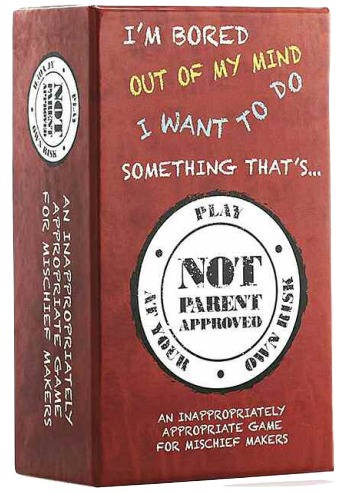
BY JULIE WENGER WATSON

teen gifts beyond cash and gift cards

Shopping for teenagers can be a challenge. If you're reading this article at the first of the month, you still have a reasonable amount of time to get that perfect gift for the adolescent in your life. For those who've procrastinated, or are simply at a loss, don't panic. We're here to help.

Retro-Tech

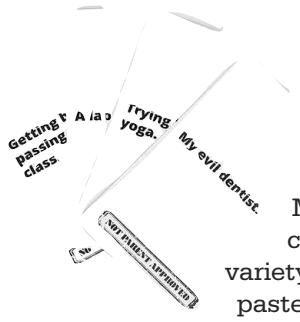
Giving truth to the saying, "Everything old is new again," many of 2018's popular gifts have a retro feel. While they might harken back to earlier times, the **Audio Technica Bluetooth Wireless Stereo Turntable ($180)** and the **Fujifilm Instax Mini Camera ($65)**, come loaded with modern technology.



The turntable plays both 33-1/3 and 45 RMP records, so pull out your old vinyl and spin some records with your teen, who likely has his or her own collection of contemporary discs. The Bluetooth connectivity means it can be easily paired with other Bluetooth-enabled devices like speakers or headphones.

It may be the age of cell phone selfies, but there is still something magical about watching a photo develop before your eyes. With all the nostalgia and slightly more sophistication than the Polaroid of your youth, The Instax Mini comes in a variety of fun pastel colors, with plenty of accessory options. Even in this time of instant gratification, teens don't mind this wait.







Card Games

Like a scavenger hunt on your phone, **Game of Phones ($20)** challenges players to utilize the Internet and their photo gallery to find the weirdest or funniest things they can on their phones. For groups of three or more players, it's an enjoyable game for smartphone users of all ages.

Not Parent Approved ($25) is a family-friendly version of Cards Against Humanity. A funny and entertaining word game of fill-in-the-blanks, it's suitable for young tweens and teens.

Physical Fun

KanJam Disc Games ($8 and up) come with goals and flying discs. Suitable for indoor or outdoor play, depending on the particular product, the game is played with two teams of two or one-on-one. Players earn points by hitting or landing in the goal with their discs.

Although not as fast, nor street legal, as the electric scooters currently taking over the city, the **Razor Hovertrax 2.0 Hoverboard Self-Balancing Smart Scooter ($350)** cruises up to 6



continued next page

mph and is controlled with your feet. The "smart" part means the scooter automatically levels itself for an easier mount and a smoother ride.

Signage

With **Retrogram Boards Vintage Felt Changeable Letter Board ($30)**, you can create endless messages in the 10" x 10" oak-wood frame using 300 letters, numbers and other characters. This gift is ideal for a dorm room, bedroom, or even a shared family space.

For teens who prefer to see their name in lights, there's **My**



Cinema Lightbox ($30 and up.) Backlit like an old-time movie marquee, the box comes in a variety of sizes with 100 characters of creativity.

Experiences

If you'd like to gift an experience, consider concert tickets. BOK Arena and the Brady Theater are always good bets for touring bands and comedy acts, but the Cain's Ballroom, with its rich musical history, is a personal favorite. Check the website www.cainsballroom.com for a complete calendar listing, then throw in a Cain's t-shirt for the total package.

Holiday shopping can seem to be an overwhelming task – especially when the intended gift recipient is a teen or tween. However, with a little footwork or some keyboard clicking and a bit of imagination, you're sure to find the ideal gift to close out 2018.

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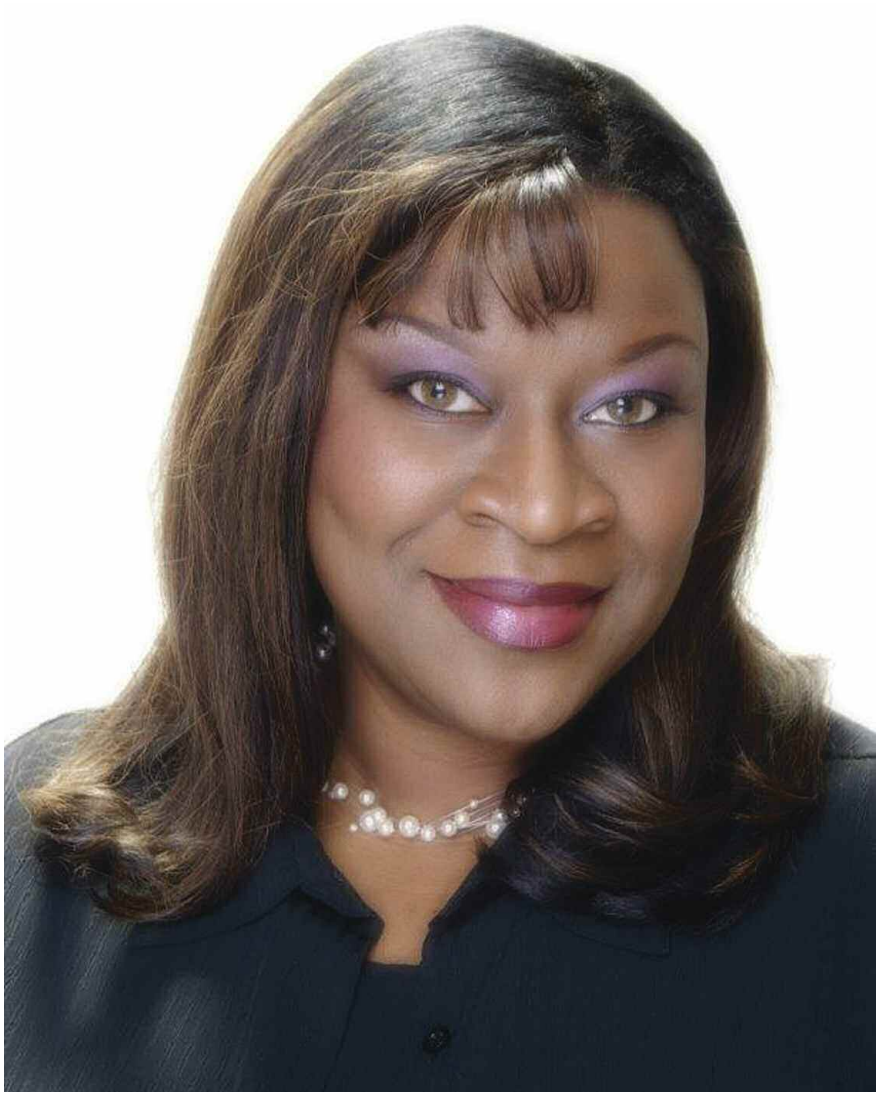
BY BETTY CASEY

"Dr. B. Joy" honored for work with Mothers Group, Inc.

University of Oklahoma-Tulsa Human Relations professor Dr. Brenda Lloyd-Jones (affectionately known as Dr. B. Joy) has been honored with the 2018 Paragon Award for her work with The Mothers Group, Inc., a nonprofit that Dr. Lloyd-Jones co-founded in 1988.

The Paragon Award recognizes Leadership Tulsa members who exhibit outstanding leadership and commitment to local nonprofit organizations in the Tulsa community. The Mothers Group, Inc. is an organization composed of women who are committed to enriching the lives of children through educational, cultural and social initiatives.

One of The Mothers Group's most widely recognized events is the Santa Community Project, which Lloyd-Jones created in 1989 after overhearing a child ask her mother to be taken to another part of the city to pose with Santa for a photograph. The Santas were not only at locations that were far from the child's neighborhood, but they also were white, so Dr. Lloyd-Jones suggested that The Mothers Group host a black Santa and Mrs. Claus at the Rudisill Library in north Tulsa. The event was so successful that it outgrew the library, and is now held at the Greenwood Cultural Center.



DR. BRENDA LLOYD-JONES HAS BEEN HONORED WITH A LEADERSHIP TULSA 2018 PARAGON AWARD.

This year the Santa Community Project will be Saturday, Dec. 1, from 9 a.m. to noon at Greenwood Cultural Center. It is free and open to anyone.

Literacy is fundamental to the mission of The Mothers Project, so each child who visits Santa and Mrs. Claus will receive a new, gift-wrapped, age-appropriate book. While children wait for their complimentary photo op with Santa, performers from local schools and community organizations entertain visitors.

"Over the years, I've noticed Santa Community Project participants come from diverse backgrounds," Lloyd-Jones said. "Also, children's letters to Santa suggest youngsters with compassionate hearts. For instance, they wish for an ill relative to return home from the hospital by the holiday, a lost pet to be found soon, or a parent to hear good news following a job interview."

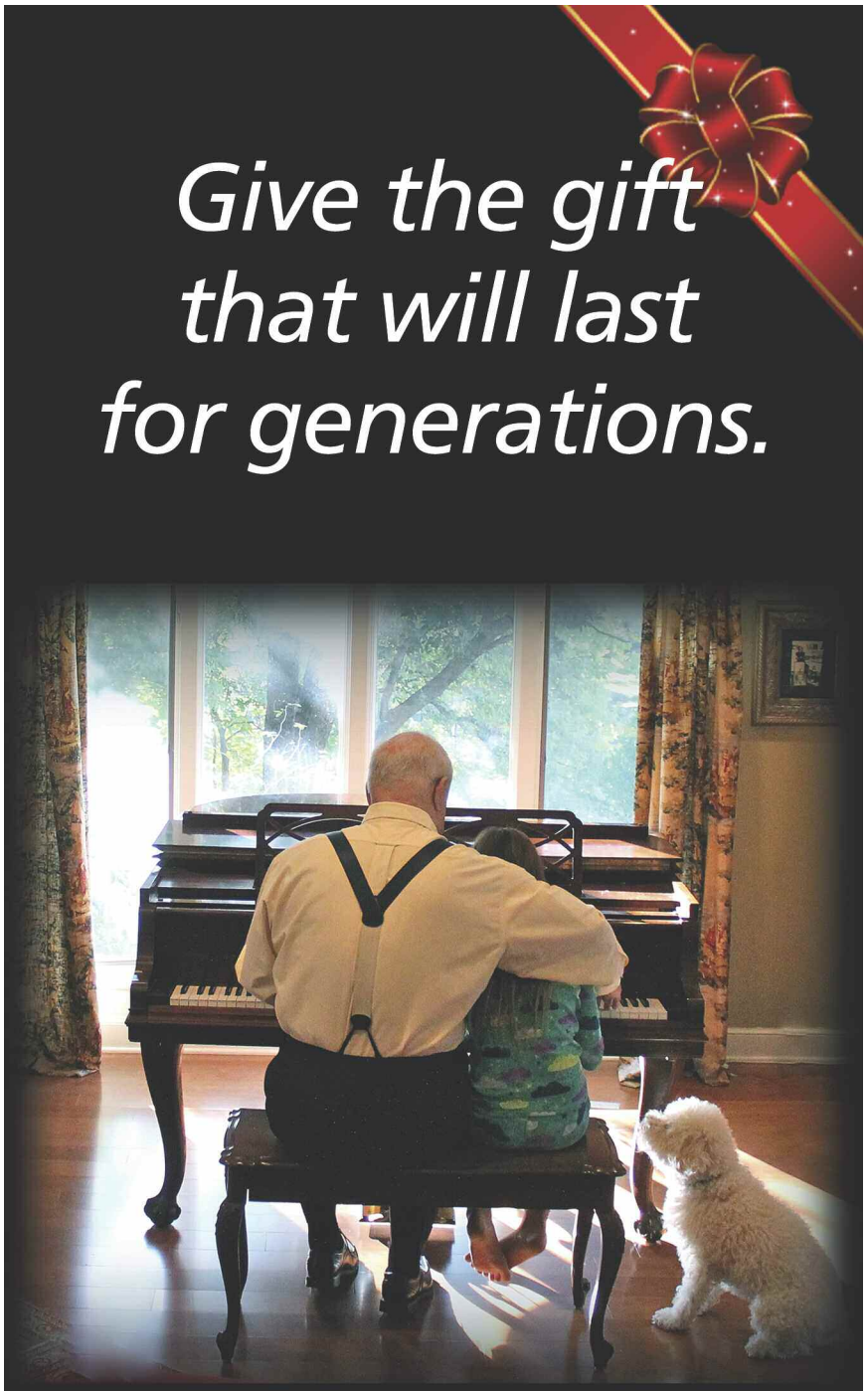
Dr. Lloyd-Jones says that volunteers for The Mothers Group return year after year to help with the project and some of the original members' adult children are now volunteering. "I would like to genuinely thank all parents and guardians who have taken

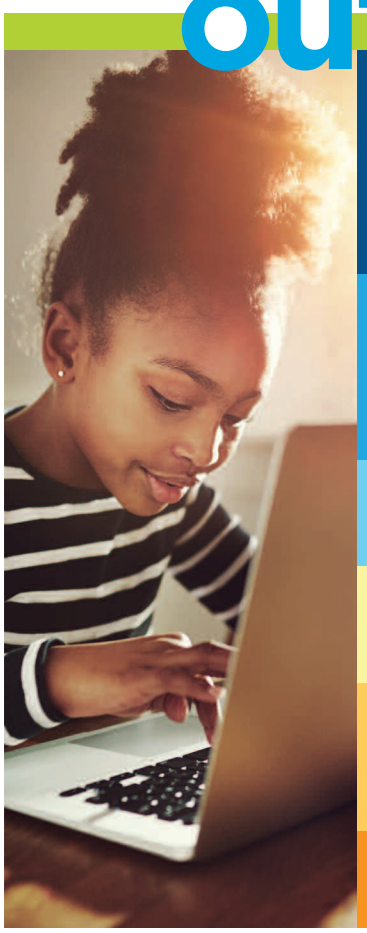
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time from their busy schedules to spend precious time with their children at the Santa Community Project over the years. Creating family time nowadays can be somewhat of a challenge, given our rushed lifestyles," she said. "Research indicates that an increase in family time enhances the opportunity for families to strengthen their bonding and shared values."

For 29 years, The Santa Community Project has been providing children with a treasured visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus as well as supporting a connection to reading. "Books provide wonderful opportunities for girls and boys to develop a love for and a proficiency in reading," Lloyd-Jones said. "The longevity and consistency of their outreach is an extraordinary accomplishment."

The Santa Community Project
Children are invited to visit Santa and Mrs. Claus, receive and complimentary photo and a free book.
Saturday, Dec. 1, 2018
9 a.m. – noon
Greenwood Cultural Center, 322 North Greenwood Ave., Tulsa
Free and open to the public
Cash donations to purchase books may be mailed to P.O. Box 702915, Tulsa, OK 74170-2915. For more information or to donate new books, go to http://themothersgroup.org/





BY LAURA RAPHAEL, CHILDREN'S SERVICES COORDINATOR, TULSA CITY-COUNTY LIBRARY

library picks for kids: best picture books of 2018

Wintertime brings a whole new change of clothing. (Boots and flannels, how I've missed you!) Appropriate for the upcoming awards season, Youth Librarians at the Tulsa City-County Library are donning (metaphorical) ball gowns and tuxes to declare the best picture books of 2018!

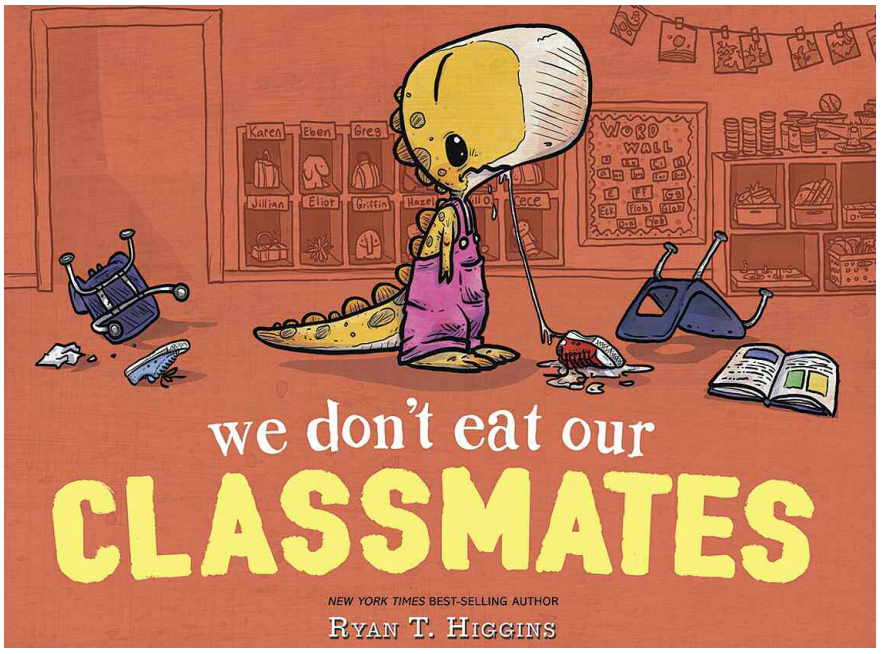
And the winners are…

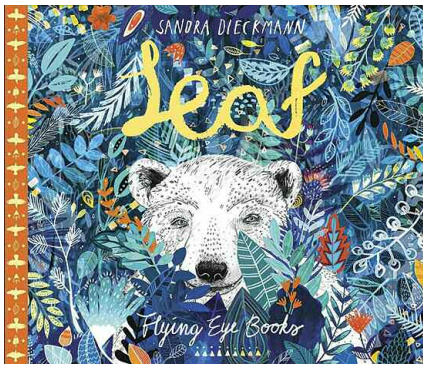
The Impulse Control Can Be Funny! Award

We Don't Eat Our Classmates!, written and illustrated by Ryan T. Higgins

When Penelope the dinosaur eats her classmates (they are very tasty, after all!), she discovers that it may not be the best way to start the first day of school. For one thing, the children you eat and then spit up might not want to be your friends. Funny rather than scary, this book features sparky dialogue and a comic exploration of impulse control.

South Broken Arrow Youth Librarian Melody Palmer writes: "What's not to love in this book? It's great for preschool-1st grade children. When I read it [at an outreach visit to preschools], the children squealed with laughter through parts of it, though the teachers are the ones who truly appreciated it. Mr. Higgins does a great job showing the best ways to make friends in this fun book with a message!"

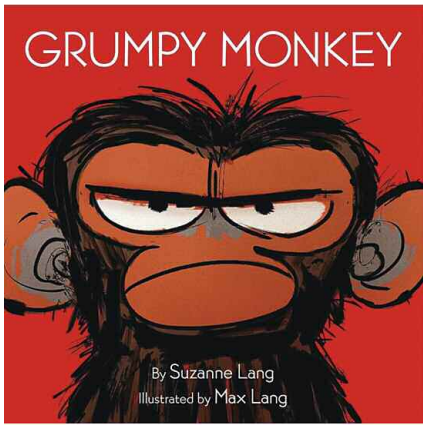




The "Read It Again!" Award

Leaf, written and illustrated by Sandra Dieckmann

Picture books like this one are what give picture books a good name. Lushly illustrated, with magical details in nearly every square inch, children will just want to look at every page again and again. Luckily, there's also a story of incredible beauty and power as well, as a strange creature is feared and then accepted by other animals.



Joy Carr, Youth Librarian at the Schusterman-Benson Library, raves: "Dieckmann's extraordinary illustrations are reason enough to pick up *Leaf*, but it's also a heart-warming story about bravery, friendship, loneliness, and family that is lovely for children and adults alike."

