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GIFT GUIDE
2016

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Holiday Gift GUIDE

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Christmas dolls, boots and sparkles – oh my

ORANGE PARK — When I look back at my little girl memories of Christmas in the late 40s and early 50s they mostly revolve around school pageants, church, family and good food. The years of hard times, economic depression and wartime rationing were still fresh in people's minds. The bad times mantra of "use it up, make it do or do without" was hard to shake.

Only a few of the gifts have stuck in my memory over the years.

One year, I asked for drum major boots and a baton. Not to be confused with majorette boots or a twirler's baton, I pictured myself high stepping in front of a big time marching band. The baton was perfect, red with a huge knob, all covered with sparkles at one end.

The house I grew up in was designed for a marching band because it formed a continuous trail, I never had to stop. Through the living room, then my parents room, through the bathroom, through my room, around the dining room and back where I started. My white boots made a stunning sound as I high-knee stomped across the hardwood floors while loudly singing John Phillip Sousa songs.

Sadly, for all involved, the sparkles on the baton began to let go with all this marching activity. Sparkles were found around the house years later. Luckily it warmed up early that winter because the marching band was exiled to the yard and the drum major had to master quiet walking, especially at school.

The other present that I remember is a doll that I unwrapped for several Christmases. She just kept coming back.

In the late 1940s, the Gillette Company got involved in my Christmas gift dreams. The razor company, in an effort to diversify, purchased Toni, the home permanent company. To kick off the new addition, the Ideal Toy Company was commissioned to design a doll to be christened the Toni Home Permanent Doll.

She was a wonderful invention. Her hair could be combed, curled, styled, washed and given a "permanent." My first Toni doll came dressed as a bride. She had outfits that could be purchased but my talented, frugal mother designed and created a high fashion wardrobe. This Barbarian girl-child "altered" some of the pieces to fit Raggedy Ann.

Not satisfied to simply comb and curl, I also cut her hair – just a little every time. By Halloween, my Toni doll resembled a skinhead and would mysteriously disappear to go to the "Doll Hospital." Come Christmas morning, she returned – with new hair! She never reappeared with the sugar water permanent solution because she lived in Florida and the one and only time she had her hair permed – we were invaded by ants.

The gifts were great fun but when I think about my little girl Christmases, the simple memories of family and faith are the most special. Making gum drop trees, fruit cakes cooked in one-pound coffee cans and the magic of a flickering candle light service in Grace Church.

— By Mary Jo McTammany



This photo memorialized the Christmas of the drum major boots. Evidently, my gifts included a stove, which I seem to have forgotten. Because amateur photography was still in its infancy and photos taken inside were horrid, it became a family tradition to take Christmas gift photos out in the yard beside the garage.

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Gadgets galore and more this Christmas

With the so-called “internet of things” growing rapidly each year, there’s no doubt companies are always looking at ways to make life more convenient. One way that’s happening is the development of more and more products that can be operated via the internet using a smartphone or desktop internet connection and an app.

Not your grandma’s crock pot

The first item that comes to mind is a new web-enabled crock pot or slow cooker. Families have been using the crock pot for years to save time and feed hungry and busy families, but now you can shorten your time even more.

The Crock-Pot Smart Slow Cooker featuring the app WeMo adds flexibility to your schedule. The WeMo app works on both Android and iPhone operating systems. Simply download the free WeMo app, sync it your device and start your meal planning.

The free WeMo app lets users adjust the cooking time or temperature removing all of the worry if you get trapped in the office or in traffic.

And like slow cookers of old, this one lets users prepare soups, roasts, and other one-pot meals in its six-quart pot. Just add ingredients, plug it in and program the cooking time and temp before you head out for the day. While it comes with low, warm and high temperatures, this version of Crock-Pot switches to the warm setting to keep your food at an ideal serving temperature until you’re ready to eat.



Listed at \$129, the Crock-Pot Smart Slow Cooker can be found at most retail outlets this season.

Mr. Coffee kicks it up a bit

Speaking of the WeMo app, Mr. Coffee and Belkin have teamed up to usher coffee into the high-tech era. Now, don’t get me wrong, there have been programmable coffee makers for years, but throw in the internet and the world of coffee truly goes to the next level.

Whether you’re sleeping in, have an early meeting or simply want to modify your brewing time, this high-tech coffee maker allows you to always enjoy a fresh cup.

Using what Mr. Coffee calls Optimal Brew technology, this coffee maker offers the convenience of remote access and engineering that extracts the fullest coffee flavor possible. It combines a high brew temperature of up to 205° and a faster brew speed, resulting in nothing short of exceptional tasting coffee. Its double-walled, stainless steel thermal carafe holds that fresh flavor and temperature, without a warming plate, to maintain coffee’s true character and taste.

It also features Delay Brew to stir your senses as you wake up to aromatic, freshly-brewed coffee and Grab-A-Cup Auto Pause, for that rich-tasting cup you may need before the brew cycle finishes. Be sure to use the included water filtration disk to filter out chlorine and impurities from water during brewing. It also comes with a removable water reservoir and brew basket.

It goes for \$149 and can be purchased at most retailers this season.

Breakfast on the go

While this is not a web-enabled device, it sure is interesting.

Often called the most important meal of the day, breakfast can get down right boring.

However, this Christmas season, Hamilton Beach may have found a way to jazz up your day and help you put away the crispy puffs.

The Breakfast Sandwich Maker helps users keep it fresh day in and day out. All you need is your choice of pre-cooked meat, eggs and cheese. Throw an English muffin, a bagel or even a biscuit in the mix and now you’ve fended off the morning munchies without having to sit in a fast-food drive-thru. Who’s to say that you couldn’t throw in some diced onions or other veggies and snazz it all up even more.

Either way, you are the master of the self-made grab and go breakfast.

Hamilton Beach says all working parts are dishwasher safe and it only sets you back \$24.





