

A Special Supplement to the...





Wednesday, November 23, 2022









Bring your dollars Home for the Holidays!

elcome to our second annual "Home for the Holidays" special edition insert to the Mesa Valleys Progress. We are honored and grateful to be opening yet another holiday season with you, our readership.

This publication began last year, toward the tail end of the COVID-19 pandemic. At that time, we felt that people could use a gentle reminder of the concept of shopping locally whenever possible.

We chose that cozy old ideal of being "Home for the Holidays" as our theme for this annual feature. That sentiment is comforting to be sure. We all think fondly about gathering our families around us in the warm glow of a home-style celebration. At The Progress, we love this concept!

But for our purposes here, the idea

of "Home for the Holidays" also has a second meaning. It involves local shoppers who make every effort to keep their Christmas dollars "Home for the Holidays" as well.

Striving to do this gives a boost to our local commercial sector. It helps small business owners in town to have a more bounteous holiday season at home with their families. These enterprising folks have experienced a real struggle over the past couple of years. But through it all, they have continued to step up and support numerous local programs, organizations and charitable efforts.

Now it's time for us to support them. At this point I'm sure that they all could really use a holiday shopping season that puts them back in the black for a change. That should be our goal as a community. Granted, not every item that might appear on a family's wish list is easily obtained locally. Nor are items always available at a competitive price. But in the pages of this feature, we have highlighted a number of local vendors who offer a wide variety of products and services that would make beautiful gifts for family members and loved ones. And there are many more businesses, not included in these pages, that are willing to do the same thing with even more products and services available.

We encourage our readers to take a close look at the businesses featured in the ads and articles of this special edition. Before filling up the gas tank and driving to the big city to go shopping, check your list twice. Consider whether you might fill some or all of that list by shopping right here at home.

Just remember that our local merchants are open for business, providing friendly and attentive service all along the way. Before you take your Christmas list to the big box stores, or to the unfeeling void of internet commerce, please give our local merchants a try. You might be pleasantly surprised at what all they offer.

We wish Happy Holidays to our beloved readers and we express gratitude to local business owners and loyal advertisers. All of you are essential to The Progress in continuing our mission to cover the Virgin Valley and Moapa Valley communities like no one else.











- Overton Senior Center Thanksgiving Dinner: Thursday, November 24: 11:15 a.m. 12:15 p.m.. Must pre-register. Come enjoy all the fixins, Everyone is welcome. The cost is \$4/60+years or \$5/under 60.
- Holiday Concert Mack Lyon Middle School Orchestra Wednesday, Nov. 30 at 5 p.m.
- FREE car window decorating from Connie, Cortnie & Esther. Saturday, December 3: 9 a.m.-2 p.m. . In the Lin's Market parking lot.
- SANTA is visiting Kuppa Joe! December 3, 4, 10, 11, 18, 2:00-4:00 p.m. each date. 463 N. Moapa Valley Blvd.
- Zephyr Singers annual Christmas Concert. Saturday, Dec. 3, 7 p.m. . Everyone is welcome to attend and ring in the Christmas Spirit. This event will be held at the Logandale Chapel of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 3245 N. Moapa Valley Blvd.
- Mack Lyon Middle School Band Concert. Tuesday, Dec. 6, 5:30 p.m.
- Moapa Valley High School Orchestra, Choir & Guitar Concert. Thursday, December 8 at 6pm / 7:30 p.m. Band
- Second Saturday Market. Saturday, December 10 at Clark

County Fairgrounds, 10 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

- Annual Shop With A Cop. Local officers will take 12 students from Grant Bowler and Ute Perkins Elementary Schools shopping to Walmart in Mesquite. Wednesday, December 14. You can donate by visiting "Santa's Mailbox" at Kuppa Joe. Make a child feel special this year.
- Perkins Elementary Christmas Program at Moapa Valley High School Theater. Thursday, December 15, 6:30 p.m.
- Sixth Annual Winter Wonder Vendor Event. Saturday, December 17: 9:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m. Shop for your friends and family, and maybe find something for yourself as well! Variety of gifts for all ages. Old Logandale School 3011 N. Moapa Valley Blvd.
- Annual Messiah Sing-a-long. Sunday, December 18, 7:00 p.m., Logandale Chapel of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 3245 N. MV Blvd.
- Christmas dinner at the Senior Center. Friday, December 23: 11:15 a.m. 12:15 p.m. Must pre-register. Come enjoy all the fixins, Everyone is welcome. The cost is \$4/60+years or \$5/under 60.





