

G&G Christmas Gift Guide



Taking care of potted perennials during the winter

Taking care of your potted perennial plants over the winter will ensure they are around next season to provide another year of enjoyment, said a University of Illinois Extension horticulture educator. "Container gardening is a form of gardening everyone can enjoy no matter how large or small their garden may be," said Greg Stack. "Those with only a balcony or patio can enjoy the pleasures of gardening just as those with areas of space. Containers can become quite elaborate, and the types of plant material can be quite varied."

"When it comes to what gardeners are putting into containers, the trend is leaning toward just about anything."

At one time annuals were the majority, if not the only type, of plant material being used in containers. Now everything from perennials to small trees and shrubs are commonly being used. And while these perennials can be treated like annuals and replaced

the next season, many gardeners can't bear the thought of having something die that has the potential of coming back. Because of this, gardeners now have to consider the best way to overwinter these pots so they can have these plants survive the winter and come back next spring. "Perennials in pots need protection because their root system is basically above ground in a container," he explained. "This poses problems because the root system is now subject to extreme cold injury. "If these same perennials were planted in the ground, the roots would have the benefit of the soil to help insulate and protect the roots from potential cold injury that can kill roots leading to a good number of the plants not coming back in the spring. Above ground, that protective root insulation disappears, making the roots vulnerable to extreme winter temperatures." So what can a gardener do to protect that investment in perennial plant material? There are several

ways to provide needed protection. "With any container that you are considering to use, make sure the plant material in the container is dormant," said Stack. "Wait for temperatures to drop to the twenties for several nights and make sure the soil in the container is moist. Plants in moist soil tend to overwinter better than those where the soil is dry. Now you can bed them down for the winter."

If the pots are small, and if you have garden space, dig a hole in the garden large enough to accommodate the pot up to the rim. Place the pot in the hole and backfill the hole with soil. Cover the pot with a thick layer of mulch such as straw or hardwood leaves.

If you don't want to dig holes, gather up your pots and group them together on an inside corner of a building, preferably on the east or north side. Once grouped, mulch them with straw or hardwood leaves. "The last way to help protect your containers is to move them into an unheat-

ed building such as a garage or shed where temperatures are slightly above freezing all winter," he said. "This inside storage will protect them. When using

inside storage make sure to check on the pots occasionally as they may dry out. If so, apply just a little bit of water to moisten the soil slightly. "Whichever method you choose, leave the plants protected until spring weather conditions moderate and they can be safely moved back into the garden."

McDonald introduces new Rawhide Processor

Rawhide Portable Corral, Inc., Abilene, now offers the Rawhide Processor designed and built only by John McDonald. This innovative portable corral system has hydraulic transport wheels which are raised and lowered with the flip of a switch, so there is no need to remove them. This model is a gooseneck with a sheeted alley and features the options of:

1) A manual or hydraulic adjustable alley which allows you to narrow the alley for calves as well as squeeze cattle

in the alley and

2) a loading chute may be built in.

A 15-amp solar panel is standard equipment on all of their models, so there is no need to recharge your battery.

The Rawhide Processor comes in the same three sizes their Original Rawhide Portable Corral has, the standard, large and super large.

For more information, contact John or Mary McDonald at Rawhide Portable Corral, Inc., 785-263-3436. or www.rawhideportablecorral.com



www.RANCHHAND.com
RANCH HAND
800.366.9712

Your #1 Source for Truck Accessories
Bumper Replacement Grill Guards
Bolt-On Grill Guards
Headache Racks & Bed Rails






ZEITLOW
DISTRIBUTING
COMPANY
"Quality products since 1961"

Zeitlow Distributing Company
McPherson, Kansas
800-364-1605 doug@zeitlow.com

Western Store

STETSON
Cavalry Hats
Free Shaping & Shipping
Silver & Gold Spurs for CAV Units
IN STOCK



Boots,
Belts,
Wallets,
Cowboy
Hats!

600 S. 4th Street • Manhattan
785-776-7467

RODEO SUPPLIES



Holiday SAVINGS Special
AT Pioneer SINCE 1978
FARM & RANCH
427 NE 14th - 888-263-7163 • ABILENE, KANSAS

VESTS



V28
Textured Polyester Fleece
\$59.99



V02
Sandstone Artic Quilt Lined
\$49.99



V26
Sandstone Sherpa Lined
\$49.99



V33
Sandstone Mock Neck Sherpa Lined
\$59.99

JACKETS



J131
Duck Active Thermal Lined
\$59.99



J260
Plaid Flannel Active
\$69.99



S96
Lined Shirt Jacket
\$39.99



S195
Buffalo Plaid Lined Shirt
\$45.99



The Original
MUCK
BOOT COMPANY



Chore All Conditions Work Boot
CHH-000A
\$75.99
New at Pioneer!



Active Jacket
Brown Duck
Sizes 4-7
\$49.99



Check Pioneer's New Line of Carhartt for Kids! Insulated outerwear Jackets & Bib Overalls

PIONEER FARM & RANCH SUPPLY
427 N.E. 14th Street, P.O. Box 309, Abilene, Kansas 67410
Phone: 888-263-7163

Enjoy one of these Christmas events around Kansas

This partial list of Christmas activities was taken from the Kansas Department of Tourism website, www.travelks.com.

Holiday Tree Display Now through 12/5/10

Come See The Beautiful Trees!
During the month of November area school children will be decorating trees in the Shafer Gallery. Come out to see their progress as we count down to Christmas.

Hours: Monday-Friday: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday: 1 p.m.-4 p.m.

