BAYLOR LARIAT News for the students by the students



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Family farm provides Christmas tree experience

MARIAH BENNETT

Staff Writer

Primarily a choose-and-cut farm, the Radde Tannebaum Farm aims to bring the family experience each holiday season.

Since experimentally planting its first Afghan pines in 1986, the Radde Tannebaum Farm — which is owned by Kenneth and Kathy Radde - has grown into a 9-acre farm. The Christmas tree farm opens at 3 p.m. the day after Thanksgiving, which is Nov. 26 this year, and is located at 2511 County Road in Meridian.

The farm has a gift shop and photo opportunities daily, and it offers free hot spice punch and hay rides on the weekends. According to its website, it is part of a ranch purchased in 1946 by Kenneth Radde's parents, Sam and Doris Radde. Today, it brings customers into its relaxed atmosphere to experience a unique holiday activity.

"It's truly a family experience to come and get a tree," Kenneth Radde said. "I don't know of any [other] business that you can be in where you have happier customers."

The farm grows Eldricia, or Afghan, pines; this year, the pines range from 6 to 8 feet. Customers get to choose and cut the pines themselves, and they end up with what Kenneth

Radde described as "a fresher Christmas tree than any other." Additionally, the farm supplies North Carolina-grown Fraser firs.

"If customers have children, a lot of times they want to have the joy of cutting down their own tree," Kathy Radde said. "It's really a lot of fun to experience the excitement of the kids and families that come."

Kathy Radde said caring for the trees consists



It's really a lot of fun to experience the excitement of the kids and families that come.

> **KATHY RADDE | FARM OWNER**



Photo Courtesy of Radde Tannenbaum Christmas Tree Farm

AROUND THE TREE Families visit Radde Tannebaum Farm to seek out the perfect Christmas tree, cut it down and bring it home to decorate for the holidays.

of mowing, trimming and keeping an eye on desirable look." them. She also said it takes at least five years for the trees to grow.

"We mow a lot," Kathy Radde said. "You plant a seedling that's about a foot tall, and it takes at least five to six years to get a tree the size vou need for somebody's house."

Kenneth Radde said the trimming is done to make sure the trees keep their good shape.

"The Afghan pine naturally has a shape that is upright and a Christmas tree shape," Kenneth Radde said. "By shearing at least once a year, we can cause the needles, limbs and branches all to be thicker, closer together and have a more

Kathy Radde said they work with other family members and friends to tend to the farm and gift shop.

"It's like a family-friend enterprise," Kathy

Kenneth Radde said one of the most fulfilling parts of being a Christmas tree farm owner is that it is a business that brings happiness.

"Unlike any other retail business you can be in, you'll almost never have an unhappy customer because one, it's Christmas, and two, it's an enjoyable experience with the family to get out in the real country," Kenneth Radde said.

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POINT OF VIEW

Thanksgiving deserves to feast all November long

MATT KYLE Staff Writer

Let me be completely clear: I love Christmas. It was my favorite holiday growing up, and it still holds a special place in my heart. There truly is nothing like the magic of holiday cheer that comes with Christmas music, holiday festivities and the joy of spending time with family curled up by the fire and exchanging gifts.

But the issue with the Christmas season is that it starts too early. Every year on Nov. 1, everyone moves to put away the spooky Halloween decorations and put up the "Merry Christmas" ones. Mariah Carey infests every shopping mall in America, and other Christmas songs begin to fill the airwaves. By starting the season early, we are not only oversaturating Christmastime but also neglecting an equally great holiday: Thanksgiving.

Both Thanksgiving and Christmas are easily the two best holidays of the year. They are the holidays where you get the most time off, you spend time with family who you hardly get to see because of college and you eat some seriously delicious food (unless your grandma isn't from the South, in which case I'm so very sorry). Sure, Christmas has presents, but both holidays are about family and everything you're thankful for in your life, which places the holidays pretty evenly to me. They are both great, yet why does one get two whole



months of celebration, while the other is completely robbed of its recognition?

