

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2012

Happenings

DEFIANCE COUNTY

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Community Events Magazine

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family-friendly christmas crafts

When it comes to decking the halls in advance of a holiday party, there's nothing quite as festive as creating homemade decorations with the family. From handmade ornaments to shimmering trees, your party guests will catch that holiday spirit when they see the special décor created just for the event.

To help get you started, the inspiration experts at the Jo-Ann Stores have shared the following holiday craft ideas. These simple step-by-step projects are great for crafters at every level, and the best part is you can get the whole family involved.

Décor Ideas

Small touches can make a big impact on your guests. Use these ideas to add small details to your party decorations:

Create a winter wonderland – Teach the kids how to create paper snowflakes, then string them up throughout the house using fishing wire. From the dining room chandelier, to the windows, fireplace and staircase, you can create a flurry of snowflakes around the house in minutes.

Design a sparkling centerpiece – To get started, gather pinecones on a walk around the neighborhood. In a well-ventilated area, use glitter or metallic spray paint to completely coat the pine cones in silver and gold. Then simply stack in a glass bowl and place at the center of the table surrounded by sprigs of fresh greenery and holly branches.

Take your holiday décor above and beyond with these holiday craft project instructions for a Champagne Shimmer Tree and Glitter Glass Ball ornaments. Your guests will love walking into the winter wonderland you create just for the occasion.

For more holiday décor inspiration and craft projects, visit www.JoAnn.com.

Champagne Shimmer Tree

Skill Level 1: No experience necessary

Approximate Crafting Time: 1 to 2 hours

Read all directions before starting and use the photo as a guide.

Note: Make sure to read the directions on the spray paint can before using. Use spray paint in a well-ventilated area.

Supplies and Tools:

- 2 cans champagne metallic spray paint
- 1 four-foot white Christmas tree
- 1 drop cloth
- 1 sturdy cardboard box

Working outside, place cardboard box on drop cloth.

Open up tree and fluff branches to give it a natural look. Place tree on box to give it some height.

Spray around every branch, so paint coats all of the tree's needles. Allow to dry for a few minutes and spray a second coat. Allow to dry overnight in a well-ventilated area before decorating.



Glitter Glass Ball Ornaments

Skill Level 1: No experience necessary

Approximate Crafting Time: 1 to 2 hours

Supplies and Tools:

- Glitter
- Double-sided tape
- Ready-to-finish glass ball ornaments
- Wide plastic cups
- Tacky glue and paintbrush (optional)

Wrap a piece of double-sided tape evenly around glass ornament.

Place glitter in plastic cup or other container. Remove the tape backing, and dip the glass ball into glitter, making sure to cover tape completely in glitter. Hang on tree.

Optional: Use the paintbrush and tacky glue to paint designs on the ornaments, then sprinkle with glitter. Allow to dry before hanging on tree.





presents

Defiance General Motors
Young Audience Series
 Stroede Center for the Arts

In coordination with the Defiance Public Library Systems, the new Young Audience Series will feature programming for families with young children. The generosity of our local sponsors has made it possible to offer all five evening performances at no cost to audience members. In addition, all Saturday events will include afternoon workshops for families to enjoy further learning and entertainment for a minimal fee.

Friday, November 9, 2012
 American Jazz Experience
 ★ Performance 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 15, 2012
 Michael O'Malley Presents
 "Dickens' Christmas Tales"
 Storytelling Workshops
 3:00 p.m. & 5:00 p.m.
 Performance 7:00 p.m. ★

Saturday, February 2, 2013
 ArtReach Theater Troupe Presents
 "Rosa Parks"
 Acting Workshop 4:00 p.m.
 Performance 7:00 p.m.

★ Saturday, March 23, 2013
 The Russian Duo
 Russian Folkdance
 Workshop 4:00 p.m.
 Performance 7:00 p.m.

★ Friday, April 26, 2013
 Puppetry Performance by
 Kevin Kammeraad
 Performance 7:00 p.m.

For more information, visit:
defiancearts.org

Defiance Community Cultural Council, a non-profit, 501(c)3 volunteer organization, is dedicated to the promotion of the performing arts, communication, and historic preservation. DCCC offers area residents fine professional entertainment and cultural enrichment, made possible with the generosity of local businesses and individuals who believe in the importance of the arts in our society.

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<p>November 8 <i>The National Players present</i> Animal Farm Schomburg Auditorium, 11 a.m.</p>	<p>November 13 Guys With Guitars Schomburg Auditorium 7:00 p.m.</p>
<p>February 12 vocal group Dala Schomburg Auditorium 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>March 21 The Good Lovelies musical trio Historic Valentine Theater 7:30 p.m.</p>

For ticket information, call 419-784-4010 or visit www.defiance.edu

Happenings

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 January-February 2012

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take steps toward a healthier lifestyle

For many, taking the first step toward healthy living can seem overwhelming. In fact, according to the American Public Health Association (APHA), nearly 1 million Americans die each year from diseases that can be prevented by living a healthier lifestyle. “Eating more fruits and vegetables, taking walks, washing your hands, and improving the well-being of your community are all easy ways to become a bit healthier,” stated Karla McDonel, RNC/OGNP, nurse practitioner in women’s health at Mercy Defiance Clinic.

