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UA12/2/1 Deck the Hill

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Deck the Hill
A College Heights Herald guide for the holidays

NOVEMBER 29, 2011
PHOTO BY JABIN E. BOTSFORD/HERALD
President Gary Ransdell believes in Santa Claus.

“You know, Santa Claus and Big Red are a lot alike,” Ransdell said. “They can both be many places at the same time. There’s a lot of magic there.”

Ransdell said the spirit of Santa Claus and all the traditions surrounding Christmas are what give the holiday the magic, especially for children.

“You gotta believe in miracles and tradition and things that fascinate children of all ages,” he said. “The spirit of Santa Claus is very real, and you would be doing yourself a disservice not to believe in that spirit.”

Ransdell said he doesn’t go into Christmas with one specific thing he wants in mind.

“Julie and I often get each other things that are creative, like a piece of art for our home or the yard…that we can enjoy forever and can be passed down to our sons,” he said.

Last year, Ransdell said Julie gave him a “beautiful” carved and painted owl.

Ransdell said he already knows what he is getting his wife this year.

“I’m getting her something that she will enjoy and that will be quite utilitarian, but she wants it,” he said.

Christmas at the Ransdell’s has traditionally involved a fire in the fireplace, lots of Christmas decorations, a Christmas tree, a turkey dinner and homemade cinnamon rolls.

“Those traditions are changing because our boys are 28 and 32,” he said. “In the past we’ve always enjoyed having them with us, but our grandson is 3-and-a-half-years-old so it’s time for him to start having Christmas at his home, which is in North Carolina.”

This year, the Ransdells are going to Destin, Fla., to spend time with Julie’s mother.

“We are very traditional,” Ransdell said. “This will be the first Christmas in 39 years of marriage that we haven’t had all the traditional things on Christmas morning.”

Ransdell said their traditions are evolving, but they will keep some of them alive even in a different environment.

“They have turkeys in Florida too!” he said. “There won’t be a fireplace and it won’t be cold, but we’ll still do all the traditional food things.”

They are also planning on decorating a Christmas tree with seashells and beach things.

A couple of Christmases stand out in Ransdell’s memory.

Ransdell and his wife, Julie, got married on Dec. 30, 1972 when they were both seniors at WKU.

“That Christmas was pretty magical with all that was going on with getting married in a few days, and all our friends coming up to Louisville for the wedding,” he said. “That would probably be the most special.”

Another of his favorite Christmas memories comes from when their boys were young.

“Julie and I have always had dogs, and the dog we had when we were married, right after we got married, had died, so we got the boys a puppy,” he said. “A Dalmatian, a Christmas Dalmatian. And it was quite a chore making that a Christmas morning surprise. That was pretty special.”

By KATHERINE WADE
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Holiday Calendar

December 1-11

December 2
Candlelight Tours, Riverview at Hobson Grove, 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

December 2-4
“Winterdance: A Holiday Extravaganza!” Van Meter, 8 p.m.

December 3
Christmas in Kentucky, Kentucky Building, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

December 7
“The Velveteen Rabbit,” Van Meter, 8 p.m.

December 9-11
The Nutcracker, Capitol Arts Center, Friday and Saturday 7 p.m., Sunday 3 p.m.

December 17
“A Rockin’ Christmas,” Van Meter, 8 p.m.

Open House and Holiday Giveaway
Dec. 3rd at 5p.m.

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Students provide Thanksgiving dinner to families in need

By ANNA ANDERSON
diversions@wkuherald.com

Hundreds of cans were stacked haphazardly on the counters, the tabletop, the floor and every nook of the small break room of WKU’s Public Health Department.

“That’s 60,” WKU graduate student Ines Dugandzija said last Friday afternoon as she finished filling a cardboard box to the brim with canned green beans.

Her efforts at organizing the items had barely made a dent in the chaos, and there were more cans to come.

Dugandzija, a 23-year-old earning a Master of Public Health, is the current treasurer of the WKU Kentucky Public Health Association.

Last Friday afternoon, she and other members carefully packed boxes full of donated canned goods for local families in need as part of the Adopt a Family program.

Each box contained the fixings for a traditional Thanksgiving dinner, a meal that is sometimes out of reach for those who have fallen on hard times.

With the goods raised by WKU KPHA, 14 more households in the Bowling Green area will have enough to celebrate the holiday.

For Evansville senior Chad Beswick, the president of WKU KPHA, it’s especially important to help others during the holiday season.

“It’s about family,” he said. “It’s about fellowship. It’s about coming together.”

This is the second year WKU KPHA has come together with the Family Resource Center at Parker Bennett Curry Elementary in Bowling Green to collect food and monetary donations for the holidays.

Lisa Wilson, who works with the Family Resource Center, has acted as the liaison between WKU KHAP and the school for both years by picking up the donations from WKU’s main campus and making sure they reach the correct destinations.

Bernadette Tardy, the Family Resource Coordinator of Parker Bennett Curry, said the school is in particular need for services such as Adopt a Family.

More than 90 percent of students at the Parker Bennett Curry are on free or reduced school lunch, Tardy said.

