

### The Franklin Times

# Make your Holiday houseplants last longer than the season

Houseplants are wonderful gifts during any season to give as they provide beautiful colors indoors and many can be planted outdoors during



the spring and summer.

cial someone thinking of you year round as they admire the beauty of the continuous flowers throughout the year.

which plants to give or use in their holiday décor. Below is a short but thorough list of plants to consider.

African violets - are excellent indoor flowering plants and cause the flower stalk to that produce flowers year- bend.

round under correct growing conditions. African violets prefer good light (but not direct), moist soil (allow to dry slightly), and high humidity.

Amaryllis - Bulbs will nor-Many people question mally flower within six to eight weeks of planting in a location receiving direct sunlight. The soil should be kept constantly moist as excessive drying will reduce flower life

For maximum bulb development, keep plants actively growing after they finish blooming in full sun with night temperatures above 60°F.

As soon as danger of frost has passed, set the plants in the garden in a semi-shaded location. In the fall, you can leave the bulbs in the ground or bring the plants back indoors to bloom again.

Azalea - Keep plants in a well-lighted location, but avoid direct sun while in flower. A night temperature between 55 and 60 degrees will prolong flowering. Keep the soil uniformly moist.

Calceolaria and cineraria – Annuals that thrive in cool temperatures near 50 to 55 degrees at night. Provide bright light but not direct sunlight during the day and avoid excessive heat or dry soil as this can cause rapid decline. Since they are annuals, plants will gradually decline after flowering and cannot be reflowered

Christmas pepper - The fruit will be at peak color for one to two months and will be brighter and last longer under high light, mild temperatures and moist soil. Fertilize weekly with a soluble fertilizer. The plant can be set outdoors after the danger of frost has passed.

Cyclamens - Cyclamen requires direct sunlight and is a heavy user of water and must be watered whenever the soil surface is dry.

After flowering, gradually withhold water until the foliage dies back and continue do not place them in a sunny to not water for six to eight weeks.

By mid-summer, begin watering gradually. As new



The pink orchid is just one of many beautiful indoor plants frequently gifted during the holidays.

plant to a sunny location and resume normal watering and fertilization.

Spring-flowering bulbs To get the most color and greatest longevity from your spring flowering bulbs, buy plants when the flower buds first show color.

Keep plants well-watered as water stress can cut the flowering time in half and location. It is not necessary to fertilize since the plant's useful life is two to four weeks. Most forced spring-flowering bulbs should be discarded after flowering or planted in the ground.

Gardenias - Maintain high humidity around the plant and keep the soil uniformly moist. Some gardenia cultivars are hardy outdoors - most florist gardenias are not hardy. Gardenias decline rapidly after flowering and should be discarded.

Gloxinias - need bright, indirect light; high humidity; and warm night temperatures.

Gloxinias need more light than African violets therefore place them in a bright window just beyond the reach of direct sun light and keep the soil uniformly moist.

Gloxinias need to rest before reflowering. When the leaves start to die back, gradually reduce watering until the leaves yellow and die. Place the pot in a cool, dark location and stop watering. Allow the tuberous stem to rest for a minimum of eight to ten weeks in dry soil. Resume

leaves develop, move the less water from October to March than when new growth is active (April to September).

Hydrangeas - are generally recognized as outdoor flowering shrubs, but are also available as 6- and 8-inch pot plants in the spring. Flowers can last four to eight weeks if plants are bought as color first develops, watered adequately, exposed to mild temperatures and exposed to bright (but not direct) light.

After the flowers fade, remove the flower heads and transplant into the landscape.

Kalanchoes - are available year-round in many colors. Flowers will last three to six weeks if plants are provided mild temperatures and medium light.

Allow the soil to dry slightly between waterings; plants are easily damaged by over watering.

Keep the plants in a sunny location and move the plants outdoors after the danger of frost has passed.

Poinsettia - The colorful bracts of poinsettias may stay bright for months if cared for properly. Bright, indirect light (but not direct light) and frequent watering are essential.

Do not allow the plant to wilt. Punch holes in the bottom of the decorative foil to provide drainage, as poinsettias do not tolerate poor drainage.