Shafer Memorial Art Gallery at Barton Community College
245 NE 30 Road
Great Bend, KS 67530
Phone: (620) 792-9342

Mayor's Holiday Food & Fund Drive Now through 12/31/10

A \$1 discount off the admission price with a donation of a food item.

Help Manhattan's Mayor's Holiday Food Drive and spend a great day at the Sunset Zoo.

Sunset Zoological Park
2333 Oak St.
Manhattan, KS 66502
Phone: (785) 587-2737
Fax: (785) 587-2730

TARC Winter Wonderland Now through 12/31/10

Drive-through park featuring more than one million lights along two miles of scenic Lake Shawnee.

A Topeka tradition featuring more than one million lights winding through a two mile stretch at scenic Lake Shawnee. Runs nightly.

Lake Shawnee Campgrounds
3435 SE East Edge Rd.
Topeka, KS 66607
Phone: (785) 232-0597

A Legendary Holiday Light Show Thanksgiving through 12/24/10

Experience the holiday season at the Legends winter wonderland.
Every Saturday between

Thanksgiving and Christmas, The Legends becomes a winter wonderland. Two holiday trees feature a spectacular lighting display that is synchronized to music.

1843 Village West Pkwy
Kansas City, KS 66111
Phone: (913) 788-3700

The Legends "My Santa Experience" Now through 12/24/10

One-of-a-kind experience allowing children to take part in magical Christmas experiences!

This is a one-of-a-kind experience that allows children to take part in five different magical experiences: 1) write a letter to Santa and send it to the North Pole; 2) craft a souvenir with elves; 3) join Santa in his living room for a photo; 4) decorate cookies with Mrs. Claus; and 5) play in indoor snow yard. Families leave with a cookie, souvenir, photos and a USB drive to share the memories of this magical experience forever. Reservations are available.

1843 Village West Pkwy
Kansas City, KS 66111
Phone: (913) 788-3700

Christmas Craft Mall Now through 12/28/10

Monday through Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Sunday 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Come enjoy shopping for those "one-of-a-kind" gifts.

This is a great place to enjoy some of the artistic talents of the local artisans.

The Christmas Craft Mall is closed on Thanksgiving and Christmas.

1709 Main Street
Great Bend, KS 67530
Phone: (620) 792-3108

Olde World Christmas Now through 12/31/10

Display of ethnic and Victorian trees fill the 121 year old Queen Anne-style mansion.

View the display of ethnic and Victorian trees that fill the 121 year old Queen Anne-style mansion. A feast for the eyes! Music performances, and St. Nick avail-

able for pictures. Call for details.

Strawberry Hill Museum and Cultural Center
720 N 4th St.
Kansas City, KS 66101
Phone: (913) 371-3264

Isle of Lights Now through 12/31/10

Spectacular Christmas Lights Display
Winfield Isle of Lights is nearly a mile long drive-through holiday extravaganza! Features hundreds of thousands of Christmas lights in displays such as Toyland, Reindeer Road, Candyland, Zooland and much more!

Island Park
N Main and Welfelt Dr.
Winfield, KS 67156
Phone: (620) 221-2418

Trail of Lights Now through 12/25/10

Courthouse lights, zoo lights and lights on the lake.

Kilby Square lights, Brit Spagh Zoo's wild lights and lights on Veteran's Lake. 12 Days of Christmas at Veteran's Park

Citywide
Great Bend, KS 67530
Phone: (620) 792-2750

Memory Lane Christmas Light Display & Tree Farm 11/25/10 - 12/24/10

Over 30+ various light displays on the mile-long road and Christmas Tree Farm on site.

Enjoy this mile-long road with over 30 light displays ranging from toys of the "olden" days to displays telling the Christmas story, then enjoy hot cocoa, a visit to the gift shop and go home with one of your favorite trees, hand-cut, shaken and netted especially for you.

Source of the Governor's Christmas Tree for 2006.

2710 Vermont Rd
Rantoul, KS 66079
Phone: (800) 296-6745
Toll Free: (800) 296-6745

Sandzen Art Gallery Annual Holiday Gift Show

Now through 12/26/10
401 N. First
Lindsborg, KS 67456
Phone: (785) 227-2220

Giving Trees: Make the holiday brighter for children

Now through 12/3/10
Assist children and their families in need during the holidays with a visit to the "Help Wanted: Santa's Workshop Giving Tree."

Participants visit one of the trees, select a tag and purchase the gift request. They then return the unwrapped gift(s) with the angel tags attached to the tree location by noon Friday, December 3.

The trees are located at: The Catholic Campus Center, 17th & Jewell; Campus Ministry at Washburn, 1621 SW Boswell; Multi-cultural Affairs Office, Room 110, Morgan Hall; Living Learning Center lobby, 1801 SW Jewell; Washburn Student Government Assoc., lower level of the Memorial Union; and Zeta Tau Alpha sorority house, 1845 SW Jewell.

The gifts will be donated to the Topeka Rescue Mission, Let's Help and Doorstep and benefit children newborn through age 13 who are in need during the holidays. For more information contact the Catholic Campus Center. Hours: 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Washburn University
Campus
17th & Jewell
Topeka, KS 66621
Phone: (785) 233-2204

Winter Wonderland — Ignite Augusta 11/25/10 - 12/31/10

Spectacular drive-through park with over 100 lighted displays!

Load up the family and make a trip to Augusta. Garvin Park is transformed into a Winter Wonderland of lights. You might see Santa playing baseball with his elves, or a couple taking a carriage ride. Thousands of twinkling lights are sure to thrill. Group Tours welcome.

