



## Keep Holiday Traditions Intact When Traveling

When it comes to the holidays, traditions can vary greatly from family to family.

This can create problems when families mesh, forcing many to make compromises and say "so long" to a number of their traditions.

More and more families are choosing to spend the holidays in exotic locales.

The perfect compromise, a resort holiday offers a little of everything for everybody. But just because you're spending your holiday away doesn't mean you need to leave behind all of your family's holiday traditions. Keeping your traditions intact just takes a little careful planning ahead of time.

• **Book the right place:** Spending the holidays at a resort is different from spending a vacation at a resort. Rather than looking purely for luxury, you'll want your holiday resort to offer a sense of home as well.

For example, if your family has always looked forward to a homecooked holiday meal, try to book a suite that boasts a kitchen that will allow you to keep that tradition going. Also, if possible, ask for a suite with a living room and arrange to have a Christmas tree in the room when you arrive.

• **Pack the gifts:** Particularly if young children are coming along, pack the gifts along for the trip rather than opening them before you leave or after you return

home.

Kids especially look forward to opening their presents under the tree on Christmas morning. If possible, include everything you normally would, such as stockings and even a hot breakfast.

• **Consider a bed and breakfast:** Bed and breakfasts are designed to offer a home away from home, creating a more intimate setting that closely resembles home more so than a typical resort.

If you're going skiing for the winter holidays, rather than staying at the resort's own hotel, look for something in the town.

Bed and breakfasts are commonplace in resort towns, but are also smaller than hotels, so be sure to book far in advance.

• **Embrace new traditions:** If a recent wedding has resulted in two families celebrating together, then don't be afraid to include your new relatives in your traditions while simultaneously embracing their traditions.

This will ensure everyone has a good time and might lead to your best holiday yet.

• **Bring the family pet:** Pets are a huge part of most families, and even if you're flying to your holiday destination that doesn't mean you can't include the family pet.

Children are often very attached to family pets, so arrange for your pet to travel as well and spend the holidays with the family.

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## Oil Drilling Permits Show Increase In October

The Texas Railroad Commission issued a total of 1,737 original drilling permits in October 2007 compared to 1,592 in October 2006.

The October total included 1,445 permits to drill new oil and gas wells, 67 to re-enter existing well bores, and 225 for re-completions.

Permits issued in October 2007 included 350 oil, 394 gas, 939 oil and gas, 48 injection, zero service and six other permits.

### September Crude Oil Production

Texas preliminary September 2007 crude oil production averaged 870,250 barrels daily, down from the 889,583 barrels daily average of September 2006.

The preliminary Texas crude oil production figure for September 2007 is 26,107,529 barrels, a decrease from 26,896,843 barrels reported during September 2006.

### October Oil And Gas Completions

In October 2007, operators reported 379 oil, 1,020 gas, 17 injection and one other completion compared to 379 oil, 796 gas, 34 injection and 11 other completions during October 2006.

Total well completions for 2007 year to date are 11,877 up from 11,018 recorded during the same

period in 2006.

Operators reported 774 holes plugged and 11 dry holes in October 2007 compared to 532 holes plugged and five dry holes in October 2006.

### September Natural Gas Production

Texas oil and gas wells produced 461,913,124 Mcf (thousand cubic feet) of gas based upon preliminary production figures

for September 2007, up from the September 2006 preliminary gas production total of 439,131,998 Mcf.

Texas production in September 2007 came from 123,946 oil and 73,543 gas wells.

## Garwood Native Hired By UMB Financial

UMB Financial Corporation (NASDAQ: UMBF) is pleased to announce **Daryl Hunt**, native of Garwood, has joined the company as executive vice president of Financial Services and Support (FSS).

UMB selected Hunt for his strong customer orientation and financial services experience in

bank, brokerage and securities operations. Most recently, Hunt spent 12 years with Fidelity Investments in various leadership roles. Prior to that position, Hunt held customer service and operations management roles with NationsBank/Bank of America.

"We look forward to Daryl improving our operations and

technology functions so that customers find it even easier to do business with us," said Peter deSilva, president and chief operating officer of UMB Financial Corporation.

Hunt holds a bachelor's degree in Accounting from Abilene Christian University. He also holds his NASD Series 7, 24 and 63 licenses.

## Fill Yourself With Holiday Spirits at The Liquor Barn

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## Colorado County Courthouse Report

Twenty-four individuals were sentenced in Colorado County court on Nov. 14 and Nov. 28. They included:

### November 14, 2007

Lukas E. Marcotte, driving while intoxicated. Sentenced to one year probation, fined \$650, 50 hours of community service.

Theresa Lynn Matson, driving while intoxicated-2<sup>nd</sup> offense. Sentenced to three days in jail, credit for two, fined \$2,000. Charged with deadly conduct, state abandons DWI and enhancement paragraphs.