- Parade of Lights Food Drive:
 Drop off locations include Mesquite City Hall, Mesquite Recreation Center, Washington Federal Bank, Virgin Valley Community Theater (during performances only), and Sun City Pioneer Center.
- Mesquite Fine Arts Center
 Christmas Boutique. 15 W.
 Mesquite Blvd. Monday-Saturday
 10am-4pm thru Dec 30
- City of Mesquite Thanksgiving Dinner. Wednesday, November 23: 10-10:45 am (curb-side) or 11:00 a.m. 3:00 p.m. Dine-In and To-Go meals. At Mesquite Senior Center, 102 W. Old Mill Rd. Complimentary meal. For more information call 702-346-5290.
- Shop Small Business Saturday. Saturday, November 26 in Mesquite. Support local retailers and shop local
- Salvation Army Food Drive. November 30-December 23: 742 W Pioneer Blvd D, Mesquite, NV 89027
- Virgin Valley High School Winter Band Concert Thursday, December 1: 6: 00 p.m. in the Student Center.
- The Christmas Market at BE-BRAVE ATHLETICS. Dec 2, 4-8pm and Dec 3 10am - 3pm. Food & Gifts. 473 W. Mesquite

Blvd. 702-884-5099

- Annual Parade of Lights. Thursday, December 8: Applications due Nov. 28. For more info contact Deborah Benham at deborah_benham@yahoo.com.
- Mesquite Toes Jingle Your Way to Christmas Benefit December 9/10. 1:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. on the 10. at Mesquite Community Theater.150 N. Yucca Street.
- Virgin Valley Holiday Concert Saturday, December 10: 6:00 p.m., with Choir, Guitar and Orchestra in the Auditorium
- •Virgin Valley History Series: What's to Celebrate?:Dec. 14, 5:30 pm. Mesquite Library branch.

Holiday Decorating Contest:
Dec. 17-18. Applications accepted now until Dec. 14 at Mesquite
Rec Center at 100 W. Old Mill Rd.

•Jingle Bell Dash 5K: Dec. 17 9
am, Starts at Mesquite Rec Center 100 W Old Mill Rd.

- Southern Nevada Symphony Orchestra Saturday, December 17: 7:00 p.m. at Mesquite Community Theater, 150 N. Yucca Street.
- City of Mesquite Vitalant Blood Drive Thursday, December 29: 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. at Mesquite Rec. Center, www.donors.vitalant.org.







On the Trail for the Holidays

very family has its own unique holiday traditions. And it somehow makes perfect sense that the holiday tradition for Josh and Tiffany Wilson involves a trail ride. The Wilsons are the owners of Polaris/CanAm/Honda World in Littlefield, Arizona, just across the border from Mesquite. And they know the OHV trails in the region like the backs of their hands.

"Every year we apply with the BLM for a Christmas tree permit for \$10, for up in the mountains in Arizona," said Josh. "Then we load up and hit the trails to spend a day hunting for the perfect tree. That's the nearest thing to a holiday tradition that we do."

The couple takes friends along and travel up into

the Virgin Mountain Range just east of Mesquite. They take the Elbow Canyon OHV Road which traverses about 15 miles into the wilderness towards Black Rock Mountain. The route gains nearly 4,000 feet in elevation as it climbs into areas of sagebrush and pinyon pine.

"We brave the cold and the mud to search for a tree," Josh said. "When we find it, we cut it down and tag it."

Josh said that the fees for the tree permits help to fund BLM management of public lands. The practice also helps to keep fire hazards down in these vast wilderness areas.