The great holiday Thanksgiving deserves its time in the sun. Other holidays major typically get their respective month to celebrate; a good deal of time is spent celebrating Valentine's Day in February, and of course Halloween dominates October. We only have so many holidays in so many months, why does Christmas get two months celebration? I simply am not in the Christmas mood on Nov. 1. I

don't like hearing Mariah Carey everywhere this early. Again, I love Christmas, but if I spend two months celebrating and preparing for it, I'm going to overdose on holiday cheer.

Thanksgiving is a great holiday in its own right. It is very sad that Thanksgiving does not get its own month of worship like other holidays do. Why can't there be a

Thanksgiving season? I, for one, would love to hear holiday carols about turkey and stuffing, watch movies about stop-motion dolls finding the true meaning of Thanksgiving and put up Thanksgiving decorations. Maybe Starbucks could sell a turkey-spice latte, or restaurants could serve Thanksgiving food throughout the month. Tell me that wouldn't be epic, I dare you. (Obviously the Starbucks



I simply am not in the Christmas mood on Nov. 1.
I don't like hearing Mariah Carey everywhere this early.

MATT KYLE | STAFF WRITER

thing is a joke, but tell me you wouldn't want to grab some roast turkey, stuffing and mashed potatoes with gravy from George's.)

So, in recognition of the holiday of Thanksgiving, I hereby declare November be dedicated to the recognition and celebration of Thanksgiving. Gobble, gobble, Baylor Bears.



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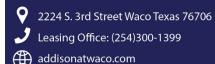
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Santa's Workshop spreads holiday cheer to Waco ISD

MARIAH BENNETT

Staff Writer

For years, Santa's Workshop has spread the joy of Christmas to hundreds of children ages 3 to 5 from day cares and Head Start centers across Waco. The organization began in 1992 and has been planning this year's festivities throughout the semester.

Head Start is a program within Waco ISD that also exists throughout the rest of the country, providing services and benefits to children from lower-income families and helping to decide where the presents from Santa's Workshop go.

In years past, the organization held an annual Christmas celebration where children received a free gift and meal and engaged in festive activities like making crafts, meeting Santa and Mrs. Claus and listening to stories read by Baylor President Linda Livingstone.

While there will not be

an event this year due to COVID-19, spreading joy hasn't stopped. A donation drop-off will be held from 10:15 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 19 at Martin House. Donations can include new packaged unisex toys. Flower Mound senior and Santa's Workshop president John Bowen said past toys have included Mr. Potato Heads, race cars and dinosaurs.

"We're just trying to keep the tradition going and spreading the Christmas cheer," Houston senior and Santa's Workshop public relations chair Michael Tinker said. "These kids don't always get a lot of Christmas gifts — or any in some cases."

Donations will be taken to children on Dec. 3. The gift drop-off will feature a special guest: Santa.

"We've had a great relationship with Santa Claus," Bowen said. "We work with the big man. We wrote him, and he comes down to Baylor every year."

Multiple Baylor

organizations are pitching in with donations, including Student Government, Baylor Panhellenic Council, Interfraternity Council and multiple sororities.

"Our hope is to give these kids maybe four or five toys," Bowen said. "We've been talking to sororities, fraternities and other groups, and we actually think we can make that work."

Dallas junior and Santa's Workshop vice president Elise Banderob said as a part of Baylor, it's good to serve kids and Waco overall in any way they can.

"We are here for four years," Banedrob said. "To be able to give back in that way is really neat."

Bowen estimated to receive between 500 to 1,200 toys.

"Tm sure these kids are going to be surprised when they see Santa, and I think this will be something they remember for their entire life," Bowen said.



Photo Courtesy of Michael Tink

GIVE JOY Santa's Workshop allows students and organizations to donate toys for the holidays here in Waco.



Photo by Grace Fortier | Photographer

GATHERED Friendsgiving has become a popular tradition, especially among college students.

Plan the perfect Friendsgiving

KATELYN PATTERSON

Reporter

Friendsgiving has become a new tradition among younger generations, but how does it work?

Honestly, there isn't any one set of rules, but that's the beauty of it. Friendsgiving is meant to be a fun time to get together with friends, eat good food, have a few laughs and maybe even watch a football game.

The steps for having a successful Friendsgiving can be different for each group. Even so, here are a few starting points.