Orchids - are easily cared for if kept away from intense light and cold. They do very well under fluorescent lights or near a south-facing window.

Most orchids bloom only watering when new growth once a year, but the blooms appears and move the pot to can last as long as two a bright location to stimulate months. Fertilize only when reflower (although it's hard new leaves appear. Water often but allow the bark me dium to dry out thoroughly between waterings. Orchids can be grown outdoors under the shade of trees after the danger of frost has passed.







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to ao

Holiday cacti - Place the plants in a well-lighted location and water thoroughly, but allow them to become moderately dry between waterings.

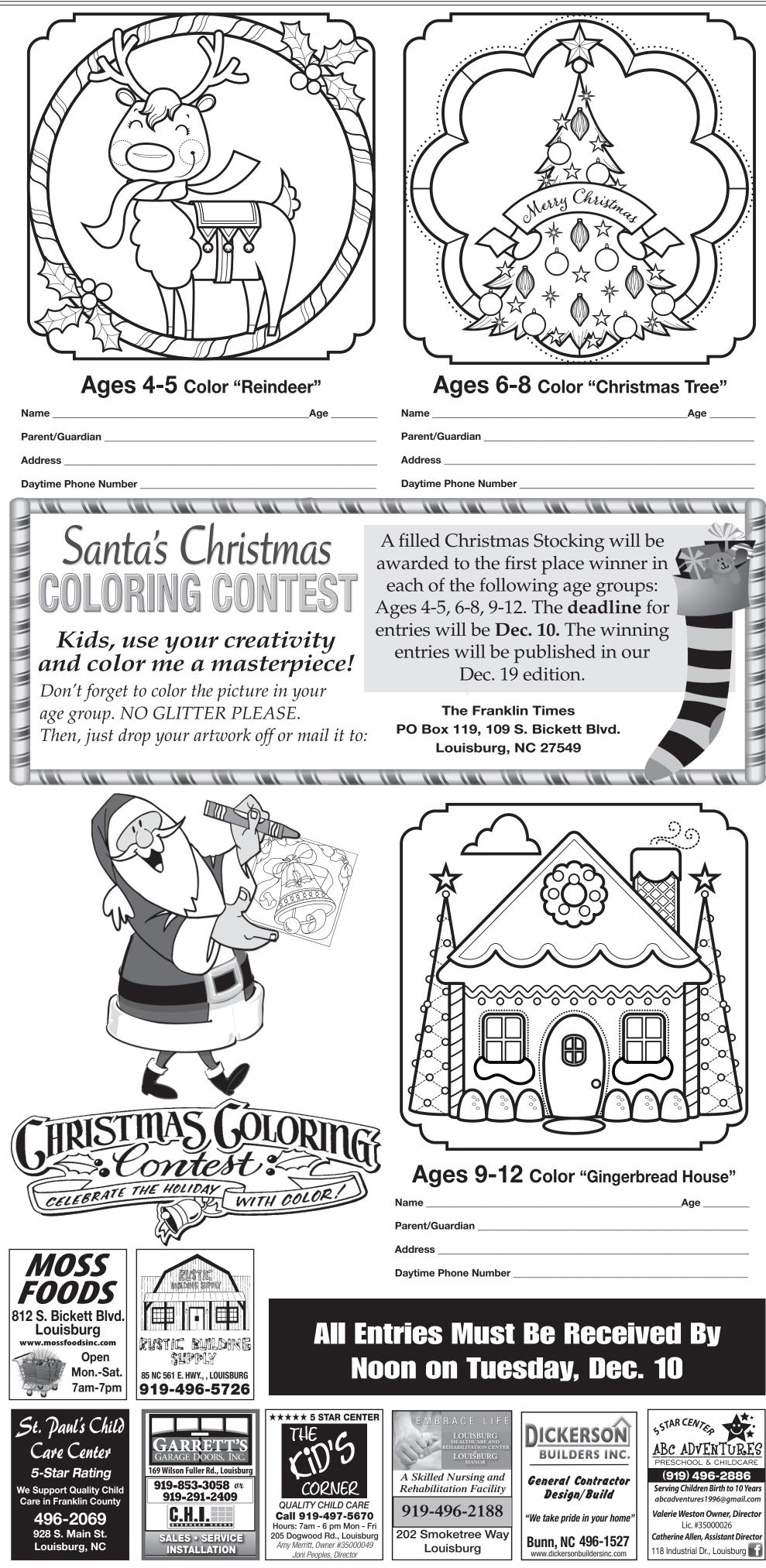
Holiday cacti bloom best when somewhat pot-bound and repotting is necessary only about once every three years.