Garvin Park
1900 Washington Ln.
Augusta, KS 67010
Phone: (316) 775-6339

19th Century Holiday Celebrations 11/26/10

Come see how the Holiday Celebration of the 19th century differs from today. Admission is Free, please call for time.

1116 SE Madison
Topeka, KS 66612
Phone: (785) 232-5622

Christmas on the Square 11/26/10

Downtown holiday light festival around the historic Courthouse square

Festival with carriage rides, Santa Claus, retail window guessing games and shopping.

Downtown
1815 M St.
Belleville, KS 66935
Phone: (785) 527-5524
Toll Free: (866) 527-2355

Christmas Parade 11/26/10

Santa arrives to turn on the lights in Heritage Park.

Floats, bands, lights and the arrival of Santa Claus! Celebrate the opening of the Christmas Season as Santa arrives to turn on the Christmas lights in Heritage Park. The parade begins at 5:30 pm and the route runs from Junction City High School down 6th St. to Washington St. to 8th St.
701 N. Jefferson St.
Junction City, KS 66441
Phone: (785) 762-2632

Fabulous Christmas Light Parade Date: 11/26/10

Unique floats decked with lights brighten the downtown.

Held annually includes anything from 4-wheelers to combines to cement trucks. Pancake feed, downtown shopping at the holiday opening, have your picture taken with Santa and enjoy the Fabulous light parade with friends and family.

100 Center
Oakley, KS 67748
Phone: (785) 672-3251

Holiday Ceremony & Santa's Arrival 11/26/10

Annual holiday season kick-off.

The holiday season officially begins with the rescue of Santa off the rooftop of Weaver's Department Store.

900 Massachusetts
Lawrence, KS 66044
Phone: (785) 842-3883

Lighted Christmas Parade 11/26/10

Russell kicks off the Christmas season with a lighted parade. Come and see the unique uses of Christmas lights on a wide variety of entries.

507 N Main St.
Russell, KS 67665
Phone: (785) 483-2897
Toll Free: (800) 658-4686

Continued on page 24

Oodles of Doodles Quilt Shop

with Longarm Service

Phone: 293-2580
107 S. Broadway
Riley, KS

Oodles of Doodles is now offering classes! Come in or call for dates and times! There are lots of techniques to learn and lots of friends to make! On the 3rd Saturday of every month there will be P.J. Parties. Don't miss a minute of FUN! Sign up fast!

Mon. & Thurs. 12-5 p.m.
Tues.-Wed.-Fri. & Sat.
10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Mid-America Office Supplies

328 Poyntz Ave., Manhattan
785-539-8982 • Open: M-F, 8 am-6 pm

FREE Local Delivery Discount Prices with Hometown Pride

Contemporary & Mission Oak Bookcases
No Particle Board
3 ft.-6 ft.

GREAT GIFT IDEAS



SOMMERSET HALL CAFÉ

785-256-6223
"BEST CAFÉ IN DOVER!"

Tuesday thru Saturday: 7:00-4:00
Friday night buffets: 5:00-8:00
CONNIE'S FRIED CHICKEN 1ST & 3RD FRIDAYS
JANIE'S PIES

CONVENIENCE ITEMS
www.doverkansas.com Gift Certificates available

The Gown of Your Dreams, A Price You can Afford


When you shop at Encore Occasions Bridal and Formal Boutique you will find beautiful designer gowns, priced at 40-60% off regular retail price.

Bridal Gowns • Bridesmaid • Flower Girl
Mother-of-the-Bride • Formal • Prom
Career Wear • Jewelry • Tuxedos

108 S. Broadway
Riley, KS
(785) 485-2360

Encore Occasions
Bridal and Formal Boutique

www.EncoreOccasionsBoutique.com



CONCORDIA TRACTOR INC.

Concordia • Clay Center • Abilene • Wamego

John Deere Toys

10% off all toys until Dec 24th

Concordia 785-243-3381 Clay Center 785-632-3181 Abilene 785-263-3051 Wamego 785-458-5000

www.CTIKS.com

Holiday Recipes



(NAPSA) — This year, you can surprise holiday guests twice over.

First, by serving an appetizer that has a texture and zing they may never have experienced before. Secondly, this appetizer features trans fat and cholesterol-free Seneca Farms Crisp Onions.

These crunchy culinary delights, available in the produce section, can be a healthier way to dress up your holiday meals with great taste and fewer calories. Plus, because they require no slicing or dicing and can be sprinkled onto holiday side dishes, salads, soups and appetizers, they're a tasteful way to save time in the kitchen.

By garnishing ordinary recipes with Crisp Onions, you incorporate unexpectedly sweet, crunchy onions that bring an element of surprise. Seneca Farms Crisp Onions are a great way to perk up holiday fare with an all-natural, healthier ingredient that simply makes meals more memorable.

For example, Crisp Onions and Sweet Potato Chips add sweet and savory elements to this light and

crunchy cereal and nut mix.

Spicy Crisp Onions Snack

- 4 cups crisp rice cereal (such as Crispix)
- 1 1/2 cups whole unsalted almonds, toasted*
- 1 tablespoon chili powder
- 1 1/2 teaspoons ground cumin
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 3.5-ounce bag Seneca Farms Crisp Onions
- 2.5-ounce bag Seneca Sweet Potato Chips, Cinnamon or Sea Salt

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Line a baking sheet with foil. Combine cereal and almonds in a large bowl. Sprinkle with chili powder, cumin and salt. Drizzle olive oil over mix and stir well until ingredients are coated with spices. Bake 10 minutes, stirring once. Remove from oven and immediately add Crisp Onions and Sweet Potato Chips. Mix well. Cool. Store in air-tight container up to one week. Makes: 2 quarts

* To toast almonds, spread on a rimmed baking sheet. Bake at 350 degrees 10-15 minutes, stirring once or twice.