Todd Radke, driving while intoxicated. Sentenced to one year probation, fined \$500, 50 hours of community service.

### November 28, 2007

Louis J. Cryer, assault causing bodily injury to a family member. Sentenced to one year deferred adjudication, fined \$150, ordered to enter anger management class.

Paz Estrada, Jr., failure to identify fugitive from justice. Sentenced to 45 days in jail.

Pedro Gutierrez Gomez, assault causing bodily injury to a family member. Sentenced to one year deferred adjudication, fined \$150.

Eric Wayne Gonzales, assault causing bodily injury to a family member. Sentenced to one year deferred adjudication, fined \$150, ordered to enter anger management class.

Jessie Johnson, assault causing bodily injury to a family member. Sentenced to 15 days in jail, credit for eight days.

Clayton Ray Karlson, driving while intoxicated-2<sup>nd</sup> offense. Sentenced to 30 days in jail, credit for 22, fined \$500, one year driver's license suspension.

Donisha Lewis, false report to police officer/law enforce employee. Sentenced to 60 days in jail.

Donisha Lewis, criminal mischief. Sentenced to 60 days in jail, restitution lien.

Gary Dub Lynch, terroristic threat. Sentenced to 30 days in jail, credit for 16.

Gary Dub Lynch, criminal mischief. Sentenced to 30 days in jail, credit for 16.

Clifton Mancias, Jr., driving while license invalid with previous conviction. Fined \$350.

Mary Ann Marciel, theft. Sentenced to 45 days in jail.

Bernardo P. Medina, driving while intoxicated. Sentenced to one year probation, fined \$500,

ordered to enter DWI class and interlock device.

Martin T. Mendoza, reckless driving. Sentenced to three days in jail, credit for two, fined \$200.

Jose Perez, III, driving while intoxicated. Sentenced to 30 days in jail.

Robert E. Roberts, assault causing bodily injury. Sentenced to 90 days in jail, credit for 100.

William Stiffler, possession of marijuana. Sentenced to 30 days in jail, credit for two.

Ray William Stutts, driving while intoxicated. Sentenced to 15 days in jail, one year driver's license suspension.

Alvaro J. Benitez, prohibited weapons switchblade/knuckles. Sentenced to one year deferred adjudication, fined \$250, forfeit weapon to CCSO.

Travis D. Brown, assault causing bodily injury to a family member. Sentenced to two years probation.

Samantha Coronado, theft. Sentenced to 10 days in jail, credit for one, fined \$300.

## Cookie Decorating Tips For Novices

There are a number of ways to decorate holiday cookies and baked goods for all occasions.

In fact, the number of ways to decorate cookies — one of the popular treats of the season — are almost as varied as the amount of cookie recipes.

Surprisingly, you can do a lot without having mastery of Royal Icing or intricate piping techniques.

### Before they're baked ...

Cookies can be embellished even before the dough is baked. A number of ingredients can withstand the heat of baking and add color and interest to cookies.

Try adding colored sugar sprinkles, gold dragees, nonpareils and other sprinkles to make designs.

Or whip up a batch of do-it-yourself cookie paint. Use an egg yolk mixed with a few drops of food coloring to achieve your desired color. Paint the cookies and then bake.

They will take on a colorful appearance and have a shiny coating from the egg. You can also color the dough itself with food coloring and twist holding candy canes or make green tree cutouts and then bake.

### After they're baked ...

Craft stores and even neighborhood supermarkets sell a variety of ready-made frostings and icings that can be used to decorate cookies.

Some of them come in packaging that also serves as the application device. For those who want to experience the more involved task of making homemade icings and decorating professional-looking

cookies, there are a number of very good Royal Icing recipes available.

Royal Icing is an icing typically made from confectioner's sugar, water and meringue powder. It starts off as a thick consistency that can be piped or spread on cookies.

As it dries it hardens into a hard coating. This icing can be tinted to a number of shades and does produce dramatic decorative looks. Meringue powder can usually be found in the baking aisle of the supermarket or a craft store. It can also be ordered online from kitchen supply retailers.

When applying Royal Icing, the key is to pipe a thin line of the icing around the perimeter of the cookie top, and let it harden.

This will serve as a barrier for the remaining icing that you paint, pipe or spread on top, ensuring it won't drip off the edges of the cookie.

This icing goes well with traditional butter cookie recipes and can be flavored slightly with vanilla or even lemon extracts. If you will be adding embellishments, such as candy eyes, etc. to the cookie, be sure to do so before the icing sets. Otherwise you can use a small dab of the icing to serve as a glue.

Cookie baking and decorating is a popular holiday tradition and one that children enjoy immensely. So be sure to encourage your little cookie Picasso's to create their own cookie masterpieces. Set aside a small amount of dough and decorations so they feel they participated in the fun.

## Store Wide Christmas Sale

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