The Little People Have Big Emotions Award

Grumpy Monkey, written by Suzanne Lang and illustrated by Max Lang

For anyone who has ever been told, "Smile!" by a stranger on the street and then wanted to scowl even harder, this tale will resonate. Humans (and monkeys) should be allowed to have a grumpy day sometimes.

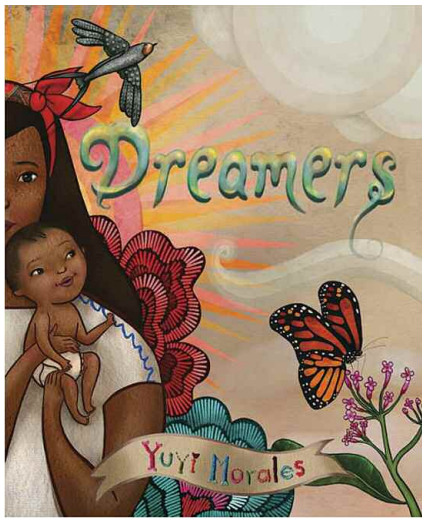
Stacy Lister, Children's Department Manager at Central Library, explains why this is her favorite: "I love that it validates 'big' feelings that little kids have and opens the vocabulary to talking with parents about feelings rather than just acting them out."

The Libraries Are Magical Award

Dreamers, written and illustrated by Yuyi Morales

This is the book that TCCL children's librarians – including myself – chose as the best of the best in 2018. It is simply stunning: lyrical words, illustrations,

continued next page



and a stirring message about the power of books and reading. (If you didn't know it by now, we children's librarians do tend to fervently believe in the power of books and reading!)

Herman and Kate Kaiser Youth Librarian Sarah Davis speaks for them all when she writes: "It's just gorgeous and ALSO ABOUT LIBRARIES and how we are magical, because we are. The colors are amazing, the stories are amazing, just, all of it."

The "Mr. Rogers Would Love This!" Award

The Day You Begin, written by Jacqueline Woodson and illustrated by Rafael Lopez

While *Dreamers* was the top vote-getter among Tulsa children's librarians, this was a close second. Not only does it have delicate, richly layered illustrations by Rafael Lopez (the 2016 featured illustrator for the library's popular Books To Treasure program), the theme that every person has value just the way they are – and are stronger when they help each other – is one that the late, great Fred Rogers would approve.

Publishers Weekly concludes (and we concur) in a starred review: "Woodson's gentle, lilting story and López's artistry create a stirring portrait of the courage it takes to be oneself: 'There will be times when you walk into a room and no one there is quite like you until the day you begin / to share your stories.' "

A big thank you to these librarians for their year-end recommendations: Joy Carr, Schusterman-Benson Library; Sarah Davis, Herman and Kate Kaiser Library; Tatiana Godinez, Central Library Children's Department; Stacy Lister, Central Library Children's Department; Melody Palmer, South Broken Arrow Library.

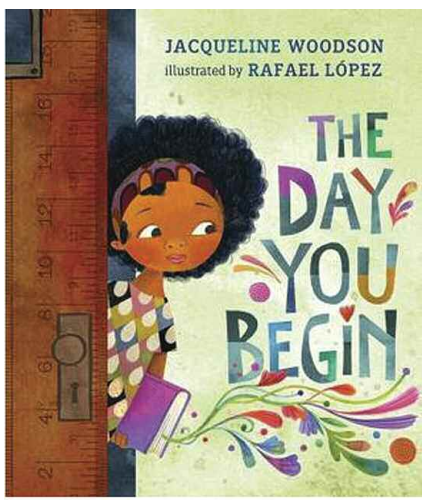
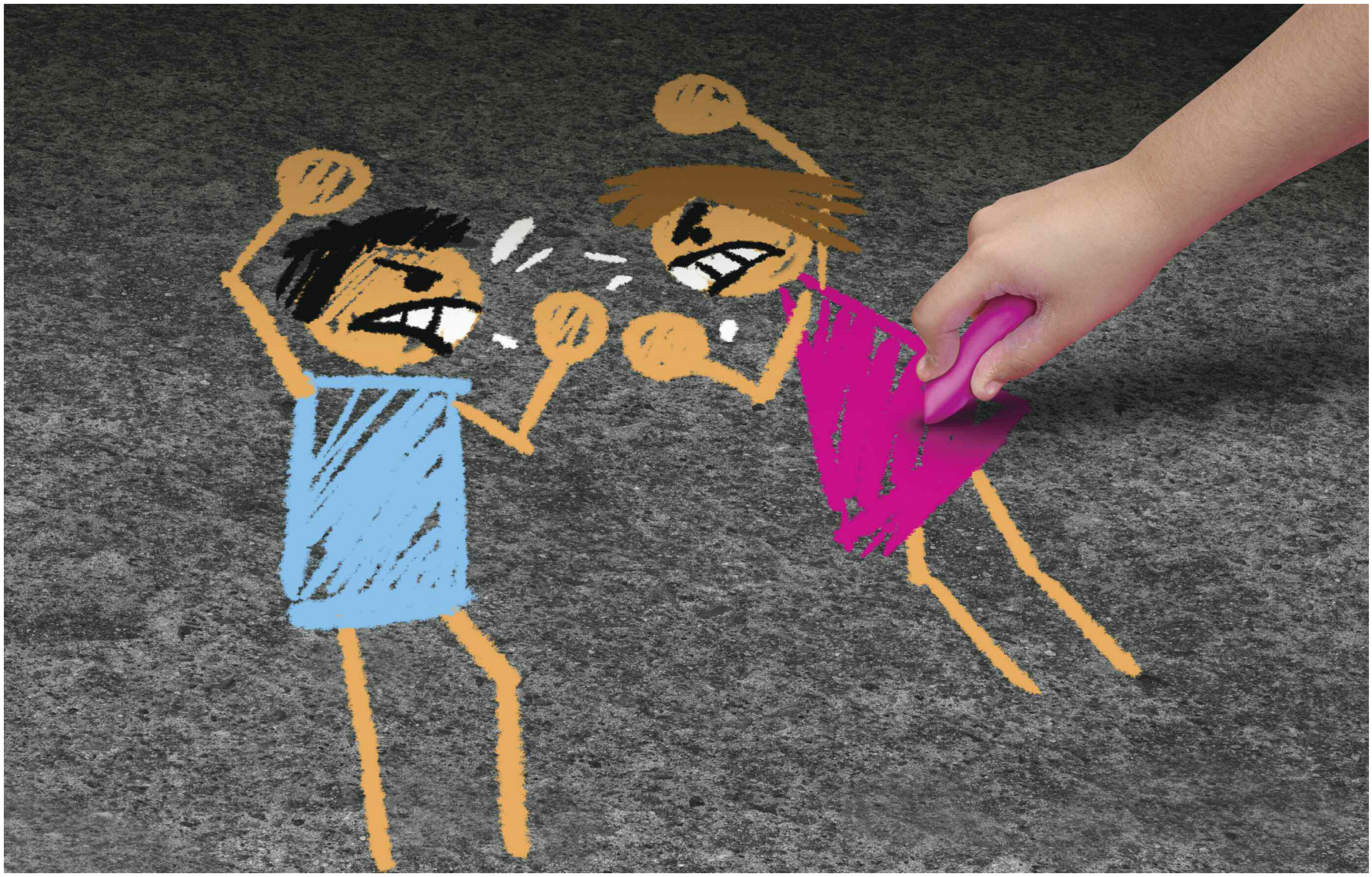


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DISAGREE ABOUT DISCIPLINE?

WHAT TO DO WHEN PARENTING STYLES CLASH

BY CHRISTA MELNYK HINES

We all come to parenthood with a certain set of expectations and assumptions about raising kids. Often, we assume our partner will share our personal outlook. That is, until we find ourselves butting heads in the midst of a heated child-rearing dilemma. Those conflicts are often magnified by the holidays when children and parents are stressed by extra activities, upended schedules and family togetherness.

How do we navigate a parenting style conflict without confusing our kids and harming our relationship with our partner?

Discuss your upbringing with your partner. "In a perfect world, we would have these conversations when we are dating," says adolescent and family therapist Melissa Perry, LPC.

How we raise our kids is often dictated by how our parents raised us -- or how we wish we'd been raised. As a couple, discuss each other's childhoods. For example, what was your parents' disciplinary style? How did they interact with you?

Listen to understand and empathize with each other's experiences.

"Most people know that it doesn't feel good to scream at their kids. Most people know it doesn't feel good to hit them, but they do it because they say 'I turned out okay,'" says Cati Winkel, a wellness coach, who works with individuals and families.

"Once we start figuring out what that's created in their lives, how they interact and how they have relationships with people, they start to recognize 'Oh, maybe things could have been a little bit different,'" Winkel says.

Parent as a team. Even if you are divorced or separated, focus on presenting a united front when it comes to parenting.

"It's fine for parents to each have their own way of interacting with their children. As a matter of

continued next page

fact, it's healthy because it teaches children to be more flexible and to adapt better in different environments," says Colleen Huff, a certified parent educator.

However, come to an agreement on important issues such as discipline and family rules.

Discuss the ideal home environment you want to create, the types of family rules that are important to each of you, and zero in on common goals.

Come up with a plan. Agree on age-appropriate rules and consequences in your home. For a toddler or preschooler, you might have two or three rules such as no hitting or no throwing toys, while a 5-year-old might have up to five rules.

"If kids know the expected behavior, then they're free to do something else, which is going to be exploring and learning, playing and engaging and feeling self-confident versus feeling timid, inward and insecure," Huff says.

Establish reasonable consequences for unacceptable behavior, but be flexible. For example, you might use a chair for a time-out for your child to calm down, while your partner may prefer that your child go to his or her bedroom.

By agreeing on a plan of action for common scenarios and remaining consistent with consequences, you can avoid reactive parenting.

According to The Center for Parenting Education website, https://centerforparentingeducation.org, "using consequences helps you to impose discipline in a way that teaches your children responsibility and accountability and encourages them to look inward to learn how they can do things differently in the future."

Appropriate consequences build self-esteem and character while providing learning opportunities.

Manage conflict. Vastly different approaches to parenting can send mixed messages to your child.

"Your child might start to identify one parent as the parent to avoid and the other parent as the parent to get what they want to out of them -- or use parents against each other," Perry says. "If your goal is to both love your child and both parent them, then you can probably come to some sort of compromise."

Suppose you want your child to do homework right away after school to free up the evening for other interests. Then, your partner comes home, dismisses this rule and lets your child play before homework.

A good way to address the situation might be for you to say:

"I've noticed that Johnny struggles to complete his homework if he puts it off until later in the day. This structure in our afternoons seems to help. I could really use your support on this."

Then, give your partner an opportunity to respond. Listen carefully to the response without interrupting.

"Focus on the problem, not the person and focus on the actual issue at hand in the moment, not what the parent or child did or didn't do in the last week or week before," Perry advises.

Also, use reflective listening to validate what your partner says, which shows that you care about his or her perception or opinion. In reflective listening, you restate in a non-condescending way what you think you heard: "I think I'm hearing you say_____. Is this what you mean?"

"Oftentimes we misunderstand, and we base our next answer on an assumption of understanding," Perry says.

Is it okay to fight in front of your child? If you can remain calm, it's healthy for kids to see their parents work out a conflict and come to a resolution.

"If we teach children from a young age how to properly deal with conflict, that's only going to set them up for success," Winkel says.

But, if you are too angry to discuss the situation immediately, give yourselves permission to cool off before working through the issue.

"Agree to walk away, but have a set, specific time that you are going to come back and talk about it again," Perry says. "A lot of times people fight, then they cool down, but they don't ever come back and resolve what was said in the heat of the moment."

Without coming to resolutions for problems that come up in our relationships, resentment and disengagement from each other can set in, potentially harming your partnership.

Need help strengthening your communication skills with your partner or ex to resolve parenting differences? Consult with a licensed family therapist for helpful support and strategies.

Christa Melnyk Hines is a nationally published freelance writer. Her latest book is *Happy, Healthy & Hyperconnected: Raise a Thoughtful Communicator in a Digital World*.

Types of Parenting Styles

Authoritative
Provides structure to a child's daily routine, including regular bedtime
Establishes clear household rules and reasonable consequences
Healthy, open line of communication between parent and child
Considered most effective and beneficial parenting style for the average child.

Neglectful
Doesn't support child's emotional and/or physical needs
Unaware of what is happening in child's life
Leaves child alone for long periods of time
Uninvolved with child's life outside of home
One of the most harmful parenting styles. Kids have trouble forming relationships with others.

Permissive
Loving and nurturing, but not demanding
Lenient to avoid confrontation with child
Lacks structure, unclear rules, consequences
May bribe kids to do things with large rewards
Kids more likely to exhibit insecurity, poor social skills, self-centeredness, lack of motivation and disregard for authority.

Authoritarian
Demanding, strict and inflexible
Lack of healthy dialogue between parent and child
Limits child's ability to make decisions or choices
Uses punishment instead of positive reinforcement
Kids may exhibit low self-esteem, associate obedience with love, struggle in social situations, and may rebel when outside of parental control.

Source: Developmental Psychology, Vanderbilt University

Local Resources for Classes and Related Information

Active Parenting. Family & Children's Services offers parenting classes for parents of infants through teens. To register or for more information, call 918.560.1114; www.fcsok.org/classes/

Parents as Teachers®: The Parent Child Center of Tulsa. Serves pregnant women and families with children up to age 5. For more information, visit www.parentchildcenter.org or call 918.599.7999.

Child Guidance: Tulsa Health Department. Provides specialized assistance to families that include young children with challenging behaviors. Also provides developmental, behavioral health, hearing and speech & language screenings. Fill out a form online or call 918.594.4720. The THD also has Children First for first-time moms and their families; 918.779.6949; www.tulsa-health.org.

Note: Oklahoma law requires that divorcing parents attend an Oklahoma Court Approved Class for Divorcing Parents.

GIFT GUIDE

i9 Sports



i9 Sports is the fastest growing youth sports league in the Nation. We offer Basketball, Soccer, Flag Football, and T-ball. We focus on age-appropriate instruction that's fun for kids and convenient for today's busy families. We are redefining youth sports across the country. i9 Sports is the nation's first and largest youth sports league franchise business in the United States. With over 1.5 million registrations in communities from New York to Hawaii, i9 Sports offers youth sports leagues, camps and clinics for boys and girls ages 3-14 in today's most popular sports such as flag football, soccer, basketball and baseball.

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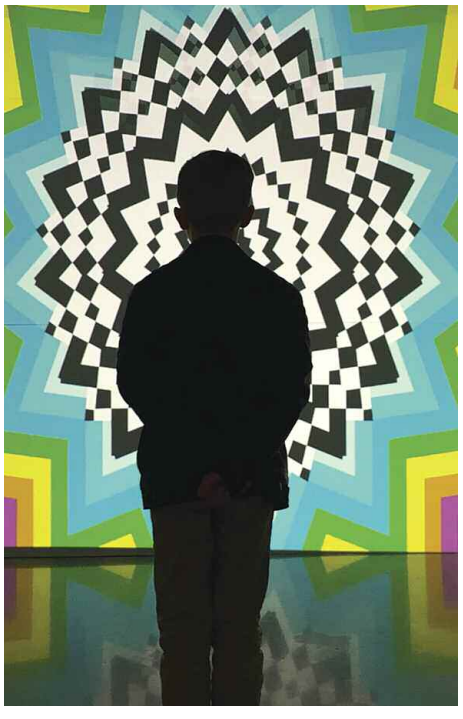
Contact: Tiffany DeSautell, tiffany.desautell@i9sports.com, 918.212.4534

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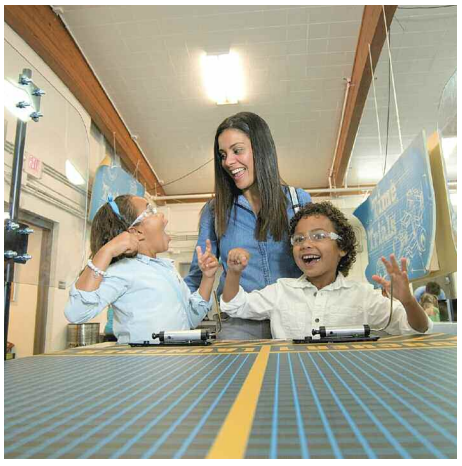
ahha Tulsa



A visit to ahha Tulsa this holiday season is the perfect way for families to spend time exploring their creativity together! Family memberships can be easily gifted - they start at just $75 and include free admission for 2 adults and 4 kids age 3-17. You'll find unique items in the recently renovated gift shop - choose something for every person on your list from a selection of local art, creative toys, and handcrafted gifts. Plus, every purchase made at ahha supports arts learning and infusion in the Tulsa community. Thank you for helping us cultivate creativity!

ahha Tulsa, 101 E. Archer St., 918.584.3333, www.ahhatulsa.org

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.

Discovery Lab, 560 N. Maybelle Ave; 918.295.8144; www.discoverylab.org; facebook.com/DiscoveryLabTulsa; instagram.com/discoverylab





Junior League of Tulsa's Holiday Market



Holiday Market is a three-day, one-stop holiday shopping extravaganza December 7-9 featuring unique merchandise from more than 100 carefully selected vendors from Oklahoma and across the country. Shop for clothing, gourmet foods, gifts, children's items, jewelry and more during the market – we promise you'll find everything you need and more! Make sure to stop by and snag a picture with the Clauses while you shop on Saturday and Sunday.

Holiday Market raises funds to support the mission of the Junior League of Tulsa. Proceeds from Holiday Market support the League's mission-based programs and community partnerships that work to end the cycle of poverty affecting women and children in Tulsa (e.g., Food Bank, Food on the Move, Hawthorne Elementary, Resonance Center for Women, Street School, and Poetic Justice) and train women to become effective community leaders and advocates for social change within our Tulsa communities.

Union Multipurpose Activity Center, 6836 S. Mingo Rd., Tulsa. Tickets $5; jltulsaholidaymarket.com



Smitty's Garage

Smitty's Garage gift cards make great stocking stuffers! From juicy burgers to the new Avocado Chicken Salad, we have something to please everyone in the family. Don't forget, free bomb pops for kids with purchase of a kid's meal! Learn more at **eatatthegarage.com**



Tulsa Zoo

As we enter the season of giving, consider gifting the wonderment of wildlife to your loved ones. Annual memberships to the Tulsa Zoo allow the animal fanatic in your life to explore all year long. Start an ADOPTion collection to build better animal habitats through symbolic animal adoptions. Choose from a collection of one-of-a-kind works by zoo animals and deck your walls with Art Untamed. A gift from the Tulsa Zoo will go toward the care and feeding of the animals you know and love. On behalf of all of us at the Tulsa Zoo, we thank you for your commitment to wildlife education and conservation.
6421 E. 36th St. North; 918.669.6600; tulsazoo.org/gift

AR Workshop



AR Workshop®: a boutique DIY studio that offers hands-on classes for creating custom and charming home decor from raw materials. Join an instructor-led workshop to make custom wood signs, framed signs, canvas pillows, round signs, lazy susans, centerpiece boxes, tote bags, and more! AR Workshop is the perfect place for: Girls Night Out, Birthday Parties (Adult or Youth), Date Night, Bachelorette Parties, Team Building Events, Sports Team Outings, Fundraisers, Corporate Events & More! AR Workshop Tulsa will help you take your home decor to the next level and have fun while creating it!