1. Make it a potluck

One way to make Friendsgiving fun is to ask everyone to bring a dish to share with the group. To organize this, make a spreadsheet and share it with your friends and have people sign up to bring an appetizer, main dish, side or dessert.

Whether they have a family recipe passed down through generations or are notorious for mishaps in the kitchen, giving everyone a chance to contribute to the meal is key. That way, one person isn't in charge of all the food.

2. It doesn't have to be traditional

Turkey, stuffing and cranberry sauce are all staples on Thanksgiving Day. Friendsgiving can look completely different. If you want to, set up a different theme like Italian, breakfast or deepfried foods. Remember, it's all up to you.

3. It's not all about the looks

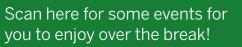
Decorating can be an important part of a traditional Thanksgiving dinner — I know it always was at my house. Friendsgiving is much more relaxed and informal. As long as the gathering place is clean and has enough room, there's no need for fancy napkins or a photo shoot-ready table.

4. Plan some fun activities

The meal isn't the only part of Friendsgiving, though. Playing games is often a part of a traditional Thanksgiving, but adding it to your Friendsgiving is just as fun.

One option is to play the "Thankful Game," which requires everyone to share what they are thankful for from the past year. Start with one person and go around the table, trying not to repeat what was already said.

Friendsgiving is a time to be surrounded by your closest friends, relax and just spend time together.







HOLIDAY TRADITIONS One of Baylor's most beloved traditions, Christmas on 5th, is returning to campus after COVID forced last year's celebrations to be online.

Christmas on 5th returns



Staff Writer

Christmas on Fifth Street is back on campus after the event was livestreamed last year due to COVID-19.

The event is scheduled for Dec. 2 and will feature live music. holiday-themed activities, local vendors and food trucks. It will culminate in the tree lighting, with a concurrent concert and light, snow and fireworks show putting the "quintessential cap" on the evening.

Matt Burchett, the senior director of Student Activities, said Baylor is excited to bring Christmas on Fifth back to its normal capacity.

"It is the centering of our Christian mission - the celebration of the birth of Christ - and doing so as a family in a really tangible way," Burchett said. "The epicenter of the event is the celebration of the birth of Christ and how fortunate we are as the Baylor family to be able to do that together in a way that is so vibrant and alive."

Jordy Dickey, associate director of Student Activites for Student Union, said Christmas on Fifth will feature a mix of familiar and new elements, as well as some that are "a blast from the past."

Dickey said the Bill Daniel Student Center will feature make-and-take activities where people can create items like tree ornaments, take photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus, participate in \$1 Jingle Bowling and watch a performance from the Baylor Religious Hour Choir. She also said rooms on the second floor of the SUB will be decked out to look like various scenes from the movie "Elf."

Outside on Fountain Mall, Dickey said students can expect a petting zoo, face painting, balloon making, character artists, ice skating and carriage rides. She also said there will be a live nativity scene, which is still in need of students to play Mary and Joseph. If this is something you are interested in, email @ shelby hines1@baylor.edu for more information.

Dickey said the big event of the evening is the Kappa Omega Tau (KOT) Christmas tree lighting. This year, Dickey said there will be a new 37-and-a-half-foot tree, complete with 31,000 LED lights.

Coppell junior Tanner Woodby, a member of the Christmas on Fifth planning committee, said KOT is excited to bring people back in person to celebrate the holiday

"What I'm most excited about - and I think what a lot of people are going to enjoy the most - is the light show that goes along with the band," Woodby said, "We're going to have lights that are simultaneously linked up to music. the lights and the Christmas tree. along with a fireworks show that happens in the back and a bunch of fake snow that'll come out of the sky. For a good minute there toward the end, it's going to be

In addition to the many activities and sights that will be at Christmas on Fifth, there will be a number of charitable organizations present, KOT will be supporting Unbound — a local Waco organization that works to stop human sex trafficking through proceeds from T-shirt sales. Unbound will also be taking donations at the event.

Also present will Compassion International, an

organization that works to lift children out of poverty. Lydia Dickens, a strategic alliances specialist and recent Baylor graduate, said Compassion International will have a booth on the first floor of the SUB where people can make gift donations to people in need.