How to make gift wrapping easier



ble-sized tape so you will not have any unsightly tape lines.

Keep all of your supplies together. Store wrapping paper, scissors, tags, tape, ribbons, and whatever else you may need to wrap gifts in one convenient location. This cuts down on time wasted hunting for supplies around the house.

Draw on plain gift boxes. Make your own "wrapped gifts" by drawing or stenciling on plain gift boxes if you're short on time.

Identify recipients by gift wrap. Designate one gift wrap for each person on your shopping list. This way you can easily distinguish one person's gifts from another's. This can keep things more organized when sorting and visiting with friends and relatives later on.

Keep gift bags on hand. Gift bags work in a pinch and make it easy to conceal gifts that are hard to wrap. Curious loved ones can easily peek inside gift bags, so be sure to wrap gifts in tissue paper before placing them in the bags.

Less is usually more. Do not use too much paper when wrapping; otherwise, you will be left with bulky, sloppy folds. Before trimming the gift wrap from the roll, check that it overlaps the ends of the box by just a couple of inches. A sturdy paper will help you achieve crisper folds and prevent tears when wrapping. For the simplest wrapping design, try kraft paper (brown mailing paper), which can be dressed up with ribbons, cutouts or stamps.

The process of wrapping holiday gifts can go more smoothly when applying some time-tested tips and tricks.

While holiday shoppers are often enthusiastic about finding great gifts for their loved ones, many are decidedly less excited about wrapping those gifts. Many holiday shoppers spend hours wrapping gifts each year, and as gift lists grow, so does the amount of time needed to get all of those presents wrapped, hidden, packaged and/or shipped. Shoppers can employ the following strategies to make the process go much more smoothly and to reduce gift wrap-related anxiety.

Relearn the basics. Some people may think they know how to wrap gifts, only to realize it's harder than it looks once the paper, scissors and Scotch tape comes out. Relearn the basics by viewing online tutorials prior to wrapping gifts so the lessons learned remain fresh in your mind. Learn how to wrap standard clothing gift boxes and recognize that such boxes can often be used to house oddly-shaped items.

Wrap as you buy. Instead of getting bogged down with wrapping all in one evening, wrap presents as you purchase them. This ensures that you don't leave everything for the last minute and reduces the likelihood that curious kids or inquisitive spouses discover gifts before the big day.

Work on a hard surface. It may be tempting to lay everything out on your bed and wrap gifts while you're binge-watching the latest Netflix series. But hard surfaces make the best places to wrap gifts. This ensures there won't be any wrinkles in the paper and that you won't lose supplies in the bedspread.

Rely on double-sided tape. For that professional look, invest in some dou-

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Five tips for fresh, healthy holiday eating

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — Want to eat healthy and save money this holiday season? Including fresh, seasonal produce in your family meals and party platters may be a good place to start.

"Fruits and vegetables that are in season tend to be less expensive, making them a smart choice for families on a budget. Try visiting your local farmers market or the supermarket produce section to find low-cost inspiration for your holiday appetizers, snacks, meals and desserts," said Amber Ward, Sarasota County program coordinator for the Family Nutrition Program. The program offers free nutrition education to SNAP-eligible participants in 43 Florida counties through the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences Extension.

"FNP equips individuals and families on a limited budget with the skills to make healthful food choices, aiming to promote healthy weight maintenance, decrease chronic disease, and optimize quality of life," Ward said.

"Parents aren't the only ones who can learn to savor fresh fruits and vegetables," Ward said.

In partnership with the UF/IFAS Extension Sarasota County School Gardens Program, FNP is working to help bring the experience of growing and eating fresh produce to approximately 2,000 local youth during the fall harvest months. "In addition to learning where their food comes from, these students will get to taste the same types of fruits and vegetables growing in their school gardens."

Of course, once you buy or harvest fresh produce, you have to figure out what to do with it. Ward offers five tips for using seasonal fruits and vegetables in your holiday celebrations:

- Bring the farm to fork. Delight your dinner guests by preparing freshly harvested sweet potatoes, and instead of using a marshmallow topping for your casserole, season with local honey, cinnamon and nutmeg to bring out the potatoes' sweetness.
- Freshen up your side dish. Use fresh green beans instead of canned or frozen in your holiday green bean recipe.
- Fruits and vegetables for dessert? Try using fresh pumpkin instead of canned when making a delicious

pumpkin pie, or bake apples with cinnamon for a special fall treat.

- What's for snack? Make a delicious holiday veggie dip to enjoy with slices or wedges of seasonal Florida-grown produce such as carrots, celery, peppers, broccoli and cauliflower. Give your dip a fun holiday-themed name such as Holly Jolly Vegetable Dip or the Festive Flurry Dip.
- Spice it up with freshness. Add fresh ginger (diced or pureed) to your dishes such as cranberry sauce or cooked carrot slices. Or simply add the ginger to a pitcher of freshly squeezed, iced lemonade or cranberry punch for a mildly spicy kick!

— By Samantha Grenrock

Five tips for keeping Holiday peace

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — With the election behind us and the holidays ahead, many are probably wondering how to avert conflicts at upcoming family gatherings – events that are often already a source of stress, no matter the year, says a human development expert with the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences.

"The increase in togetherness with family members during the holidays can be wonderful, but being with people you don't normally see for extended periods of time can only increase the likelihood of clashes," said Heidi Radunovich, associate professor of family, youth and community sciences and UF/IFAS Extension program director for UF Engagement.

For those apprehensive about spending the holidays with family, Radunovich has these tips for making the visit go more smoothly.

Agree to take hot button issues – political or otherwise – off the table. "Just because you are related doesn't mean you share the same world view. While these differences can be ignored most of the time, prolonged periods in close quarters mean different opinions will eventually get voiced," Radunovich said.