Full sunlight is beneficial in mid-winter, but bright sunlight during summer months can result in pale to yellowish

If you need further information about caring for your indoor plants, contact your local Cooperative Extension Office at (919) 496-3344 or visit our website at *franklin*. ces.ncsu.edu.

Pink Orchid image by Alfoliage. Holiday cacti require brecht Fietz from Pixabay.







#### URGENT COAT DRIVE FOR WESTERN NC

The annual Coats for Christmas is beginning early this year to help the residents of Western North Carolina.

You may drop off your donations at Farm Bureau, 496 Redwood Drive, Louisburg. Good,

clean or new coats, scarfs, gloves are needed in all sizes. For more information, call Wayne Champion at (919) 496-2051.

#### COUNTY'S THANKSGIVING SCHEDULE

All Franklin County departments will be closed Thursday and Friday, Nov. 28 and Nov. 29 in observance of Thanksgiving with some exceptions.

All branches of the library will also be closed on Saturday, Nov. 30. The solid waste transfer station will be open both Friday and Saturday after the holiday as will all of the convenience centers. The county airport will be open Wednesday, Nov. 27 from 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. but will be open Friday, Nov. 29.

#### FUNDRAISER FOR FORMER FRANKLIN CO. RESIDENT

The family of James Bullock has created a fundraiser on *go-fundme.com* to help offset the costs of his transportation from a nursing facility back to North Carolina.

Bullock, who is 80 years old and in a nursing facility in Detroit, MI, is formerly of Franklin County.

Bullock, who cannot care for himself, has been in the facility since April. His family is trying to get him closer to home, and have found a facility in Durham that will accept him.

The facility costs \$10,500 for 30 days, and the medical transfer personnel is \$7,500.

To donate, go to *https://www.gofundme.com/f/support-james-bullocks-transfer-to-nc* or contact Bullock's sister, Carolyn Hanson at (919) 817-9873.

#### FARMERS MARKET

The Franklin County Farmer's Market, located in the Shannon Village Shopping Center, Louisburg will be closed Nov. 29 due to the Thanksgiving holiday. For more information contact Pat Ayscue, market manager with the Franklin County Cooperative Extension at 919-496-3344.

#### AMERICAN LEGION PROVIDES U.S. FLAG DISPOSAL

The American Legion Post 52, located at 40 American Legion Road, Franklinton, has installed a U.S. Flag drop box for the community to respectfully discard unserviceable U.S. Flags.

The drop-box is located in the parking lot at the start of the sidewalk. Simply fold up your flag and put it in the dropbox opening. They collect unserviceable flags throughout the year and hold a disposal ceremony in June. The American Flag stands for freedom and sacrifice. The American Legion continues this time-honored tradition to show respect for what it stands for.

#### LEARN A NEW CRAFT

A hand-crafted holiday skin gift workshop will be conducted Monday, Dec. 2 at 6 p.m., and Wednesday, Dec. 11 at 10 a.m., at Franklin County Extension Center Annex,103 S. Bickett Boulevard, Louisburg. Gingerbread lip scrub, peppermint soap, and ornament bath salts are the creations that will be made during this program. Cost is \$25. Register online at *go.ncsu.edu/holidayskincare2024*. For more information or questions, please contact Dominque Simon, (919) 496-3344,or *dominque\_simon@ncsu.edu*.

#### CHRISTMAS PARADE IN ALERT

The sights and sounds of Christmas will happen when the 2024 Christmas Parade steps out at 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 14, in the northern Franklin County community of Alert.