Located on historic Route 66 in The Pearl District, 1020 S. Rockford Avenue, Studio D, Tulsa, 74120; www.arworkshop.com/tulsa, www.facebook.com/arworkshoptulsaok



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[FREE, W] = FREE WEEKLY [W] = WEEKLY

December 1 Saturday

BIRD WALK AT OXLEY NATURE CENTER [FREE]
An Oxley staff member will lead a bird walk on the first Saturday of every month for all ages. Beginners are welcome. Bring binoculars if you have them, and meet at the Nature Center. Register by emailing oxley@cityoftulsa.org or calling 918.596.9054. Oxley Nature Center, within Mohawk Park, 8 a.m. www.oxleynaturecenter.org

NARNIA WINTER WONDERLAND PARTY [FREE]
Step through the wardrobe for a Narnia celebration. Enjoy winter crafts, light refreshments and a hot cocoa bar. Costumes are welcome. For all ages. Zarrow Regional Library, 2224 W. 51st St., 2-3:30 p.m. www.tulsalibrary.org

December 2 Sunday

STUDIO SUNDAYS [W]
Every Sunday in The STUDIO, you'll discover special activities and new creative challenges, techniques, and materials for kids of all ages to explore. You'll also have the chance to meet artists participating in the Open Studios program in the nearby printmaking, metal, photography, and digital media labs. ahha Tulsa, 101 E. Archer St., 12-7 p.m. www.ahhatulsa.org

DROP-IN STUDIO AT GILCREASE
Explore new materials and concepts each month under the guidance of Gilcrease teaching artists. Studio activities can be adapted for visitors of all ages, backgrounds and artist abilities. All supplies and materials provided. Free for members, and free with museum admission for not-yet-members. Gilcrease Museum, 1400 N. Gilcrease Museum Rd., 1-4 p.m. www.gilcrease.org/events

December 3 Monday

MAGIC MONDAY STORYTIME [FREE, W]
Bring the kids every Monday for storytime at Magic City Books. Classics, new favorites, and more. Snacks included. Magic City Books, 221 E. Archer St., 10:30-11:30 a.m. www.magiccitybooks.com

CAREGIVER/CHILD YOGA
With music and movement, you and your child are bound to have fun during this short yoga practice together. Learn breathing practices and poses you can do as a family at home. This event is included with

regular admission and there is no pre-registration required. Discovery Lab, 560 N. Maybelle Ave., 10:30-11 a.m. www.discoverylab.org

December 4 Tuesday

READ AND PLAY GROUP [FREE]
Chat about books you've read lately with other parents and caregivers while your little one ages 0-5 enjoys a relaxed play environment. Herman and Kate Kaiser Library, 5202 S. Hudson Ave., 10:30-11:30 a.m. www.tulsalibrary.org

ANIMALS OF THE SKY
A young girl, Delphina, finds herself in an unfortunate incident and gets helps from the unexpected Animals of the Sky. Come experience her story and discover how the stars can be connected to create real life animals! The target audience age for Animals of the Sky is ages 4 years to adult. Jenks Planetarium, 105 E. B St., Jenks, 7-8 p.m. www.jenkscommunityed.com

December 5 Wednesday

TINY TOTS IN TRAINING [FREE, W]
Toddlers (age 2-5) will engage in activities such as miniature basketball, hula-hoops, tri-cycle riding with the support of their parent(s). Case Community Center, 1050 W. Wewika Rd., Sand Springs, 10-11:30 a.m. www.sandspringsok.com

December 6 Thursday

THURSDAY TINY TOTS AT WHEELS AND THRILLS [W]
Kids 6 years old and younger can skate, play, ride and bounce at Wheels and Thrills Family Entertainment Center! $7 per child. Wheels and Thrills, 10637 N. Garnett Rd., Owasso, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. www.wheelsandthrills.com

SAFE KIDS CAR SEAT CHECK [FREE]
Make sure your child's car seat is installed correctly at this free event sponsored by Safe Kids Tulsa! Broken Arrow Fire Department Station 6, 3151 N. 9th St. (Lynn Lane), Broken Arrow, 1-3 p.m. www.safekidstulsa.com

December 7 Friday

FIRST FRIDAY ART CRAWL [FREE]
This year-round monthly event features all of the galleries, studios and museums as well as the part-time galleries in various shops opening their doors to show and sell art. Shops are open late and there are lots of dining and entertainment opportunities as well. Tulsa Arts District, 6-9 p.m. www.thetulsaartsdistrict.org

December 8 Saturday

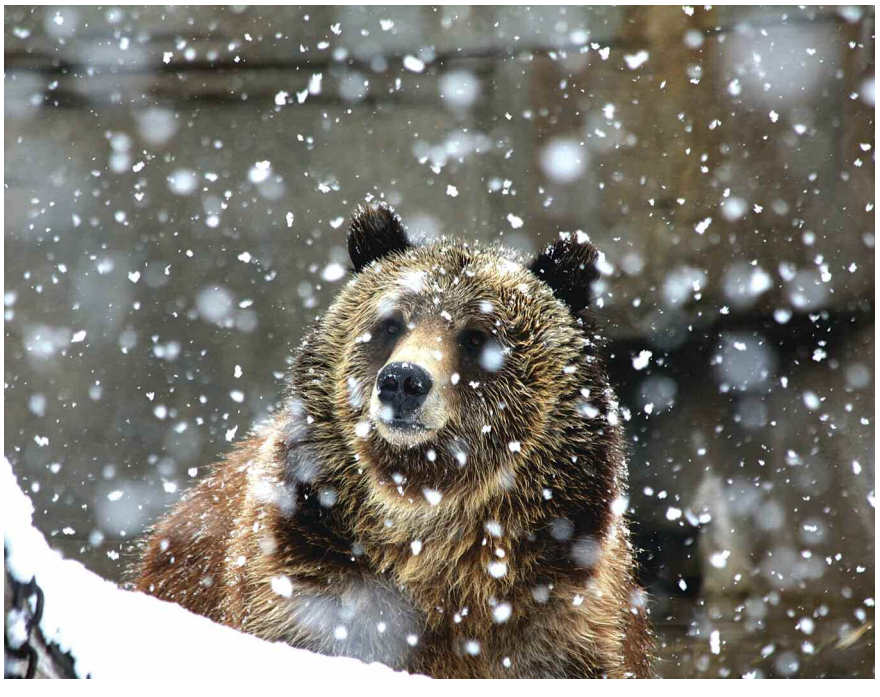
KEYSTONE ANCIENT FOREST HIKE DAY [FREE]
Hike amidst a classic Oklahoma crosstimbers forest with 500-year-old cedars and 400-year-old post oak trees. Keystone Ancient Forest, 160 Ancient Forest Dr., 8 a.m.-2 p.m. www.sandspringsok.org

SECOND SATURDAY AT PHILBROOK [FREE]
Free. Family. Fun. Bring the whole family for Philbrook Second Saturdays. Free admission all day and a variety of events and hands-on activities. Philbrook Museum, 2727 S. Rockford Rd., 9 a.m.-5 p.m. www.philbrook.org

"OLIVER TWIST" PRESENTED BY 2ND SATURDAY SILENTS
Charles Dicken's classic about a young orphan (Jackie Coogan) enduring trials and tribulations before finding someone to love and care for him. Starring Lon Chaney. Bill Rowland accompanies on original 1928 pipe organ. Circle Cinema, 10 S. Lewis Ave., 11 a.m. www.circlecinema.com

December 9 Sunday

SENSORY-FRIENDLY FAMILY FUN TIME
Every second Sunday of the month, Discovery Lab hosts Sensory-Friendly Family Fun Time, from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. This event is held before the museum opens for the day for families with children on the Autism Spectrum and/or who have sensory processing disorders. Families can enjoy the museum before the rush and play together in a supportive environment. Discovery Lab, 560 N. Maybelle Ave., 9:30-11:30 a.m. www.discoverylab.org



ZOO INSIDER: COLD CLIMATES
Teenagers will take the plunge and discover the amazing ways animals survive in the cold. Learn about animal adaptations and how you can protect these specialized species. Middle and high school students 13 to 18 years old are welcome to attend. Cost is $25 per class. More information and registration at tulsazoo.org/classes. Tulsa Zoo, 6421 E 36th St. North, Saturday, Dec. 15, 1-4 p.m.

FOOD52 GENIUS DESSERTS: WITH KRISTEN MIGLORE (CREATIVE DIRECTOR)
Food52's Creative Director, Kristen Miglore, is coming to Mother Road Market to talk about and sign copies of her latest collection of recipes, Genius Desserts. Mother Road Market, 1124 S. Lewis Ave., 2-3:30 p.m. www.motherroadmarket.com

December 10 Monday

DANCE & SING ALONG
Every second Monday of the month, join Executive Director Ray Vandiver and the Discovery Lab band as they sing classic children's songs. Dance with scarves, play along with instruments, and be ready to get your groove on! This event is included with regular admission and there is no pre-registration required. Discovery Lab, 560 N. Maybelle Ave., 10:30-11 a.m. www.discoverylab.org

December 11 Tuesday

PARENT CHILD CENTER OF TULSA MONTHLY TOUR [FREE]
The Parent Child Center of Tulsa offers tours of the agency at noon on the second Tuesday of every month. The tour lasts one hour and a light lunch is served. Learn about the PATHWAY OF HOPE the Center provides to families in the Tulsa community, meet staff members, and hear directly from clients about how Center services have impacted their lives. Register for a tour at www.parentchildcenter.org/giveget-involved/take-a-tour. Parent Child Center of Tulsa, 1421 S. Boston Ave., 12 p.m.



BABY WINTER FORMAL/GALA DE INVIERNO PARA BEBÉS [FREE]
The Martin Regional Library has the great honor of inviting you to baby winter formal! Come and enjoy a special winter storytime in the castle, followed by a Winter Ball for Babies! Dress in your fanciest clothes or come in whatever is comfortable! There will be snacks, music, bubbles and crafts. This program is for ages 0-5, but all members of the family are welcome. / La biblioteca Regional Martin tiene el gran honor de invitarles a su gran gala de invierno para bebés! La biblioteca Regional Martin tiene el gran honor de invitarles a su gran gala de invierno. Ven y disfruta de un cuento de invierno en el castillo, seguido de nuestro baile de invierno para bebes. Ven y festeja con nosotros! Vistete para impresionar o con tu ropa de gala. Habra bocadillos, musica, burbujas y artessanias. Para las edades de 0-5 años, pero toda la familia estan invitados. Martin Regional Library, 2601 S. Garnett Rd., 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. www.tulsalibrary.org

December 12 Wednesday

TULSA HEALTHCARE COVERAGE PROJECT: SOONERCARE ASSISTANCE [FREE]
Health care is confusing. THCP is here to help with your Soonercare questions. Please bring income verification and ID for all household members. Bilingual (English/Spanish) staff available on-site. Martin Regional Library, 2601 S. Garnett Rd., 9 a.m.-12 p.m. www.tulsalibrary.org

BUILD A READER STORYTIME: TODDLERS [FREE]
Join library staff for songs, stories and movements geared to your toddler. Hardesty Library, 8316 E. 93rd St., 10-10:20 a.m. www.tulsalibrary.org

December 13 Thursday

BUILD A READER STORYTIME: POP-UP! [FREE]
Can't attend a scheduled storytime? Ask for one on a Thursday, and your child can have a storytime, any time! Staff will have books preselected to read, or your child can pick their favorite books from our shelves for staff to read to them! Maxwell Park Library, 1313 N. Canton Ave., 10 a.m.-4 p.m. www.tulsalibrary.org

KIDS CONNECTIONS [FREE]
This social group is designed for children (grades K-5) on the autism spectrum. Kids Connections meets on the second Thursday of each month from 4:30-5:30 p.m. at the TARC office, 2516 E. 71st St., Suite A, Tulsa.
For more information and to enroll, call Sherilyn or Steve at 918-582-8272. www.ddadvocacy.net

December 14 Friday

STORYTIME FOR GROWNUPS: 'TIS THE SEASON [FREE]
Season's greetings! Gather round to listen to some seasonal stories to help get you in the fa la la spirit! Feel free to bring your lunch, craft or art project, and cozy in while listening to local orators delight you with some of their favorite reads. For adults. Central Library, 400 Civic Center, 12-1 p.m. www.tulsalibrary.org

December 15 Saturday

OU VS. USC
The University of Oklahoma Men's Basketball team will face the USC Trojans at BOK Center for a neutral site game that is part of the venue's 10-year anniversary celebration. BOK Center, 200 S. Denver Ave., 7 p.m. www.bokcenter.com

December 16 Sunday

FUNDAY SUNDAY [FREE]
Children and adults alike can enjoy an afternoon of exhibition-inspired activities, artist-led studio projects, museum exhibitions and interactive spaces. Special activities from Noon to 4:00 pm, with free admission all day. Gilcrease Museum, 1400 N. Gilcrease Museum Rd., 12-4 p.m. www.gilcrease.org

December 17 Monday

HEALTH CARE APPLICATION ASSISTANCE [FREE]
Health care can be confusing. Not sure if you qualify? Not sure where to start? The folks at Tulsa Healthcare Coverage Program are here to help. Come in for individualized assistance with SoonerCare, Insure Oklahoma and the Affordable Care Act (ACA) health exchange. Please bring your ID and income verification. For adults. Central Library, 400 Civic Center, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. www.tulsalibrary.org

IN THE MIDDLE [FREE]
Discuss a book and enjoy lively conversation. The featured book is available for checkout at the library. Light refreshments are provided. For ages 10-12. Broken Arrow Library/South, 3600 S. Chestnut Ave., 6:30-7:30 p.m. www.tulsalibrary.org

December 18 Tuesday

FAIRY TALE WINTER BALL: CALLING ALL PRINCESSES, PRINCES, KNIGHTS AND JESTERS! [FREE]
Come one, come all to the Fairy-Tale Winter Ball! Wear your best fairy-tale attire and enjoy a special storytime with crafts and activities to follow. Registration is requested. Register online at www.tulsalibrary.org/events or call 918-549-7323. For toddlers to elementary-school kids. Hardesty Library, 8316 E. 93rd St., 10:30-11:45 a.m.

December 19 Wednesday

TEEN MOVIE DAY [FREE]
Celebrate winter break from school with a movie and popcorn! For ages 10-18.
Rudisill Library, 1520 N. Hartford Ave., 4-6 p.m. www.tulsalibrary.org

December 20 Thursday

BABY & ME MATINEE: "LAST HOLIDAY" (PG-13) [FREE]
Moms, dads, caregivers! Relax and enjoy a movie just for you without worrying about your baby's noise or movement disrupting other moviegoers. The lights are kept dimmed and the sound volume down. Hardesty Library, 8316 E. 93rd St., 10 a.m.-12 p.m. www.tulsalibrary.org

SAFE KIDS CAR SEAT CHECK [FREE]
Make sure your child's car seat is installed correctly at this free event sponsored by Safe Kids Tulsa! Tulsa Fire Department Station 22, 7303 E. 15th St., 10 a.m.-12 p.m. www.safekidstulsa.com

December 21 Friday

MOVIE DAY! [FREE]
Enjoy a movie and light refreshments for all ages. Broken Arrow Library/South, 3600 S. Chestnut Ave., 2-4 p.m. www.tulsalibrary.org

December 22 Saturday

MONTHLY MOVIE AT MAXWELL PARK: "FROZEN" [FREE]
Join Maxwell Park Library for everyone's favorite winter flick: "Frozen"! Popcorn and juice will be served. Maxwell Park Library, 1313 N. Canton, 2-4 p.m. www.tulsalibrary.org

PHILBROOK STUDIO SATURDAYS
Studio Saturdays is a drop-in program for families with children of all ages (toddler-to-teen). Each month a new skill is explored with both studio and gallery activities. Included with general admission. Philbrook Members and kids 17 & under are always free. Drop in anytime! Philbrook Museum, 2727 S. Rockford Rd., 12:30-3:30 p.m. www.philbrook.org

TULSA OILERS VS. KANSAS CITY
Watch the Tulsa Oilers play hockey against Kansas City at the BOK Center, 200 S. Denver Ave., 7 p.m. www.bokcenter.com

December 23 Sunday

WINTER BREAK WONDERS! [FREE]
Make memories at Crystal Bridges Museum over your school break as you create with artists, make buttons in the gallery, and listen to fun music together as a family. Join the museum for special activities each afternoon, including artmaking, creative play, puppets, dance, and more. Crystal Bridges Museum of Art, 600 Museum Way, Bentonville, AR, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Additional dates Dec. 22, 24, 26-31, and Jan. 2-4 www.crystalbridges.org

December 24 Monday

SEE OUR LIST OF HOLIDAY EVENTS IN THIS ISSUE!

December 25 Tuesday

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM ALL OF US AT TULSAKIDS MAGAZINE!

December 26 Wednesday

ALL THUMBS KNITTERS [FREE, W]
All levels of knitting ability are welcome to join in for this fun afternoon. For adults. Collinsville Library, 1223 W. Main St., 12:30-2:30 p.m. www.tulsalibrary.org

December 27 Thursday

MINECRAFT GAMING: EDUCATION EDITION [FREE]
Put your imagination to the test building your own world in the popular game Minecraft. Registration is required. Register online at www.tulsalibrary.org/events or call 918-549-7323. For ages 10-18. Central Library, 400 Civic Center, 3-4 p.m.

TULSA OILERS VS. WICHITA
Cheer for the Tulsa Oilers as they play hockey against Wichita! BOK Center, 200 S. Denver Ave., 7 p.m. www.bokcenter.com

December 28 Friday

FINAL FRIDAY ARCADE DAY [FREE]
End your month on a high note by playing games on the library's new Nintendo Switch and Xbox One consoles! Space is limited to four players on the Switch per game, and two per game on the Xbox. Taking turns is a must. For ages 10-18. Maxwell Park Library, 1313 N. Canton Ave., 4:30-5:30 p.m. www.tulsalibrary.org

THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW
"THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW" returns to Circle Cinema's big screen for the 12 consecutive year. As usual, audience participation is encouraged. Circle Cinema will have prop bags for sale at the concession stand. Circle Cinema, 10 S. Lewis Ave., 10 p.m. Additional date Dec. 29, 10 p.m. www.circlecinema.com

December 29 Saturday

DROP-IN ARTMAKING [FREE, W]
Drop in Crystal Bridges' studios for creative artmaking for all ages inspired by an artwork in the museum! Free, no registration required. Crystal Bridges, 600 Museum Way, Bentonville, 1-4 p.m. www.crystalbridges.org

December 30 Sunday

STUDIO SUNDAYS [W]
See previous description. ahha Tulsa, 101 E. Archer St., 12-7 p.m. www.ahhatulsa.org

December 31 Monday

NOON YEAR'S EVE AT DISCOVERY LAB
Ring in the New Year at Discovery Lab! Strut your stuff down the lime green carpet, and dance the day away with music and entertainment. Hands-on activities include create-your-own noisemakers and New Year's hats. Guests will count down to noon and drop nearly 8,000 balloons from Discovery Lab's lime-green ceiling to ring in the noon year! Purchase tickets in advance, as this event usually sells out! Discovery Lab, 560 N. Maybelle Ave., 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. www.discoverylab.org

NOON YEAR'S EVE AT CRYSTAL BRIDGES
Ring in the New Year (without staying up past bedtime) at Crystal Bridges' fourth annual family celebration! There will be fun art projects, performances, a Coca-Cola toast at noon, and a family dance party. Crystal Bridges Museum of Art, 600 Museum Way, Bentonville, AR, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. www.crystalbridges.org

NEW YEAR'S EVE BASH
Ring in the New Year with your kiddos early before you head out to your party! Enjoy music, dancing, a cider toast, s'mores and more! West Bend Winterland, 400 S. Veterans Pkwy, Claremore, 7-10 p.m. www.westbendwinterland.com

SOUL CITY NEW YEAR'S WITH DESI & CODY
Festivities kick off at 8 p.m. and include door prizes and giveaways all night long! Admission is free and is 18 and up! Champagne toast at midnight sponsored by Chronic Cellars Spritz & Giggles! Soul City Tulsa, 1621 E. 11th St., 8 p.m. www.facebook.com/tulsasoul

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Holiday Shopping? Here's Your Hip Local Hit List

BY JILL VANTREASE

Well I'm just going to say it: I detest holiday shopping. This confession from a girl who loves clothes shopping, shoe shopping, serum shopping - heck, I even love grocery shopping! But holiday shopping is just too high stakes - it takes all the fun out of it for me. All the pressure to buy the perfect gift for that special someone - multiplied by 246 of your closest friends and relatives. And this heavy cloud on top of everyday mom life! Top that pressure cooker off with December — the kiddie parties, the concerts, the party mom duty, and THEN the Santa duty. If I were a real grinch, I'd tell you to stay home and buy everything online from the 'Zon, have it shipped and wrapped, and pour yourself a tall glass of Prosecco.