"Once we get it back to our ve-

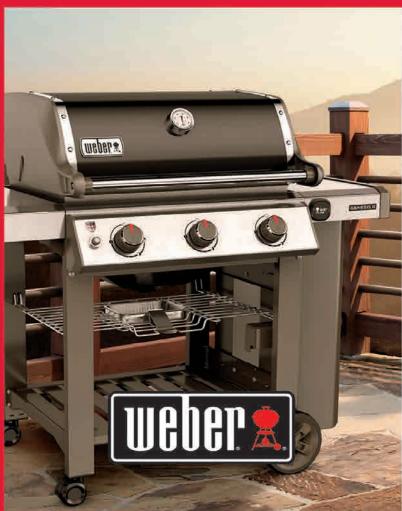
hicle, we strap it to the roof, take it home

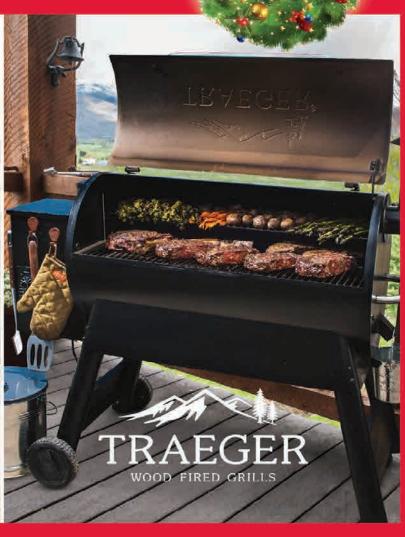












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The Power of Memory

he candy kitchen at Danielle's Chocolates is very nearly as busy as Santa's Workshop at this time of year. There are chocolates to dip, candies to package and orders to fill. But it is all part of the family tradition for Danielle's owner Frawnda LeCheminant and her family.

Frawnda is a fifth generation chocolatier. She has memories of her grandmother and her mother teaching her to dip Christmas chocolates beginning when she was only four years old. And she has passed the knowledge on to her grandchildren starting them learning as early as age 2.

"We always say that our family has chocolate running through our veins," Frawnda said. "And sometimes, especially during the holidays, I think it is really true."

Frawnda said that the real joy of making candy at Christmas is in the memories that are created.

"It isn't just holiday candy, it is the memories," she said. "People will see a certain candy and it just floods them with memories of their child-hood. That is the wonderful thing about Christmas. Those memories are powerful and they work magic on people."

Frawnda works very hard to bring in traditional candies from all over the world that help in triggering those fond memories for her customers.

The promise of such an experience is certainly worth a visit to her workshop. Danielle's Chocolates is located at 1155 W. Pioneer Blvd. #102, across from Walmart.









family, along with employees at Pirates Landing enjoy a holiday meal together at the restaurant.

Holidays from the Hollidays Happy

Danielle Holliday, owner of Pirates Landing restaurant in Logandale, the idea of 'Home for the Holidays' has come to mean spending the season in Moapa Valley. Danielle's family has made a tradition of spending the holidays in Overton for many years - long before she ever decided to move to the community or to open a business here.

For the Holliday family, Christmas and Thanksgiving have traditionally been spent at the home of Danielle's mother and grandmother, in Overton. The traditional family gathering has been in groups of 40 people or more.

"Since I was young, I associated the holidays with trips to Overton to visit family from all over," Danielle said. "Grandma's house in Overton was our gathering place. And there was nothing we all looked forward to more than

leaving with a plate of Grandma's famous fudge."

When her grandmother became ill, and experiencing her last few months, Danielle spent that time with her and with her mother, in Overton.

"I vowed to continue the tradition of holding family holidays in Overton...including the Fudge!"

Danielle said. "That vow has turned into quite the life-changer for me."

Danielle said that it didn't take long to become familiar with the ways and lifestyles of the Moapa Valley community. As she did, she completely fell in love with the place.

"I didn't just want holidays here,

I wanted the rest of my days to be lived out in the most fabulous place I had ever experienced," Danielle said. "And I also wanted to open the doors for family to gather here any time of the year...especially during the Holidays."

To help with that, Danielle bought Pirates Landing and moved her daughter, grandkids and parents here.

"The rest is literally history in the making," she said. "For me, holidays are Moapa Valley because home is Moapa Valley: then, now, and forever."

Pirates Landing is located at 3113 N. Moapa Valley Blvd. next to the Logandale Post Office.