For more information, visit www.SenecaSnacks.com.

(NAPSA) — The flavors of chocolate and cranberry are a match made in culinary heaven. This delectable pairing combines the velvety smoothness of chocolate pudding and a sweet cranberry raisin mélange. It's simple enough to whip up on weeknights yet special enough to serve to company.

- Chocolate Cranberry Jewel**
- 1 cup Kozy Shack® Chocolate Pudding
- 2 cups of pound cake (cubed)
- 4 tablespoons of mélange



Cranberry Raisin Mélange:

- 1 cup of fresh cranberries
- 3/4 cup of water
- 1/2 cup of sugar
- 1/4 cup of orange juice
- 1/4 cup of golden raisins
- Pinch of salt

Garnish:
Dollop of whipped topping
2 mint leaves

For cranberry mixture, place cranberries, water, sugar, orange juice, golden raisins and salt into a sauté pan and bring to a boil. Stir until blended thoroughly. Simmer on low for 2-3 minutes until cranberries are soft. Let cool. Place 1/2 cup of pound cake cubes into the bottom of two parfait glasses. Follow with 1/4 cup of Kozy Shack Chocolate Pudding in each glass, then 1 tablespoon of cranberry raisin mixture; repeat entire process to create an additional layer. Garnish with a dollop of whipped topping and a mint leaf. Yield: 2 servings.

For more recipes, visit www.kozyshack.com

Tonganoxie man determined to raise funds for blind horse

(AP) Jay Miller has trained his fair share of horses over the years, but none quite like Levi, a six-year-old mustang who is almost completely blind but can still do an array of tricks, including some better than his sighted counterparts.

When Miller got Levi this past June from the U.S. Bureau of Land Management to train him for 90 days for a September mustang show in Lincoln, Neb., he didn't know the horse could barely see. Neither did the Bureau of Land Management, he said.

However, no sooner did Miller get Levi home that he realized something was amiss. The horse wasn't responding to hand or body movements, even those that normally would send a mustang into a gallop.

"I actually figured out the eye problem the first day I had him" said Miller, 49, of Tonganoxie. "Six hours after we picked him up and put him in the round pen, I knew there was a problem."

Miller said he could have given Levi back to the Bureau of Land Management to exchange for another horse. But he knew Levi likely would have been put down.

Not wanting to see that, Miller kept Levi and trained him to do a variety of tricks, including to walk, trot and canter, for the Extreme Mustang Makeover show in late September in Lincoln, Neb. Miller can even stand upright on Levi's saddle.

Miller, who recently brought the horse to the Mustang Fun Show at Heartland Ranch in Wakarusa, is attempting to raise

funds on a Facebook page dedicated to "Levi Miller" to help offset approximately \$7,500 for surgery to remove cataracts from both of the horse's eyes.

The surgery is scheduled to be performed at Kansas State University in Manhattan, but only after Levi undergoes some retinal tests to make sure cataracts are indeed the problem.

"If he's got retinal damage," Miller said, "it does no good to pull the cataracts off."

Miller estimated Levi has about 10 percent of his vision, but he can't see well beyond about two feet. He said Levi has developed exceptional hearing and smelling senses, enabling him to compensate for his lack of vision.

He said organizers of the Extreme Mustang Makeover show questioned whether Miller should try to train Levi for the event.

"To the best of their knowledge," Miller said, "they'd never had a blind horse in the show before."

Judges were amazed by Levi's ability to perform tricks and obey Miller's vocal commands. The horse received a number of high scores at the show, and Miller said some in the competition thought Levi should have finished in the top 10 in scoring among the 31 mustangs at the event.

The Extreme Mustang Makeover, held at the Lancaster Events Center in Lincoln, Neb., was designed to encourage people to adopt the mustangs, which formerly roamed wild in the western and southwestern portions of the United States.

By the time the Extreme Mustang Makeover rolled around, Miller was deter-

mined he would keep Levi, rather than letting him go to someone else at the auction.

When the auction commenced at the Extreme Mustang Makeover, Miller said he announced that Levi was going to be his — period.

"We told 'em before the auction, 'This horse is going home with me,'" Miller said. "Bid on him if you want, but he's going home with me." He said one person at the auction drove the bidding up to \$450 before Miller got Levi for \$500.

"That was too bad," Miller said, "because I could have used the money to help pay for his cataract surgery."

Miller said every time a specialist comes out to look at Levi, it costs about \$300 to \$350.

To help pay for the horse's surgery, Miller said he has sold off some of his "toys," such as a John Deere Gator utility vehicle.

Miller said Levi has shown a propensity to trust him completely, following his vocal commands

"He doesn't have a choice," Miller said, "because he can't see."

Miller said he rewards Levi with an apple treat when he obeys his commands.

Dona Brown, of Topeka, one of the founders of the Midwest Mustang and Burro Saddle Club, which sponsored the event at Wakarusa, applauded Miller for wanting to keep Levi and get surgery to correct his vision.

"The possibility that the horse might be put down weighed heavily on everybody's mind," Brown said. "It's out of the kindness of his heart that he's doing this."