Heidi Radunovich, associate professor of family, youth and community sciences and UF/IFAS Extension program director for UF Engagement

"If there are hot button issues family members know exist, and people simply can't see eye to eye on them, it can be helpful to set ground rules and agree that those topics won't be brought up," she said. "Keep in mind that you can love someone even if you don't like their views on particular topics."

Make plans as a group and consider individual needs. "Deciding where and how to spend the holidays can set off arguments and lead to hurt feelings," Radunovich said. "Make sure that people are part of the planning and agree to how things will go." Topics to discuss ahead of time may include food preparation, travel plans and how you will handle family traditions, she said.

Don't feel the need to do everything as a group. "Expecting everyone to be together all the time can be stressful for all involved, so allowing opportunities for the group to break off to do separate activities can help," Radunovich said. "For example, set aside activities for children that can allow grown-ups the option of watching sports, reading a book or doing something else on their own."

If conflicts do arise, stay calm. "It's a lot easier to have a productive discussion if everyone is calm. If you or other family members get into a fight, do what you can to keep or regain everyone's composure before moving forward," said Radunovich.

"Regaining composure may mean removing yourself from the situation for a while. You can try leaving the room, going for a walk, listening to music or engaging in some other soothing activity,"

she said. "When you come back, it will be easier to see one another's points of view, and come up with creative solutions and compromises."

Don't expect perfection. "We can put pressure on ourselves to make the holidays perfect. When our unrealistic expectations don't come true, this can lead to stress and frustration," Radunovich said. "There are already a lot of stressors associated with the holidays that can tap out our resources for coping, making it harder to deal with even minor stressors. Keep in mind that the goal is to enjoy your time together, and avoid trying to cram in too many events, or making every meal or event perfect."

— By Samantha Grenrock

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Two Christmases and a motorcycle wreck

My father is a belligerent bald Irish, callously oblivious and evidently narcissistic man, who, six years ago, decided he wanted to buy a motorcycle, which he did.

He wrecked it two days before Christmas.

I knew something had happened because my mother received a call from my father's secretary, which always meant my father was in jail, hospitalized, institutionalized or behind on his child support payments.

Two days before Christmas, a semi pulled out in front of him at an intersection, causing him to, as he explained with his hands simulating what looked like he was wringing a towel, skid below the semi-truck while retaining full control until he hit a pothole and smashed the back of his head on the pavement.

Of course, this isn't what happened. My father was a man prone to exaggeration and total, unabashed fabrication. For instance, my father attempts to pretend he's well read, but I know the only book he owns is a *Golfer's Weekly Magazine* in the back of his *Avalanche*. And even that has a thick cake of dust atop it.

What likely happened is he tried to pull a

wheelie and fell backwards.

But he received a pretty gnarly scar shaped like there was treasure in his head on the crest of his head right where a yarmulke might rest.

My parents split up when I was two or so. Ever since, I've had two Christmases each year split up by about a 30 minute drive from Oakleaf to the beaches.

I'd spend the morning with my mother and step-father tearing at wrapping paper then strut to the beaches for another round of stocking stuffers before the Christmas-itis and fatigue set in.

It wasn't much fun for me. To this day, I don't enjoy my father's presence anymore than I enjoy evening lobotomies and the stench of *Bed Bath and Beyond*.

With my father bed bound, I had the chance to observe the holiday at my headquarter house in Oakleaf and watch what my family did with the rest of their day.

My mother works as a respiratory therapist, so most holidays are observed the day preceding or following the calendar observation. This year was different and she decided to take the day off in lieu of a fatter paycheck.

I unwrapped my gifts and presented my gifts, no more than little clay monstrosities baked in art class, and ate dinner in a nuclear fashion one might expect in any holiday classic film.

My mother handed me the cantankerous receiving end of the peanut-butter-smear wall phone later in the evening.

"Hey bud," my father croaked out.

So he told me what happened in loud, extremely detailed and otherwise false reflection.

"It went OK. Am I not seeing you for Christmas?"

"No, I'm going to be in the hospital for a few more days."

"Does that mean I'm not getting any presents?"

That's the best I could do at the time. It showed how much I really cared about him, that I just considered him as a gift dispensary instead of one who had a small but otherwise integral role in my conception and upbringing.

He said his goodbyes and I said mine, thinking nothing about it. I'm sure he

thinks a lot about that these days. I haven't spoken with my father in a while now. Sometimes on cold nights, I wonder if, when I could love him, if I loved him enough to keep him warm to his core.

No, I don't believe so. Stay warm out there.



— By Jesse Hollett, Staff Writer

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Season's Greetings

Here's hoping your Christmas is trimmed with beauty, friendship, goodwill and all the joy this special season brings into bloom. Folks like you remind us how lucky we are to be a part of such a close-knit community. Your kindness and generosity are an inspiration to us, and we are truly grateful to have neighbors like you. Thank you for brightening our year with your visits; your support and trust in us mean a lot.

Merry Christmas to you and yours.
We wish you all the best, and we look forward to seeing you soon in the New Year!

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Smart ways to budget for holiday gifting

Shoppers across the country routinely make the holiday season one of the biggest spending periods of the year. American Research Group, Inc., said that in 2015 the average predicted expenditure on gifts equaled \$882, which was up from \$861 the previous year.

Many holiday shoppers worry about whether or not they will have enough money for gifts, while others anticipate using credit cards or other financing methods to stretch their abilities to spend even further. This can make the holiday season more stressful than it needs to be while affecting finances into the new year.

Budgeting for the holidays is a great way to keep spending in check. With these suggestions and shopping strategies, holiday shoppers can better manage their spending.

Look at spending from last year. The first step to establishing a budget is to review spending from last year. See how much you allotted to each person and how much you actually ended up spending on those people. Did you go over or under? Think about the other ways you spent money, including on decorations, entertaining, etc. Once you have a clear picture of how you spent your money last year, you can start building a budget for this year.