Improve your health and the health of your community by following these tips to make simple changes today for a healthier tomorrow.

Live active, eat healthy

Small swaps—and steps—can lead to big changes:

- Check out the MyPlate recommendations from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) at www.choosemyplate.org to help plan your meals with proper proportions
- Look to fill half your plate with fruits and vegetables when preparing meals
- Choose more fish and low-fat meat cuts
- Cook food at proper temperatures
- Talk with elected leaders about including sidewalks, bike lanes, and farmers markets in your community

- Get at least 2 1/2 hours of moderate to vigorous exercise each week
- Encourage children to get 1 hour of active play each day

Prevent tobacco, drug, and alcohol abuse

Education goes a long way in preventing substance abuse:

- Stop smoking: Consult the Ohio Tobacco Quitline at <https://ohio.quitlogix.org> or call 1-800-QUIT-NOW (784-8669)
- Follow prescription medication instructions thoroughly
- Do not use illicit drugs
- Do not drive if you are under the influence

Avoid the spread of communicable disease

“Communicable diseases can’t be avoided completely, but you can better protect your family,” said Ms. McDonel.

- Wash your hands frequently
- Cover your mouth when you cough and sneeze
- Immunize your family
- Disinfect surfaces in your home and workspace

Promote mental and emotional well-being

It is important to advocate for mental health education in your community:



Photo courtesy of Getty Images

- Advocate for mental health awareness and programs within your community’s schools, businesses, and community centers
- Learn to recognize the symptoms of mental health issues, such as depression
- Support local nonprofits aimed at educating community members about mental illness
- Seek out treatment for mental health issues

To learn more and to read more healthy living tips from APHA, visit www.nphw.org. For more information about Mercy Defiance Clinic, visit their website at mercyweb.org/defiance.

This article provides general information for educational purposes only. The information provided here is not a substitute for medical or professional care, and you should not use the information in place of a visit, call consultation or the advice of your physician or other healthcare provider.





Where Are My Keys? Where Did I Park? All You Need Is Your Smartphone!

By Terri Stykemain

We have visited many points of purchasing, servicing and safely enjoying your vehicle in the past months. Now, let's check out a few fun and easy ways to help you stay organized and get the most out of your vehicle.

General Motors Company and OnStar, LLC offer mobile apps for many smartphones that provide an amazing level of control and connections to your vehicle. These apps are free, but some features do require an active OnStar subscription and present capabilities that are specific to model year and vehicle options. A six month active OnStar subscription is standard on all new Buick and GMC models.

The myBuick and myGMC mobile apps by General Motors Company are available for many iPhone and Android smartphones. These apps offer practical and functional features at the touch of a button. The Find My Car feature allows you to mark where you parked on a map, so you can easily find your vehicle in a large parking lot. If a warning light appears on your dashboard, you can reference the Lights & Indicators Guide to find out the exact meaning. More information can also be found with the use of the Owner's Manual feature. Roadside Assistance can be obtained in a jiffy, service appointments can easily be scheduled with the Stykemain Service Department, and you can even view our current Service Special Offers.

The OnStar RemoteLink mobile app by OnStar, LLC for many iPhone, Android, and Blackberry smartphones also offers numerous features to keep you connected with your vehicle. The app allows you to find a destination on your phone, send it directly to your OnStar Turn-by Turn or In-Dash navigation system and the directions will be downloaded and available upon vehicle start. Your car or truck can be remote locked, unlocked or started from any distance...my favorite feature! Information can also be obtained and displayed related to fuel level, mileage, tire pressure and oil life.

Don't miss out on the convenience and safety offered by these free apps. Treat yourself or someone on your gift list to an OnStar subscription in order to enjoy every applicable feature of these great apps! Give us a call. We would be happy to help with information or setup.

The Stykemain Team and I would like to wish each of you a Safe and Blessed Holiday Season. We look forward to your continued friendship and serving you in 2013!!!

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get your kitchen holiday ready



Photo courtesy of Getty Images

Millions of Americans will be taking to the road this holiday season and odds are some of them are coming to your home! All of those extra houseguests mean added kitchen clutter and a sink filled with a plethora of pots, pans and plates. Since the kitchen is the heart of the home, you'll want to make sure the space remains warm, inviting and sparkling clean during the holiday season. Here are some quick tips to help you get your kitchen ready for friends and family:

Countertops – Keep countertops clutter free by doing a quick clearing off. Grab a laundry basket and fill it with those piled up papers and magazines, school projects, and miscellaneous items that are taking up precious counter space. After the

hubbub of the holiday season has died down, you can sort through the basket and determine where all the items should be stored.