The First Hydraulic Corral And Still The Largest!

3 Sizes Available!

Introducing Our New Rawhide Processor by John McDonald

- Pull on highway at speed limit
- Fits through any gate your pickup will
- Stable on uneven terrain.
- Wheels on each panel and electric over hydraulic jack eliminates lifting — saves time
- Frame gates for sorting
- Transport wheels are permanent, no sliding off the axles and rolling out of the way
- There is a permanent sheeted alley with option to make adjustable




Rawhide Portable Corral

307 Augustine Ave., Abilene, KS 67410

785-263-3436

www.rawhideportablecorral.com



Christmas is a time for Friends, Family and Sharing.

The Grass & Grain Christmas Subscription Special is about all three of those things, too!

First, extend your subscription for a year for **\$37 — a \$5 savings!**

(It doesn't matter when your subscription expires, we'll just extend it from that date.)

Think of it as our Christmas gift to you!

THEN
(Drum roll, please)

Buy a new one-year subscription for a friend or family member — you know, someone who is always borrowing YOUR Grass & Grain,

For \$25!!!

Both parts of the offer must be used.
Offer expires December 20.
The new subscription will start December 28.

Just clip the coupon below and mail it, with payment to:
Grass & Grain
P.O. Box 1009, Manhattan, KS 66505

Subscription Extension	Gift Subscription
Name: _____	Name: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
_____	_____
_____	_____
Cost: \$37	Cost: \$25
Total enclosed: \$62.00	
(Whew, that's one gift you can cross off your list! Don't you wish they were all this easy?)	



ABILENE

www.abilenekansas.org

1-800-569-5915



find us on Facebook



—TEMPORARY EXHIBIT—



Eisenhower and the Righteous Cause:

The Liberation of Europe
THE HOLOCAUST ENDED ...
THE PURSUIT OF JUSTICE BEGAN.

785.263.6700 | 877-RING-IKE
www.eisenhower.archives.gov
[facebook.com/IkeLibrary](https://www.facebook.com/IkeLibrary)

"We cannot ... face the future simply
by walking into the past backwards."
Dwight D. Eisenhower, Sept. 19, 1956

Dwight D. Eisenhower
Presidential Library & Museum
200 SE 4th Street, Abilene, KS 67410

May 24 - Dec. 31, 2010

Start your holiday season with a tour of the beautiful

Nov 20 - Jan 9

Seelye Mansion Christmas Tours



Seelye Mansion

featured on HGTV's *Christmas Castles*
see collection of over 700 Nutcrackers

One of 8 Wonders of Kansas: Architecture

Mansion, Patent Medicine Museum & Gardens
Opens 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Monday - Saturday
Sunday at 1 p.m.
Last tour begins at 3 p.m.
(other times available by appointment)

Admission fee: Adults \$10.
Children 6-16 \$5
(group rates available)

1105 N. Buckeye
Telephone: 785-263-1084
terryt@access-one.com
www.seelyemansion.org

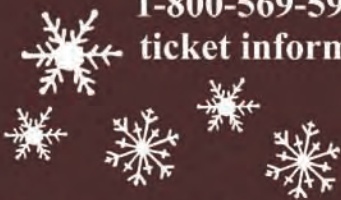
HOMES FOR THE HOLIDAYS

*Tour Abilene's beautiful homes
decorated for the holiday season!*

First Saturday in December 4-8 p.m.

First Sunday in December 1-5 p.m.

1-800-569-5915 for
ticket information



Come early on Saturday
and join the fun for
AN EVENING OF CHRISTMAS MAGIC
in historic downtown Abilene!



Join us on December 5
for a special Christmas
Tradition at the historic
Volkman Cabin. Snuggle
up to the wood burning
stove and sample warm
cookies just out of the oven
as you try to imagine the
family as they prepare for
Christmas Day.

**Heritage Center
Museums**

412 S. Campbell

M-F 9-3; Sat 10-5; Sun 1-5
785-263-2681



christmas in the cabin.



August 3 - 9, 2011

CKFF Assn., Inc.
P.O. Box 515
619 N. Rogers St.
Abilene, KS 67410 - 0515
785-263-4570 785-263-7960
ckffoffice@tctelco.net
<http://ckff.net>
Monday - Friday 9am - 1pm

Facilities & Meeting Space For Rent

Sterl Hall: Meeting rooms for banquets, reunions,
educational demos, auctions, camping groups
Stadium: Rodeo Arena, Equine facilities with
exercise arena, Beef (indoor & outdoor facilities),
Swine, Sheep, and Goat facilities, as well as large
and small livestock arenas. We can also
accommodate livestock layovers.

Spring through Fall: Shows, educational demos,
festivals, weddings, etc.

Large room 64x120 Small room 24x48
Extension room 20x48

Kitchen with 2 stoves, double convection oven
Camping hookups and 11 acres open grass

North of of I-70
at 110 E. Lafayette
785-263-4049



**FULL HOT BREAKFAST BAR
JACUZZI SUITES
INDOOR POOL & SAUNA**

www.holidayinnexpress.com

Abilene's Victorian Inn
Bed & Breakfast

820 NW 3rd St., Abilene, KS 67410, 785-263-7774 or 888-807-7774

Blending History with Elegance



Exclusive Gift Shoppe open by appointment
28 different flavors of Loose Leaf Tea
China Tea Cups /Saucers, Tea Towels, and Strainers
Chef prepared Lemon Curd & Cream Scones
Call in your order Now
Tea Parties and Lunch by Reservation

785-263-7774 or 888-807-7774

www.AbilenesVictorianInn.com



407 S Van Buren
(Old Highway 40)
Formerly Lena's, a favorite
eating establishment of Ike

Tues.-Sat. 11a.m.-2 p.m. &
5 p.m.-9 p.m.
Sunday 11a.m. - 2p.m.
Closed Monday
785-263-7995

email: tkuntz@eaglecom.net
www.mrksfarmhouse.com



Mr. K's Farmhouse

Book Holiday Parties Now

Great home cooking in a friendly country
atmosphere. We accept reservations, and
drop-ins are always welcome!

