

# Winter weather driving tips

Treacherous winter conditions can make travel along Texas roads a dangerous proposition. The Texas Department of Public Safety urges

motorists to pay attention to changing weather conditions and prepare for the winter driving season.

"We urge motorists to use extreme caution when driving under winter weather conditions. Slow down," said Col. Dudley Thomas, director of DPS. "Wear your seatbelts and drive care-

fully. When it's snowy or icy, it's always best to avoid travel if at all possible."

Stranded motorists should call the DPS helpline at 1-800-525-5555 for assistance from a DPS trooper.

For current road conditions, it's best to watch your local news report, or look up the Texas Department of Transportation's website at: <http://www.dot.state.tx.us>.

Winter driving tips include:

- Wear your seat belt, and make sure your children are buckled up.
- Remember that ice forms first on bridges, overpasses and shady areas. If you hit a patch of ice, stay off your brakes and decelerate slowly, holding the car steady as you go over the ice.
- Speed is the main problem with driving on ice. Adjust your speed to fit the weather conditions. Keep a safe

From the Texas Department of Public Safety

distance from the car in front of you.

•If your car goes into a skid, take your foot off the gas pedal but don't hit the brake. Steer gently in the direction you want the front of the car to go. As the car straightens out, you will be able to regain traction and control.

•Check your car battery before cold weather sets in. Battery power dips in cold weather.

•Keep blankets, a first-aid kit, flares, jumper cables, tire chains, a flashlight, ice scraper and gloves in your car. Take a food supply of candy bars or dried fruit in case you become stranded.

•Keep the gasoline level as high as possible to prevent condensation in the tank.

•Check the automobile's motor oil, transmission fluid, ignition system, lights, heater, cooling system and wipers.

**SEASONS GREETINGS**

We wish you a Merry Christmas and success throughout the year.

**Eagle Barber Shop**

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HOMES WILL BE DECORATED inside and out during A Gettysburg Yuletide Festival as area residents open their doors to visitors and show

them the area's traditional holiday preparations. This open house is just one of the many events highlighting the festival.

## Civil War Town Makes Holiday Season Bright

The sights and sounds of Christmas come alive at A Gettysburg Yuletide Festival. Set for the first two weekends in December, the holiday festivities are sure to enliven this historic Pennsylvania town.

The event begins with a candlelight walk with the Three Wise Men in search of Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus. A live Nativity and a handbell choir performing traditional Christmas carols await travelers at the end of their journey.

With the theme of a Civil War soldier and his family celebrating the season, the Dessert Sampler continues to show the holiday spirit. Area chefs will prepare delicious desserts to please visitors as Christmas music from near and far plays in the background. A highlight of the sampler will be a silent auction, with all proceeds benefiting the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

As hearts begin to glow with the pleasures of Christmas and thoughts turn homeward, the townspeople

will open their doors to guests as they prepare for the holidays. The Gettysburg Area Open House Tour will show visitors the unique architecture of the area, antiques and maybe even a room where a Civil War battle is lodged.

The Shoppes of Steinwehr and stores in downtown Gettysburg also will have an open house, offering people the opportunity to find that special gift they've been looking for. Festive decorations and refreshments await those ready to explore the quaint shops.

Santa Claus will be making a stop at the Gettysburg Steam Railroad to get everyone's Christmas list and spread some holiday cheer.

These events can fill anyone with the Christmas spirit. For more information about the festival, call (717) 334-6274. To learn more about Santa's railroad stop, call the Gettysburg Railroad at (717) 334-6932.

## 'Tis the season to be poisoned

Many accidental poisonings occur when parents are distracted. Holiday activities and holiday entertaining certainly increase this risk.

During the excitement of the holidays, temptations for children are often more than they can handle. Take a few minutes to poison-proof your home and make this holiday season a safe one.

**O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree...**

Holiday plants may brighten your surroundings, and many are safe. But a few are hazardous.

•The poinsettia has a worse reputation than it merits. In reality, the poinsettia is not a highly poisonous plant. If ingested in large amounts it may cause varying degrees of irritation to the mouth or stomach discomfort.

•Mistletoe and its berries can be very poisonous, and have proven deadly when ingested in quantity. Our suggestion: substitute the plastic variety and kiss the real one good-bye.

•Holly berries attract young children who mistake the red berries for candy. Ingestion can make a child very sick.

•The Jerusalem Cherry closely resembles a cherry tomato. Children frequently fall victim to eating this forbidden fruit. If any part of this plant is ingested, call the Poison control immediately.