Once the counters have been cleared, it's time to wipe everything down. Don't forget about those usually unseen spots—move appliances, cookbooks and displays so you can clean underneath them, rather than just around them. Keep in mind that if you have granite countertops, you need to use a pH-neutral stone cleaner. Soap, abrasive cleaners or cleaners with citrus can damage granite.

Sink – A kitchen may look spic and span, but one stinky sponge can easily mask all your hard work. The new “Dirty Dishes Dilemma” survey by Palmolive® reveals that close to nine out of ten households (86 percent) have encountered a bad smelling sponge, and almost everyone surveyed (94 percent) said they felt this particular odor impacts their kitchen's cleanliness most.

Help keep guests' noses from crinkling by ensuring bad smells are kept at bay. One way you can do that is with the dual-action formula of Ultra Palmolive® Dish and Sponge Fresh™ Dish Liquid, which washes away odor-causing residue on sponges while its cleaning action helps remove stuck-on food. Dishes are left sparkling clean and sponges are left smelling fresh.

Another way to help keep your sponge smelling fresh? Properly clean your sponges

by removing remaining food particles and thoroughly rinsing your sponge after using the dish liquid.

Shiny surfaces also enhance a kitchen's atmosphere. Splotches and stains are a common sink surface menace even with daily cleaning. Use an eraser-type sponge and an all-purpose cleanser to remove them. You can also try cleaning stains with baking soda.

Refrigerator – Entertaining during the holiday season inevitably leads to lots of leftovers. Make sure shelves aren't filled with any food that is past its prime by looking through your refrigerator every few days. Don't forget to clean the bins and door shelves, too. Another way to keep the fridge smelling fresh is by opening a box of baking soda and storing it on a shelf – this will help absorb any lingering odors.

Keep the outside of the refrigerator as sparkling as the inside by wiping down exposed surfaces. Door handles and edges can get grimy so pay attention to those areas.

Creating a warm and inviting kitchen space for the upcoming season doesn't have to be time consuming. A little bit of elbow grease now will get your kitchen ready for the frenzy of festivities ahead.

Learn more about all of the Ultra Palmolive® dish liquid offerings at www.palmolive.com.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN DEFIANCE COUNTY

NOVEMBER

Thursday, November 1

›DCCC Presents Swingmania, Historic Valentine Theater, Defiance, 7:30 pm. Swingmania, AKA "The Jeff McDonald Band," is a dedicated group of talented Toledo area musicians whose goal is to entertain whether the audience is accustomed to "the Big Band Swing Sound" or not.

Saturday, November 3

›Slime Time Fall Festival: Wear your costume, get treats, play games (touch slime) and learn about Jesus' love! 6 to 8 PM. St. Paul's United Methodist Church 400 Wayne Ave, Defiance 782-3751

›Race to Play. 5K and 2 Mile Walk at 10:00AM, Kids Run at 9:45AM. Ney Community Park, Ney, OH, for more info visit www.defiancecountyrunner.com

Sunday, November 4

›Tiffin Twp Fire Department Breakfast at Evansport, 7:00 am to 2:00 pm.

›W. Oscar Jones Choral Festival, St. John United Church of Christ, Defiance, 4:30pm. Featuring the Black Swamp Honors Choir, Pride of Toledo, DC Choral Union & DC Chamber Singers.

November 5-30

›The Art at Defiance: Justin Johnson has bachelor's and master's degrees in art from the University of St. Francis, Fort Wayne, Ind., where he has been the gallery director for the School of Creative Arts for more than 10 years. His work is focused on traditional classical, religious, and sacred themes that are depicted in a contemporary way from an iconographic point of view. The exhibit will be hosted in the Defiance College Women's Commission Gallery located in Dana Hall.

Thursday November 8

›Schomburg Series: National Players present 'Animal Farm', Schomburg Auditorium, DC Campus. 11:00am.

›Mysteries and More: 6:30 pm, Defiance Public Library. November's book is "Twas the Bite Before Christmas" by Lee Charles Kelley. Join us for our Mystery Book Discussion Group; new members are welcome.

Friday, November 9

›When Johnny and Jane Come Marching Home. Defiance Public Library, 12:00 pm. Guest Speaker Tanya Brunner of the local Veteran's Affairs Office will highlight the benefits available to veterans of all eras. The current challenges that face our returning veterans will also be discussed. Sponsored by the Defiance Public Library, Friends of the Library and Zonta Club.

›Soup, Sandwich and Baked Potato lunch, Community Health Professionals Hospice Inpatient Center café 6817 St Rt 66 N. Free-will offering, open to the public from 11:30 -1:30. There will be lots of homemade autumn-themed desserts! All proceeds benefit the Patient Care Fund.

›Defiance General Motors Young Audience Series, Jazz 4 Kids Performance 7:00 p.m., Stroede Center for the Arts.

Saturday, November 10

›FCA 5K Trail Run, "Run for the One" 9:00am at Camp Lakota Boy Scout Camp. Forms are available at Defiance YMCA and at bbfca.org. Cost is \$18 postmarked before Nov. 3 and \$20 race day registration. Register early for the dry-fit shirt!