The Aikensville Sponge Cake War

A Fictional Christmas story by Donna Sullivan

Editor's note: Five years ago, when I bought our local newspaper and took over as editor, I wrote a fictional Christmas story for our annual holiday edition, sort of as a Christmas gift to the readers. It was very well received, and I've done it every year since. Following is one of those stories. I hope you enjoy it. --DS

Let me begin by saying that Del and I never set out to become legends or heroes or any of the other titles that got bestowed upon us that year in our little hometown of Aikensville. In fact, nothing could have been further from our minds as we spent our days like all ten-year-old boys did back then, chasing frogs, tearing things apart to see how they worked and doing whatever chores our mothers required of us so we could get back outside and explore our little part of the world.

But desperate times call for desperate measures and when it appeared as though our little town was not going to have its annual Christmas Pageant, we knew something had to be done. And since it was our grandmothers right in the middle of the controversy, the way we saw it, the responsibility was ours to shoulder.

So now, over three decades later, the story is still told at Christmastime in every home in Aikensville. It's passed down from generation to generation and every newcomer to town knows it by heart before their first Aikensville Christmas ever comes to pass. When Del or I walk down

the holly and tinsel bedecked streets, children will gaze up at us wide-eyed. "There's the guys who saved the Pageant," they say.

Ah yes, the Pageant. But before I get ahead of myself, let me give you a little history — set the stage, if you will — on what will forever be remembered in Aikensville as The Sponge Cake War.

Aikensville, 1956

Have you ever heard of three generation best friends? Well, that's what Del and I are. Our grandmothers met in grade school and instantly became best friends. They lived about a mile apart down a red dirt road that turned to a sticky gumbo at even the slightest mention of rain. Del's grandma — Rose was her name — would wait for my Grandma Nettie, then they would walk to school together each day. They shared a desk in their little one-room school, traded food out of their black lunch pails and always warned each other if Horace Bradford or Nathan West was about to sneak up on them and do something mean. Horace and Nathan would later become our grandfathers, but there was a lot of braid pulling and chasing around the schoolyard before that ever happened.

Well, Rose and Nettie grew up, married Horace and Nathan, and a couple of years later gave birth, 14 hours apart, to our mothers. My mother, Alice, was a bit of a tomboy. Del's mother, Lucille, didn't care so much for climbing trees and fishing in the creek, but somehow, the two of them also

became best friends. Alice would submit to Lucille's attempts to "girly-fy" her if, on occasion, Lucille would agree to wet a worm or two on the banks of Harris Creek. As long as Alice baited the hook and removed any fish Lucille might accidentally catch, things were generally quite enjoyable.

As you've probably figured out by now, Lucille and Alice married a pair of local boys and a couple of years later, gave birth, seven hours apart, to Del and I. Folks around Aikensville marveled at the uncanny mastery of timing that our mothers and grandmothers seemed to possess.

From the moment Del and I could crawl off of our blankets, we were together. If there was anything that needed fixing, exploring or ridden down a hill, we were the men for the job. Summers were the best, when we could be gone for hours, and provided our chores were done, nobody gave a second thought to where we were or what we might be doing. As long as we showed back up each night in one piece, all was right with the world.

One of our major responsibilities, and one we took quite seriously, was to sample the never-ending stream of baked goods that poured

from our grandmother's kitchens. You see, it would have been downright irresponsible of us to let anything leave those kitchens without first making sure that each item lived up to the reputation that Grandma Rose and Nettie had created for themselves. A sub-standard pastry, pie or cake would do nothing but blemish their stellar status as the town's most prolific and admired bakers. Yes, it was indeed a heavy burden for a couple of ten-year-old boys, but a sacrifice we were willing to make for our beloved grandmas.

That summer, as the County Fair drew near, our grandmas were busy trying out sponge cake recipes. Sponge cake was the only category left that one or the other of them hadn't won Grand Champion in, and they were determined that this year, they would complete their "Grand Slam" of baking by capturing the final deep purple Grand Champion ribbon for their collection. If whichever one didn't win Grand Champion could capture Reserve Grand with her sponge cake, well, that would be even better.

The days leading up to the Fair are etched in my memory as a steady diet of sponge cake. So much sponge cake, in fact, that I

practically begged my mother for some vegetables for supper one night, an act that caused her to take my temperature and send me to bed early for fear that I was getting sick. But the next day I was up bright and early, and Del and I were all ready to help our grandmothers get their cakes to the fair for judging.

Thirty-five years of taking their baked goods to the fair, and never, ever did a hint of competition flare up between them. Whichever one of them won Grand Champion, the other congratulated her graciously, then they were off to see the

livestock exhibits and maybe share a frozen lemonade as the afternoon wore on.

So what happened that day, we'll never really know. But the end result left the whole town reeling for the next five months, and threatened to undermine the town's most hallowed tradition, the Christmas Pageant.