It's a free event and lineup will start at 1 p.m.

This is the town's 34th Christmas Parade -- and it will fea-

# **PUZZLE FUN!**

# SUDOKU

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Here's How It Works:

#### Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!



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3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each

row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row,

column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will

appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The

more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

# 41. \_\_\_\_ and Venzetti42. Exclamation at the end of a

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**GUESS WHO**?

I was a corporal in the United States Marine Corps born in New York on November 10, 1981. I was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for serving with the 3rd battalion 7th Marines during the Iraq War — the first Marine recipient of this commendation during that conflict.

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wawel: Jason Dunham

Louisburg, NC Page **5B** 

ture a Best Christmas Decorated Entry contest.

For questions or more information, contact Larry Ayscue at 252-459-9216 or Melanie Bobbitt at 919-497-6081 or *melanieb7724@gmail.com*.

#### LANDSCAPE CREDIT CLASS

A credit class for landscape professionals will be conducted Tuesday, Dec. 10, from 5 to 7:30 p.m., at the Franklin County Ag Center Annex, 103 S. Bickett Blvd., Louisburg. Topics will include current trends in landscape and ornamental weed management and best management practices for turfgrass diseases. Registration is required. Register online at: http:// go.ncsu.edu/decemberclass. Cost: \$10, dinner included.

For more information contact 919-496-3344 or Charles Mitchell at *charles\_mitchell@ncsu.edu* 

#### CATTLE PRODUCERS MARKETING MEETING

Area cattle producers are being invited to a beef cattle marketing meeting and dinner on Thursday, Dec. 19, at the Franklin County Extension Center Annex,103 S. Bickett Blvd. The meeting will begin with a sponsored meal at 5:30 pm, followed by the educational and informative programs. Updates on cattle trends and marketing information will be discussed.

Guest speaker via Zoom will be Dr. Derrell S. Peel, livestock marketing specialist in Ag Economics at Oklahoma State University, to give his forecast for cattle pricing and futures along with other marketing trends.

Registration is required. Registration deadline is Dec. 18. Register online at *https://go.ncsu.edu/2024beefmarketingmeeting anddinner*.

For more information contact the office at 919-496-3344, or Ag Agent Martha Mobley, *martha\_mobley@ncsu.edu*.

#### COMMISSIONERS' SWEARING IN SLATED

A swearing in ceremony for four Franklin County commissioners has been slated for 4 p.m. Monday, Dec. 2, at the Franklin County Plaza Training center, 279 South Bickett Boulevard, Louisburg.

Two veteran commissioners will take the oath, including Mark Speed and Michael Schriver as will two newcomers to the board, Logan Davis and Stuart May.

The ceremony is open to the public.

#### NOMINATIONS FOR VOLUNTEER AWARD SOUGHT

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2025 Governor's Volunteer Service Award. The awards program, created by the Office of the Governor in 1979, recognizes North Carolina's most dedicated volunteers.

Each county selects up to 10 individuals, businesses, groups/ teams and one paid director of volunteers to be recognized for their outstanding contributions to their communities. One of the nominees will be nominated for the Governor's Medallion Award for Volunteer Service, which is awarded to the top 20 volunteers in the state. A local committee evaluates the nominations.

Nomination forms are available in Franklin County at the N.C. Cooperative Extension Center. They can also be found at *www.volunteernc.org*. Nomination forms are due by Jan. 31, 2025 to the Franklin County Center of N.C. Cooperative Extension office (103 South Bickett Blvd., Louisburg, NC 27549). They can also be emailed to *charles\_mitchell@ncsu.edu*. For more information, contact N.C. Cooperative Extension at 919-496-3344.