While Wilson, Tardy and others at the Family Resource Center help to keep students and families fed from day to day through various programs, they can’t provide for holiday meals alone.

That’s why Tardy is glad to see someone else bridge the gap.

“I greatly appreciate Western for reaching out and being a part of it,” she said.

Beswick said WKU KPHA will keep collecting items through Dec. 14 to provide another set of families with Christmas Dinner.

“It’s a special time of year where you shouldn’t have to fight for food,” he said about this year’s holiday season.

For both the Thanksgiving and Christmas food drive, items requested included stove top dressing, canned cranberries, instant potatoes and various canned vegetables.

Monetary donations for the Thanksgiving food drive went towards buying one turkey for each family. For Christmas, each family will be receiving a ham.

All donations can be brought to WKU Academic Complex in rooms 133 or 208. Contact Chad Beswick at chad.beswick@wku.edu for more information,

“It’s a special time of year where you shouldn’t have to fight for food.”

—Chad Beswick
WKU KPHA president

www.chucksliquoroutlets.com
Students and families miss relatives serving overseas

By ANNA ANDERSON
diversions@wkuherald.com

As Zachary Daugherty prepares for the Christmas holiday season, he knows something important is missing. His father, 1st Sgt. Kevin Daugherty, won’t be home.

“It definitely changes the holiday spirit,” Zachary Daugherty said.

The Beaver Dam senior is a cadet captain in Army ROTC and comes from a long line of military service. This isn’t the first year that his father’s own service has kept him away over the holidays.

Regardless of how many times Kevin Daugherty has been away, Cheryl Daugherty, Kevin’s wife and Zachary’s stepmother, said that it can still be tough to cope with his absence.

“You can tell there’s a presence that’s missing,” she said.

Kevin Daugherty was deployed for a year to the Kandahar province in Afghanistan, in mid-October. His family copes with the situation by having faith that he will safely return home.

“Faith is a big factor in my family,” Zachary Daugherty said. “It definitely helps get through some of the hard times.”

While he does worry about his father overseas, Daugherty said he tries not to dwell on it.

Guston senior Jacob Baldwin also tries to mask his worries about his twin brother, Spc. Justin Baldwin.

“If you went around worrying about what was happening to him all the time, you’d probably lose your mind,” he said.

Jacob Baldwin, also a member of ROTC, said holidays spent with his brother are rare. In the 48 months since his brother enlisted in the Army, 32 of them have been served overseas, he said.

Like Zachary Daugherty, Jacob Baldwin grew up in a military family in Flaherty, Ky., His father, Kirk Baldwin, a retired sergeant major, was deployed for Christmas in 2001.

That year, the Baldwins celebrated Thanksgiving Day and then exchanged gifts for Christmas the next day so Kirk Baldwin wouldn’t miss anything.

“If we know someone is about to deploy, we celebrate the upcoming holiday,” Jacob Baldwin said. “That’s our tradition.”

Justin Baldwin deployed in January to Camp War Horse in Iraq and was relocated to Kuwait after the base was closed earlier this year. He is expected home either before this Christmas or early next year.

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In order to give him some semblance of Christmas, the Daugherty family plans to send gifts and cards to Kevin once he gets settled overseas. He’s currently stationed at Fort Dix, N.J., and is expected to arrive in Afghanistan in the beginning of December.

Though both the Daugherty and Baldwin families miss their loved ones overseas, Jacob Baldwin said they can celebrate Christmas with relative normalcy. The case isn’t the same for his brother.

“Even though our traditions weren’t that big, he probably misses them more than anybody,” Jacob Baldwin said.

For Zachary Daugherty, Christmases without his father make him more aware of the sacrifices made by women and men serving in the military.

“It’s an honor to protect our way of life,” Zachary Daugherty said.
From all of us at the Herald we wish you the merriest of holidays!
Floral design center offers ready-made decorations

The Floral Design Training Center brings the Christmas spirit into its facilities with decorated trees, ornaments, floral arrangements and more.

There is also a large sleigh and reindeer outside of the center on Regents Avenue, inviting guests in to explore their holiday displays.

Within the center, each room is decorated in its own color theme. One has classic Christmas colors surrounding the fireplace, while another has many bright colors and silver. Regardless of which room guests explore, they are sure to find Christmas in almost every sparkling corner.

The center welcomed the public to come enjoy the holiday displays at the open house Nov. 4 and 5. Staff and students worked together to decorate the center’s Christmas trees with ornaments. Students also prepared fresh-cut vases of carnations for prize giveaways. Refreshments and food were provided as a slideshow of students working in class played on a wall projector.

These holiday decorations will be available to view and purchase throughout the holiday season, said Roger Dennis, instructor of horticulture and director of FDTC.

Decorations include wreaths, centerpieces, ornaments, gift items and fresh-cut arrangements. Also on sale is a small collection of jewelry.

“The training center is a working classroom where students can gain real life experience in a working floral shop,” Dennis said. “It gives them an opportunity to learn in a real situation that they can use in the working world.”