"You can't change one ingredient from my recipe and call it your recipe and win Grand Champion," Grandma Rose was heard to say in a rather unladylike voice.

"It's not your recipe, don't be a spoil-sport,"

DESPERATE SEED
Ellsworth Kansas on the Violent Frontier
By "The Cowboy" Jim Gray
Get your very own signed copy!
Soft Cover: \$25 • Hard Cover: \$34.50
(includes tax, mailing & handling)
Send payment with mailing address to:
Kansas Cowboy
PO Box 62, Ellsworth, KS 67439
Please include instructions if you would like the book signed to someone in particular.
Or give The Cowboy a call at 785-531-2058

The Magic of Christmas in Riley

Saturday, December 11 • 1 PM

Riley County Grade School

- **Crafts • Jewelry**
- **Home Businesses • Food**

Soup Supper: 5-7 PM
Santa Comes at 6:30 PM

MCKINLEY
MERCANTILE
1st Anniversary Sale
Friday, November 26 • 10 AM-8 PM
Refreshments!

1/2 Price on select group of toys

"Thank You for Your Business This Past Year"

Ladies Christmas Wish List
Come in anytime & pick out the jewelry you would most like to have for Christmas!
December 22 - Guy's Night!
Come in & they'll show you everything on your lady's list!

Take her breath away with exactly what she wants for Christmas!

Thomas Jewelers
Since 1963
419 Poyntz Ave., Manhattan, KS
785-776-7600
gthomasjewelers.com

Kansas Cattlemen's Membership and Merchandise

Give the Gift of Membership this Holiday Season.

KCA Solid Colored Hats

- A. Black with Red Lettering
- B. Hunter Green with Maroon Lettering
- C. Grey with Maroon Lettering
- D. Tan with Maroon Lettering
- E. White with Maroon Lettering
- F. Navy with Maroon Lettering

ALL HATS MADE IN USA

KCA Hats: A _____ x \$17 = _____
B _____ x \$17 = _____
C _____ x \$17 = _____
D _____ x \$17 = _____
E _____ x \$17 = _____
F _____ x \$17 = _____

KCA License Plate: _____ x \$6 = _____
KCA Membership : _____ x \$35 = _____

Order Total: \$ _____

KCA License Plate "Demand USA Beef"
(Red, White & Blue)

Order Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Why Buy?

- 1. An easy way to show your pride for the local Kansas producer.**
- 2. A great gift for the cattleman in your life.**
- 3. Help support us as we support YOU.**
- 4. Free Shipping with all purchases.**

Please Return with payment to:
Kansas Cattlemen's Association,
606 N Washington, Junction City, KS 66441

Grandma Nettie replied, also in a less than dignified tone. Del and I were stunned, as were all the other townsfolk who had gathered to witness the judging. Never had a cross word been exchanged between Nettie and Rose. No one knew what to do, so we all just stood there, aghast. Then Grandma Rose uttered a sentence that stunned the crowd, and even Grandma Nettie, into absolute silence.

"I'm never speaking to you again."

With that, she took her sponge cake and left. Grandma Nettie took her deep purple Grand Champion rosette, which now seemed to have lost some of its luster, and headed home herself. Del and I, well, we tried to convince ourselves that this would blow over quickly and even tried to enjoy some of the sights of the fair. But a dark cloud hung over us for the rest of the day; in fact, for the next five months.

Now, never speaking to Grandma Nettie again was not going to be easy for Grandma Rose. You see, the two went to the same church, belonged to the same sewing circle and had all the same friends. Not to mention, their daughters and grandsons were still best friends and wanted nothing more than to see the two of them patch things up. But as the weeks turned

into months and summer faded into fall, Grandma Rose stuck to her vow without the slightest trace of thawing her icy silence toward Grandma Nettie.

Soon it was December, and everyone in town began to murmur. What would become of the Christmas Pageant?

By now I'm sure you're wondering how two little old ladies not speaking to each other could affect an entire town's Christmas Pageant. You see, Grandma Nettie and Grandma Rose had been producing the Christmas Pageant since farther back than anyone could remember. Not a single person in town could recall a time when anyone but those two had produced the Pageant. Each year they wrote a script, held auditions for the parts and conducted weeks of rehearsals before presenting it to their townsfolk, who never ceased to be amazed at their seemingly endless supply of creativity. So if they weren't speaking to each other, how in the world could there possibly be a Pageant?

Del and I and our mothers were frequently stopped on the street by worried townspeople. What did we think, they wanted to know, would there be a Pageant? We didn't know. We were just as worried as everyone else. The first week of December passed. No sign of

communication between the two. The second week came and went. Now we were really worried. Rehearsals should have been started by now. Sets should be being built. Instead . . . nothing.

The time came for our parents' annual Christmas shopping trip to the city. As usual they left us with our grandmothers, and as usual, we took turns spending the nights at each other's house. Even though they weren't speaking to each other, they were still quite pleasant to both of us. That is, unless we brought up the subject of their feud, which we had figured out by the second week of August really wasn't a very good idea.

That night as Del and I lay in the bunk beds at Grandma Rose's house, it became apparent to us both that something had to be done. This wasn't just about sponge cake any more — there was much more at stake. A Christmas without the Pageant was unthinkable. But what in the world could we, a couple of ten-year-olds, do about it?

I can't recall now which one of us thought of it first, or what made us think we could pull it off. But somewhere around midnight, we both began howling in pain.

"Our stomachs," we cried, as we lay doubled up

and curled into little balls on our beds.