"We will be using our Christmas gifts catalog, which is full of different opportunities to give gifts to children in poverty and to give gifts that impact their whole family," Dickens said. "The different gifts are anything from giving care for a medical treatment or planting a fruit tree or having chickens. These are gifts that are going to continue to impact the lives of these children and families. It's not just one material gift that's going to fade with time. But these are ways for these children and families to really escape extreme poverty and to generate income for themselves to have and start businesses and to really just see their lives transformed."

Burchett said the tradition of Christmas on Fifth links many generations of Baylor graduates with current students.

"The Baylor family loves the opportunity to do things that we've done for generations," Burchett said. "Over 50 years now, we have put a Christmas tree in the middle of campus or wandered down Fifth Street in carriages. We've done those really significant milestones in a Baylor student's career that their parents and their grandparents — or the generations that came before have all done. In a place that is so steeped in tradition like Baylor, it is a moment that connects us generationally and embed within our hearts those memories that will stay with us well beyond our vears on campus."

Preparations begin for Black Friday deals

CAMILLE COX

Staff Writer

From waking up at 3 a.m. to standing in lines for hours, shoppers across the nation spend Thanksgiving weekend in the stores striking up

Black Friday, which officially began in 1927 after the first annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, draws in millions of online and in-person shoppers

While Black Friday is not an official holiday. retail stores across the nation provide extended hours and increased inventory on the Friday following Thanksgiving. This year, Black Friday is on Nov. 26.

According to the National Retail Federation, about 186.4 million people participated in Black Friday shopping in 2020. The NRF said many big companies have already begun their Black Friday

deals in response to the global pandemic and a rise in online shopper presence.Flower Mound sophomore Lauren Leath said she has participated in Black Friday shopping with her friends during the night after Thanksgiving.



Grace Fortier | Photographer SEASONAL SHOPPING Sales from Black

Friday are expected to increase this year.

DEALS>> Page 6



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SPORTS TAKE

Holidays are better with sports

MICHAEL HAAG

Sports Writer



There is nothing like watching professional or collegiate sports all day long on a national holiday. Whether it's Thanksgiving and you're tuning into the Detroit Lions routinely losing, or Christmas Day and you're checking out the

highlight-reel plays from the best teams in the NBA, you are guaranteed an exciting time as

Holidays are joyous occasions and should be celebrated with the people you love, but there is no doubt in my mind that pro sports help bring

families together. In my eyes, the holiday season is much more enjoyable spent watching sports with your loved ones.

Every sports fan has a holiday to look forward to during the year. You can't go wrong with NFL on Thanksgiving, NBA on Christmas or college football on New Year's.

That holiday sports lineup is the equivalent of looking at a legendary trio like Magic Johnson, Kareem Abdul Jabbar and James Worthy in the Showtime era of the Los Angeles Lakers.



You can't go wrong with NFL on Thanksgiving, NBA on Christmas or college football on

> New Year's. MICHAEL HAAG I **SPORTS WRITER**

forward to watching their teams play on the Fourth of July and Memorial Day - the options are limitless. The fun that viewers get out of these events will continue to bring families together and encourage those group gatherings.

Sports are another reason to get everyone together for the entire day. On these major holidays, games run all day long by starting in the early afternoon and carry on into the late evening.

This allows for the entirety of the day to be spent with the people of your choosing, while having something to watch.

Even baseball fans look The matchups never fail to disappoint either, as leagues make it a point to schedule their best teams to ensure high viewership.

Sports can also be a great distraction during the holiday season. For most, this time is a break from work or school, and it can be nice to just kick back and root for your favorite team on a holiday with people you enjoy spending

The holiday season has always been filled with sports in my household growing up. You can catch my family and I tuning into ESPN, FOX or whatever other network is covering the big-time games. While not everyone is as into sports as myself — I am a sports writer after all — I feel like even if you aren't deeply passionate about sports, you can't deny that they help people connect with one another during family gatherings over the holidays.