No Christmas Without a Gun Under the Tree

wning and operating a hardware store in a rural area can be relentless on a family. The Hopkins family, owners of Overton Ace Hardware, don't get to be all together very often. At least one of them is always needed to mind the store. But Christmas is one of the few times when the whole family can be together.

"There are only a very few holidays where we close the store and Christmas is definitely one of them," said Mark Hopkins. "It is one of the few times when we all get together and have a big family dinner. No one has to be at the store that day so we can all be there."

Other than that cherished time together, there really aren't

many Hopkins family traditions that pass on from year to year at Christmas time, Mark said. But there was one that popped into his head right away.

"We always say that it is not a true Hopkins Christmas without a gun under the tree," Mark said. "There always seem to be firearms involved in our Christmas gift giving."

Firearms are also a vital part of the Hopkins' business at Ace Hardware. The store is known for its wide variety of guns and ammunition. As an ATF-registered Federal Firearms Licensee, the store staff also bring the know-how and expertise in the sometimes-daunting process of firearm purchases.

One could also say that Over-

ton Ace is the "man cave" of Santa's workshop. The store carries a variety of outdoor cooking systems including Traeger, Weber, Big Green Egg and more. They also carry the Traxxas line of RC cars and toys. And they

keep a wide variety of power tool brands and yard care equipment.

Overton Ace Hardware is located at 183 S. Moapa Valley Blvd in the center of downtown Overton. For more information call 702-397-2289.









he Mesquite Chamber of Commerce will be hosting the annual Small Business Saturday event this weekend on November 26.

Nineteen local merchants will be participating this year including Danielle's Chocolates and Popcorn, Rooster Cottage, Juniper Outpost, Exquisite Blooms Floral, TnJ's Cups, Shirts & Stuff, Xico Cream, All In Cycles, Donkey History Museum, Mesquite Fine Arts Gallery, Blvd Home, BARK!, Deep Roots Harvest, Mesquite Ace Hardware, Stephen's Boutique, Hole Foods Bakery, His & Hers Fashion, JS Merchant (Eureka Casino), Mesquite Business Center and Uhaul and Mary Jane's House of Bling.

Mesquite Chamber accepted applications for participation from Mesquite merchants up until November 7. There is no charge to merchants to participate and they don't need to be a Mesquite Chamber member.

Shoppers are invited to come out and shop on Saturday, November 26. Local folks can pick

up a "shopping passport" at Juniper Outpost starting at 8 am that morning. This will include a list of all participating retailers.

Shoppers may visit each participating retailer and get a stamp for their passport. No purchase is necessary to obtain the stamp but there is a limit of one passport per shopper.

Once all of the stamps have been obtained in their passports, shoppers may drop the completed passport into the holiday box at Danielle's Chocolates and Popcorn by 5:30 pm on November 26.

The passports will be entered into a drawing which will take place on Monday, November 28. Mesquite Chamber's Board of Directors is donating \$320 in cash to the winner!

"This is a fun way for Mesquite residents to support our local businesses during the holiday season!" said Mesquite Chamber of Commerce President/CEO Carol Kolson. "We hope that everyone will shop small businesses and keep shopping local all year long!"







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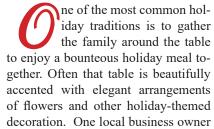


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is dedicated to helping people with those unique center-piece items.

Master florist Denise Sims, owner of Exquisite Blooms Floral in Mesquite, brings more than 39 years of floral design experience and 12 certifications as a floral instructor to the table to help her customers.

Or course, Exquisite Blooms offers a wide variety of elegant arrangements for both Thanksgiving and Christmas tables. But for those who want something truly unique, Denise is also offering something special this year: the gift of knowledge.

Denise is going to be leading a special workshop called "Ornaments and Pine" at the Mesquite Fine Arts Center on Friday, Dec. 16 beginning at 10 am. In the workshop, Denise will instruct participants in creating beautiful

Christmas floral designs using pine and cedar greens, flowers and ornaments – all perfect for the Christmas table.

"It is a great way to get started," Denise said. "All of the flowers, greens, ornaments and vases will be supplied. And we will even have some basic tools available for those who don't have them already. People will have everything they need to learn how to make two beautiful arrangements that they can take home to put on their holiday tables."