Grandma Rose threw open the door to our bedroom and burst in, a blur of pink chenille bathrobe and cold cream, viewed through our eyes squinted with pain.

"I think I'm dying," I cried.

"Me too," Del moaned.

"I want my Grandma," I said, opening one eye wide enough to see how Grandma Rose would react.

"Of course, dear," she said and hurried to the phone to call Grandma Nettie. Now, if Grandma Nettie was surprised to hear from Grandma Rose at midnight, it sure didn't slow her down any. She was in that bedroom in no time flat, her coat hastily thrown over her shoulders and her blue pajama bottoms tucked into the tops of what appeared to be Grandpa's work boots. Del and I just kept crying and moaning, while the two grandmas tried to figure out what to do.

They were in the same room together and they were talking. Our plan seemed to have worked perfectly. But what we hadn't considered was what happened next.

"It must be their appendix," Grandma Rose said.

"Both at the same time," Grandma Nettie replied.

Breta Bloomberg, LLC (dba)
Margaret B's Antiques
 707 Broadway • Marysville, KS
Bring in this ad for 20% OFF
Any one item
 Hours:
 Mon.-Wed.-Thurs.-Fri.-Sat.: 9:30 AM-5 PM
 Sunday: 11 AM-3 PM • CLOSED Tuesday
785-268-0189 or 785-562-9883

SISTERS & CO.
Antiques & Unique Gifts
 Special Discounts on
NOVEMBER 27 & DECEMBER 4
 Lots of Holiday Goodies including
 Kansas Made Peppernuts, Jams,
 Salsas and more!
 PAXICO, KANSAS • 785-636-8400
 Shopkeeper: Connie Lewis

Melody & Roger - owners
 Invite you to shop at the
Grand Ol' Trunk
 Thrift Shop & Bookstore
 1/4 mile south of the viaduct on Hwy. 177
 Hours: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Saturday

 December 15th Thru 24th
A Trunk Full of
Christmas Items
ON SALE!
 Credit Cards Welcome 1304 Pillsbury Dr.
 785-537-2273 Manhattan, KS 66502

RANCH HAND
 TRUCK ACCESSORIES
 Award Winning Protection
 Why take the chance?
 Call us for all your
 Car & Truck Accessories
 Business Hours:
 Monday, 9 AM-6 PM
 Tues.-Fri. 8 AM-8 PM
 Saturday,
 9 AM-5 PM
 CLOSED Sunday
FILM AT ELEVEN
 313 Fort Riley Blvd.
 Manhattan, KS
785-539-5620

Grown in Kansas!
 REAL Christmas Trees
 and Poinsettias
 Made in Kansas!
 Gift Baskets
 for local delivery
 &
 Ks. Gift Boxes
 We Ship U.P.S.
 GREAT SELECTION OF ORNAMENTS!
Eastside & Westside Markets
 www.eastsideandwestsidemarkets.com
 E. Hwy. 24 or W. K-18 in Manhattan!

"Doesn't that seem a little odd?"

"Well, you know how the timing has always been with our families, what else do you think it could be?"

With that, they scooped us up and had us loaded in the car and headed for the hospital before we knew what had happened.

I looked at Del, Del looked at me. Now what? We couldn't just stop moaning and say, "Glad to see you ladies talking again and, oh by the way, we were faking it." That would just send them back to their houses mad at us, too. So we kept up the charade.

The last thing I remember is the terrified look on Del's face as they wheeled him into surgery. The last thing he remembers is me clinging to Grandma Nettie's hand for dear life.

When we awoke, we each had a four-inch scar on


our abdomens and grandmothers who were not only speaking again, but had written the Christmas Pageant while we were having our appendixes removed.

With barely two weeks to go before Christmas, there was a lot of work to do, and they threw themselves into it wholeheartedly. Del and I were recovered sufficiently to be Wise Men in the Pageant, and the whole town breathed a collective sigh of relief.

It took us a year to work up the nerve to tell Grandma Rose and Grandma Nettie the truth. Once we did, word spread through the town like wildfire that Del and I had faked appendix attacks and faced major surgery to save the Christmas Pageant and to put an end, once and for all, to The Aikensville Sponge Cake War.

GRASS & GRAIN
 is a great gift for the hard-to-buy-for people on your list!

ROBERTS
Championship Style The Cowboys Choice
Roberts & Rodeo
 A Family Tradition - Four Generations
 COWBOY OUTFITTERS Salina Central Mall 825-4888
 SHORT GO PRO RODEO SHOP Manhattan Ks 776-7467
 Full line Western Store - Tack & Rodeo Equipment
 A Custom Handmade Boots, Buckles, Hats & Chaps A
 Cowboy Christmas with
 Roberts Cowboy Gift Certificates!

Calendar of Events In and around the WEAVER HOTEL Living Museum

 • 10 guest rooms
 • 2 party rooms
 • Newly renovated
 "A step back into History"
126 S. Kansas St., Waterville, Kansas
785.363.2515 • WeaverHotel.com
December 4, 2010
Santa's Soup Day
 Santa, Soup, & Desserts
Christmas at the Weaver
 Five Course dinner w/ Entertainment
 by reservation
December 31, 2010
New Year's Eve Dinner
 Catered dinner by reservation
New Year's Eve Party
 Sponsored by Marshall Co Hist.. Railroad Society
January 22, 2011
Culinary Retreat
 Cooking classes and more by reservation
February 12, 2011
"Crazy Little Thing called Love"
Valentine Buffet Dinner
March 13, 2011
Pine Mountain Jamboree
Five Star Lasagna Dinner