I won't judge you if you do, of course. There are seasons of life (for me, having kid #6 20 months after kid #5 comes to mind) where you just gotta survive. But it's important to keep some of that holiday money -- and those tax dollars -- here in good old Tulsa. And guess what? Suddenly there's a lot of shopping to do here that has nothing to do with boring chains and big boxes. So I'm going to try to make it easy for you to shop at home -- a gift guide for for all those lovely(ish) people in your life!

For your spoiled rotten kiddies: Kiddlestix, of course, is the granddaddy of Tulsa toy stores. They've got some great toys right now: a globe that lights up with constellations, Playmobil galore - all unique, well-made toys. Also, Tulsa Toy Depot out south and Learning Express in Bixby are great spots to fulfill that holiday shock and awe we're hoping to trot out for these darn kids. Plus, they all gift wrap!



THE NEST

For your friend who has actual abs: Lululemon is the gold standard of high quality workout gear. Athleta in Utica Square has superlative coordinating activewear and athleisure. Or get these freaks of nature a gift card to any of these cool workout spots: Press Cafe X Yoga, Balance Yoga Barre, Revved, YogaQuest, Orangetheory, Studio Pop Tulsa, Cyclebar - so many fit Tulsans!

For your artsy fartsy retro friend: Made, the Indie Emporium in the Archer Building, has tons of handmade gifts -- plus they offer stitching and knitting classes. The Retro Den has delightfully whimsical antiques and furniture for truly original home decor. The Nest on Cherry Street has homemade candles and fun kitschy kitchenwares.

For your athletic outdoorsy son or that guy in your life: Ascent Tulsa has athletic gear for hardcore outdoor stuff like skiing and camping (I don't think they approve of glamping!): Patagonia, North Face, Polar Outdoor Stuff - all the hale and hearty brands for outdoor living. Or you can get him a gift certificate to Climb Tulsa, the much heralded rock climbing destination!

For your husband who likes his leather recliner: Unless you can buy him the car of his choice, or a yacht, grab his favorite beverage from Parkhill's or Grapes and Grains, rub his back and let him take a nap.

For the brooding teenage girl: Macy's Backstage is new to Tulsa - it's like the Nordstrom Rack, but it's physically inside the regular Macy's at Woodland Hills Mall. There's tons of trendy clothes, shoes, handbags and cosmetics at super-affordable prices. Also The Vintage Pearl, J. Spencer and On a Whim - you can never go wrong with their clothes, baubles and handbags!

For your friend who knows what contouring actually is: Blue Mercury - it's makeup mecca here, girls. I have found a great CC cream, fabulous double-edged-sword mascara, a concealer that makes me look like I didn't have two glasses of wine last night - all of this, and their



PINK SALT RIOT



ANTHROPOLOGIE

staff is warm and approachable. Or get a gift card here for a La Mer facial from Judith!

For your smarty pants bookish friends: Magic City Books in the Archer Building has a curated book selection with all the latest greatest reads - and the staff can give you great recommendations for all of your favorite bookworms. Or, get a gift card.

For the saintly, overworked teachers in your life: At my kids' school, the teachers seem to like cold, hard cash. But if you'd like to do more, PaperDoll Designs has beautiful, personalized stationery and gifts that make sitting at a desk entirely more pleasurable. Pink Salt Riot has exquisite Christian-themed jewelry, prints, and homewares. It's a website, but pickup here is local in Tulsa at 41st and Harvard.

For your bicoastal friends who look down their noses at Tulsa: Head to Okie Dokie at the Boxyard or Ida Red (downtown and Brookside) and get them something cheeky. I got my NYC-dwelling sister a mug with the state of Oklahoma and "Evil Empire" stamped on the state. Ha!

For your quirky aristocratic friend who has everything: Anthropologie (OK, it's a chain, but they pay Utica Square rent!) - join Anthroperks and get all kinds of discounts on their adorably hippie housewares, clothing and knick-knacks. If you have a penchant for driving out to Ramona, Oklahoma (yes it's a place!), hit Bluestem Mercantile: "Calling all old souls, lovers of turquoise, leather, authentic apparel" - my friend Kelly buys tons of gifts here!

For your favorite teenage babysitter: Get her a gift card, a top or an adornment from one of these hip clothing places: Beau and Arrow or Modern Mess in the Boxyard; Jules Boutique, Twisted Soul Sisters or Abelina's Boutique out south, or Madewell and Ever Eve in Utica Square. She'll be so happy you get her young thang.

For your friend who actually enjoys cooking dinner: The Cook's Nook at 91st and Yale has every cooking and kitchen contraption known to man, plus a lot of gourmet sauces, salsas, and baking mixes.

For your slightly geeky INTJ friend who loves Harry Potter, Stranger Things, and all things fanciful and fantasy: Decopolis has an abundance of delightful odditie - books, comics, games, and...Martian poop! (Just go see!)

For your deliciously naughty friend - the one who you go out with the occasional Saturday night and have a fabulous time and it's worth it even though the next day is shot: Stash Gifts always has slightly irreverent gifts for fun girlfriends, and The Snow Goose is downright bawdy. Everyone needs an oven mitt that says "I Love My A****** Children." Yes?

For me (I'm on your list, right?!): A laundry fairy. That's it.

Ready, set, shop!



STASH



SNOW GOOSE



BY NATALIE MIKLES

nothing's as sweet as a kids' cookie exchange

A cookie exchange is such a fun way to celebrate the holidays.

It can be as simple or elaborate as you like. On the simple side, invite a few friends and ask each to bring a few dozen cookies. At the party, everyone chooses one or two (or more, depending on how many people you've invited) cookies to add to their plate.

Cookie exchanges are a nice escape for moms to get away and catch up with friends while drinking wine or cider and eating cookies. But another fun way to do it is to invite kids.

A kids' cookie exchange is a magical event, where you can go all out with decorations of candy and sweets. Then the kids can go around the table choosing cookies to take home. Once home, a great idea is to let the kids choose a few cookies to place in bags and then deliver to neighbors or friends who may need cheering up during the holidays. Nothing is more cheery than children delivering cookies.

For a kids' cookie exchange, be sure to have some savory snacks, too, to prevent tummy aches. Mini pizzas, pigs in a blanket or finger sandwiches would all be loved. Also have an assortment of drinks, like hot cocoa, punch and bottled water.

And remember, just like any party for kids, they will love to have a little time for running around or getting their wiggles out. So once they've used their manners to select cookies and visit with friends, bundle them up and let them play outside for a bit to run off some of the sugar.



If you're hosting the party, it's nice to provide trays or bags for everyone to take their cookies home. You can find inexpensive trays at discount stores.

Here are some of our favorite cookie recipes that will be showstoppers at any cookie exchange.

This recipe comes from the wonderful Catherine's Tea Room, which closed in 2003. It's a fun one to make with little children, who can roll the little balls and sprinkle with crushed peppermints.

PEPPERMINT BALLS

- 1 stick butter
- 3/4 cup powdered sugar
- 1 egg
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/2 teaspoon peppermint extract
- 1 1/2 cups flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 cup crushed peppermint candy, plus additional for decorating

Icing:

- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 2 tablespoons milk
- 1 drop red food coloring

1. In a large bowl, cream butter. Gradually add sugar and beat until light and fluffy. Beat in egg. Blend in extracts.

2. In a medium bowl, combine flour, baking powder and salt. Gradually add flour mixture to butter mixture. Fold in crushed peppermints.

3. Form into 1-inch balls. Place on parchment-lined baking sheet. Bake at 350 degrees for 10 to 12 minutes. Cool on wire rack.

4. Make icing by mixing powdered sugar with milk and red food coloring. Roll each ball in frosting, or simply spread the tops of each ball with frosting. Then sprinkle each frosted ball with additional crushed peppermint.

The surprise inside these cookies will be a favorite at a cookie exchange.

CHOCOLATE-COVERED CHERRY COOKIES

Makes 3 to 4 dozen

- 1 stick butter
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 1/2 cups flour
- 1/2 cup baking cocoa
- 1/4 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 large jar maraschino cherries (about 40-50 cherries)
- 1 cup chocolate chips
- 1/2 cup sweetened condensed milk

1. Cream butter and sugar

continued next page

until light and fluffy. Blend in egg and vanilla. Add flour, cocoa, baking powder, baking soda and salt. Mix well.

2. Roll into 1-inch balls. Place on ungreased baking sheets. Lightly press one cherry in the center of each ball.

3. In the microwave or a double boiler, melt chocolate chips with milk, stirring frequently and removing from heat as soon as chocolate is melted. Stir in enough cherry juice to make a desired spreading consistency. Spread 1 teaspoon of chocolate-cherry mixture over each cherry.

4. Bake cookies at 350 degrees for 8 to 10 minutes or until done. Cool 3 minutes on sheet before removing to wire racks.

Watch as these mice will be first picked at your cookie exchange! If you don't want to use gel for the eyes and nose, use mini chocolate chips.

CHRISTMAS MICE

Makes 20

Mice:

- 1/2 cup creamy peanut butter
- 1/4 cup butter, softened
- 1 1/2 cups powdered sugar

Coating:

- 8 ounces chocolate-flavored candy coating (almond bark)

Decorations:

- 1/4 cup sliced almonds
- Red string or peel-apart licorice, cut into 2 1/2-inch pieces
- Black decorator gel

1. Combine peanut butter and butter, beating at medium speed until creamy. Add powdered sugar, and continue beating until dough forms.

2. Shape dough into 1-inch oval-shaped balls. Pinch 1 end to form nose. Place onto parchment-lined baking sheets or trays. Refrigerate 2 hours or until firm.

3. Melt candy coating according to package directions. Place parchment paper onto flat surface. Place 1 chocolate mouse onto fork (keeping remaining candies refrigerated). Dip into melted candy coating. Coat entire candy, allowing excess to drip off by tapping fork against side of pan. Place dipped candy onto parchment. Immediately insert 2 almonds for ears and 1 piece licorice for tail. Repeat with remaining refrigerated candies. Let stand about 30 minutes or until coating is set.

4. Use decorator gel to make eyes and nose. Store refrigerated.

These sugar cookie bars are pretty as is, but they're really beautiful when you pipe Christmas trees on top.

SUGAR COOKIE SQUARES

Makes 2 dozen

Bars:

- 3/4 cup sugar
- 2/3 cup butter, softened
- 1 tablespoon milk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 large egg
- 1 1/2 cups flour
- 1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt

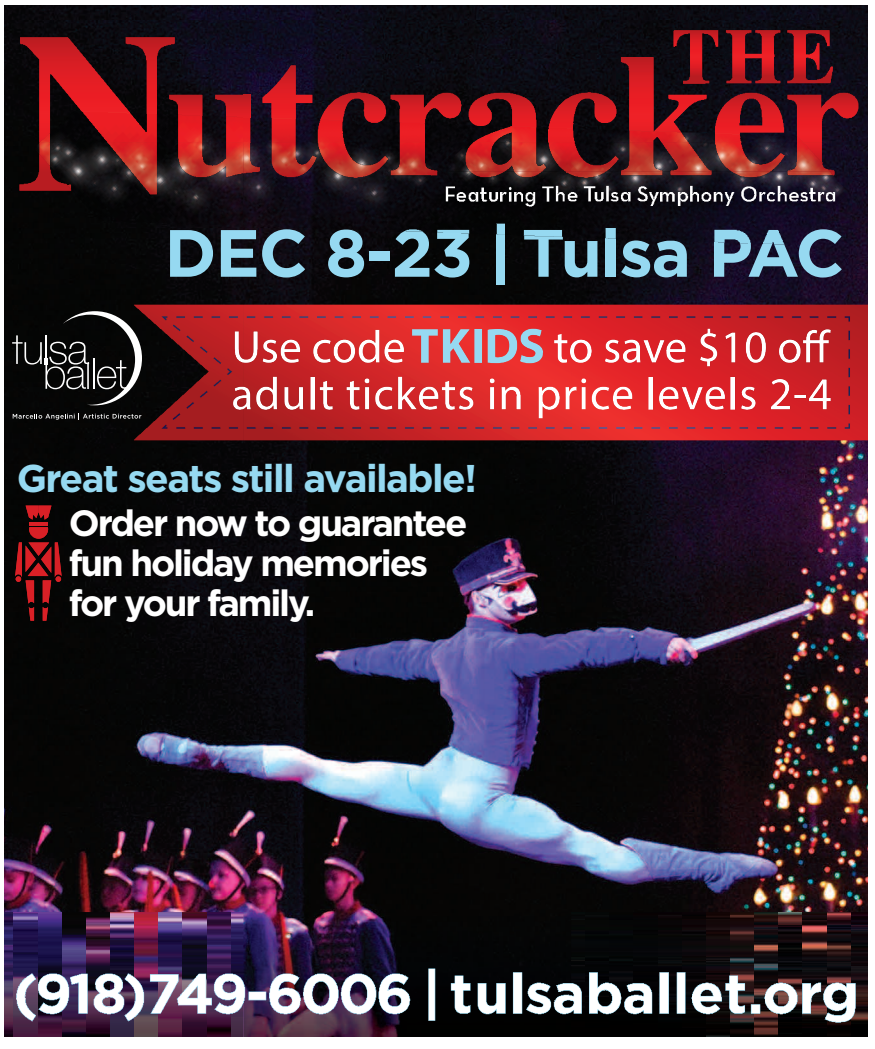
Frosting:

- 4 cups powdered sugar
- 1/2 cup butter, softened
- 1 teaspoon almond extract
- 3 to 4 tablespoons half and half or heavy cream
- Red and green food color

1. Heat oven to 375 degrees. Combine sugar, 2/3 cup butter, milk, vanilla and egg in bowl. Beat at medium speed until creamy. Add flour, baking powder and salt; beat at low speed until well mixed. Spread mixture into ungreased 15x10x1-inch baking pan. Bake 10-12 minutes or until set. Cool completely.

2. Combine powdered sugar, 1/2 cup butter and almond extract in bowl. Beat at medium speed, gradually adding enough half and half for desired spreading consistency. Reserve 1/2 cup frosting; set aside. Spread remaining frosting over cooled bars. Cut into 48 bars.

3. Tint half of reserved frosting with red food color and other half with green food color. Pipe tree design in center of each square, making some red trees and some green trees. To pipe, place frosting in a small Ziploc bag, and snip a hole in the corner.







SKATE THE NIGHT AWAY IN DOWNTOWN TULSA AT ARVEST WINTERFEST, THROUGH JANUARY 6! Photo by Phil Clarkin.

HOLIDAY MARKETS

CAROLS & CRUMPETS
When: Saturday, Dec. 1, 8 a.m.-3 p.m.
Where: Tulsa Garden Center, 2435 S. Peoria Ave.
Join the Tulsa Herb Society at Carols & Crumpets, their yearly arts and crafts show. There will be all sorts of goodies available for you and your home. Plus, you can enjoy a lovely lunch at the Snowflake Cafe in the Ballroom of the Tulsa Garden Center. Admission is free. www.tulsagardencenter.org

37TH ANNUAL DARNABY ARTS AND CRAFTS SHOW
When: Saturday, Dec. 1, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Where: Union Multipurpose Activity Center (UMAC), 6835 S. Mingo Rd.
This free-to-attend event is celebrating over three decades of success by featuring a variety of distinctive hand-made items from over 150 skilled artists and crafters. The Darnaby show is a must-stop for everyone's holiday shopping, as it offers a wide variety of items such as monogrammed gifts, holiday accents, home decor, delicious baked goods, adorable children's clothing and accessories, adult fashions, jewelry, purses, pet treats, woodcrafts and much, much more. www.darnabyartsandcraftsshow.com

LAFORTUNE PARK CRAFTS BAZAAR
When: Saturday, Dec. 1, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Where: 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. Parks.tulsacounty.org

CASCIA HALL CHRISTMAS HOME TOUR & BOUTIQUE
When: Sunday, Dec. 2, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
Where: Cascia Hall, 2520 S. Yorktown Ave.
Cascia Hall's annual Christmas Home Tour and Boutique will showcase four Midtown homes, beautifully decorated for the holidays, a boutique featuring more than 50 vendors, a Santa Brunch & Bistro, and entertainment by Cascia students. Tickets for the Home Tour and Santa Brunch may be purchased online at www.casciahall.com/walk.

WILD AT ART
When: Friday, Dec. 7, 12-7 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 8, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Where: Tulsa Garden Center, 2435 S. Peoria Ave.
Wild at Art is a fundraising event for the Tulsa Audubon Society and their wildlife rehabilitation group WING IT. It's a great time to shop local, support local art, and help wildlife all in one! All proceeds go directly to the care of injured and orphaned wildlife. Wild at Art is also a great way to get a jump on your holiday gift shopping with one-of-a-kind gifts. Free admission. www.tulsagardencenter.org

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THE ALLIDAY SHOW
When: Friday, Dec. 7, 6-9 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 8, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.
Where: Retro Den, 1216 S. Harvard Ave.
The popular Alliday Show returns to Retro Den for its 9th year! Shop for unique gifts made by some of Tulsa's best artisans. Free admission. www.theallidayshow.com

JUNIOR LEAGUE OF TULSA HOLIDAY MARKET
When: Friday-Saturday, Dec. 7-8, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 9, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.
Where: Union Multipurpose Activity Center, 6836 S. Mingo Rd.
Holiday Market is a three-day, one-stop holiday shopping extravaganza featuring unique merchandise from more than 100 carefully selected vendors from Oklahoma and across the country. Shop for clothing, gourmet foods, gifts, children's items, jewelry and more during the market—you'll find everything you need and more! www.jltulsa.org

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION AND HOLIDAY ART MARKET
When: Saturday, Dec. 8, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Where: Chickasaw Cultural Center, 867 Cooper Memorial Dr., Sulphur
Enjoy a variety of activities, including Christmas films, pictures with Santa, cultural crafts, and more. www.chickasawculturalcenter.com

OUTDOOR CHRISTMAS MARKET
When: Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 8-9, 3-8 p.m.
Where: 96th and Garnett
The Outdoor Christmas Market invites your entire family to enjoy an evening under a canopy of lights as you listen to music celebrating the Christmas Season. Unique Vendor stalls will line the Outdoor Market and Santa & Buddy the Elf are excited to meet your little ones! Other activities include: working model trains, children story times, a ride-on train, "snowball fight zone" to raise socks for the homeless, food trucks, children's crafts, and more. Be sure to bring a few blankets so you can wrap up and watch a classic Christmas movie on an outdoor movie screen! www.facebook.com/OutdoorChristmasMarket

HOLIDAY LIGHTS AND TREES

"BIG SPIRIT, LITTLE TREES" CHRISTMAS TREE EXHIBIT
When: November 3-December 8 (Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.)
Where: Broken Arrow History Museum, 400 S. Main St., Broken Arrow
The Museum Broken Arrow will welcome the Christmas season with a showcase of community donated and decorated trees at their annual Christmas Tree exhibit. This year's exhibit will feature a variety of themed Christmas trees decorated by local businesses, organizations and individuals. Featured trees will be donated to Broken Arrow Neighbors at the close of the exhibition. Broken Arrow Neighbors will distribute the Christmas trees to families in the Broken Arrow community. In addition, Museum visitors are encouraged to bring an unwrapped toy suitable for children under 12 to be donated. www.brokenarrowmuseum.org

RHEMA LIGHTS
When: November 21-January 1, 5:30-11:30 p.m.
Where: Rhema Bible Church, 1025 W. Kenosha St., Broken Arrow
Rhema's Christmas Lights Extravaganza began in 1982 with about 60,000 lights. Today, more than two million lights adorn the campus from Thanksgiving Eve through New Year's Day. The glittering lights will shine every day from 5:30-11:30 p.m. Admission is free. www.rhemalights.org

CASTLE CHRISTMAS
When: November 22-December 31, 5:30-10 p.m.
Where: The Castle of Muskogee, 3400 W. Fern Mountain Rd., Muskogee
Drive through Castleton Village, filled with over 2,000 holiday displays and thousands of colorful lights, creating an unforgettable experience. Open every night, Thanksgiving through New Year's, 5:30-10 p.m. Drive-through is free; donations accepted.
Other activities, including visits with Father Christmas, a cafe, train rides through the village, and more, are available certain days for an additional fee. Learn more at www.okcastle.com.