Denise said that she enjoys teaching people how to make beautiful arrangements using the simplest of materials. "A lot of my classes give instruction on how to use inexpensive flowers that you can get in the grocery store and make pleasing arrangements with them," she said. "People find it very fulfilling."

Those interested in registering for the workshop can go to *mesquitefineartscenter.com* or visit the gallery to sign up.

For those, perhaps, less crafty, Denise will have plenty of holiday arrangements available for sale at her shop. Exquisite Blooms is located at 114 N. Sandhill Blvd in Mesquite or visit *exquisitebloomsfloral.net*.





A More Serene Holiday Shopping Experience



or those who dread navigating the long lines, unruly crowds and general mayhem of holiday shopping, at least one local shop offers a calm remedy. Juniper Outpost in Mesquite brings a peaceful and soothing shopping experience away from the madness of the big box stores. And the little store offers hand-made one-of-a-kind gifts that can be found nowhere else.

Charlotte Sirianni of Juniper Outpost is one store owner who still views gift-giving and holiday shopping as a deeply personal and positive experience.

"You know, gift giving is a love language," Charlotte said. "And we are privileged to meet our community at a time when they are thinking about others. That is a really nice time to meet folks. You really get the best of them."

You won't find many mass-marketed gifts or bulk-ordered items from outside vendors at Juniper Outpost. Rather most of what is in the store is made by local creators and crafters. Much of what is on sale there is on consignment by local artisans.

"We went to our makers and asked them to bring the holiday to us: what does the holiday mean to you?" Charlotte said. "And we have gotten back beautiful families of snowmen, these little handcrafted reindeer that remind me of a sweet auntie who used to do that, beautiful wordwork, lots of knitted joy and much more."

Juniper Outlet offers shoppers a

warm, inviting place with pleasant, homey sounds and aromas. It is a comfortable place to come and just look around and see what is new.

"We want folks to feel comfortable here," Charlotte said. "We will have people who have family visit for Thanksgiving who, without question, will bring them in to the shop. Because they just love the experience of it and it feels more like a holiday."

Juniper Outpost is located at 312 W. Mesquite Blvd. #114 in the Mesquite Plaza center.



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f supporting and serving the community can be considered a holiday tradition – and surely it can – then the owners of one downtown Overton business have got that tradition mastered. Gary and Vanette Christensen have made a regular practice of being involved in their community and in helping wherever help

is needed. And they do it all year round, not just during the Christmas season.

The Christensens purchased Xtreme Stitch about five years ago, several years after they had both retired from law enforcement careers in southern California.

"The business has afforded us the opportunity to give back to this community in more ways than we ever could have done just as residents or retirees here," said Vanette.

The Christensens have been generous in their support for young people in Moapa Valley. They have sponsored many youth programs including High School Rodeo, MVHS sports teams, school classrooms, and more.

Vanette recalled one example when she approached a teacher at Ute Perkins Elementary in Moapa to ask what she needed most in her classroom. She was surprised when the teacher said that she needed earphones for the younger kids. "So we went out and bought pairs of earphones at stores all over the place and donated them to the school."

"There are a lot of things like that, that we do, where we are just supporting the community," Vanette said. "That has really been our focus. It has given us the joy of giving back."

During the holiday season, Xtreme Stitch hums with activity. They fill many local orders for clothing items and hats that bear unique and personalized artwork through embroidery, screen printing or professional-grade vinyl heat press.

"It is funny, we have had to cover up our workspace with frosted glass because we don't want people to suddenly come in and see what we are making that their spouse or someone had ordered especially for them," Vanette said. "We try to help keep things a secret."

During the holidays, Xtreme Stitch offers a special service. Customers can bring in their own stockings or other Christmas items, and have names embroidered on the items for only \$5. "It is just a little service that we like to do for our customers at Christmas time," Vanette said.

Xtreme Stitch is located at 196 S Moapa Valley Blvd #1, directly across the street from Ace Hardware.