Set limits on spending. You may want to be generous with everyone and go above and beyond, but overspending is impractical and can have some grave consequences. Many financial planners recommend shoppers spend no more than 1.5 percent of annual income on holiday expenses, so establish realistic spending limits that won't break the bank.

Make lists of high-priority gifts. Select the gifts that have the most importance or those you want to buy the most, and budget with them in mind. Resist the



temptation to buy extra items in an effort to make gifts look more impressive.

Keep track of spending. Be sure to keep receipts and maintain a log of all your holiday spending. You will not know if you are sticking to your budget if you do not keep a running tab of all your spending. Those receipts and spending records also will be handy to keep for next year when you have to establish a new budget.

Correct mistakes promptly. If you spend a little more than intended on one gift, make the proper adjustments the next time you go out shopping. Otherwise, those few dollars here and there can really add up.

Holiday shopping can be expensive if shoppers let things get out of hand. However, by establishing a budget based on prior purchases, and keeping track of spending, it's much easier to stay afloat this holiday season.

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Christmas Tree and turkey in a pot bring holiday cheer

ORANGE PARK – To break the monotony of festive salt and pepper shakers and fine china on the holiday dinner table, try grabbing some common place plants and arranging them into seasonal icons.

Lois Hannabury with the Garden Club of St. Augustine presented some holiday flower arrangement ideas to the Orange Park Garden Club in early November to prepare them for Christmas and Thanksgiving decorations.

"We're going to do something that you can really adapt [for any holiday]," Hannabury said.

It wouldn't be Christmas without a Christmas tree, so place a small tree on the dinner table or arrange it on a counter to add some spice during the holidays.

Grab some oasis arranging foam and a pot from a local hobby shop and get started with this mini-Christmas tree.

Soak the oasis with water and set it snugly in the pot, which can be any color, although red, green and gold are preferred for Christmas.

Next, grab a long bundle of alstromeria, snip it and plant it in the center of the oasis to serve as the topiary and the base of the tree. Use red carnations or roses as an alstromeria alternative.

"You can use white, you can use red, you can use a combination of red and white, anything, really," Hannabury said.

Next, grab approximately five feet of gold ribbon and criss-cross it around the topiary until it reaches the top. Tie it into a bow for good measure.

To finish, garnish the pot with holly around the topiary and even some ornaments.

The turkey

Many will eat ham or turkey for Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners. However, this turkey doesn't need to sit in the oven for hours to really get the conversation going.

"This is very Thanksgiving, but do you think anyone would mind if you plopped this down on your Christmas table?" Hannabury said. "When you're designing, when you're decorating anything goes. You can do anything...you can have a different color turkey."

Grab the oasis foam and a wide based pot and shove a trimmed palmetto branch towards the back to begin the turkey's ornate feathers. Follow this up with crotons or any other broad oval shaped leaves to match the size of the palmetto. Arrange this into the shape of a fan to give it some life.

Fill in the body with red mums until the oasis is completely covered. For the head, use a long-stemmed bird of paradise or, for the adventurous, devise new heads out of gourds or even pine cones.

Finally, use some gold dust crotons behind the palmetto branch for the turkey's tail feathers.

Some possible substitutions include white flower substitutions for the turkey to give it a holiday glow.

Let the kids help and soon they'll be more than just one bird at the dinner table.

— By Jesse Hollett, Staff Writer



Arts & crafts boutique benefits charity

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – Vendors, shoppers, and all sorts of arts and crafts filled areas in and around the clubhouse at Magnolia Point Golf and Country Club recently, kicking off the local shopping season.

It was the Magnolia Point Women's Club's annual Arts & Crafts Holiday Boutique, which was open to the public and has been going on for a decade now. The proceeds benefit MPWC, a nonprofit philanthropic organization, and its programs in Green Cove Springs and Clay County.

"It's a great event and a beautiful day," said Marilyn Cole, spokesperson for MPWC. "The response has been extremely positive."

Twenty-two donors contributed to the event, including the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra, Disney World and Panera Bread.

MPWC has 270 members and has given nearly \$330,000 to families in need. It aids children at Charles E. Bennett Elementary School where 90 percent of the students receive free lunches. Since 2001, MPWC has given more than \$129,000 to the school for cloth-

ing, health items and holiday gifts.

It also awards scholarships to financially challenged young women at Clay High School and gives out educational scholarships around the county.

"A lot of our work involves our Blessings in a Backpack program," Cole said. "The outpouring of support has been overwhelming."

MPWC has raised \$59,000 in pledges for BIB from its members, as well as corporate sponsors. BIB provides weekend food during the school year to students who are identified as being hungry on Monday morning when they come to school. The program currently feeds about 140 children. Volunteers from the women's club work each Friday to fill up bags for students.

"It's very satisfying to be a part of these programs and events," Cole said. "An event like this helps fund what we do and really helps a lot of people."

MPWC accepts membership from residents the country club, as well as non-residents who are members of Magnolia Point Golf and Country



For a decade, the Magnolia Point Women's Club has hosted a boutique in which its member and other vendors from the community kick off the Christmas shopping season. Proceeds go to fund various programs of the MPWC, such as Blessings in a Backpack, which provides weekend meals to students.

Club. The group meets at 3:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month at the clubhouse. The annual membership fee is \$20.

Members participate in numerous community events and guest-speaker events as part of its many charity programs.

The women's club was founded in 2001 by Kathie Cardon, Gisela Ferrell, Jackie McCann, Barbara Szymanski and Mary Lee Thompson and it has steadily grown in the years since.

— By Christiaan DeFranco, Staff Writer



Let *video game ratings* help guide holiday gift purchases

Come the holiday season, millions of people will be flocking to stores or browsing online retailers to shop for gifts for their friends and loved ones. Video games have long been some of the most popular holiday gifts to give, and this year figures to be no different than years past.