GARDEN OF LIGHTS
When: November 22-January 1
Where: Honor Heights Park, 1400 Honor Heights Dr., Muskogee
The beautiful Honor Heights Park comes alive with lights in the evenings. From Thanksgiving through New Years Day, visitors can enjoy a stunning drive through a holiday delight. The drive-through display includes over 1.2 million shimmering lights, enhancing the natural beauty of the park's gardens, waterfalls and ponds with holiday displays the whole family will love. www.visitmuskogee.com

WONDERLAND OF LIGHTS
When: Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, Nov. 23-Dec. 23, 5-9 p.m.
Where: Woolaroc Museum & Wildlife Preserve, 1925 Woolaroc Ranch Rd., Bartlesville
A wonderful holiday tradition returns again this year at Woolaroc! The grounds and buildings of Woolaroc will be covered with over 750,000 lights as the historic ranch transforms itself into a magical winter wonderland! Admission to Wonderland of Lights is $4 for adults and $1 for children 11 and under. www.woolaroc.org

GARDEN OF LIGHTS AT TULSA BOTANIC GARDEN
When: November 23-January 6, 5-10 p.m. Nightly except for Dec. 24 and 25
Where: Tulsa Botanic Garden, 3900 Tulsa Botanic Dr.
Enjoy one of winter's prettiest strolls as Tulsa Botanic Garden transforms into a magical illuminated wonderland. Escape from the hustle and bustle of the holidays to reconnect with family and friends as you roast marshmallows for s'mores, add a wish to the Garden's Wishing Tree and take in the beauty of season! Visit tulsabotanic.org for additional events happening as part of the Garden of Lights celebration.

CELEBRATION OF LIGHTS AT CHICKASAW CULTURAL CENTER
When: November 24-December 31
Where: Chickasaw Cultural Center, 867 Cooper Memorial Dr., Sulphur
Embrace the holiday season with a spectacular drive-thru light display at the Chickasaw Cultural Center's Celebration of Lights. This spectacular drive-thru light extravaganza features dozens of displays with traditional Christmas themes. www.chickasawculturalcenter.com.

CHICKASAW CULTURAL CENTER'S FESTIVAL OF TREES
When: November 24-December 31
Where: Chickasaw Cultural Center, 867 Cooper Memorial Dr., Sulphur
In the spirit of Christmas, departments from across the Chickasaw Nation decorate a tree in accordance to the selected theme, and votes are cast for the best tree! www.chickasawculturalcenter.com

FESTIVE FESTIVALS

ROSE DISTRICT ICE RINK
When: November 15-January 6
Where: Rose District, Broken Arrow
Enjoy ice skating in Broken Arrow's Rose District! Make sure you leave time for some district shopping afterwards! www.rosedistrict.com

ARVEST WINTERFEST
When: November 23, 2018-January 6
Where: Outside BOK Center, 200 S. Denver Ave.
Arvest Winterfest will return to downtown Tulsa for its 11th year! Enjoy outdoor ice skating, a giant Christmas tree and more! www.tulsawinterfest.com

WEST BEND WINTERLAND
When: Fridays and Saturdays,

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Nov. 30-Dec. 22
Where: West Bend Winterland, Claremore Expo Center, 400 Veterans Pkwy, Claremore
Come out to the second annual Winterland at the West Bend Green located outside at the Claremore Expo Center! Winterland is reminiscent of holiday memories with an ice skating rink, pictures with Santa, 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. West Bend Winterland will kick off with a tree lighting ceremony on Nov. 26; it will then be open for the season on Fridays and Saturdays, Nov. 30-Dec. 22. www.visitclaremore.org

HALLELUJAH HAYRIDE
When: Nov. 30, Dec. 1, 7, 8, 6-9 p.m.
Where: New Life Assembly, 12215 N. Garnett Rd., Collinsville
The Hallelujah Hayride continues its community outreach production of the birth of Jesus. Come and enjoy the story of Jesus from before he was born to the day of his birth and the meaning of God's wonderful gift to us. There will be refreshments while you wait, as well as outside activities such as a Christmas barrel ride for little ones to meet Santa and inflatables (weather permitting). Visit us on the web at oknewlife.com. www.hallelujahhayride.com

HOMETOWN HOLIDAYS: A CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION FESTIVAL
When: Dec. 1-2
Where: Downtown Sand Springs
This will be two days of family fun and everything Christmas. Kids and adults can get involved in the event with everything from singing, Christmas Caroling, Christmas plays, Christmas activities for the community. Get further details, including a schedule of events, as they become available at Sand Springs Chamber of Commerce's Facebook page.

PHILBROOK FESTIVAL
When: All Fridays in December (Dec. 7, 14, 21, 28) and Christmas Eve (Dec. 24), 6-9 p.m.
Where: Philbrook Museum of Art, 2727 S. Rockford Rd.
Celebrate the holiday season with Philbrook as the Museum comes alive with festive holiday events, Santa, train rides, a Lego village, garden games, live music, shopping, décor, and thousands of lights reflecting the spirit of the season. Gather the whole family for unforgettable experiences. www.philbrook.org.

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION AND HOLIDAY ART MARKET
When: Saturday, Dec. 8, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Where: Chickasaw Cultural Center, 867 Cooper Memorial Dr., Sulphur
Enjoy a variety of activities, including Christmas films, pictures with Santa, cultural crafts, and more. www.chickasawculturalcenter.com

LIVING NATIVITY AND PECAN-WALNUT FESTIVAL
When: Thursday-Saturday, Dec. 13-15, 20-22, 10 a.m.-8:30 p.m.
Where: Shepherd's Cross & Heart of the Shepherd, 16792 E. 450 Rd., Claremore
Open the door, and step back in time to that first Holy Christmas. This event is held in a heated Amish barn & silo, at an authentic working sheep farm.
Live character portrayals include Mary, Joseph, shepherds, wise men and angels.
The stable is filled with live animals, and there is opportunity to interact with them.
Animals include: sheep, goats, donkeys, fowl, alpaca, cattle and horses. www.shpeherdscross.com

CHRISTMAS PARADES

CLAREMORE CHRISTMAS PARADE
When: Friday, Dec. 7, 7 p.m.
Where: Claremore
Website: www.claremore.org

TULSA CHRISTMAS PARADE
When: Saturday, Dec. 8, 1-3 p.m.
Where: Downtown Tulsa
Website: www.tulsachristmasparade.org.

ROTARY CLUB OF BIXBY'S CHRISTMAS PARADE
When: Friday, Dec. 14, 6:30 p.m.
Where: Along E. Dawes Ave. and E. Breckenridge Ave., between S. Riverview Dr. and N. Kidd St., Bixby
Website: www.bixbyrotaryweb.com

PARTIES, CHRISTMAS CRAFTS AND MISCELLANEOUS FUN

HARDESTY HOLIDAY MOVIES
Where: Hardesty Library, 8316 E. 93rd St.
When: Saturday, Dec. 1, 2-4 p.m.: "Christmas with the Kranks" (PG)
Saturday, Dec. 8, 2-4 p.m.: "The Preacher's Wife" (PG)
Saturday, Dec. 15, 2-4 p.m.: "All I Want for Christmas" (G)
Saturday, Dec. 22, 2-4 p.m.: "Rise of the Guardians" (PG)

WILL ROGERS COUNTRY CHRISTMAS
When: Friday-Saturday, Nov. 30-Dec. 1, 5-9 p.m.
Where: Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch, 9501 E. 380 Rd., Oologah
What could be more fun than a good ole Country Christmas? There will be shopping, a hayride with Cowboy show, hot chocolate, 19th-century games, storytelling, food trucks and a visit from good Saint Nick himself. Free Admission. Bring the whole family for this fun event. www.willrogers.com

SATURDAYS FOR KIDS: HOLIDAYS AT THE MUSEUM
When: Saturday, Dec. 1, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
Where: National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum, 1700 NE 63rd St., Oklahoma City
Celebrate the holidays in Prosperity Junction, the Museum's turn-of-the-century frontier town. Make Western-inspired ornaments, pinecone birdfeeders, and decorations, meet historical Western figures, sample frontier food, and mosey up to the sarsaparilla bar before dropping off your holiday wish list with Santa! Find Howe and Dee the Cowboy Elves to earn a special badge. Free for children and accompanying adults. For more information, email education@nationalcowboymuseum.org. www.nationalcowboymuseum.org

UP YOUR COOKIE DECORATING GAME
When: Saturday, Dec. 1, 11 a.m.-12 p.m.
Where: Martin Regional Library, 2601 S. Garnett Rd.
Take your holiday cookie decorations to the next level using the popular wet-on-wet icing technique. This brief demo will give you some simple steps for creating cookies that wow. For adults and teens. www.tulsalibrary.org

TSHA'S DEAF/HARD OF HEARING CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY PARTY
When: Saturday, Dec. 1, 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 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. Come and enjoy refreshments, games, crafts, prizes, AND a stocking filled with goodies! Best of all, come and 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. ALL of this for FREE! www.tsha.cc

MINI MASTERS: MINI SEASONAL SCULPTURES
When: Sunday, Dec. 2, 10:30-11:30 a.m.
Where: Gilcrease Museum, 1400 N. Gilcrease Museum Rd.
Children ages 5-10 can make both decorative and utilitarian seasonal sculptures that you can treasure for years to come or share as gifts. Explore a variety of clay hand-building techniques under the tutelage

of Gilcrease ceramics aficionado and museum educator Nathan Huebert. Space is limited and reservations are required. Cost is $7/Gilcrease members; $12/not-yet-members. Children must be accompanied by an adult. For more information, please contact christine-hostetler@utulsa.edu. www.gilcrease.org

HOLIDAY CRAFTY PARTY
When: Monday, Dec. 3, 4:30-5:30 p.m.
Where: Hicks Park, 3443 S. Mingo Rd.
Crate fun holiday crafts & enjoy refreshments! Ages 5-10, free admission. www.cityoftulsa.org

HOLIDAY CUPCAKE WARS
When: Tuesday, Dec. 4, 5-6 p.m.
Where: Bixby Library, 20 E. Breckenridge
Participants will go cupcake vs. cupcake in our holiday decorating competition! For sixth- through 12th-graders. www.tulsalibrary.org

COME-AND-GO CHRISTMAS CRAFTS
When: Wednesday, Dec. 5, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Where: Jenks Library, 523 W. B St.
Drop in and make a craft to keep or give away. All ages are welcome. Supplies are provided. www.tulsalibrary.org

COCOA AND CANVAS: HOT CHOCOLATE AND PAINTING
When: Thursday, Dec. 6, 3:30-4:30 p.m.
Where: Broken Arrow Library/South, 3600 S. Chestnut Ave.
Come and enjoy a warm drink while painting a cold winter picture! Supplies and basic instruction provided (but creativity is welcome). Seating is limited. Registration is required. Call 918-549-7323 or visit the South Broken Arrow Library to sign up. For ages 12-18. www.tulsalibrary.org

CANDY CANE HUNT
When: Thursday, Dec. 6, 4 p.m.
Where: Reed Park, 4233 S. Yukon Ave.
Kids! Come for an afternoon of hunting for canes, enjoying hot cocoa and making crafts. Ages 2-12, free admission. www.cityoftulsa.org.

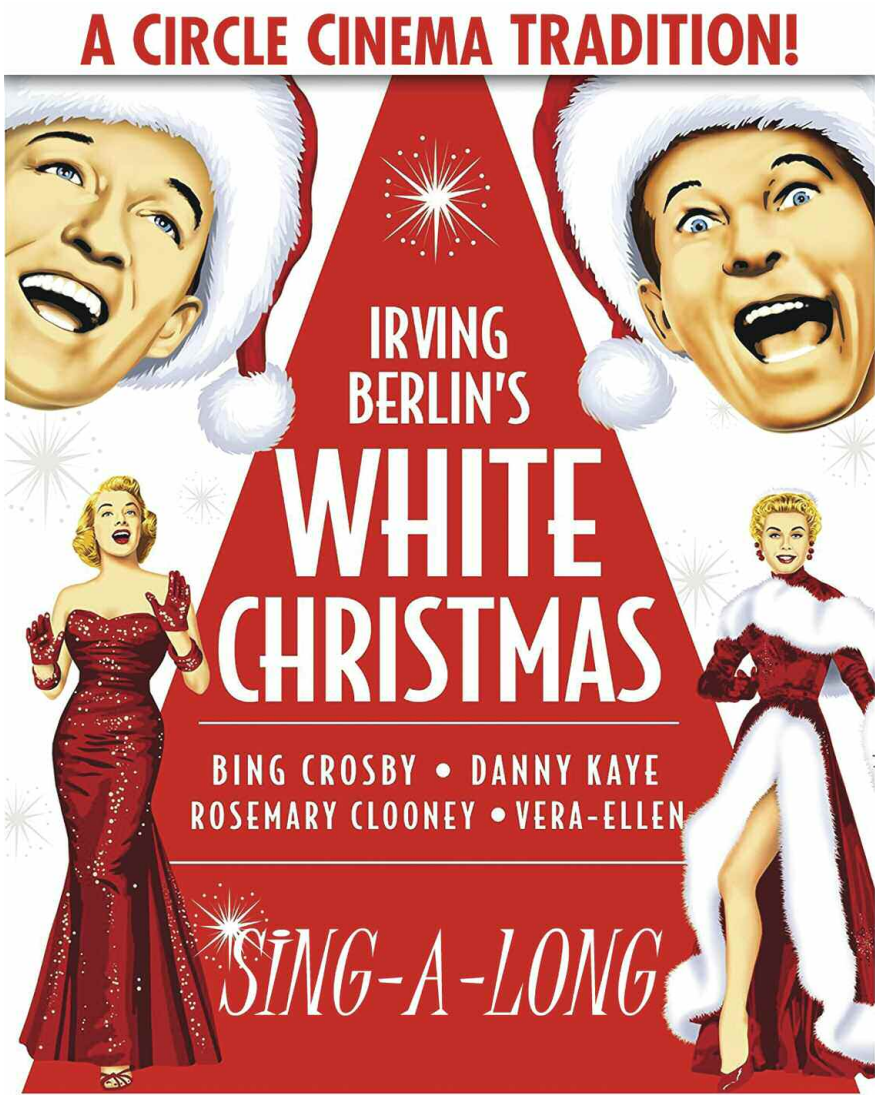
HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE
When: Thursday, Dec. 6, 4-6 p.m.
Where: Martin Regional Library, 2601 S. Garnett Rd.
Celebrate the season with refreshments, crafts and activities for the whole family. www.tulsalibrary.org

ANNUAL HOLIDAY CRAFT PARTY
When: Friday, Dec. 7, 4-5:30 p.m.
Where: Maxwell Park Library, 1313 N. Canton
Craft holiday décor and create holiday cards. Supplies are provided. For all ages.
www.tulsalibrary.org

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT
When: Friday-Sunday, December 7-9, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Where: Baptist Children's Home in Owasso, 12700 E. 76th St. North
The pageant includes eight scenes with more than 50 residents, staff and volunteers in costumes depicting various Biblical stories. Attendance is free, but donations are welcome. www.facebook.com/OklahomaBaptistHomesforChildren

JINGLE BELL RUN TULSA
When: Saturday, Dec. 8, 7:30 -10:30 a.m.
Where: BOK Center, 200 S. Denver Ave.
The Arthritis Foundation's Jingle Bell Run is a fun way to get out, get moving and raise funds and awareness to cure America's #1 cause of disability. In communities nationwide, this annual event brings together people from all walks of life to shout "Yes, we will live life to its fullest while searching for a cure!" As a Champion of Yes, kick off your holidays by helping conquer arthritis once and for all! Dogs are welcome to the family event! Put on your reindeer antlers and your running shoes and come join in for some holiday cheer. Events.arthritis.org

HOLIDAY MOVIE MADNESS WITH "ELF"
When: Saturday, Dec. 8, 10:30-11:30 a.m.
Where: Bixby Library, 20 E. Breckenridge Ave.
Snack on popcorn and make a craft while watching "Elf" (rated PG). For sixth- through 12th-graders. www.tulsalibrary.org



ARE YOU DREAMING OF A "WHITE CHRISTMAS"? DON'T MISS CIRCLE CINEMA'S ANNUAL "WHITE CHRISTMAS" SING-ALONG ON DECEMBER 14 AND 15!