•Christmas trees are usually harmless in regard to toxic exposure, but the pines may cause mechanical injury if ingested. Drinking Christmas tree preservatives is common with chil-

dren, but is of little concern if the amounts consumed are small.

**Deck The Halls...But Do It Safely**

•Christmas tree ornaments, often made of metal or plastic can be hazardous. They can block air ways and can cut the skin and digestive tract.

•Angel Hair (made of finely spun glass) can cause irritations of the eyes, skin, and digestive tract.

•Bubbling Christmas lights contain fluid that is at least 50% methylene chloride which can be dangerous if ingested.

•Icicles and tinsel have metallic components of 40% tin and 60% lead, however, in this form, they are not digestible and are poorly absorbed. When ingested, they are expected to cause only mechanical problems, but lead poisoning is not a concern.

•Gift wrap often contains toxic metals. Do not allow children to chew gift wrap and do not burn it in the fireplace.

**For He's a Jolly Good Fellow**

Besides alcoholic beverages that are in abundance at holiday time, perfumes, colognes, and aftershave products contain high amounts of alcohol. Don't leave gift perfumes under the Christmas tree or in places where little hands can get to them. Even small amounts of alcohol can be harmful to children.

Should a poison emergency arise during the holiday season or any other time, contact the Poison Center immediately at 1-800-POISON-1/ 1-800-764-7661.

## Lighting the Way to a Bright Christmas

As visitors journey with the Three Wise Men, a highlight of A Gettysburg Yuletide Festival, they will need candles to light their way. Since children love to take part in the walk, here are directions to make a candleholder that ensures carrying the candle safely.

**KINKERCANDLE**

*Named after Kinker, one of Santa's elves*

- 1-gallon milk jug
- Ribbon
- Bells
- Short, thick candle
- Florist's gum

Cut the bottom off of the milk jug, making sure to leave the cap on. Tie the ribbon to the handle, and hang the bells from it. Then, place the candle securely inside the cap, fastening it with florist's gum if necessary.

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## Make room for Jesus

By Carol Cardenas, Headlight Staff

Since moving to Columbus in April, I've noticed that a church down the street always has different sayings on their marquee.

With Christmas right around the corner, they have this, "Is there room for Jesus in your Christmas?"

With all the hustle and bustle of Christmas shopping, I see some folks who have forgotten the real reason we celebrate Christmas.

To me, there are so many things to be grateful for this season.

The main one is that a child was born so that you and I could have life, and have it more abundantly.

I have taken it for granted lately. Jesus has made me realize what I should be thankful for.

I got close to losing my mom a couple of times this year. Which has really made me think.

What gift is so important to buy that I'd overlook these special gifts: the gift of life, love and family.

Never get too busy that you don't have the time to say, "I love you" or "I'm thankful that God blessed me with you."

You know us kids always seem to think that mom and dad get on us just a little too much, but they only do it because they love us. You only have one mom and dad... take care of them.

Always remember that no paper or ribbon could ever wrap that special gift that God gave us so many years ago.

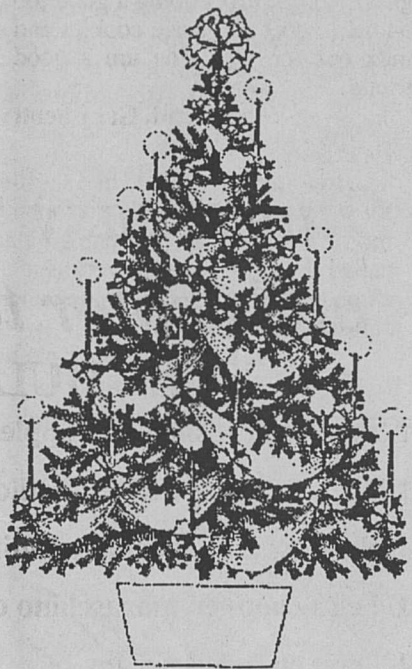
Jesus came into the world poor, but left rich, and left us with that same richness if, we only accept Him. He is a true friend, faithful and full of hope and patience.

God has given me the greatest gift of all, my mom's health and His everlasting love.

May God truly bless you and give all of us the understanding of the true meaning of Christmas.

Make room for Jesus in it. Be thankful for what you have, and if you didn't get that one thing you wanted, be grateful that you got this, the greatest gift that of all... our Savior, Jesus Christ was born.

Merry Christmas and may you have a very prosperous New Year.



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*...and the lion shall lay down with the lamb.*

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