The FDTC is run through the department of agriculture and works as a running floral shop to give students an accurate portrayal of the floral business. Beyond students interested in going into floral design as a profession, they also cater to interior design and restaurant management, and those just interested in floral design.

Livermore senior Kayla Caudle is currently enrolled in both Intro to Floral Design and Wedding Floral Design. She plans to enroll in Advanced Floral Design in the spring. In these classes, she said she learns to arrange various flowers in particular containers and how to make bouquets, boutonnieres and corsages.

“I have even had the opportunity to arrange flowers in clear square glass containers for an actual wedding that took place,” Caudle said. “It was used as a centerpiece at their reception.”

Caudle said she is amazed at how much knowledge she has gained from the FDTC, and that she finds herself critiquing flower arrangements outside of the center. She said the staff is fun and extremely knowledgeable, making the learning environment exciting.

“It’s always absolutely beautiful inside and out, and it brightens my day just to go inside and smell all the wonderful scents and to see all the bright colors,” Caudle said.

The center will host pictures with Santa on Saturday from 1 to 3 p.m. There is no charge, but be sure to bring your own camera.

The FDTC will remain open until Dec. 23 and will reopen on Jan 3.

By RACHAEL WALTERS
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WKU's Floral Design Training Center, which opened this semester, is decorated for the holidays and held an open house earlier this month.
Unique gift ideas for WKU students

By TAYLOR HARRISON
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Having trouble finding the right gifts for family and friends? There are places in Bowling Green that might have just what you’re looking for.

Lost River Cave

Wildflower Gifts, the Lost River Cave gift shop, has unique gift ideas for the holidays.

Rho Lansden, executive director of the Friends of the Lost River Inc., said one option that the gift shop has is jewelry, including a variety of rings, necklaces and bracelets.

There are also other accessories such as scarves, purses and Christmas-themed headbands.

Christmas ornaments that are nature-themed are also available. One in particular that might interest WKU students is the white squirrel ornament.

Lansden said the store has “adorable mugs” and serving ware such as dessert plates.

Art, rock and gem collections, pocket knives, pottery, books and cookbooks are also for sale.

“I think there’s something they could pick up here for everyone in their family,” Lansden said.

Most of the proceeds from the gift shop go toward developing a nature center as a part of the cave, Lansden said.

The Great Escape Records and Comics

For the gamer or music lover on your Christmas list, consider a trip to The Great Escape.

The Great Escape sells a lot of entertainment related items, such as new and used records, video game systems, posters and comics.

Matt Pfefferkorn, a Great Escape employee, said the store is a small chain with four locations.

The store has a special Christmas section that includes things like classic Charlie Brown and The Nightmare Before Christmas items.

JD Bakery & Café

For those with family or friends who have a sweet tooth, a place you might want to try is JD Bakery and Café.

“We can do pretty much anything,” Christi Bryant said. Bryant works in the front where people can buy pre-made items.

However, if a customer wants something specific, the bakery can usually do it with 24 hours notice.

A lot of different cakes including red velvet, Italian cream, German chocolate and hummingbird cake are available. A hummingbird cake is a spice cake with pineapple, banana, and cream cheese icing.

“Jam cakes are pretty popular for Christmas,” Bryant said.

Event to benefit 22 charities

By MACIENA JUSTICE
diversions@wkuherald.com

The holidays are a time known for charities seeking the kindness of strangers to raise money for one great cause. So much so that Paula Moore-Kirby and Steve Newberry said it becomes difficult to keep up with the demand of the organizations that are in need.

That’s why the pair developed the Holiday Bash, an event incorporating multiple charities, and formed a partnership with WBKO.

The Holiday Bash is an auction on Friday that will benefit 22 charities. It is a ticket only event, and tickets can be purchased from the various charities participating in the event. The charities get all proceeds from ticket sales.

“That way they have an ownership in the event,” said Moore-Kirby, the coordinator of the Holiday Bash. “The charities receive 100 percent of auction items.”

Moore-Kirby said that the event is held at the National Corvette Museum.

“They give us the red carpet treatment there, it is just a lot of fun,” she said.

Some charities that will be featured at the Holiday Bash include the American Red Cross, Boys and Girls Club, Hope Harbor, United Way and others.

Each charity brings items for the silent auction. These items include everything from gift baskets to trips; to unique items, like a pair of Muhammad Ali boxing gloves.

Alpha Omicron Pi also participates in the Holiday Bash, by both raising money for juvenile arthritis, the chapter’s philanthropic organization, and by working the event.

AOII will be working the registration table, showcasing auction items throughout the evening dressed as elves.

“It’s good to see how much money a charity raises,” said Bowling Green junior Katherine Kirby, who is also the vice president of chapter development for AOII.

Stormi Murtie of Scottsville said that last year approximately $20,000 was raised for Center for Courageous Kids.

Murtie is the communication director for Center for Courageous Kids, a camp for children who are battling serious health diseases.

“This event is put together by people who care,” Murtie said. “We are excited to be involved again this year.”

Come Visit Us For All Your Holiday & Floral Needs. We Will Be Open Until December 22nd Then Back On January 3rd Normal Hours.

Happy Holidays!