HOLIDAY/CHRISTMAS GIFT MAKING
When: Saturday, Dec. 8, 1-2 p.m.
Where: Glenpool Library, 730 E. 141st St., Glenpool
Use glass beads, wire and cord to make bracelets, key chains and bookmarks for holiday gifts. Supplies are limited. Registration is required. Call 918-549-7323 to register. For ages 10-18. www.tulsalibrary.org

CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY PARTY
When: Sunday, Dec. 9, 2-4 p.m.
Where: Philbrook Museum, 2727 S. Rockford Rd.
Bring your family together to create one-of-a-kind art projects perfect for holiday gift-giving with a personal touch. Enjoy refreshments, story times, and a photo with Santa. Pre-purchased tickets strongly encouraged, as space is limited. www.philbrook.org

MAKE-AND-TAKE HOLIDAY CRAFTS
When: Monday, Dec. 10, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
Where: Collinsville Library, 1223 W. Main St., Collinsville
Drop by and make a fun holiday

craft. Be creative at the library or take home to complete. Supplies are limited. For all ages. www.tulsalibrary.org



FLASHLIGHT CANDY CANE HUNT
When: Monday, Dec. 10, 6:30 p.m.
Where: Hicks Park, 3443 S. Mingo Rd.
This is a fun search for those yummy candy canes but in the dark! Free; for ages 3-12. www.cityoftulsa.org

HOLIDAY CRAFTS
When: Wednesday, Dec. 12, 4-5 p.m.
Where: Schusterman-Benson Library, 3333 E. 32nd Pl.
Relax and enjoy making some holiday crafts. Supplies are provided. Registration is required. Call 918-549-7323 to register. For ages 8-13. www.tulsalibrary.org

MAD SCIENCE PRESENTS: THE CASE FOR SANTA CLAUS
When: Thursday, Dec. 13, 4-5 p.m.
Where: Broken Arrow Library/South, 3600 S. Chestnut Ave.
Do you find that your belief in Santa Claus is fading? Are you prepared to seek answers to hard questions concerning the mysteries of the season? Join Mad Science to take a lighthearted look at many of the abilities attributed to Santa. Mad Science will demonstrate that they may, in fact, be scientifically possible! For elementary-age kids. www.tulsalibrary.org

DOWNTOWN BIXBY WINTER WONDERLAND
When: Friday, Dec. 14, 5-8 p.m.
Where: Bixby Library, 20 E. Breckenridge Ave.
Celebrate the holiday season by discussing your favorite Manga while decorating sugar cookies. Cookies provided by Doc's Country Mart-Bixby. For sixth- through 12th-graders. www.tulsalibrary.org

WHITE CHRISTMAS SING-ALONG
When: Friday, Dec. 14, 7 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 15, 2 p.m.
Where: Circle Cinema, 10 S. Lewis Ave.
Enjoy this Circle Cinema tradition and sing along to the hit musical, "White Christmas." Pre-show trivia and a FREE Christmas bell at both sing-a-long screenings. www.circlecinema.com

AFTERNOON HOLIDAY MOVIES: "THE PREACHER'S WIFE" AND "THE STAR"
When: Saturday, Dec. 15, 12-3 p.m.
Where: Suburban Acres Library, 4606 N. Garrison Ave.
Enjoy an afternoon of holiday movies to ring in the season of giving. For all ages. www.tulsalibrary.org

HOLIDAY MINI MAKER FAIR
When: Tuesday, Dec. 18, 3:30-5 p.m.
Where: Rudisill Library, 1520 N. Hartford Ave.
Make a variety of holiday crafts! For elementary-school kids and teens. www.tulsalibrary.org

MESSY ART CLUB: GINGERBREAD WORKSHOP
When: Tuesday, Dec. 18, 6-7 p.m.
Where: Zarrow Regional Library, 2224 W. 51st St.
Decorate gingerbread cookies, make a winter ornament and enjoy hot mulled cider. For all ages. www.tulsalibrary.org

SHRINKY DINK ORNAMENTS
When: Thursday, Dec. 20, 2-3 p.m.
Where: Zarrow Regional Library, 2224 W. 51st St.
Draw and shrink an ornament just in time for Christmas! Recommended for ages 10 and older. www.tulsalibrary.org

DROP IN: KWANZAA UJAMAA CELEBRATION
When: Saturday, Dec. 29, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.
Where: Suburban Acres Library, 4606 N. Garrison Ave.
This event recognizes the fourth day of Kwanzaa, Ujamaa (collective economics). Learn more about the concept and get information on methods to use year-round to benefit self and the community. Please bring a canned good to donate to a needy family in the community. The Ujamaa candle will be lit in honor of the seven principles of Kwanzaa. For all ages. www.tulsalibrary.org

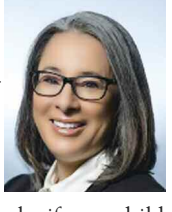
CHRISTMAS TREE FARMS

OWASSO TREE AND BERRY FARM
When: Opens November 17; Open Monday-Friday, 1-7 p.m., and Saturday-Sunday, 9 a.m.-7 p.m.
Where: 11039 N. 129th E. Ave., Owasso
Choose from a wide selection of tree varieties, which you can either cut yourself or purchase pre-cut. Holiday wreaths and garlands are also available for purchase. After you've chosen your tree, take a hayride back to the gift shop and enjoy hot cider while doing some shopping. www.owassotreefarm.com

PLEASANT VALLEY FARMS
When: Opens Friday, Nov. 23, 9 a.m.-7 p.m.; Open Saturdays and Sundays through Christmas, 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Santa visits from 2-6 p.m.
Where: Pleasant Valley Farms, 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 Virginia Pine Christmas trees until you find the centerpiece of your holiday decor or browse a selection of imported, precut Fir trees. Use one of Pleasant Valley Farms' 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. www.pleasantvalleyfarmsok.com



How do I know what is the best therapy program for my child?

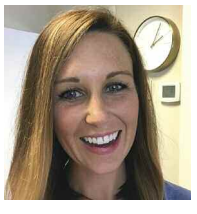


There is no "one size fits all" program that is best for every child. When comparing programs, there three key things you need to consider as you make your decision.

1. Does the program provide standardized testing that will provide objective comparisons at baseline, ongoing progress and end-of-services progress? This information highlights progress, if treatment needs to be modified, and when they are ready to graduate.
2. Is the program customized to your child's specific needs? For example, if your child has difficulty remembering how to spell words on a spelling test despite success when studying at home, does the program explore how your child processes and remembers information they hear or see?
3. Does the provider have credentials to support that they understand neuropathway and brain development as it relates to the required skills for learning success. Success requires strong memory, visual perceptual skills and visual motor skills; *these areas are often overlooked when working with children who have dyslexia.*

Penny Stack Dyslexia Center of Tulsa 8118-B S. Memorial Dr., 918-313-5518
Website: www.dyslexiatulsa.com Email: penny@dyslexiatulsa.com

"Research shows that it takes 25 times for an individual to learn something new. If you take lessons once or twice weekly, you'd need a minimum of 13 weeks to learn a new skill and retain it. New research also tells us that it can take up to three times that amount of time for a student with a learning disability or special needs to learn a new skill.



Is there a quick fix to learn to swim (and remember how)? In short, no. Are there ways to speed up the learning process? Yes. Frequency of classes and consistency in attendance are key factors in learning to swim.

And, drowning knows no season. In fact, a boy drowned in OKC in Nov. The boy, his mother and brother went to look at a lake. The boy fell off the dock; his mother couldn't swim and was unable to save him. For this reason, we recommend a year-round, learn-to-swim program that emphasizes timely aspects of water safety to prepare a swimmer for potential water accidents. As evidenced by this tragedy, it is important that both children and adults know how to swim and know water safety."
Miller Swim School, 6415 S. Mingo Rd., Tulsa, OK., 918-254-1988
Website: www.millerswimschool.com

Do I have to have a Will if I set up a living trust? I thought having a trust was supposed to be a better choice than a Will?



A revocable or living trust is a means to avoid a probate of your estate upon your death. However it requires careful planning to fully fund the trust; otherwise, it might be necessary for a probate of will proceeding as to any property that was not placed in trust. Having a Will with a revocable trust is a standard practice that will direct to the trust any property that should have been placed in trust but was not. A probate of will proceeding is required for such property in order for it to be placed in the trust at the conclusion of the probate process. With a trust the Will is still important as it functions as a safety net to make sure all property not governed by beneficiary or coownership arrangement ends up in the trust.

Wesley G. Casey, P.C., 427 S Boston Ave., Ste. 923, Tulsa, OK 74103-4114
Phone 918.382-9516 Fax 918.587-3763

Why does Neurofeedback Work for ADD/ADHD & Learning Difficulties?

Neurofeedback takes advantage of the brain's ability to change itself through a process known as Neuroplasticity. It utilizes the same learning process that occurs whenever we acquire a new skill. The brain learns by forming connections between cells and utilizing important pathways that connect different locations in the brain. The more frequently you utilize these pathways, the better the brain becomes at performing the associated task. In psychology, this type of learning is called "Operant Conditioning"...a type of learning in which responses are controlled by their consequences. Neurofeedback offers the perfect learning condition, since it facilitates awareness of when the brain is producing healthier brainwave patterns, provides reinforcement for the positive change, and multiple opportunities to provide practice during a training session. The American Academy of Pediatrics calls it an A-1 best choice for treating ADD/ADHD. For over ten years, our clinic has seen amazing results! Call for a free consultation! **RENUYOU NEUROFEEDBACK BRAIN FITNESS CENTER**
918-747-7400 or www.renuyoutulsa.com

For information on advertising on our "Ask The Expert" guide,
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BY NANCY A. MOORE

Ian Picco: 2018 U.S. Coffee Roasting Champion

Ian Picco is a coffee expert. Earlier this year, he put his skills and knowledge to the test during a national competition in Seattle and won first place – taking home the prestigious title of U.S. National Roasting Champion. Next month, he will be heading to Italy to compete on an international level at the World Roasting Championship for Coffee.

As Director of Coffee at Topeca, Picco thrives on his knowledge and expertise of both the technical and scientific processes required to produce coffee. In fact, his niche industry, known as "specialty coffee," ranks in a category above and beyond mass production, with focus given to carefully produced seasonal lots of coffee beans. His mastery extends in consistently extracting the optimum flavor of beans that are roasted in small batches. He is also the mastermind behind the educational component in the Topeca classroom, known as a place where people come from all over the world to glean knowledge about coffee, including the roasting process.

TK: Tell us about your background.

Picco: I am a first-generation Tulsan and 2004 graduate of Union High School. During high school, one of my first jobs was as a barista. After high school, I went to Evergreen State College in Washington State to study performing arts.



IAN PICCO WITH HIS FAMILY.

TK: How did you become interested in coffee?

Picco: I felt like I had a connection with coffee. As an artist, poet and drama kid, coffee shops were a place to hang out and seen as somewhat of a safe haven for misfits. In high school, I hung out at one coffee shop so often, they offered me a job. Being a barista was a skill that could travel. Coffee shops are always in need of skilled baristas.

TK: How did you become interested in working for Topeca?

Picco: After college, I briefly moved to Portland and then New York to pursue theatre. In 2008, due to the economic recession, jobs were difficult to find. About that time, I got a call from a friend in Oklahoma who needed help on her organic farm. She also knew about Topeca looking for help in the roastery. So, I moved back to Oklahoma and helped my friend. I also contacted Topeca about the opportunity. I was looking into getting more hands-on and involved in creating a product. In 2009, I started my career at Topeca. I would demo coffee at different Reasor's stores. I also helped with the packaging and production and, as the company grew, I learned how to roast, cup, taste and analyze coffee.

TK: What is unique about Topeca?

Picco: Topeca is seed to cup, which means we are vertically integrated. We get the beans from the family farm and oversee the entire process from harvesting, processing and roasting the beans to sales and training.

TK: What does roasting involve?

Picco: Roasting marries art and science together. It's a highly

continued next page

technical process to bring out the flavors of the beans in a way that is consistent across the board.

TK: How did you become qualified to attend the World Roasting Championship for coffee?

Picco: The competition included two rounds over two days. The first round presented judges with coffee roasted in Tulsa and was served as a blind tasting. This was followed by a presentation to the judges about the coffee, explaining my understanding of the technical accuracy and knowledge of the roasting process. I scored first place in the first round. On the second day, during the second round, the competitors were given a single kind of coffee bean to roast on premises and turn in to the judges. This was followed by another technical presentation, and I again scored first in that round, securing first place in the overall competition. After winning the U.S. Roasting Championship in Seattle this year, I became qualified for the World Competition in Italy in January.

TK: How has earning the title of 2018 U.S. Roasting Champion impacted your life?

Picco: After competing the year before and not qualifying, it was a personal goal of mine to win the title, and I did. I like to joke that winning gave me a few more likes on my Instagram page.

TK: What do you enjoy most about your job?

Picco: There is no end to learning, and there is always something new to learn in this industry. New science, new trends, cultural habits evolve and change over time. I enjoy educating people about specialty coffee. Sharing knowledge and experience with others is exciting.

TK: What does your family like to do for fun around Tulsa?

Picco: We are a family of culinaries who like to cook, eat and entertain in our home. Even my 4-year-old daughter has an adventurous pallet. We primarily eat at home, but when we get out, my daughter's favorite restaurant is In The Raw on Brookside. She loves sushi and tuna. We also enjoy family friendly restaurants like Dilly Diner and Fuel 66. Dilly Diner for brunch on the patio so our daughter can play in the little kids houses. We can ride our bikes to Fuel 66 and enjoy the outdoor, pet-friendly atmosphere with games.

TK: How do you take your coffee?

Picco: Black. Unless it's not very good, then I add cream and sugar.

TK: What would people be surprised to know about you?

Picco: I am very sensitive to caffeine. On average, I consume four ounces of coffee a day.

TK: When ordering at Topeca, what would you recommend?

Picco: Nitro cold brew is our newest drink. I highly recommend it. If you have tried cold brew before, this is different. The nitrogen creates a smooth and creamy texture. You can see the froth when it's poured into a glass. Customers should be able to find it at Whole Foods, Sprouts and Reasor's in Spring 2019. For now, you can find it at our coffee shops downtown.

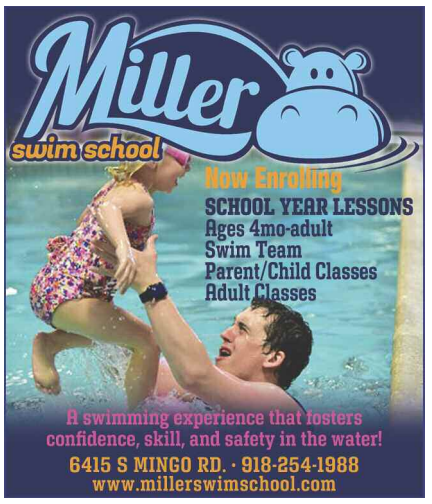
TK: How can people learn more about specialty coffee?

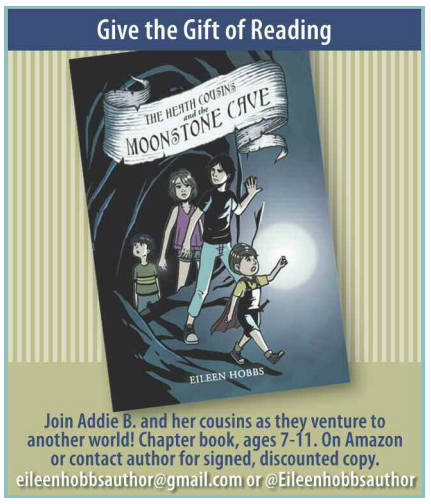
Picco: I like to get people thinking about the whole picture of specialty coffee, not just the end result. The first Saturday of every month, we offer a Seed-to-Cup Coffee Class. This is a great way to learn more about the process of making good coffee. Classes are held at the Roastery at Admiral and Peoria in their state-of-the-art coffee lab expertly equipped with the finest brewing and roasting equipment around. The first Saturday class is limited to 18 people and cost per person is $10 for about two-and-a-half hours of hands-on education and instruction and includes a tasting. Three additional classes are available to choose from: Barista Fundamentals, Brewing Fundamentals and Roast Your Own.

For more information, go to www.topecacoffee.com and click on the Coffee Geek Class tab.











BY ELENA EPSTEIN

best toys, games and collectibles for the holidays

NAPPA Awards is one of the longest running and most respected award programs in the industry, celebrating the best in toys and family products for 28 years. For more reviews, visit nappaawards.com

FUN & LEARNING

Kids First Coding & Robotics
An adorable peanut butter & jelly sandwich that's a robot. Teaches coding principles and skills without a tablet, smartphone or computer. 129.95, ages 4+, thamesandkosmos.com

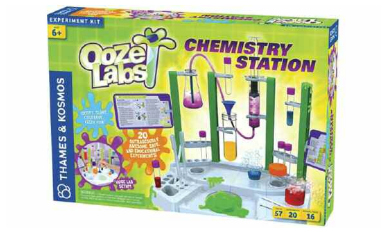
Ooze Labs Chemistry Station
Create slimy, fizzy, colorful & bubbly experiments using non-hazardous chemicals. $39.95, ages 6+, thamesandkosmos.com

Crayola Color Chemistry Lab Set
Playful experiments exploring color and packed with 50 colorful science activities. $24.99, ages: 7+, shop.crayola.com

LeapStart® 3D Learning System
Magically bring activities and animations alive as you build math, reading and problem-solving skills. $49.99, ages 2 to 7, leapfrog.com

PJ Masks Super Catboy Learning Watch™ by VTech
Put on the watch and save the day while playing four exciting games that explore shapes and early math skills. $14.99, ages: 3 to 6, vtechkids.com









SURPRISE COLLECTIBLES

Hairdorables
Unwrap your unique style with 11 fun and fashionable accessories designed for each Hairdorables girl hidden inside. $12.99, ages 3+, justplayproducts.com



Pikmi Pops Flipmis Super Flip
This giant super soft and fluffy plush is jam packed with exclusive surprises like badges, pens, stickers, charms and more. $44.99, ages 4+, moosetoys.com



Rainbocorns
Unlock your own Rainbocorn plush with a unique reversible sequin heart that carries a special surprise, and a little Boo-Boocorn, inside. $24.99, ages: 3+, zuru.com

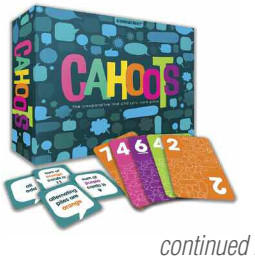


GAME TIME

candygrams
A new crossword game that's fun and challenging and will help develop word skills.
$24.99; Ages 7+, candygrams.com

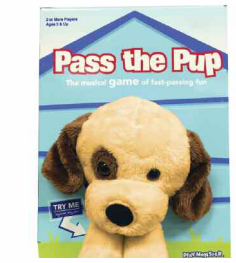


Cahoots
A cooperative hint and sync card game. $14.99; ages 8+, gamewright.com



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Pass The Pup
A musical and fast-paced game similar to hot potato, but with a bark, scratch or roll over added in. $17.99, ages 3+, playmonster.com



IMAGINATIVE PLAY

Garden View Cottage
Cook in your own open-air, charming cottage with a full play kitchen and an outdoor chimney featuring a pretend pizza oven. $299.99, ages: 1 ½+, simplay3.com



Pop-Oh-Ver Stove and Counter Top Sets
Durable and detailed kitchen canvas play sets that quickly assemble over a sturdy household chair. $39.95, ages: 3+, Pop-oh-ver



Go! Go! Smart Wheels® Launch & Chase Police Tower™
Serve and protect alongside the best and chase the getaway car with the cute toy Police Car. $39.99, ages 1-5, vtechkids.com



cuddle+kind
Ethically produced and hand-knit heirloom-quality dolls with a mission— for every doll sold, the company gives 10 meals to children in need around the world. $50-$72, ages birth-5 years, cuddle+kind



Grand Department Store Gift Set
Give your Calico Critters a place to shop with the Grand Department Store — an iconic building with exquisite attention to detail $129.95, ages 6+, calicocritters.com



Hidden Temple with T Rex
Embark on an adventure to Dino Island with Nick, Emma, Will and their pet dog Sammy. $59.99, ages 4+, playmobil.us



Talking Fancy Nancy Doll
Sing along with Fancy Nancy and watch her dress change colors in a très belle light show. $39.99, ages 3+, jakks.com



Disney Junior Vampirina Rock N' Jam Touring Van
Rock out with The Ghoul Girls and transform The Van into a spook-tacular stage featuring a light-up platform. $39.99, ages: 3+, justplayproducts.com

Snap & Design Monster Trucks
Mix & match oversize truck bodies, chassis with massive wheels and stylish accessories. $29,99, ages 3-8, lakeshorelearning.com



PJ Masks Super Moon Adventure HQ Rocket
Release the Rocket's ramp and watch Gekko launch out on his space rover. $39.99, ages 3+, justplayproducts.com