The assortment of video games is so diverse that consumers may not know where to begin their shopping excursions. Gaining a greater understanding of the video game rating system can ensure shoppers they find age-appropriate

Video game and app ratings help consumers choose age-appropriate gifts for the gamers on their holiday shopping lists.

Video games are rated by the Entertainment Software Rating Board. The ESRB is an independent, self-regulatory organization that assigns age and content ratings, enforces industry-adopted advertising guidelines and ensures responsible online privacy principles for computer and video games in the United States, Mexico and nearly all of Canada. The ratings provided are concise and help shoppers make informed decisions based on the content in video games. According to the ESRB, the ratings have three parts:

1. Rating categories suggest age appropriateness.
2. Content descriptors indicate content that may have triggered a particular rating and/or may be of interest or concern.
3. Interactive elements inform about interactive aspects of a product, including the users' ability to

interact; the sharing of users' locations with others; the sharing of personal information with third parties; the completion of in-app purchases of digital goods; and/or level of restriction of internet access.

This rating system was derived in 1994 after various child development and academic experts were consulted. Other rating systems also were considered, and the ESRB consulted with parents nationwide as well. There are currently seven different ESRB ratings for games and apps. They are as follows:

C: Early childhood games feature content that is intended for young children.

E: Games rated as Everyone feature content that is generally suitable for all ages. There may be minimal cartoon, fantasy or mild violence. Mild language may be infrequent.

E 10+: Content in games rated Everyone 10+ is appropriate for gamers ages 10 and up. The games may contain cartoon, fantasy or mild violence. Mild language and/or minimally suggestive themes also may be present.

T: Teen games are generally suitable for ages 13 and up. These games may contain violence, suggestive themes, crude humor, minimal blood, simulated gambling, and some strong language.

M: Games deemed as Mature are generally suitable for gamers ages 17 and up. In such games, there is a high propensity for intense violence, blood and gore, sexual content, and strong language.

A: Adults-only games have content suitable for adults ages 18 and up. Graphic sexual content, prolonged scenes of intense violence, and gambling with real currency may be depicted or

available in these games.

RP: Games that are marked Rating Pending have not yet received a final ESRB rating. Usually this verbiage is only used in marketing materials, and the rating will be updated once the product hits the market.

Along with the general rating, the ESRB uses content descriptors to further break down the type of content one can expect in the games. These can include everything from references to alcohol to fantasy violence to sexual themes to tobacco references. Again, these content descriptors will offer a concise way to assess if a game is appropriate for a particular gamer.

Video games are popular holiday gifts. Game ratings can help guide consumers to make smart choices so that gamers of all ages can enjoy their gifts this season.



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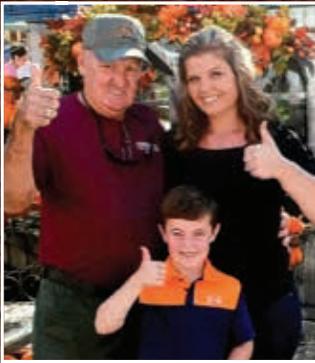
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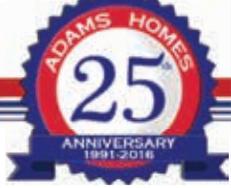
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The Christmas ninja nightmare

In 1991, it was the Christmas "must-have" toy for little boys.

Every parent knows what that means. Each year, there is one toy – sometimes for girls, sometimes for boys, sometimes for both – that takes on a life of its own a few weeks before Christmas and is impossible to find because it is suddenly so popular.

That year, it was the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles Technodrome. The Ninja Turtles had been popular with the little boys for a while, but suddenly, the Technodrome became the toy they all had to have.

Also known as "Krang's Lair," it was a big, grey, hard-plastic type of globe topped off with a huge, rather gory, painted eye ball. Described on the original box in which it came as a "giant, double-decker mobile fortress," it opened up to reveal all sorts of crazy pieces of equipment and the like for the use of the supervillain Krang to use in his battle with the Turtles.

And it was impossible to find in stores.

It was my oldest son, Timmy, who had just turned five, who wanted the Technodrome with all of his heart. His little brother, Will, who was not quite three, loved the Turtles, but was too young to lust after one particular Turtle toy. Anything would do.

After looking everywhere in the great-

er Jacksonville area and talking to other moms on the same quest, I realized I might not be able to come up with a Technodrome for Timmy by Christmas.

So one day, I sat him down and told him it might be awhile before he would get his Technodrome. It was so popular, I told him, that Santa and his elves were having a hard time making enough for delivery on Christmas day. It might be after the holiday that he received it, I said.

He listened to me with a quizzical look on his face and then slowly lifted his head and looked right into my eyes.

"Well, then I guess I'll know," he said.

"Know what," I asked him, with a sense of trepidation pouring over me.

"If it's not under the tree on Christmas, I'll know there's really no Santa," he answered.

My heart filled with dread and fear. I had to get that toy. I couldn't let my son and all his joyful, innocent feelings of Christmas be destroyed by this one toy.

I turned into a mother with a mission. I became familiar with the delivery schedules at all the local toy stores and stood in parking lots with clusters of other moms who were also hoping a shipment of Technodromes would be on the next truck. I had a bevy



of sympathetic mothers (of girls, of course) helping me look. My parents, who were driving here from Denver for the holidays, stopped in every town and toy store from Colorado to Fleming Island to check.

It was all to no avail. There were simply no Technodromes to be found.

Finally, by what I still consider a miracle of the season, the mother-in-law of one of my friends came upon a shipment in North Carolina, where she lived. She purchased two, as my friend had instructed her. One was for my friend's three sons, and one was for me.

It had been a long, hard struggle, but it turned out to be more than worth it.

I'll never forget my son's face when he saw the Technodrome under the tree. He didn't say a word, but he looked up at me with all the wonder and magic of Christmas shining in his eyes. It was a perfect moment.

