

Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa

Christmas, coming from humble beginnings, has evolved into arguably the largest celebration in the world. Roman Catholics and Protestants celebrate the birth of Jesus on Dec. 25. The familiar Nativity scene seen around town every year refers to the biblical story. According to accounts in the gospels of Matthew and Luke, Jesus was born to the Virgin Mary in the city of Bethlehem, in what is now known as the West Bank. Christians believe Jesus is the son of God, sent to Earth to wipe clean the



sins of mankind, and that his birth fulfilled prophecies made hundreds of years earlier. Over time, Christmas celebrations adopted many of the traditions still celebrated today, such as the Christmas tree, Santa Claus and giving gifts.



In Hebrew, the word "Hanukkah" means "dedication." It is also known as the Festival of Lights, and is an eight-day Jewish holiday. It begins every year on the 25th day of the month of Kislev, which falls between late November and late December. The holiday commemorates the rededication of the holy HANUKKAH temple in Jerusalem after the Jews' victory over the Hellenist Syrians in 165 B.C.E.This festival of Hanukkah is observed in Jewish homes by lighting the eight candles on the menorah each night of the holiday, one on the first night, two on the second night, etc., from the ninth, larger candle, called the "shamash," or "servant."

Kwanzaa is not a celebration where you buy gifts or decorate your home. It is a celebration of unity and family, and doing special things for one another. Kwanzaa is a growing tradition, created in 1966. The word Kwanzaa is Swahili for "first fruits." It is a celebration of the African harvest, observed from Dec. 26 to Jan. 1. The seven-day observance encourages African-American families to re-explore and strengthen their heritage, and do special things for each other. A candle is lit every day during the seven days of Kwanzaa. The candles represent: Unity, Self-determination, Responsibility, Economics, Purpose, Creativity, Faith.





Dec 24

Pam Howell



45 Years Virginia Smith (Ctr Pkg) 1/6

35 Years Byron Wilson (Whse) 12/17 Jay Shellenberger (Fac) 12/18 Ron Swaney (Colorvure) 12/26 Andrea Terry (Foil) 12/26 Randy Jamison (Maint) 1/2

30 Years Todd Cole (Virko) 12/17 David Hall (Flitter) 12/17

25 Years Jeff Woolfolk (Prod) 12/29



The following employee will retire December 11th

Pat Unrein (Dept E)

The following employee will retire December 31st.

Don McGlinn (Engineering)

The following employee will retire January 5th

Cathy Criqui (Flock)









Dec 11

Beth Gorman

Holiday Shopping Safety Tips

As the holiday shopping season is upon us, please take time to ensure you have a safe and happy holiday season. As you find time to shop, please be mindful of the following safety tips:



- Be aware of your surroundings. Look for suspicious persons, etc. when you are in any area.
- Remember where you parked your car. While this may sound elementary, many shopping areas are spread out over large areas. Being unable to locate a car can cause you undue confusion and stress that may present you as a better target to a criminal.
- If shopping late in the day or after dark, park in an area that is well lighted. Keep in mind, if you are shopping at a
 mall, the time the store closes from which you enter the mall, as some stores close earlier than others. This may
 keep you from having to walk unnecessary distances to you car if you find the store has closed earlier than you
 expected.
- Shop in pairs at the very least. Take a friend or family member shopping with you. There is something to be said for safety in numbers.
- As you return to your car, make sure to keep your car key in your hand.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash. Pay for purchases with checks, credit, charge or debit cards. Carry cash and wallets in a front pocket to reduce your chances of having your pocket picked.
- Don't leave car phones, purses, CD cases, or any other item of value in your parked car where they can be seen. Always conceal these items.
- Don't leave purchased merchandise in your parked car where it can be seen. Conceal these items also.

While these steps don't guarantee you will not become the victim of crime, they will hopefully reduce your chances of falling prey to a criminal.