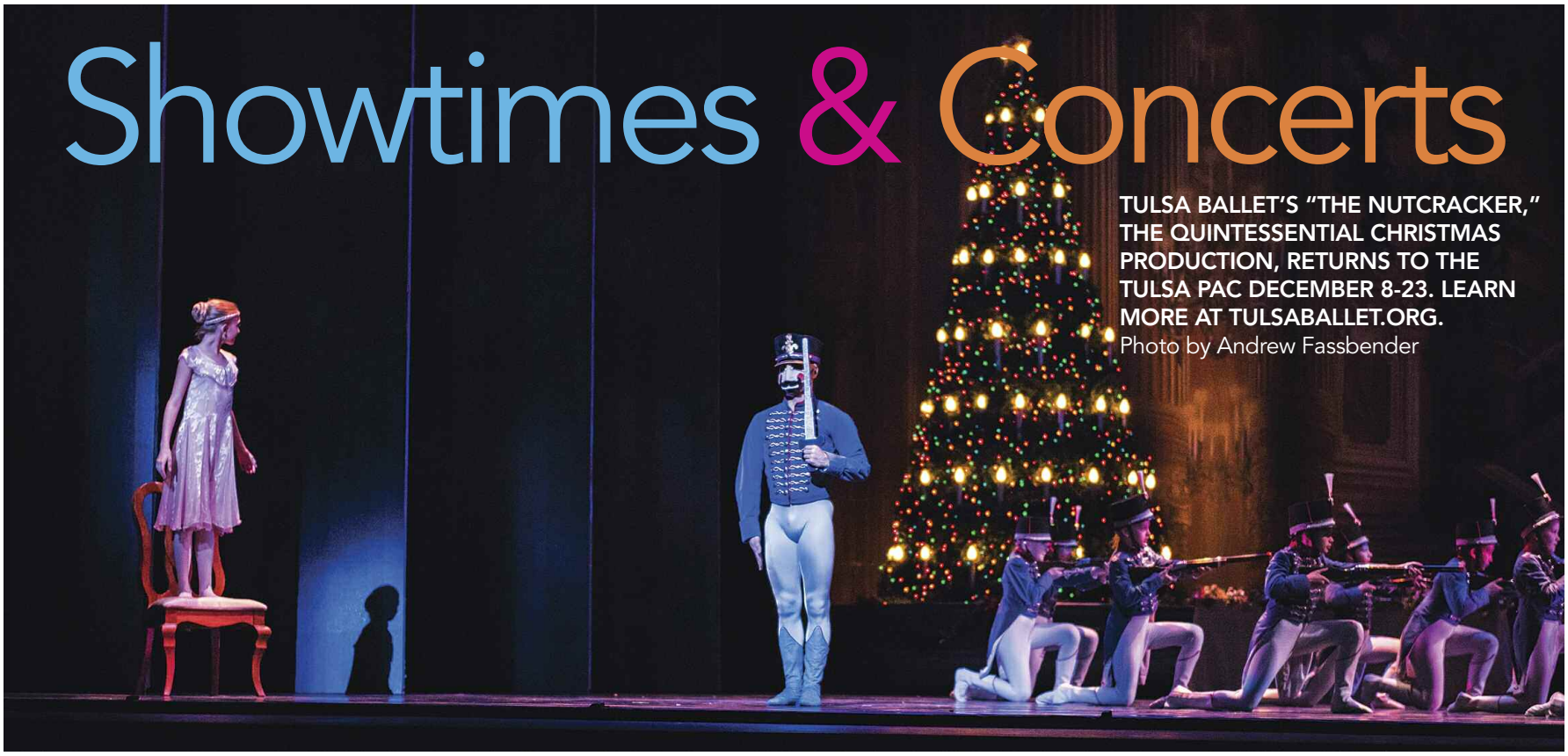
Disney Junior Doc McStuffins Pet Rescue Mobile
Race to save pets with this on-the-go set, equipped with lights, music, phrases, play medical tools and accessories. $49.99, ages 3+, justplayproducts.com



Crayola Ultimate Light Board
Use the power of light and watch your designs shine. $24.99, ages 6+, shop.crayola.com



Showtimes & Concerts



TULSA BALLET'S "THE NUTCRACKER," THE QUINTESSENTIAL CHRISTMAS PRODUCTION, RETURNS TO THE TULSA PAC DECEMBER 8-23. LEARN MORE AT TULSABALLET.ORG.
Photo by Andrew Fassbender

PAW PATROL LIVE
When: Friday, Nov. 30, 6 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 1, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.; Sunday, Dec. 2, 12 and 4 p.m.
Where: BOK Center, 200 S. Denver Ave.
No job is too big, no pup is too small! Don't miss the action-packed, music-filled production from the top-rated animated preschool series Paw Patrol Live! "Race to the Rescue." www.bokcenter.com

HOME ALONE™ IN CONCERT
When: Saturday, Dec. 1, 7:30 p.m.
Where: Tulsa PAC, 110 E. 2nd St.
A true holiday favorite, this beloved comedy classic features renowned composer John Williams' charming and delightful score performed live to picture by the Tulsa Symphony. Macaulay Culkin stars as Kevin McCallister, an 8-year-old boy who's accidentally left behind when his family leaves for Christmas vacation, and who must defend his home against two bungling thieves. Hilarious and heart-warming, Home Alone is holiday fun for the entire family! © 1990 Twentieth Century Fox www.tulsasymphony.org

TULSA YOUTH SYMPHONY—FALL FESTIVAL CONCERT
When: Sunday, Dec. 2, 3-5 p.m.
Where: Union PAC, 6636 S. Mingo Rd.
The three orchestras of the Tulsa Youth Symphony will present their Fall Festival Concert at 3:00 pm on Sunday, December 2, 2018 at Union Public Schools PAC 6636 South Mingo Road. www.tyso.org

SESAME STREET LIVE! "MAKE YOUR MAGIC"
When: Wednesday-Thursday, Dec. 5-6, 6:30 p.m.
Where: The Pavilion at Expo Square, 4145 E. 21st St.
When magician extraordinaire Justin visits Sesame Street to put on a magic show for the whole neighborhood, Elmo wants to be a part of the big event. But there's one problem…Elmo can't do magic! www.sesamestreetlive.com

LES MISÉRABLES (SCHOOL EDITION)
When: Dec. 7-8, 14-15, 7:30 p.m.; Dec. 8-9, 15-16, 2 p.m.
Where: Tulsa PAC, 110 E. 2nd St.
Tulsa's most talented teens take on the masterpiece! Theatre Tulsa's Broadway Academy teenage students perform the inspiring saga of love, hope and redemption! These incredible young performers won't just dream a dream – they'll achieve it! www.tulsapac.com

A CHRISTMAS CAROL
When: Dec. 7-8, 13-15, 19-22, 7:30 p.m.; Dec. 9, 16, 23, 2 p.m.
Where: Tulsa PAC, 110 E. 2nd St.
Robert Odle and Richard Averill's musical adaptation of Charles Dickens' beloved novella about the joy of giving has been a Tulsa tradition for more than 40 years. It's a heartwarming story about Scrooge, a lonely humbug who is given the rare chance to change his life and find his heart. Revisit or start your own family tradition this holiday season. Presented by American Theater Company. www.tulsapac.com

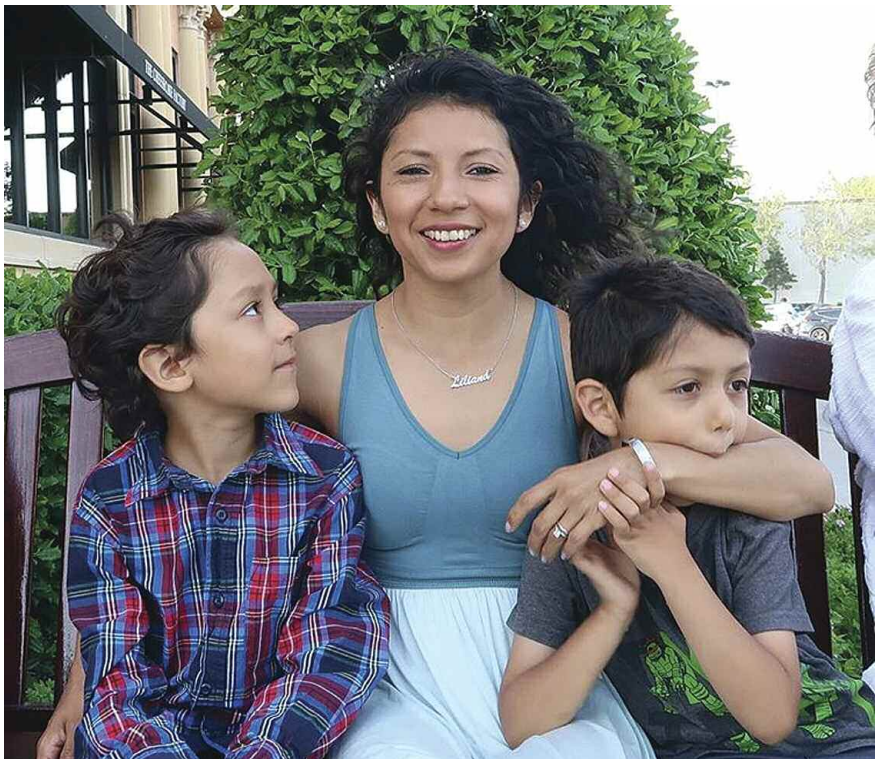
THE NUTCRACKER
When: Dec. 8, 14, 21, 7 p.m.; Dec. 9, 15, 16, 22, 23, 2 p.m.
Where: Tulsa PAC, 110 E. 2nd St.
Set in 1920's Paris, the birthplace of classical ballet, Marcello Angelini's vision of The Nutcracker has been a Tulsa favorite since 2003. Whether you've seen it once or one hundred times, this magical holiday spectacular is guaranteed to capture your imagination. www.tulsaballet.org

THEATRE TULSA ACADEMY'S SHOWSTOPPER SHOWCASE
When: Thursday, Dec. 13, 7:30 p.m.
Where: Tulsa PAC, 110 E. 2nd St.
Theatre Tulsa Academy's semester-long experience, during which students ages 8-12 work with professionally trained instructors, culminates in this one-night-only engagement. www.tulsapac.com

SHERIDAN ROAD'S CHRISTMAS CABARET
When: Thursday-Friday, Dec. 13-14, 7:30 p.m.
Where: Tulsa PAC, 110 E. 2nd St.
Candlelight, nostalgia, a cappella carols and jazzy Christmas tunes in the elegant Westby Pavilion! With table seating for everyone, enjoy a buffet of hors d'oevres and desserts as you enjoy the beautiful holiday harmonies. A complimentary copy of the Sheridan Road Christmas CD will be available for each ticket holder. www.tulsapac.com

POPS 3: CHRISTMAS IN TULSA
When: Friday-Saturday, Dec. 14-15, 7:30 p.m.
Where: VanTrease PACE, 10300 E. 81st St.
CHERISH THE LADIES, the beloved Irish- American music group, celebrates Celtic Christmas traditions with gorgeous harmonies, lovely instrumentation, and high-energy stepdancing in an evening of time-honored holiday songs and popular carols. Signature Chorale joins the ladies on stage for favorite Signature Christmas selections. www.signaturesymphony.org

tulsakids.com
What's Going On(line)?



Introducing Lilly en Oklahoma:

Liliana Sproul was born and raised in Mexico City. She and her family moved to Tulsa in 2012, and in 2016, she started a YouTube vlog to document family life and share their adventures. She also works in Special Education in the Jenks School District. Now, TulsaKids will be sharing one of Liliana's vlog posts each week, which can be found at tulsakids.com/blog!

Liliana nació y se crió en la Ciudad de México. En 2012, se mudaron, con su hijo pequeño y un recién nacido a Tulsa, de donde proviene originalmente su esposo. Liliana es una apasionada de las aventuras culturales. Con el apoyo de su esposo, en 2016, inició un vlog en YouTube "Lilly en Oklahoma Vlog" para mostrar la importancia de la familia y ayudar a otros a comprender que aún pueden divertirse incluso en los momentos más ocupados. A través de su vlog, comparte la via diaria y la aventuras de su familia en Oklahoma. Actualmente, ella trabaja en Educación Especial en el Distrito Escolar Jenks.

Memories from Tulsa Pop Culture Expo:

TulsaKids loved getting to participate in this year's Tulsa Pop Culture Expo! Enjoy these photos from the event, taken by Jonny Haring.





12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS GIVEAWAYS!

From December 1-12, enter to win these amazing prizes from some of our local partners. Each giveaway will last 24 hours, so enter daily at tulsakids.com/contests!

December 1: 4 tickets to **Tulsa Ballet's "The Nutcracker."** Tickets are for the December 23 performance at 2 p.m.

December 2: A Family Membership to **Tulsa Botanic Garden** + 4 tickets to **Garden of Lights!**

December 3: 4 admission tickets to **Arvest Winterfest**—plus four hot chocolate vouchers!

December 4: A year-long Family Membership to **Oklahoma Aquarium!**

December 5: 6 Tickets to **PJ Masks Live!**, coming to the **BOK Center** March 14!

December 6: $100 gift card to **The Melting Pot!**

December 7: A year-long Family Membership to **Discovery Lab** (plus some fun museum gear!)

December 8: One of two **Little Goodall** wool coats—either a Dinosaur or a Lion!

December 9: A free Spring Season at **i9 Sports!** (Season starts in March; for kids ages 3-13)

December 10: $50 gift card, necklace and holiday ornament from Vintage Pearl!

December 11: 5 guest passes, a glow-in-the-dark puzzle, stuffed dragon and more from **ahha Tulsa!**

December 12: A bundle of children's books!



We asked members of our TulsaParents Facebook group what's on their kids' Christmas wish lists! Here are some responses:
"Bikes!"—Melissa L.
"Legos and anything Harry Potter!"—Lindsay B.
"Legos, PJ Mask toys, and Pomsies"—Laura Z.



Santa Sightings

SANTA'S WONDERLAND AT BASS PRO SHOPS
When: November 10-December 24
Where: Bass Pro Shops, 101 Bass Pro Dr., Broken Arrow
Santa's Wonderland is the ultimate free family Christmas event. Tulsa families are invited to enjoy this enchanting Christmas village offering FREE 4x6 studio-quality photos with Santa and free family holiday activities including fun crafts and games. Learn more at basspro.com/Santa.

SANTA AT UTICA SQUARE
When: Friday, Nov. 23-Monday, Dec. 24; Monday-Saturday, 11 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sunday, 12-6 p.m.; Christmas Eve, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
Where: Utica Square, 21st and Utica
Get your picture taken with one of Tulsa's most popular Santas! You may even get a free cookie! www.uticasquare.com

WEDNESDAYS WITH ST. NICK
When: Wednesdays, Nov. 28-Dec. 19, 6-9 p.m.
Where: Tulsa Botanic Garden, 3900 Tulsa Botanic Dr.
Tulsa Botanic Garden's own botanical Saint Nick will be at the garden for informal visits and photos as part of their first annual Garden of Lights celebration! From 6-7 p.m., you may encounter him in the Garden; from 7 to 9 p.m., this jolly ol' fellow will be in Mabee Grange for informal visits and photos – bring your camera. Tickets for Garden of Lights must be purchased in advance online at tulsabotanic.org or in the visitor center. www.Tulsabotanic.org

THE MOTHERS GROUP INC.'S SANTA COMMUNITY PROJECT
When: Saturday, Dec. 1, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
Where: Greenwood Cultural Center, 322 N. Greenwood Ave.
Santa and Mrs. Claus will pose for complimentary photos while talented performers provide entertainment. Plus, the first 500 children will receive a gift! Learn more at www.facebook.com/MothersGroupInc



Photo Credit: Jeremy Charles, Courtesy of Utica Square

CHANDLER PARK COOKIES WITH SANTA
When: Saturday, Dec. 1, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
Where: Chandler Park, 6500 W. 21st St.
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! Parks.tulsacounty.org

SANTA AT TSHA'S DEAF/HARD OF HEARING CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY PARTY
When: Saturday, Dec. 1, 2-4:30 p.m.
Where: Boston Avenue Methodist Church, 1301 S. Boston Ave.
Children will have the opportunity to tell their holiday wish list to a deaf Santa and a hearing Mrs. Claus. TSHA's annual Children's Holiday Party is for children who are children who are deaf, hard of hearing, or speech-impaired and hearing children of deaf adults as well as their families. Learn more at www.tsha.cc
.

SANTA CLAUS COMES TO MILLER SWIM SCHOOL
When: Saturday, Dec. 1, 9-11 a.m.; Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Dec. 3, 5, 6, 4:30-7:30 p.m.
Where: Miller Swim School, 6415 S. Mingo Rd.
Sit on Santa's lap, take pictures with him and get a bag full of goodies! Open to the public. Pictures will be available for purchase as a digital file, with printing rights, so moms and dads can share, print, email every size and however many they'd like! www.millerswimschool.com

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION & HOLIDAY ART MARKET
When: Saturday, Dec. 8, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Where: Chickasaw Cultural Center, 867 Cooper Memorial Dr.
Santa will be visiting Chickasaw Cultural Center's Christmas Celebration and Holiday Art Market. Guests can also enjoy a variety of activities, including Christmas films, cultural crafts and more. www.chickasawculturalcenter.com

SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO TOWN!
When: Saturday, Dec. 8, 10:30-11:30 a.m.
Where: Bixby Library, 20 E. Breckenridge Ave.
Celebrate Christmas early by playing games, making crafts and welcoming Santa! Due to time constraints, registration is required to visit with Santa. For ages 3-10. Call 918-549-7323 to register. Cookies provided by Doc's Country Mart-Bixby. www.tulsalibrary.org

PICTURES WITH SANTA AT THE WILL ROGERS MEMORIAL MUSEUM
When: Saturday, Dec. 8 and 15, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
Where: Will Rogers Memorial Museum, 1720 W. Will Rogers Blvd., Claremore
Come to the Will Rogers Memorial to get your Christmas Card pictures made. We have a beautiful setting and this year, admission is FREE to take pictures. Bring your own camera. www.willrogers.com

COOKIES WITH THE CLAUSES
When: Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 8-9, 2-4 p.m.
Where: Union Multipurpose Activity Center, 6836 S. Mingo Rd.
Bring your children to The Junior League of Tulsa's Holiday Market and get their picture with Santa in front of Santa's workshop, $10 per photo!
Children can also get a Cookiedoodle cookie for $10 to decorate with icing and sprinkles! www.jltulsa.org

BUILD A READER STORYTIME: SANTA!
When: Wednesday, Dec. 12, 10:30-11 a.m.
Where: Glenpool Library, 730 E. 141st St., Glenpool
Join Ms. Tori and her guitar for this 0-to-5 storytime featuring some very special guests from the North Pole, plus songs, rhymes, stories and more. Bring your camera for pictures afterward. www.tulsalibrary.org

SANTA COMES TO BIKES & BALLS
When: Thursday, Dec. 13, 9:30-11 a.m.
Where: Whiteside Park, 4009 S. Pittsburg Ave.
Enjoy a Santa Party at Bikes & Balls with crafts and refreshments. For ages 5 and younger; $1 per child. www.cityoftulsa.org

BIXBY VISIT FROM SANTA CLAUS
When: Friday, Dec. 14, 4-6 p.m.
Where: Bixby Community Center, 211 N. Cabaniss Ave.
This free event is for children ages 0-12. Enjoy games, snacks and a visit from Santa! Parks.tulsacounty.org

continued next page

SPAGHETTI WITH SANTA
When: Saturday, Dec. 15, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
Where: Nienhuis Community Center, 3201 N. Ninth St., Broken Arrow
It's that magical time of year again! Have you been naughty or nice? Enjoy a free picture opportunity with Santa and have a nice sit down Spaghetti dinner with your family in a winter wonderland. Tickets will not be sold at the door. www.brokenarrow.gov

SOCO SANTA BRUNCH
When: Saturday, Dec. 15, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
Where: South County Recreation Center, 13800 S. Peoria Ave., Bixby
Experience all the joy and wonder that our 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 300 tickets. Maximum 4 tickets per adult. All ages. Free. Parks.tulsacounty.org

LAFORTUNE PARK VISIT FROM SANTA
When: Saturday, Dec. 15, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
Where: LaFortune Park, 5202 S. Hudson Ave.
Head to LaFortune Park for games, snacks, and a visit from Santa! Parks.tulsacounty.org

O'BRIEN PARK COOKIES WITH SANTA
When: Saturday, Dec. 15, 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m.
Where: O'Brien Park, 6149 N. Lewis Ave.
Enjoy games, snacks and a visit from Santa! Parks.tulsacounty.org

SANTA AT FUNDAY SUNDAY
When: Sunday, Dec. 16, 12-4 p.m.
Where: Gilcrease Museum, 1400 N. Gilcrease Museum Rd.
Take holiday photos with Santa Claus, listen to musical performances, make artworks inspired by the season, experience winter fun both on the grounds and inside the museum and find the perfect holiday gift at December's Funday Sunday. It's a free admission day loaded with fun for the whole family. Visitors can enjoy art projects for all ages, gallery tours, activities and special guest performances. Free program, no reservations required. For more information, contact alisonrossi@utulsa.edu. www.gilcrease.org

COOKIES WITH SANTA!
When: Sunday, Dec. 16, 1-3 p.m.
Where: Oklahoma Aquarium, 300 Aquarium Dr., Jenks
Santa will be stopping by to visit on Dec. 16! From 1-3 p.m., come get your picture taken, decorate gingerbread cookies, make an ornament, and play on our bounce house! *While supplies last www.okaquarium.org

PAJAMA JAM: STORYTIME & SANTA!
When: Tuesday, Dec. 18, 6-7 p.m.
Where: Schusterman-Benson Library, 3333 E. 32nd Pl.
Put on your best holiday pj's and join the library for songs, stories and a visit from Santa! Each child will be able to visit and have a picture taken with Santa. For ages 0-6 and their caregivers. www.tulsalibrary.org

EVENING WITH SANTA!
When: Wednesday, Dec. 19, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Where: Central Library, 400 Civic Center
Wear your best pajamas to meet Santa, listen to stories, sing songs and make a craft. Sponsored by the Tulsa Library Trust. For preschoolers and elementary-school kids. www.tulsalibrary.org

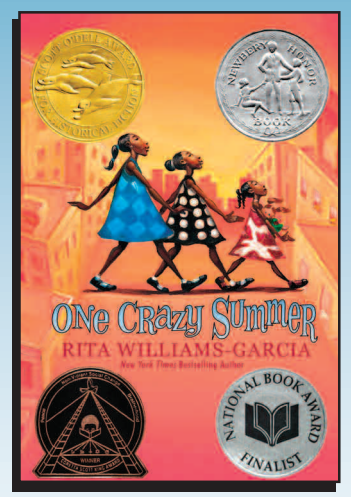
STORYBOOK SANTA CLAUS
When: Friday, Dec. 21, 10:30-11:45 a.m. and 12-1:15 p.m.
Where: Owasso Library, 103 W. Broadway Ave.
Join Santa for an enchanting storytime including magic, storytelling, singing and puppetry. Bring your camera for pictures with Santa after storytime. Seating is limited to 30 children per session. Registration is required. Register online at www.tulsalibrary.org/events or call 918-549-7323. Sponsored by the Tulsa Library Trust. For children of all ages.