Christmas has gone to the Dogs

here is an old carol that indicates that "Christmas is for Children." But it can also be for dogs, and for their owners - especially at BARK! Canine Club and Resort in Mesquite. For the past three years, since BARK! has been open, this doggie day care center and boarding facility has established a holiday tradition that has quickly become a

here is an old carol the opportunity to get photos that indicates that with Santa. And of course, the "Christmas is for dogs have a good time. I mean, But it can also be for after all, they're dogs!"

This 'Photos with Santa' event will be a part of the Mesquite Chamber of Commerce Shop Small Saturday festivities coming up this Saturday, Nov. 26. Be sure to get your Shop Small Saturday card stamped there for a chance to win prizes in the



favorite in celebrating a canine Christmas.

On the Saturday after Thanks-giving, BARK! hosts a morning of Pup Portraits with Santa Claus and the Grinch. Dog owners can bring their pooches to BARK! for photos with the big guy and his grinchy-green sidekick. What's more, Santa will have plenty of specially-made BARK! doggie treats to give out to the visitors.

"This event is always a great time!" said BARK! owner Susan Hunter. "The dog owners love Chamber event.

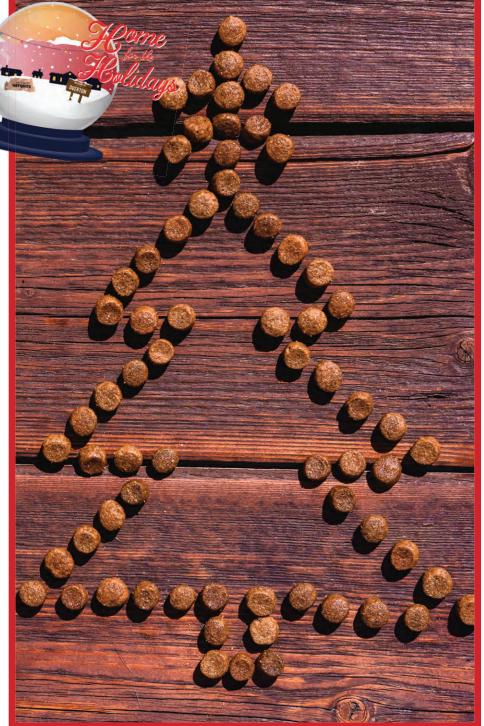
Susan said that BARK! gets extra busy during the holiday season. Many people go out of town to visit family during this time, and many leave their dogs at home in Mesquite. "Our boarding service gets extra popular this time of year," she said. "We are already getting full with reservations for that."

Susan said that she and her husband don't keep a lot of holiday traditions nowadays. They are usually spending that time with the dogs they care for. But it is what they love doing, she said.

"I mean, sure, it has its challenges, obviously," Susan said. "But at the end of the day, it is just fun. I mean, there is nothing better than walking in what we call the playpen at BARK! and

sitting down on the floor. And suddenly you get nothing but love. It is a wonderful thing!"

BARK! Canine Club and Resort is located at 770 Cimarron Ct. For more information call 702-306-6146.







up to participate in this year's Boutique. The variety of gift ideas being offered is staggering. They include paintings, ceramics, glasswork, gourds, jewelry, Christmas cards, and an array of other home-crafted products.

The entries from all forty booths at the Boutique are made by people from the region including Virgin Valley, Moapa Valley and southern Utah.

"We have some amazing artists in this area," said Christine Picior of the VVAA. "This is a great way to fill your entire Christmas gift list while supporting these wonderful local artists."

In the lead-up to the Christmas holiday, the VVAA provides gallery space to the makers of all of these beautiful things to provide a market for them. "We do it in a way to thank the artists," Picior said. "The Boutique is a way for the VVAA to take care of our



local members, artists and crafters."

There is more offered in the next few weeks at the Mesquite Fine Arts Center than just the Boutique. Visitors can take a break from shopping to check out the "Lucky 13" art exhibit, sponsored by the Eureka Resort. This exhibit brings together the works from artists all across the country in a rather unique exhibit. All the works must be no bigger than 13" x 13".

"It is incredible how many different expressions that you can see in this kind of small works exhibit," Picior said. "It is definitely worth taking a look at while you shop the Boutique."

The Mesquite Fine Arts Center is located at 15 W. Mesquite Blvd. For more information call 702-346-1338.