And best of all, he never asked me again if there were really a Santa.

He had his answer.

— By Debra W. Buehn



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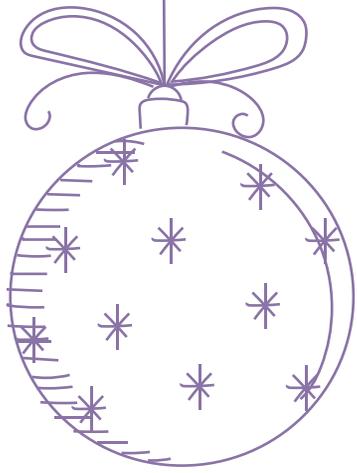
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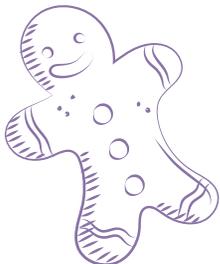
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A close-up photograph of two hands, one slightly behind the other, cupping a bright red, glossy heart. The hands are light-skinned and appear to be of a child or young adult. The background is a textured, light-colored surface, possibly a piece of fabric or paper. The overall mood is warm and caring.

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Meet Chester, a very sweet and loving 7-8 year old cat that has spent most of his life in a shelter. Chester would like more than anything to have a home for the holiday, becoming a permanent member of a loving family.

Chester lives in a large glassed in room of a house, along with many other cats of varying ages. These cats come in contact with a loving volunteer each day when their litter boxes and living areas are cleaned. Dogs and cats are provided with fresh food and water by volunteers that also shower them with love and attention. Consider adopting a homeless cat or dog to enrich your life. Experience the unconditional love these pets bring into your household.

If you are unable to adopt a pet then please find it in your heart to donate to our local organization. We are a no-kill animal that is dependent solely on donations from the community. Visit our website and view our adoptable animals and donate.

Thank you and may you have a very happy and blessed holiday season!

Don Wright

- Animal Rescue Movement Volunteer

♥ www.animalrescuemovement.org
info@animalrescuemovement.org



WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Animal Rescue Movement rescues dogs and cats from local animal control shelters and abused, injured and abandoned from the streets. For these animals, being rescued is the difference between life and death, as most of these loving pets would otherwise face certain death due to pet overpopulation and overcrowding in our local shelters. They receive medical care, vaccinations and are spayed or neutered.

"We keep our animals until they find a home"



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When Mary* and her two children came to Mercy Support Services, they had lost all hope. Mary and one of her children were on disability, and the older child had become their caregiver, leaving no time for work. Medical bills were piling up and they got behind in their rent. Facing eviction, they had lost all hope.

Today, Mary and her family live in their own home. With help from Mercy Support Services, they have become self-sufficient. They are no longer without hope.

**Name changed to protect our client's privacy.*

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Mercy Support Services restores hope to hundreds of people in crisis in Clay County.

But we cannot do it alone. We work with other non-profits and ministries to coordinate the resources needed to bring families out of crisis and into self-sufficiency. We rely on the financial support from generous donors to continue to meet the needs of our neighbors in crisis. But most importantly, we are a faith-based, non-profit ministry devoted to helping the low income, needy and homeless of Clay County. And it is **your** contribution that can make **the** difference! Please donate today.



\$250 will provide housing support and supplies for a family for one month.

\$125 will pay a family's utility bills for one month.

\$100 will purchase a week's worth of groceries for a struggling family

\$50 to the General Fund will help in areas where there is the most need

\$25 will pay for a bus pass to get an adult to work for one month

Please visit www.mercysupportservices.org and make a donation today. **God Bless You, and Merry Christmas.**

Reinhold Foundation Accepting Applications For "Celebrate Clay"



The Paul E. and Klare N. Reinhold Foundation, Inc. will begin accepting applications on December 12, 2016 for the 2017 Celebrate Clay awards, a community service awards program that recognizes remarkable organizations and individuals serving the Clay County community. Applications will be reviewed by a panel of community judges and cash awards will be presented at the Awards Breakfast to those nonprofit groups providing outstanding services during calendar year 2016. Up to \$75,000 in cash awards, ranging from the \$750 Category Awards to the \$10,000 Paul E. Reinhold Community Service Award, will be presented at the 2017 Awards Breakfast on April 25th. The 2017 program will bring the total cash awards to \$615,000 presented to Clay County area nonprofit organizations since Celebrate Clay's incep-

tion in 2009.

All 501 (c) 3 nonprofit groups that provided services to Clay County residents in 2016 are encouraged to apply. Details and applications will be available beginning December 12th at www.reinhold.net. The application deadline is February 6, 2017.

The grant programs of The Paul E. & Klare N. Reinhold Foundation, Inc. support nonprofit organizations that work to improve the quality of life for Clay County residents.

♥ FOR MORE INFORMATION
Contact: Amy Parker, Executive Director,
 904-269-5857 ext. 404,
aparker@reinhold.net



Amy Parker, Executive Director, Reinhold Foundation with the 2016 Celebrate Clay Judges: Rolf Towe, Felecia Hampshire, Teresa Scott, Tom Morris, and Ron Pilgrim.

PAUL & KLARE REINHOLD FOUNDATION

Investing in The Future
of Clay County

The Paul E. and Klare N. Reinhold Foundation, Inc. supports nonprofit organizations that serve Clay County – the community that provided such a fulfilling life for its founders, Paul and Klare Reinhold. Paul and Klare were deeply religious, devoted to family and community, and together they supported many philanthropic and charitable causes.