Mr. Henry's Books
EDUCATOR WORKSHOP

Saturday, Feb. 9, 2019 • 9-11 a.m.
Pocahontas Greadington Learning and Creativity Center
Central Library • Fifth Street and Denver Avenue

Attention, upper-elementary and middle-school teachers and librarians! You are invited to this continuing-education workshop about the curriculum and learning connections between the 1960s and the Civil Rights Movement through the eyes of three young African-American sisters. You will:

- Receive 50 copies of *One Crazy Summer* by Rita Williams-Garcia for your students to keep as their own.
- Learn how to incorporate various elements of *One Crazy Summer* into your classroom and receive lesson plans on how to use Williams-Garcia's works in a variety of school subjects.
- Be introduced to Tulsa City-County Library's Anne V. Zarrow Award for Young Readers' Literature and gain an opportunity to win a classroom visit by Williams-Garcia when she comes to Tulsa on Friday, May 3, 2019, to receive the award.



Continental breakfast will be provided. Every participant will receive their copies of *One Crazy Summer* at the end of the workshop, as well as an official continuing-education certificate. Participants must be employed by a school district within Tulsa County.

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.

tulsa LIBRARY TRUST
Tulsa City-County LIBRARY
tulsakids FOR PARENTS. FOR FAMILIES. FOR LIFE.

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED
Registration Deadline: Friday, Feb. 1, 2019; Registration Fee: $10

REGISTER/PAY ONLINE
www.tulsalibrary.org/mr-henrys-books-registration

REGISTER/PAY VIA MAIL
Fill out form below, include payment and mail to:
TulsaKids Magazine • 1622 S. Denver Ave. • Tulsa, OK 74119-4233

Registration fees are nonrefundable, but teachers may send a substitute if unable to attend.

REGISTRATION FORM
MR. HENRY'S BOOKS EDUCATOR WORKSHOP

REGISTRATION FEE $10 (check or money order made payable to TulsaKids Magazine)

Name _____ Grade Level _____

School _____ School Phone _____

School Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

BY DIANE TRITT EATON

give the gift of multigenerational travel this holiday season

The holiday season is upon us and the big looming question on everyone's mind is, "What type of unique gift can I get for my loved ones this year?" When you really think about it, does Grandma need a new pair of leather driving gloves? Does Grandpa want yet another silk tie? And do the kids really need the latest battery-operated toy?

Why not cast aside these ideas and instead set your sights on a multigenerational family vacation? A gift of this magnitude is sure to satisfy everyone and be remembered for years to come. First off, grandparents love to spend their time and resources on you and your kids. Second, you can avoid trying to amass a pile of gifts that cost a bunch, but end up in the closet all too soon. Mostly importantly, everyone can reconnect with family without all of the hassles of trying to entertain at home.

Experiences Overshadow Things

The "experience, not things" gift trend for the holidays is growing in popularity. Heather Klein Cross, a New Jersey-based vacation planner who owns Vacations by Heather, said her clients increasingly are asking for help with multigenerational trips. Further research suggests that grandparents are willing to pay for trips of this nature, in their entirety, more than ever before — in fact, upwards of 33 percent of the time. According to group travel experts such as Abercrombie and Kent, many of their traveling clientele boast about using the world as their classroom to share the educational value that travel provides along with the desire to share the life lessons of travel with their children and grandchildren.



Because family members are more apt to live in different cities these days, the opportunities to get quality time together are shrinking. So, in addition to traditional multigenerational travel, another new trend is emerging called "beyond parents" where young people are travelling with a grandparent, aunt, uncle or cousin – even without their parents. One in four is planning a trip surrounding a birthday, graduation or anniversary.

Where In the World?

There's a slew of choices regarding the type of trip you can arrange that suit a wide range of interests and budgets, whether you stay in the country or travel abroad. Last year, Smartertravel.com published an article about multigenerational travel, highlighting popular vacation ideas including family adventure tours, all-inclusive resorts, cityscapes, wintry escapes, dude ranches, historic trips, villa/house rentals, national parks and cruises.

Signature Travel, a consortium of more than 7,000 travel professionals internationally, just this year named several cruise lines as the best of the best for multigenerational travel. They include Celebrity, Royal Caribbean and Norwegian as the top three with Disney and MSC cruise lines as finalists. There's a common thread among them—-they consistently provide round-the-clock activities, special attractions for kids, plus large, luxurious suites and a wide spectrum of dining options.

Presenting the Virtual Gift With a Bow On Top

To make the presentation of

continued next page

your gift of travel extra special, gather some destination-specific brochures and articles and wrap them up in a giant box, topped with a bright red bow. Once the kids open it up, let them help with vacation planning and encourage them to learn more about the vacation spot. Together, you can watch movies and listen to music about the places you'll be visiting. The kids can even help plot the itinerary and create an activities calendar. If you want more for them to unwrap, give them each a personal vacation journal (and a disposable camera if they don't have a smart phone) and colored pencils to bring along on the trip so they can document their adventures and create keepsakes to revisit again and again.

Earlier this year, Expedia and The Center for Generational Kinetics partnered to conduct a national study on travel trends and learned that travel is a "common way for all generations, regardless of age, to spend their disposable income." There is a shift in American spending from an economy centered around materialism to one that places value on experiences, rather than things. This is evident among baby boomers, who are choosing to spend their money on travel as a top priority. And millennials are putting more value on experiences as well. Even Generation Z (ages 7-23) is serious about travel, even if it involves having to stay off the internet for a while. With this knowledge, you can be pretty confident that the glove, tie and toy ideas will quickly fade away, and you'll be happy you chose travel for your family holiday gift this year.

Once you get to where you are going, remember that the best way to connect is to disconnect. So, leave your worries behind and dig deep in to creating last memories. And, who knows, maybe you will make this holiday gift idea a family tradition from here on out.

I would like to dedicate this article to my recently deceased cousin, Ron Reilly, who, over lunch at the Stonehorse Café in Tulsa, Oklahoma 11 years ago, encouraged me to explore travel writing as a new career path. He was a giant fan of family travel and spanned the globe with a slew of us over the years. Godspeed, Cuz!

SAVE
THE DATE

Summer Camps and Activities Fair
Saturday, April 6 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Union Multipurpose Activity Center
6836 S Mingo Rd, Tulsa, OK 74133
One-stop-shop for Tulsa-area families to learn about summer camps and activities! For more information, please contact Kulsum Siddiqui at Siddiqui.kulsum@unionps.org

Free Downloadable Holiday Guide at www.tulsakids.com

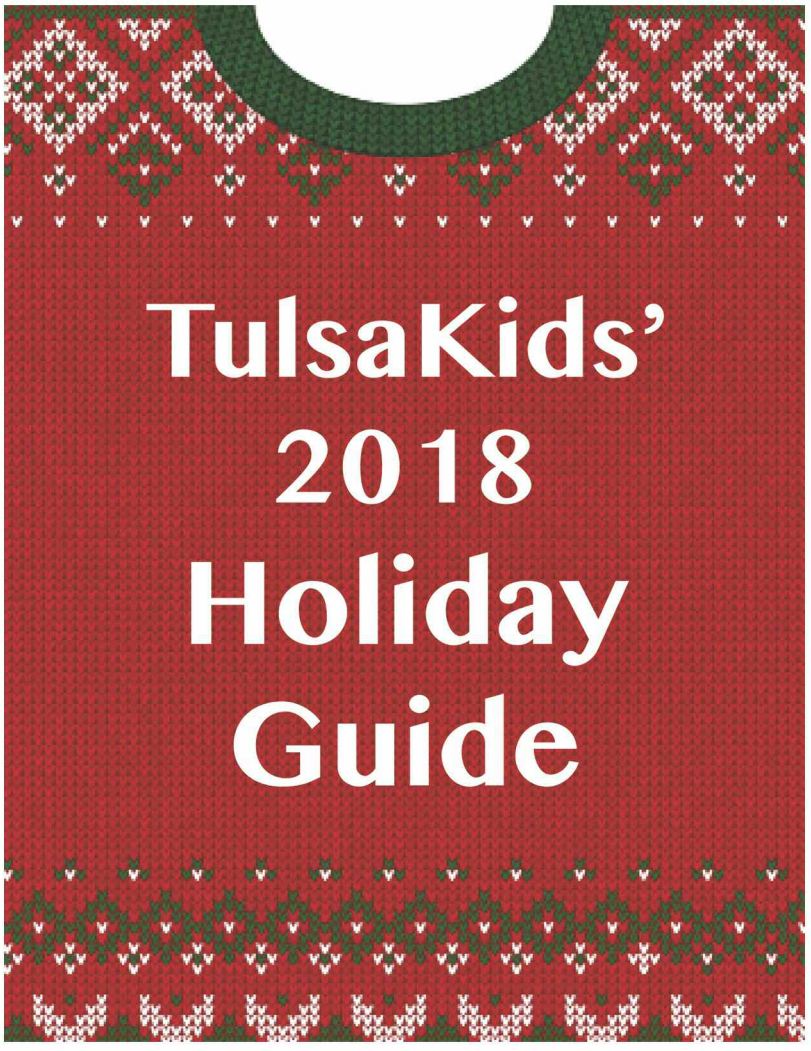




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I'M A TULSA KID

WORDS AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY SHEEBA ATIQI

Jordan Jockowski: Figure Skater

Known for her great attitude and sportsmanship, 17-year-old Jordan Jonckowski, who attends Oklahoma Virtual Charter Academy, spends much of her time on the ice. A local figure skater, Jordan recently won the Tulsa Figure Skating Club's (Tulsa FSC) highest honor, an award presented in honor of former Tulsa FSC President Manny Grabel. Tulsa FSC is governed by the USFSA, and provides a path to the Olympics. The Club hosts social and recreational skating activities as well as provides skaters with an opportunity to reach the National, World and Olympic events. Jordan is preparing to test before the panel of US Figure Skating judges.

TK: When did you start skating?

Jordan: I was 4 years old when I started skating.

TK: How did you get into figure skating?

Jordan: I spent a lot of time at the rink because my older sister was also a skater. One afternoon my mom decided to put me on the ice to keep me busy, and I've been skating ever since.

TK: How did it feel to perform in front of the US Figure Skating judges?

Jordan: It is always nerve wracking performing in front of the judges, but you have to trust your training and skate like it were any other practice.

TK: Where have you preformed?

Jordan: I have performed all over the country, but mostly places like Oklahoma City, Dallas and Colorado.

TK: What awards have you won?

Jordan: Most recently I won the Manny Grabel award. The Manny Grabel award is given by my figure skating club to an athlete who they feel has shown hard work, dedication and sportsmanship. It was an honor to receive this award, and gain recognition for inspiring young athletes and being a positive influence in the figure skating community.

TK: Who inspires you?

Jordan: My coach Jane is a huge inspiration to me. She continues to love and support me both on and off the ice.

TK: What advice do you have for future figure skaters?

Jordan: Skating is so difficult, but you just have to keep trying. When you fall down, you get up. I think this is also a great lesson for life.

TK: Where do you practice figure skating in Tulsa?

Jordan: I practice at Oilers Ice Center.

TK: What are your hobbies?

Jordan: I love to craft, specifically knitting, cross-stitch and scrapbooking.

TK: What are your plans and goals for the future?

Jordan: In the coming months, I would like to gain consistency on some of my jumps and build my endurance for my program.

TK: What is a fun fact about you?

Jordan: I love to do things outside, like hiking, rafting, or zip-lining.





Presents keep us present.

This holiday season shop for gifts that give back.

Gift memberships bought in December 2018 are $10 off and valid through Jan. 31, 2020.

***NEW* ADOPT packages feature arctic foxes.**

tulsazoo.org/gifts

TULSA ZOO 90 YEARS

Holidays not all they're cracked up to be?



Warren Clinic Urgent Care

For sudden illnesses, minor injuries and after-hours care that can't wait,
visit the convenient Warren Clinic Urgent Care near you.

HOLIDAY HOURS:

December 24	8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Christmas Day	Closed
December 31	8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
January 1	8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

REGULAR HOURS:

Monday – Friday: 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. (all locations)

Saturday: 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. (Springer location only)
10 a.m. to 6 p.m. (all other locations)

Sunday: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. (all locations)

Online scheduling is available at **warrenclinic.com/urgentcare**. For additional information, call **918-488-6688**.

TULSA

Springer Building
6160 South Yale Avenue

Tulsa Hills
7858 South Olympia Avenue

South Memorial
10506 South Memorial Drive

SAND SPRINGS

102 South Main Street

BROKEN ARROW

Elm Place
2950 South Elm Place, Suite 120
(101st Street and Elm Place)

Kenosha
1801 East Kenosha Street
(71st Street and OK-51)

WarrenClinic
Urgent Care
A part of Saint Francis Health System

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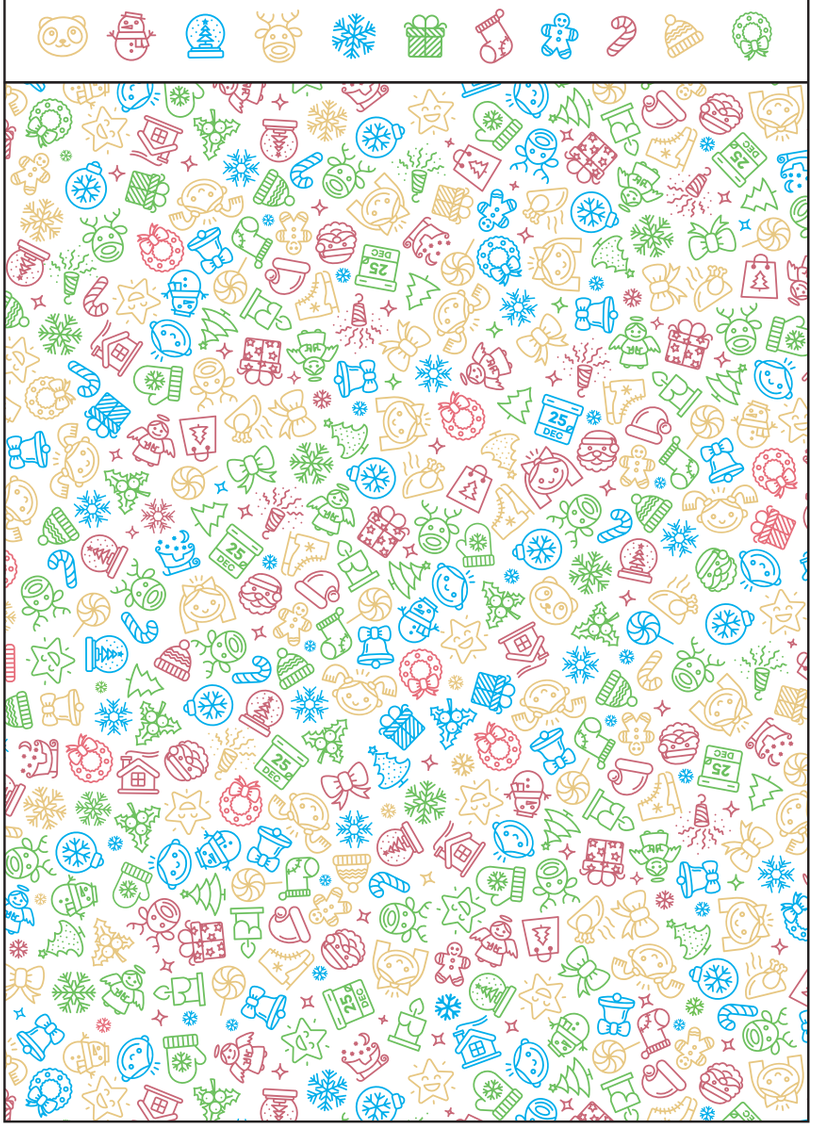
P.J.'s CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES

FIND ALL THE WORDS IN THIS ZIG-ZAG WORD SEARCH.

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CANDY CANE
CAROL
CHRISTMAS TREE
~~GIFTS~~
GREETING CARDS
HOT COCOA
ORNAMENTS
REINDEER
SANTA CLAUS
STAR
STOCKINGS
WREATH

FIND THE MATCHING CHRISTMAS SYMBOLS.



Merry Christmas from your friends at The Children's Hospital at Saint Francis.

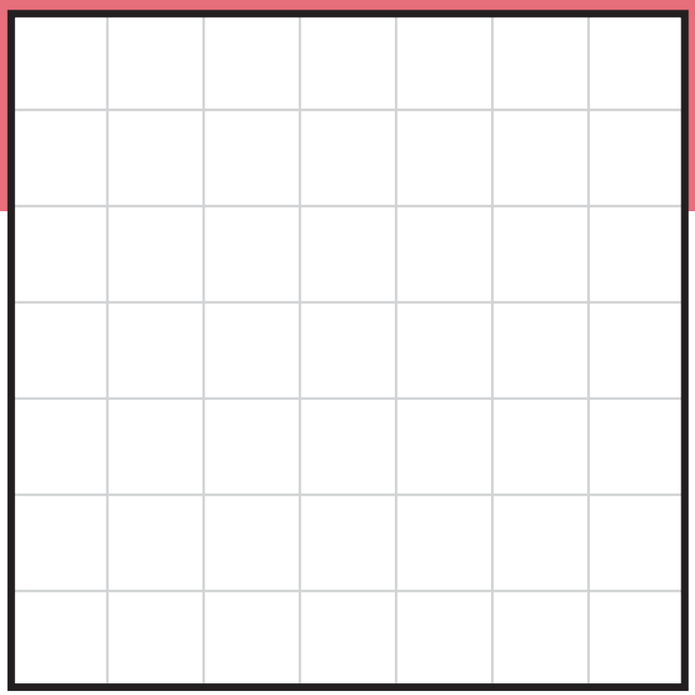
The Children's Hospital at Saint Francis

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

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DRAW P.J.
ONE SQUARE AT A TIME.







HELP P.J. FIND HIS WAY HOME IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS.



The Children's Hospital at Saint Francis