Monday, November 12

›The Annual Northwest Ohio Scholarship Pageant. At the Defiance Community Auditorium, 7:00pm. For more information email Randy at rschroeder@fm-bank.com.

Tuesday, November 13

›DCCB Defiance College Community Band, Tribute to Veterans Concert, Defiance Community Auditorium, 7:30pm.

›Schomburg Series, Guys With Guitars, Schomburg Auditorium, Defiance College Campus, 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov 14-Friday Nov 16

›ProMedica Defiance Regional Hospital Gift Shop Holiday Open House, 20% off Holiday Merchandise. Proceeds benefit Auxiliary supported services and projects at Defiance Regional Hospital.

November 14-November 17

›The Defiance Area YMCA presents the Festival of Trees. This event showcases many aspects of the Y and plays host to many community events. Located at Defiance Eagles hall. For more information contact the Y at 419 784-4747.

Thursday, November 15

›The Young People's Theatre Guild presents "HMS Pinafore," 7:30 pm. Stroede Center for the Arts.

›Town & Gown Series, "Johnny Logan," Tecumseh's Nephew's Search for His Place in the War of 1812, Schomburg Auditorium, Defiance College Campus, 7:30 p.m. Free event.

Thursday, November 22

›15th Annual Turkey Trot at Independence Dam State Park. Thurs. Nov. 22nd @ 8:30am. 4 mile run or fun walk. Pre-registration fee of \$20 includes a moisture wicking T-shirt and door prizes. Deadline is November 14th! PRE-REGISTRATION ONLY - NO RACE DAY REGISTRATION. Prizes will be awarded for the 4 mile run. Limit to 600 participants. Contact DDVB for more info.

Wednesday, November 28

›Community Memorial Hospital Lunch & Learn speaker Michael Arata, M.D speaking on Orthopedics, 11:00 am. The Lunch & Learn educational sessions are geared towards senior citizens, but anyone is welcome to attend. There is no charge to attend these events, and a complimentary brunch is provided by the hospital. A nurse is also on hand to take and record blood pressure measurements. Reservations are required each month and can be made by contacting Lori at 419-542-5560.

Downtown Defiance
A SEASON TO REMEMBER

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN DEFIANCE COUNTY

DECEMBER

Friday, November 30

›Santa Arrives! Help us welcome Santa to the corner of Clinton and First Street in the Downtown, 4:00p-9:00pm. An old trolley car carries Santa into the downtown and is available for rides the remainder of the evening. Refreshments and carolers round out this holiday event. There will be activities throughout the Downtown in each block for kids from 4pm-7pm. Santa and Mrs. Claus will be down at their house to greet children from 7pm to 9pm. Merchants and Restaurants will be open late for all your shopping and dining pleasures.

Saturday, December 1

›3rd Annual Chamber of Commerce "Christmas in the Village" Parade and Community Christmas tree lighting, downtown Hicksville, 5:00 p.m. Bring the family for an evening of holiday festivities: parade, lighting of the downtown Christmas tree, carols, picture with Santa, horse and carriage rides around the Village, crafts and snacks. Questions call the Chamber office at 419-542-6912 or visit us on the web www.hicksvillechamber.org.

December 1st and 2nd

›Dinners at Kinner's. AuGlaize Village Christmas Dinner in Log House. Reservations Required 419-782-7255.

Sunday, December 2

›DC Chamber Singers Holiday Choral Concert, St. John United Church of Christ, 4:30 p.m.

December 3 through February 1

›The Art at Defiance: Faculty Show. The work from both full-time and part-time Defiance College faculty members will be on display with a variety of media such as paint, ceramic, metal and charcoal. This annual event is a great opportunity to glimpse new work being produced by the Defiance College art faculty. Defiance College Women's Commission Gallery located in Dana Hall.

Tuesday, December 4

›Defiance College Community Band, Holiday Pops Concert, Defiance Community Auditorium, 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 6

›Community Health Professionals will host the 3rd annual Christmas Lights Memorial at 6:00 p.m. at the Hospice Inpatient Center, 6817 St Rt 66 north of Defiance. This evening is dedicated to our Hospice patients from the past year where families will arrive by horse-drawn wagons to a memorial service that will include music, the reading of names, stories and lots of cookies, hot drinks and the lighting of the memorial tree. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend.

Friday, December 7

›DC Black Swamp Strings Holiday Concert, Stroede Center for the Arts, 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 8

›Breakfast with Santa at St. Paul's United Methodist Church sponsored by ARK Preschool 400 Wayne Avenue Defiance 419-782-3751

Sunday, December 9,

›DC Choral Union "Messiah" Performance, St. John United Church of Christ, Defiance, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, December 13

›Mysteries and More Book Discussion Group. December's book is "A Cold Christmas" by Charlene Weir. Join us for our Mystery Book Discussion Group; new members are always welcome., 6:30 pm. Copies of this month's book are available for check out at the Defiance Public Library Circulation Desk.

