

SOCIETY

Follow these Christmas tree safety pointers

Those who celebrate Christmas know that a Christmas tree is often the centerpiece to holiday decorating and celebrating. Presents are tucked beneath the bows, and for many it's a family affair choosing and decorating the tree. While there will be debates on both sides of the fence as to whether a real or artificial tree is better, it comes down to personal preference. Each has its share of advantages and disadvantages.

Celebrate the holidays with great recipes

What better way to celebrate the holidays than through sharing good food with friends and family? Festive foods make any occasion special, whether a family supper or an open house for friends and neighbors. Try these recipes this holiday season.

Chicken Holiday Wreath (Great for a Holiday Brunch)

Filling:
1/2 cup red pepper, chopped
1/2 cup broccoli, chopped
1/4 cup water chestnuts, chopped
2 tablespoons onion, chopped
1 can (5 ounces) chicken, drained
2/3 cup canned cream of chicken soup
1 cup (4 ounces) shredded CoJack cheese
2 cans (8 ounces each) refrigerated crescent dough
Preheat oven to 350°F. Chop red pepper, broccoli, water chestnuts and onion with food chopper. Flake chicken with pastry blender. Combine all filling ingredients in batter bowl. Arrange crescent triangles

choosing a tree that will fit the size of your home and your lifestyle and making it safe. Consider these ideas.

Individuals with large great rooms or cathedral ceilings may be able to invest in a tree that is tall and full. A smaller tree may seem dwarfed in a large room. Conversely, those with a smaller room will want to scale back their tree size. Otherwise the tree can take up too much space and infringe on normal activities.

Celebrate the holidays with great recipes

in a circle on 15-inch baking stone with bases overlapping in center and points to the outside. Scoop filling mixture onto widest portion of each crescent using medium stainless steel scoop. Fold points of triangles over filling and tuck under base at center. Filling will not be completely covered. Bake 25-30 minutes or until golden brown.

Yield: 6 servings
Approximately 370 calories and 21 grams of fat per serving.

Cranberry Cream
2 (3oz) pkg raspberry jello
1 (8oz) pkg cream cheese
2 cups hot water
1 can whole berry cranberry sauce
1 (8oz) can crushed pineapple (save 1/2 cup juice)
1 can (1 lb) fruit cocktail
1 cup chopped nuts

Blend cream cheese and jello together. Gradually add 2 cups hot water. Add pineapple, fruit cocktail, cranberry sauce and nuts. Pour into mold and chill until firm.

Topping:
2 pkg Dream Whip

important. Many people want to put the tree in front of a large window to show off their display to passers by. However, this isn't always practical. If a heating element is near to where you want to put your tree, the air can dry out a real tree; artificial trees may be more forgiving. Take care not to place a tree where it will interfere with the ability to traverse the room, or where guests, children or pets will stumble into it. In fact, those with young children or pets may want to

1 3 oz pkg cream cheese
1 8oz jar sour cream
1/4 cup pineapple juice
Mix dream whip as directed, add cream cheese, sour cream and juice. Spread over salad.

These recipes are from "Tastes and Tales of Early Memorial." The cookbook, with over 800 recipes, sells for \$12 or two for \$20. Sales of the cookbook benefit projects at the nursing home and hospital sponsored by Early Memorial Auxiliary. To order please call Early Memorial at 723-4241.

place the tree in a corner where it will be somewhat out of the way or barricaded by other furniture. Securing the tree to a wall or the ceiling with a small hook and fishing line will also be a measure of safety.

Through the years lighting manufacturers have taken steps to create holiday lights that are safer and easier to use. It is never recommended to put real, lit candles on a tree, which is an obvious fire hazard. Check for frayed wires or bulbs that burn relatively hot on Christmas light strands, which can also be hazardous if the lights are left on while unattended. LED lights are now available that operate coolly and may last longer than some other traditional lights.

When choosing ornaments, place delicate or breakable items higher up out of the prying hands of young children. Because glass ornaments can fall and break, it may be safer to use plastic or ceramic ones that will be more durable. A tree is something out of the See TREES on page 16



Christmas trees can be beautiful additions to your home if you follow some safety precautions.

Fort Gaines Tour of Homes

Saturday, Dec. 13
1 P.M. - 6 P.M.

To Benefit the Clay County Library
Tickets: **\$10** Advance — **\$12** at the Tour

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SEPTEMBER 20
BRITTNEY TAYLOR
STEVE BURTON

OCTOBER 4
JENNIFER CLEVELAND
CHARLES LANDMESSER
...

ASHLEY KIMBREL
RAY MEYERS
...

LESLIE LOGAN
MATT BRYANT

OCTOBER 11
TRACY HERRING
TRAVIS ELLIS

OCTOBER 25
JEANA EUBANKS
CHRIS MURPHY
...

LAUREN JOHNSON
CHRIS WELDON

NOVEMBER 1
KYLIE SMITH
CALEB BRUNER

NOVEMBER 8
CERI COX
DAVID BALDWIN
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NICHOLE McFAY
JEREMY WHITTAKER

NOVEMBER 15
ASHLEY FLOYD
MICAH WARD
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REBECCA ANN ROGERS
AMOS GEORGE

NOVEMBER 22
SHANNON DAVIS
MATTHEW BURCH
...

HANNAH DURHAM
COLE MEDLIN
...

KATIE CHANDLER
WILL OWEN

DECEMBER 13
JESSICA ODOM
KYLE SMITH

DECEMBER 20
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Tree Lighting Ceremony, 6:00 p.m.
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Early Memorial Hospital

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