Today, the Foundation is overseen by Paul and Klare's grandchildren and great grandchildren, who have implemented programs that support nonprofit organizations that strive to improve the quality of life for residents of Clay County. Principal among these programs are the *Reinhold Foundation Nonprofit Leadership Development and Capacity Building Initiative*, dedicated to enhancing the leadership skills within nonprofit organizations that serve Clay County, and *Celebrate Clay*, an annual awards program created to recognize, reward, and encourage community service within Clay County. Founded in 1954, the Paul & Klare Reinhold Foundation is celebrating more than 60 years of philanthropy. www.reinhold.net

Perpetuating the ethos of cathedral building in doing good in the community



Clay County Dental Care Receives the 2016 Paul E. Reinhold Community Service Award of the Year



2016 Celebrate Clay Award Recipients



2016 Nonprofit Leadership Development Graduates

Clay County Dental Care, Inc.



Clay Co. Dental Care is a 501(c) non profit.
The volunteers and patients at the clinic thank
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donations to: Clay County Dental Care Inc.
1414 Kingsley Ave., Ste. 2
Orange Park, FL 32073

For over 8 years Clay County Dental Care Inc. has been serving Clay County residents who are uninsured and who can not afford dental work. Located near the Health Dept. in Green Cove Springs, our mission has been to treat those who are suffering from dental pain.

Local emergency rooms are unable to remove teeth that are hopeless and abscessed. Thus the cycle of pain is treated with antibiotics and pain medication over and over.

Our all volunteer team includes local dentists, dental assistants and office staff that give their time and services to those who have nowhere else to turn.

After 8 years, many of our tools are worn. We are in desperate need of new equipment and repairs of older equipment at the clinic and your donations can directly help make a huge difference in the lives of our patients. These purchases and repairs will enable us to treat more patients in less time.

An example of one of our patients stories is Mark. He explained that he had never been able to afford to take care of his teeth properly. Now he has been diagnosed with liver disease and his doctor told him he needed to have his hopelessly diseased teeth removed in order for him to proceed with his medical treatment. On Mark's first visit all 13 of his remaining lower teeth were removed and an appointment was set up to remove his upper teeth. He thanked the staff and said "I do not know what I would have done if this clinic was not here."



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clayhumane
2230 Filmore Street • Orange Park, FL 32065
www.clayhumane.org

Here at Clay Humane, we are gearing up for another amazing year - one that will surely be our most exciting and most challenging to date. The recent acquisition of the neighboring property has allowed us the opportunity to grow...to improve upon our popular low cost services, to expand our wildlife rehabilitation efforts, and to continue to lead the way in the battles against pet overpopulation and animal cruelty.

Certainly, you remember Dodger and Scout, the two weary pups rescued by Clay Humane staff from alongside Interstate 10 last summer. And I'm sure you've seen the abandoned, blind, scarred dog fighting victim, Jackson, who got a second chance at life because of our dedicated team. What you may not know is about the 16,584 cats we sterilized for FREE, preventing tens of thousands more in unwanted births. You may, also, have not seen the faces of the 571 lives saved through emergency treatment and surgery, the 11,991 patients given low cost vaccinations and wellness care, or even the 40 species of injured, orphaned, or displaced wildlife rehabilitated and released in 2016. It's what we at Clay Humane do every day to change the lives of our furry, feathered, and beloved animal friends.

Your support has been instrumental in helping to ensure the future of these and many other valuable programs. Throughout its 37 year history, Clay Humane has been a solid fixture in the community - and we could not have done it without you. As we receive no county or state funding, the income from our ever-hectic clinic and the generous contributions of our dedicated supporters empower us to assist those who have nowhere else to turn when in need. With your help, the Society will continue to serve individuals from around the area - raising consciousness to the importance of responsible, compassionate pet ownership. And, we will grow to meet these

needs together.

There are many ways you can continue to support Clay Humane as we head into our most exciting and ambitious year ever:

TOO BUSY TO SHOP? NO PROBLEM!

- Send a Holiday card from Clay Humane. Make a tax-deductible online (or mail in!) monetary gift in honor of your loved ones to send holiday cheer and let them know lives have been saved in their honor.
- Make your mark on our "Building a More Humane Future" plaque! With a minimum donation of \$500, you can honor an individual or a beloved pet in our permanent collection engraved with a name.
- Sponsor a Clay Humane program. All donations of \$1,500 or greater will help sponsor a program of your choosing including Wildlife Rehabilitation, Pet Assisted Therapy, and Humane Education, to name a few.

SHOPPING FOR SOMETHING SPECIAL?

- Choose Clay Humane as your charity of choice when shopping Amazon Smile this holiday season! Where else can your purchases save lives?!

A GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING...

- Donate to the future! Consider a recurring monthly gift that spreads cheer all year long!
- Leave your mark on Clay Humane with a gift to our permanent endowment fund. Your gift will be a lasting contribution that assures a better future for the thousands of homeless, neglected, or forgotten animals that need our help in the community.
- Adopt, foster, volunteer, and most importantly, spay and neuter!

As always, we thank you, our caring members for being there. The holiday season is a time to remember the many special friends who cared and shared, not just with much needed contributions, but also with their hearts. We wish you peace during the coming holidays and all year through.



KidsFirst OF FLORIDA

Kids First of Florida is the lead Community-Based-Care Agency, based in Orange Park, that serves all of Clay County. KFF uses the collective expertise and resources of local organizations, churches, civic groups, neighborhoods, and individuals to focus on the task of building a child protection system that is firmly rooted in the community.

DID YOU KNOW?

*2500 incidents of child abuse and neglect are reported in Clay County each year. That's a lot of kids needing safe, loving homes.

*The state no longer directly runs Child Welfare. It was privatized years ago to non-profit agencies like us to encourage local communities to care for local kids.