Saturday, December 15

›Storytelling Workshops 3:00 & 5:00 p.m., Performance 7:00 p.m. - Defiance General Motors Young Audience Series, Michael O'Malley Presents "Dickens' Christmas Tales," Stroede Center for the Arts

Tuesday, December 18

›Defiance High School Holiday Choral Concert, Defiance Community Auditorium, 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 19

›Community Memorial Hospital Lunch & Learn speaker Rudy Kachman, MD, talking on Reversing Type II Diabetes, 11:00 am. The Lunch & Learn educational sessions are geared towards senior citizens, but anyone is welcome to attend. There is no charge to attend these events, and a complimentary brunch is provided by the hospital. A nurse is also on hand to take and record blood pressure measurements. Reservations are required each month and can be made by contacting Lori at 419-542-5560.

Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Group

For caregivers and family members of those with Alzheimer's and dementia.

› First Thursday of each month, 1:30 pm & Third Tuesday of each month, 7 pm
Defiance County Senior Services
140 E. Broadway Ave, Defiance.

› First Thursday of each month, 1:30 pm
Defiance County Senior Services
708 E High, Hicksville.

For Questions please contact Sheri or Ginny at 419-782-3257

Happenings

DEFIANCE COUNTY

To include an event in our next calendar, please submit information by December 1 to: publisher@freebirdpublishing.com

November 30th
Santa arrives in the Downtown
4:00-9:00 pm



Defiance Development
And Visitors Bureau

visitdefianceohio.com for more info on Santa's Hours and Holiday Events



best dish forward

By Chef Steven Meese

To an average kid from Daytona Beach with a prodigious appetite, her creamy green bean-mushroom casserole and baked sweet potatoes with forest-deep crust of burnished pecans and walnuts seemed almost other-worldly. For dessert, thick slices of homemade apple, pumpkin and sweet potato pie served a la mode far outshined the NFL Thanksgiving showcase, even for a die-hard Lions, Cowboys and Red Skins fan.

Since those days, my passion for cooking has taken me from top culinary positions at some of the finest restaurants and resorts in the country to the position of television host, producer and author. As part of my early “research” I spent a couple years eating my way across the southern comfort food belt of the U.S. and visiting various points of culinary interest throughout southern Europe. Prior to age 10, I lived with relatives overseas where I absorbed the rich food culture of northern Greece. These experiences and many more no doubt have helped to shape me as a chef and allow me to view traditional home cooking through a different lens.

As a chef I learned to always put my best dish forward, for it is said that a chef is only as good as his last dish.

This Thanksgiving I have decided to give turkey a much-needed rest in favor of individually portioned Cornish game hen. The small young bird is lighter than turkey and cooks up a whole lot faster. Dressed up with a citrus sage crust and a sweet-tart glaze you make yourself, this T-bird checks all the right boxes without being too elaborate.

What could be better than a classic pumpkin pie than a classic pumpkin pie with spicy streusel nut topping and fresh whipped cream?

Try this simple tip for making your creamed green bean-mushroom casserole sing: Spread store bought French-fried onions in an even layer on a baking sheet and toast for 3-5 minutes at 350F. Meanwhile pan-fry 4 strips of bacon until extra-crispy; blot with paper towel. Sprinkle casserole with the toasted fried onions and bacon.

Welcome to the holiday cooking season!

Steven Meese is currently the host of “Down Time” on Public Television. You can see him on DCTV 5 or go to his website at stevemeese.com.



As the culinary professional in my family, there is always the expectation to bring an exciting new twist to our Thanksgiving feast without going off traditional radar.

That’s easier said than done; although I have cooked for a U.S. president and the governor in my native state, cooking for a family of Greek home cooks can be quite a humbling experience even for an accomplished chef.

Growing up, my Mom’s kitchen was like a cooking institute. The only thing I was permitted to do was to chop vegetables. I have her to thank for my expert knife skills. She was a master at food prep and could execute Thanksgiving with effortless grace.

On the morning of, I would get up early and pull up a chair next to Ma, still in her robe, and watch Macy’s 3-hour showcase of marching bands, singers and dancers on television, up until the last giant helium parade balloon. Then she would disappear into the kitchen for a couple of hours to prepare our feast; the warm aromas generated by her holiday cooking filled the entire house and kept me close at hand.



Citrus Sage Crusted Cornish Hen

2 hens split feeds four people

- 2 1.5 lb. Cornish game hens (thawed in refrigerator over night)
- Canola oil, for coating
- 1 Tbsp. fresh chopped sage
- 1 Tbsp. grated orange zest
- ½ tsp. minced garlic
- 2 Tbsp. Panko bread crumbs
- Salt and cracked black pepper, to taste

Preheat oven to 450F.

Rinse hens under cold running water and pat dry. Cut the birds lengthwise in half with poultry shears. Set aside.