- 10. "Bewitched" boss Larry
- 14. Combining form meaning "different"

1. Long piece of squared timber

- 15. Current unit equal to 10 amperes
- 16. Older
- 17. Large, stocky lizard
- 18. Ringworm

5. Emaciation

- 19. Actor Pitt
- 20. Indian hand clash cymbals
- 22. Data at rest
- 23. Jeweled headdress
- 24. Indicators of when stories were written
- 27. Check
- 30. Cigarette (slang)
- 31. Arctic explorers (abbr.)
- 32. Yearly tonnage (abbr.)
- 35. Delivered a speech
- 37. A place to bathe
- 38. Postmen deliver it39. Surface in geometry
- 40 Mara (Snamish)
- 40. More (Spanish)

#### **CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Piece of felted material
- 2. Ancient Greek City
- 3. Aquatic plant
- 4. Potentially harmful fungus (Brit. sp.)
- 5. Body art (slang)
- 6. One who follows the rules
- 7. Ordinary
- 8. Honorably retired from assigned duties and retaining one's title
- 9. Relaxing space
- 10. Japanese socks
- 11. Indian city
- 12. Rip
- 13. Icelandic book
- 21. Satisfies
- 23. Where golfers begin
- 25. Small amount
- 26. Snag
- 27. Determine the sum of
- 28. A distinctive smell

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- 29. Exposed to view
- 32. Stain or blemish

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43. Hawaiian dish

- 44. Aggressively proud men
- 45. Fellow
- 46. Mark Wahlberg comedy
- 47. Mock
- 48. When you expect to get somewhere
- 49. Songs
- 52. Pair of small hand drums
- 55. Play
- 56. Sword
- 60. Evergreens and shrubs genus
- 61. Filmed
- 63. Italian Seaport
- 64. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
- 65. Pores in a leaf
- 66. U. of Miami mascot is one
- 67. Snakelike fishes
- 68. Pretended to be
- 69. Body part

#### 33. Small loop in embroidery

- 34. River herring genus
- 36. Large beer
- 37. Deep, red-brown sea bream
- 38. Partner to cheese
- 40. At a deliberate pace
- 41. Gurus
- 43. Of each
- 44. Angry
- 46. Popular beverage
- 47. Flower cluster
- 49. Blocks
- 50. Those who benefitted from efforts of relatives (slang)
- 51. Polio vaccine developer
- 52. A (usually) large and scholarly book

Solutions on page 7A

- 53. Popular soap ingredient
- 54. NBAer Bradley
- 57. Popular movie about a pig
- 58. Musician Clapton
- 59. Not a sure thing

62. Father

61. Recipe measurement (abbr.)

# The "other" perfect pie for Thanksgiving

A Thanksgiving dinner table can be a sight to behold. For foodies and others who love the array of comfort foods on display come the second Monday in October (in Canada) or the fourth Thursday in November (in the United States), Thanksgiving is a day to circle on the calendar each year.

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While a mouth-watering turkey and sides like mashed potatoes and stuffing garner the bulk of the attention on Thanksgiving, the dessert table also can be a tempting place to direct one's eyes. Though no dessert is off limits on Thanksgiving, pie is a particularly popular option on Turkey Day. With that in mind, those tasked with crafting something for dessert this Thanksgiving can consider the following recipe for "Pecan Pie" courtesy of Lines+Angles.



Pecan pie is a holiday favorite

#### Makes 8 servings

1 9-inch unbaked frozen deep dish pie shell, thawed

- $1 \frac{1}{2}$  cups pecans, coarsely chopped 3
  - eggs, lightly beaten
- cup light corn syrup 1 cup brown sugar 1⁄2
- 1 tablespoon molasses 2 tablespoons butter, melted
  - tablespoons flour
- 2 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit.

2. Spread pecans along the bottom of the prepared pie shell.

3. In a large bowl, mix the remaining ingredients and pour over pecans. The pecans will rise to the surface of the pie.

4. Bake for 60 to 65 minutes until the filling has set. Pie is done when the center reaches 200 degrees Fahrenheit. Pie center when lightly tapped should spring back. Remove pie from oven and let cool on a wire rack for at least 2 hours.

5. Serve.

Preparation time: 15 minutes Cooking time: 1 hour, 5 minutes Cooling time: 2 hours Total time: 3 hours, 20 minutes



# is prepared properly Dominque

Make sure your turkey

### Simon NC Cooperative

Extension Family & Consumer Science Agent

Having a turkey on your Thanksgiving table is a timeless American tradition. Use this information when purchasing, preparing, handling, and serving your Thanksgiving turkey.