HOW KIDS FIRST CAN HELP

- * Strengthen and reunite families torn apart by child abuse and neglect.
- * Find loving foster families for children who aren't safely cared for at home.
- * Find permanent homes for children whose parents have had their rights legally terminated.
- * Help teens growing up in foster care become healthy, independent adults.
- * Provide in-home supervision for children in our care.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Help us serve our community's abused and neglected children

- Make a tax-deductible donation. • Become a foster parent. • Adopt a child.
- Help us get in front of businesses, civic groups and community organizations to attract the support our children need. • Volunteer your time and services.
 - Donate items needed for children and families.
 - Report child abuse to 1-800-96-ABUSE (22873)

Together we are building a healthier community – One Family at a time.

www.kidsfirstofflorida.org

1726 Kingsley Avenue; Suite 2, Orange Park, Florida 32073 • 904.278.5644

Help a Child



Kids First of Florida Inc. is a private not for profit agency serving Clay County families affected by issues of child abuse and neglect. KFF was founded in 2003 in response to the Florida's Legislature initiative to privatize child welfare services. Kids First is licensed by DCF and is accredited by the Council on Accreditation. Based in Orange Park, and serving all of Clay County, KFF partners with community stakeholders to raise awareness of the issues of child abuse and neglect, identify community needs and develop long term solutions.

By using the expertise and resources of local organizations, businesses, churches, civic groups, neighborhoods, and individuals KFF is focused on the task of building a child protection system that is firmly rooted in the community. We believe that every child deserves a loving home, and we know that investing

in children and families now is good for them and good for the whole community. The responsibility of providing care for at risk children and families is an enormous task; one that we believe involves the entire community. KFF is dedicated to continuing partnerships with all of our community members. We are building a healthier community, one family at a time.

You can help by: volunteering your time and services, conducting a fundraising event through your worship or civic group, employer or other organization, becoming a foster or adoptive parent, donating needed items for children and families, giving financially - your charitable support is tax-deductible and will help subsidize programs to the children in our community.

♥ For more info visit our website at www.kidsfirstofflorida.org

Meeting unique community needs

Established in 1982, Clay Behavioral Health Center is the primary not-for-profit agency providing behavioral health services to Clay County residents.

CBHC provides services to children, adults and families who are dealing with mental health and substance abuse issues. Focusing on education, prevention, intervention and treatment CBHC provides services at four office locations, as well as in 20 Clay County schools, in homes and at other community sites.

CBHC serves approximately 5,000 county residents annually and the majority of services are offered on a sliding fee scale. The agency has been accredited since 1994 and services are provided by qualified, caring staff. Approximately one in four adults and one in five children has a diagnosable mental illness at any given time.

Mental illnesses are more common than cancer, diabetes and heart disease. CBHC believes that in today's challenging social and financial environment easy access to behavioral healthcare is critical.



Our crisis line is available 24 hours a day, seven-days a week at (904) 291-5561. By partnering with local businesses, schools, social service and health care providers, military and veterans groups, churches and civic groups we are able to most effectively reach out to individuals and families in the community in need of help.

We are building a healthier community, one life at a time. For information on obtaining services or becoming involved in donating your time, talent or financial gifts.

♥ visit our website at www.ccbhc.org



Because You Matter

Clay Behavioral Health Center

At some point in our lives, we all experience the pain of emotional distress.

Whether it's struggling with the stress of daily life, a child whose behavior has become unmanageable, the trap of substance abuse or the anguish of acute mental illness, we can benefit from the support and assistance of professionals trained to help us manage and improve the quality of our lives.

Our Services

- Mental health counseling
- Substance abuse treatment
- Education, Prevention & Intervention
- Psychosocial Rehabilitation
- Drop-in center
- Adult Drug Court
- Veterans Treatment Court
- School based counseling
- Community/In-Home counseling
- Family counseling
- Emergency/Crisis Intervention
- Adult Crisis Alternative Program (ACAP)
- Vocational/Employment services
- Dual diagnosis treatment
- Medication management
- Drug testing
- Parenting Skills

All services are provided by qualified staff and many of our services are offered on a sliding fee scale based on income. We accept most private insurance plans, Medicaid, Medicare, Tricare and self pay. CBHC is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF).

To receive services call 904-291-5561 or visit www.ccbhc.org to inquire about walk in hours and appointments.

CBHC - Building a healthier community, one life at a time.

Offices are located in Middleburg, Keystone Heights and Green Cove Springs • Monday–Friday: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



Clay County
**Habitat
for Humanity®**

1717 Blanding Boulevard • Middleburg, FL 32068
(904) 282-7590

We all want the same thing for our children: to keep them safe, see that they're healthy and ensure they get a good education. But for some families, it's a daily struggle.

You see, many families hoping for a Habitat home now live in dangerous neighborhoods where parents worry every time their children step outside to catch the school bus or walk to a friend's house.

Often, they live in homes that are falling apart, riddled with maintenance problems that impact the children's health. The cold night air comes in through drafty windows. A leaky roof allows moisture and mold to build up, leading to breathing problems, that can turn into asthma. Finding a quiet corner for children to study can be next to impossible.

Imagine how easy it is to help change those situations – to give families a strong foundation, literally. With your support today, Clay County Habitat for Humanity can continue our vital work, including installing roofs and pouring cement floors to prevent the spread of disease.

But that's only the beginning of what we can accomplish together. When you give to Clay County Habitat for Humanity, you'll help us move toward our vision of a world where everyone has a decent place to live.

To make a gift donation:

Go online to www.clayhabitat.org
or mail to Clay County Habitat for Humanity

P.O. Box 240
Orange Park, FL 32067-0240

*Wishing you and your family a
blessed and prosperous holiday season.*

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Lori Wagner, President • Bryan Butterstein, Treasurer
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ORANGE PARK
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BFF

BLACK FRIDAY FANATIC

OPEN THANKSGIVING DAY 6PM-1AM
BLACK FRIDAY EXTENDED HOURS 6AM-10PM

First 250 shoppers at the Guest Service booth on Thanksgiving will receive a FREE SHOPPING TOTE BAG filled with special Black Friday deals, coupons, giveaways and more!

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