Make the crust mixture: Combine sage,

orange zest, garlic, panko, salt and pepper in small bowl. Rub each hen half all over with canola oil. Sprinkle with mixture to completely cover. Use your hands to pat onto the surface.

Place the hens, skin-side down, in a baking pan large enough to hold them. Roast hens for 23-25 minutes until a golden crust forms and the internal temperature reaches 165F. Allow to rest 5 minutes.

To make a glaze: In heavy bottom sauce pan, add ¼ cup balsamic vinegar, ¼ cup freshly squeezed orange juice, small minced shallot, and whole garlic clove. Reduce over medium-high heat until thickened. Remove the garlic. Strain through a fine mesh sieve to make a smooth sauce. Drizzle over hens to serve.

Pumpkin Streusel Pie

Serves 10

Topping:

- 1 prepared crust (*store bought is fine*)
- ¼ cup golden brown sugar
- ⅓ cup all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- ¼ tsp. allspice
- 2 Tbsp. chilled unsalted butter, cut into small pieces
- ⅓ cup pecans, chopped

Filling:

- 15 oz. can pumpkin puree
- ¾ cup white sugar
- ½ cup brown sugar
- 3 medium eggs
- ½ stick unsalted butter, melted
- 1 tsp. pure vanilla
- 1 tsp. apple cider or apple juice

Preheat oven to 350F.

Make the streusel. Combine brown sugar, flour, cinnamon, and allspice in a large bowl. Add the butter and rub in with your fingers until coarse crumbs. Stir in the pecans. Set aside.

Make the filling: In a medium bowl stir the pumpkin puree and sugars together. Whisk in the eggs one at a time. Add the melted butter, vanilla, and apple cider. Mix well.

Pour filling into prepared crust. Sprinkle all over with the streusel to completely cover. Bake 45 minutes until golden brown. Allow to cool completely then refrigerate. Take out 30 minutes before serving. Top with whipped cream.

To make the whipping topping: Combine 1 cup sugar with ½ cup heavy whipping cream. Beat with handheld electric mixer until soft peaks form.



happy holiday treats

Host a holiday party that's simple and festive with a combination of pre-made and homemade delights from the celebration experts at Wilton.

For starters, a cookie pan does double duty for holiday-shaped homemade Crispy Cheese Crackers. Serve these aromatic rosemary treats, made into Christmas trees, snowmen and stockings, alongside a colorful assortment of fresh vegetables and made-from-scratch fire-roasted jalapeño dip.

"Guests will think you spent hours baking in the kitchen when you wow them with a seasonal selection of hand-decorated gingerbreads," says Nancy Siler, vice president of consumer affairs at Wilton.

Easy to assemble with all the trimmings included, there's a ready-to-decorate gingerbread kit to fit any yuletide gathering. Complete with pre-baked gingerbread, each kit contains decorating accessories like candies and icings to personalize your own mini village, Christmas tree, gingerpop cookies and more.

For another fun twist on a traditional gingerbread house, Siler recommends getting the kids involved. They'll love the marshmallow-y Holiday House Treat made of cinnamon toasted oats cereal. Once the house is built, watch the kids decorate their yummy creation with a variety of gumdrops, licorice, icings and candies.

To cater to a more sophisticated palate, Siler suggests Salted Caramel Bacon Cordial Cups. A lavish blend of vanilla pudding, crisp-cooked bacon and whipped cream is flavored with caramel ice cream topping and piped into edible, dark cocoa Candy Melt cordial cups. They're bite-sized holiday bliss.

Don't forget eggnog. This year, give your favorite prepared eggnog a chocolate kick and serve Eggnog Hot Chocolate garnished with peppermint Candy Curls.

For more holiday recipe project and decorating ideas, or to purchase gingerbread kits, visit www.wilton.com.



Holiday House Treat

Makes about 12 servings

- 6 cups cinnamon-flavored toasted oats cereal
- 4 tablespoons (½ stick) butter
- 1 bag (10 ounces) mini marshmallows
- 1½ teaspoons ground ginger
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- Assorted Tube Icing, Decorating Gel, Sprinkles, Colored Sugars, Icing Decorations and other favorite candy

Prepare Wilton Stand-Up House Pan with vegetable pan spray.

Place cereal in large bowl. In large saucepan, melt butter; add marshmallows, ginger and cinnamon. Cook and stir constantly until melted. Pour over cereal and mix well. Spread cereal mixture into prepared pan. When cool to touch, remove from pan; secure to foil-wrapped cake board with icing. Decorate as desired with icing, sprinkles, sugars, icing decorations and candy.

Crispy Cheese Crackers

Makes 16 to 20 crackers

- ½ cup (1 stick) unsalted butter, softened
- ¾ cup (about 2 ounces) finely grated Asiago cheese
- 1 ounce (about ¼ cup) toasted pine nuts, finely chopped
- 1½ teaspoons minced fresh rosemary
- ½ teaspoon garlic powder
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon black pepper
- 1½ cups all-purpose flour

Preheat oven to 350°F. Prepare Holiday Cookie Pan with vegetable pan spray.