Buying Your Thanksgiving Turkey:

Fresh Turkey •Check packaging for leaks and separate items in the cart

•Leave turkey in bag and place in a pan or on a tray to prevent dripping

•Store on bottom shelf of fridge at or below 41 degrees Fahrenheit

Frozen Turkey •Keep turkey in the freezer (0 degrees Fahrenheit) until it's ready to thaw and be cooked

•Thawing in refrigerator will take 24 hours for every 5 pounds

Thawing •Thaw turkey quickly

with the following methods: •Cool water: submerge in sink or container of cool water, changing every 30 min-utes. Allow 30 minutes per pound.

•Microwave: Read manual instructions. Remove wrapping. Rotate several times. Cook turkey immediately after thawing. Allow six minutes per pound.

•Cook: Use method if turkey is partially thawed. Allow at least 50 percent longer time to cook through.

Preparing • You do not need to wash your turkey. Washing raw



#### Turkey is the main attraction on most Thanksgiving tables.

poultry won't kill bacteria, but cooking to proper internal temperature will. However, when washing, harmful bacteria like Salmonella and Campylobacter can be sprayed up to three feet on nearby surfaces.

• To prevent the spread of bacteria, clean and sanitize utensils and work surfaces and wash hands after preparing raw poultry.

#### Cooking

•When the juices run clear or the turkey is a goldenbrown color it does not necessarily indicate that the turkey is done. The only way to tell is by using a verified food thermometer to check the internal temperature.

chicken, must be cooked to an internal temperature of at least 165° F for safety. Check temperature in three spots including:

•Thickest part of the breast

•Innermost part of the wing

•Innermost part of the thigh

•For safety, stuffing must also reach 165 degrees Fahrenheit checked in multiple places.

This could cause the turkey to be cooked to over 165 degrees Fahrenheit.

•To avoid overcooking, consider making stuffing separately

For more information con-• Poultry, like turkey and tact: ncsafeplates@ncsu.edu.



1st C	Christmas
n Thursday Dec 1	10 The Franklin Times will be

On Thursday, Dec. 19, The Franklin Times will have a special page set aside for babies celebrating their

Emma Grace Reynolds

2/15/24

Merry Christmas!

You are our gift!

Grandma & Grandpa

very first Christmas this year. A perfect way for parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and friends to say...

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## How to care for your Christmas tree

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get the tree home, place it in water and store it in a cool environment, preferably out of the wind. Avoid storing the tree on the ground, it may become frozen in place and difficult to move without

Adequate water supply for your tree: A fresh tree deprived of water will dry out rapidly. Therefore, you should an adequate wasupply.

are unnecessary,

When you display your tree, the stand should have a reservoir of adequate size for the tree that you purchase. If the reservoir in your tree stand is small, you will need to check the water level more often than with a larger res-

the water level above the cut surface of the tree trunk to retain freshness, check the water level in the stand at least

Placement of the tree in the home: Displaying your tree properly at home can also reduce water loss. Avoid placing your tree near a fireplace or furnace outlet, as the heat will cause the tree to dry out more rapidly. Reducing the room temperature will also

Storing the tree: Once you reduce the amount of mois- Christmas tree, contact your from the tree.

mation about caring for your ncsu.edu

ture in which evaporates local Cooperative Extension Office at 919-496-3344 or visit If you need further infor- our website at franklin.ces.





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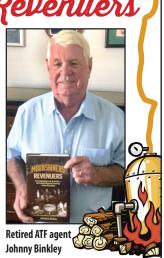
### Moonshiners and Revenuers BOOK AVAILABLE NOW!

Moonshiners and Revenuers is the true story of ATF Agent Johnny Binkley and his 25 years with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, from 1969-1994. Follow Agent Binkley's career as the ATF transitioned its

role from moonshine enforcement in Franklin County, to catching cigarette smugglers, and then to crimes involving explosives and narcotics. Binkley describes the people, events, situations and places he encounterd along the way.

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