DEALS from Page 5

"In high school, my best "We did it every year of high friends and I decided to go Black Friday shopping, so we went shopping at Southlake Town Square, and it's a lot of shops like Altar'd State, Lululemon, Anthropologie, stuff like that, so not the typical Best Buy, Target or Walmart," Leath said.

"We got up at four in the morning. We had a sleepover after Thanksgiving, and we couldn't drive at the time, so our moms drove us. We got Starbucks, shopped until nine in the morning. It was the most fun I've ever had because there were no people there since most people go to huge chain stores," Leath said.

Leath said she did not participate in in-person Black Friday shopping in 2020 due to the pandemic.

"We didn't go the COVID-19 year, but we are going again this year, and we all go to different colleges, so it's going to be fun to come back together," Leath said. school, and it was always the highlight of the holidays for me."

Amazon, Target, Best Buy and Walmart have several sales already out, marking down holiday favorites such as TVs, books, headphones and toys.

Small-Business Saturday and Cyber Monday follow Black Friday, providing a weekend of deals for shoppers. Holiday retail revenue is predicted to reach \$843.4 billion from the weekend of sales.

Dallas sophomore Haleigh Brown said she participates in Black Friday each year with her friends at the Galleria Dallas.

"Six of my friends and I have gone to the Galleria on Black Friday every year since we were like 12," Brown said. "We go during the day and just hang out and shop and eat. It's a super fun tradition we do and look forward to every year."

Brown said she prefers

shopping in person rather than online, despite the large crowds.

"In-person Black Friday shopping is overall more fun, easier and better for spending time with each other," Brown said.

Houston junior Grant Gill said he also likes shopping in person to try on clothes and get the best deals immediately.

"I wake up really early around 3 a.m. and make a beeline straight for the nearest mall/outlet mall/galleria, and I spend the day shopping, seeing what the lowest prices are, and normally I'll end up at Target,"

Statista reported that online Black Friday revenue will dramatically increase in 2021 in comparison to prior years, saying, "forecasts suggest that online sales for the holiday period would grow by more than 14 percent ... reaching close to 207 billion dollars."



Latin American students share holiday traditions

ANA RUIZ BRICTSON

Staff Writer

When the holidays arrive, many countries have their own traditional ways of celebrating the same festivities. More than 15 percent of Baylor's undergraduate student body identifies as Hispanic/Latino, according to Baylor's Office of Institutional Research. While many Latin American families enjoy traditional Christmas activities, there are many cultures that have their own plans for how to spend the season.

Guatemala City, Guatemala, sophomore Sofia Orellana said there is a special tradition in her country at the beginning of December called La Quema del Diablo (Burning of the Devil). For this custom, Guatemalan citizens join together to burn newspapers, trash and other items people want to throw in.

"It's basically just a release of all the

bad spirits," Orellana said. "We burn trash, and there's piñatas, basically just to release all the bad things that are coming for the rest of the holidays."

Orellana also said La Quema del Diablo is only a religious tradition for those who want to associate it as such.

"Basically, whatever you attach to the bad things that you want to release whether it be religious or just experiences that you have — people use it for different reasons," Orellana said.

Orellana said Guatemala families gather on Christmas Eve and stay up until midnight to greet Christmas Day with fireworks.

"It's almost like another Thanksgiving dinner," Orellana said. "It's always spent with family. We're really close together, and I don't see anyone else but my family in the whole two days of the 24th and 25th."

Monterrey, Mexico, sophomore Emilio

Espinosa said in his country, there are different celebrations during the holidays. One of the traditions is Las Posadas (a hosting celebration), which takes place from Dec. 16 to Dec. 24. Each night, there is a procession commemorating Mary and Joseph's quest for shelter ahead of the birth of Jesus. Participants make stops at various homes, singing songs and reading scripture until they reach the designated home in which they will continue the festivities inside.

"We celebrate with family on the 24th or days before to be able to celebrate with both sides of the family," Espinosa said.

Despite sharing similar religious beliefs, many countries embrace unique traditions to celebrate the holidays in accordance with their culture. Now as the semester comes to a close, students look forward to embrace their typical festivities whether it be releasing the negativity of the past or simply exchanging gifts together.



LA QUEMA DEL DIABLO In Guatemala, items are burned to release bad spirits during the holiday season



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