In medium bowl, beat butter, cheese, pine nuts, rosemary, garlic powder, salt and pepper with electric mixer until creamy and well combined. Add flour; beat until mixture looks sandy and holds together when squeezed in your hand. Press into prepared pan, filling cavities ½ full.

Bake 13 to 15 minutes or until edges are light golden brown. Cool in pan 5 minutes. Remove from pan and cool completely.

Fire Roasted Jalapeño Onion Dip

Makes about 1-¾ cups dip

- 4 jalapeño peppers
- 1 package (5.7 ounces) onion soup mix
- 1 cup sour cream
- ½ cup mayonnaise

Preheat broiler.

Place peppers on non-stick cookie pan; broil, turning at least once, 6 to 7 minutes or until blackened. Let stand 10 minutes. Remove stem and seeds; coarsely chop.

In large bowl, stir together onion soup mix, sour cream and mayonnaise. Fold in peppers. Refrigerate at least 2 hours.

Serve with cucumber and zucchini slices, celery, carrot sticks, sliced bell peppers and other favorite vegetables.

Note: For spicier dip, include seeds from peppers.

Salted Caramel Bacon Cordial Cups

Makes about 24 filled cordial cups

- 1½ cups Dark Cocoa Candy Melts Candy
- 3 containers (3.2 ounces each) vanilla prepared pudding
- ½ cup finely chopped crisp-cooked bacon
- 1 tablespoon caramel ice cream topping plus additional for drizzling
- ½ cup heavy whipping cream, whipped
- Sea salt

Fill cordial cup candy mold ⅓ full with melted candy. Using a decorator brush, paint the candy up the sides of each mold to the top edge. Coat mold so that no light can be seen through the shell. Refrigerate until firm, about 5 minutes. Repeat if needed. Carefully remove shells from mold.

In medium bowl, combine pudding, bacon and 1 tablespoon ice cream topping; mix until thoroughly combined. Fold in whipped cream. Refrigerate at least 1 hour.

Using tip #33, pipe filling into candy cordial cups. Drizzle with additional ice cream topping and sprinkle with sea salt.



Eggnog Hot Chocolate

Makes about 4 servings

- 2 cups milk
- 2 cups prepared eggnog
- 1 cup Dark Cocoa Candy Melts Candy
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- Whipped cream
- Candy Curls

In large saucepan, cook milk and eggnog on medium heat until the mixture is hot; turn off heat. Whisk in Candy Melts candy and vanilla extract. Continue whisking until candy is melted and mixture is smooth.

Pour into mugs; garnish with Candy Curls.

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my favorite gift

By Marcella Ciccotelli

The day was meant for glory, I can only assume. It was cloudless, open and blue; warm enough to be in a t-shirt and cool enough for just-out-of-the-dryer jeans. As we pulled out of the driveway I felt loved, not just because it was my birthday. On this weekday, while everyone was hurriedly focused on getting to work, my husband was not.

Two hours later looking up from my book, I saw loaded backpacks and ear-budded students flip-flopping through the crosswalk. We had reached my alma mater. After a long reminiscent campus walk, we were soon starving. We looked at each other knowingly and said in unison, “Maize and Blue.” This postage-stamp sized deli smelling of toast and adorned with walls of chalkboard menus had been our college favorite. Eating the monstrosity called a “Number 71,” we read the funny sandwich combinations upon the wall, laughing with sore jaws from trying to open so wide to fit our lunch in.

Our second trek of the day brought us to the immense grassy meadow at Nichols Arboretum; affectionately called The Arb by students and locals. There we remained for the afternoon, dreaming, sharing laughter, recalling moments—allowing the day to envelop us.

The bag holding a new sweatshirt sat on the back seat of the car as we drove home, but my favorite gift did not come

from a store. The true gift was spending the day with someone I love.

Gifts like this take time and planning, but it is experiences that we remember most—TIME spent with each other. So this year, before you stand in line clutching six pairs of adorable polka dot socks, think. What experience can I share with this person?

Still need that physical gift?

When gifting a gardener, do not be intimidated! People think gardeners are super picky people and you might buy the wrong thing. For almost every gardener I know that is the farthest from the truth! First of all, we are easy—because we love plants...we CANNOT have enough of them nor do we care if we have multiples of the same type of plant. Another ivy? “Oh, awesome!” we think. “A new baby to add to our collection of friends.”

For the Nature Lover:

Sneak over to a friend’s house, pull out the long dead petunias in her front container and fill it with evergreen boughs and branches. (For pictures and instructions, check out Happenings’ online archives December 2010 issue at www.freebirdpublishing.com)

For the Wanna-Be gardener:

The “Easy Home Gardening Kit”



Photo courtesy of Marcella Ciccotelli

by Plant Wizard is a simple way to garden even if you do not have space. The kit includes containers, watering system and great instructions. For more information, visit www.rapidgrower.com.

For your Brown Thumb friend:

Moss Rocks are beautiful in any home and easy care. Available at www.mossandstonegardens.com.



For the Kid at Heart:

Garden Miniatures are loved by all. These container gardens created for indoors or out are adorned with miniature furniture and tools to bring many smiles.



[surprising gifts

by Stephanie Small, PR Coordinator, Defiance Public Library System

Each of these stories is centered on the giving or receiving of gifts which can come in some surprising forms.



Parting Gifts

by Charlotte Vale Allen

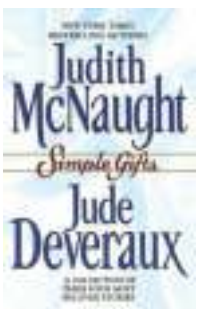
Have your tissues at hand for Allen's 'Parting Gifts.' A widow is dumbfounded when on the day of her husband's funeral a woman appears claiming to be her daughter who was given up for adoption 20 years earlier. The story is not true, but, out of pity, she takes in the woman's small abused boy who would otherwise face foster care. A nurturing love between the two ends up healing them both, but not before another tragedy strikes.



13 gifts

by Wendy Mass

A summer in Willow Falls with her extended family is not where young Tara wants to be for her 13th birthday. But when a mysterious woman offers her a gift in exchange for her help in finding 13 curious objects on a type of town-wide scavenger hunt, her summer takes an interesting turn. Tara must overcome her fears of loneliness and abandonment to make friends and seek help, but what she gains in return is one of the most precious gifts she will ever receive. A great read for mothers and daughters alike.



Simple Gifts

by Jude Deveraux & Judith McNaught

In the busy Holiday Season, short stories can be the quick pick-me-up you need to get through the hustle and bustle. Two bestselling authors share four inspiring stories of gift-giving in this charming collection. From the hills of Virginia to historic Regency London, four women experience the miracle of trials that turn into precious gifts and learn that the packages don't always belie what lies inside.



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holiday gifts for the kitchen



Home cooks, new cooks, foodies and gourmet chefs all have something in common—they want a kitchen stocked with everything they need to put their passion on a plate.

From recipe ideas and ready-to-cook steaks, to must-have kitchen tools and toast-worthy bubbly, this gift guide has all you need to please the cooks and food lovers in your life.



A. KitchenAid Personal Coffee Maker

\$99.99 | www.shopkitchenaid.com

Put a smile on a coffee lover's face with an 18-ounce personal coffee maker. Engineered with an optimized brew process, the compact model includes a heating element positioned vertically near the brew head to provide hot water at a consistent temperature. A removable, top load water tank allows for easy filling from any angle, while the multifunctional lid quickly transforms the carafe into a thermal travel mug. The personal coffee makers are available in Contour Silver, Empire Red, Onyx Black and Espresso.

B. Cooking Season by Season

\$35.00 | www.dk.com

Seasonal cooking is big, and the growing number of farmers markets in the country is making it easier to do. This exhaustive recipe resource and produce guide will be a handy kitchen companion for anyone trying to decide what to do with fresh fruits and vegetables. With 1,000 recipes organized by season, many accompanied by gorgeous photographs and step-by-step how-to images, "Cooking Season by Season" will help home cooks make the most of fresh produce 365 days a year.

C. Barefoot Bubbly Pink Moscato

\$10.00 | www.barefootwine.com

Toast the holidays and ring in 2013 with fun, flavorful and affordable Barefoot Bubbly. For a festive and fruity twist, try the most colorful bubbly in Barefoot's portfolio, Pink Moscato. Delicious aromas of fresh berries, candied cherries and sweet citrus complement its creamy finish. Enjoy on its own paired with delectable desserts, or use as a base to create a signature cocktail for the holiday season. This is an ideal hostess gift or stocking stuffer for the adults on your list.



D. Guy Fieri

Decorated Nonstick Aluminum Skillets

\$19.99 – \$29.99

www.cooking.com

Turn up the heat for the cool cooks on your list. These colorful skillets are great for cooks who like it bigger and bolder, just like celebrity chef Guy Fieri. Featuring artwork from Guy's personal tattoo artist, Joe Leonard, these nonstick skillets come in three sizes, 8-inches, 10-inches, and 12-inches. The nonstick interiors make food release—and clean-up—easy, and soft-touch silicone handles mean they're comfortable to hold. The skillet shown features one of five available designs.



E. Holiday Happiness Combo Pack

\$49.99 | www.omahasteaks.com

Gifts of food are a way to share an experience with others, making it the perfect gift in the true spirit of the holidays. A package from Omaha Steaks offers the gift of an occasion — a reason to gather with family and friends to share a delicious meal and great conversation. The Holiday Happiness Combo Pack features 4 (5-ounce) Filet Mignons, 4 (4-ounce) Omaha Steaks Burgers, 4 (3-ounce) Gourmet Jumbo Franks, 4 Stuffed Baked Potatoes, and 4 Chocolate Molten Lava Cakes.





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