

Homemade gifts beat last-minute shopping

By Ryann Crofoot

Christmas is this Saturday, and rather than trying to beat the last-minute scramble to the stores for a gift, try a homemade gift. The hard work shows people that you care enough to take time to make them something unique, and any mother loves a homemade present.

If you're good at baking or cooking, try making an edible gift basket. Fill it with things such as cookies, cupcakes, breads, or even muffins. You could include some jams and preserves to add some flavor to the baked goods. You can share some of your favorite recipes in a personalized cookbook, and some pictures of your favorite holiday cooking memories.

A great homemade gift for moms especially is an at-home spa kit. Using everyday items

like salt, essential oils, and even olive oil and powdered milk, you can make a great bath salt. Add in some shower gel or scented oils to add a nice fragrance to it. Scented candles make a great addition to any homemade spa kit.

Then, of course, there's always the classic book of coupons. This is a great thing for kids to give to parents. Put coupons in there such as a complaint-free chore day, massages, and a breakfast coupon that would, for once, let them sleep in.

If the people you know enjoy writing, you can make them a journal or note cards out of scrapbook paper, computer paper and markers, or even recycled newspaper. You can write little notes on each page, too. Include some encouraging messages, quotes about their hobbies, or even inside jokes.

If you have a camera or a lot of pictures at home, find one of you and the person you're gifting to. If you're artistic, try drawing one instead. Then frame it, and, on the back or on a separate piece of paper you can stick in the frame, write all the things you love about that person. This gift is quick and easy, and the receiver can look at it whenever they need some encouragement.

Christmas is right around the corner, but you don't need to spend your whole paycheck to get the perfect gift. Homemade gifts show still show how much you care, are one of a kind, and will be remembered for quite some time.

Source: http://thebeehive.org/holidays/2010/10/28/top-five-handmade-christmas-hanukkah-and-kwanzaa-gift-ideas/?gclid=CMmi_8n-_aUCFQI_5Qod2mv4ow



RaiderNet Daily



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No holiday cheer for Raider sports teams

Fulton's sporting forces were looking for a little pre-holiday cheer on Tuesday night, but all they got instead was a lump of coal. Fowler played the role of Scrooge by turning back the boys and girls basketball teams while Whitesboro doubled past the Raiders in Grinch like fashion with a 6-3 win in hockey.

Fulton's hopes of notching an initial victory on the court were denied on two fronts on Tuesday when Fowler ran past the boys 72-59 at Fowler and the Falcon girls nipped the Raiders 44-41 in Fulton. The girls battled back and forth all night through an 11-11 first quarter draw and a 23-20 Fulton edge at the half. The third quarter was just as tight as the Falcons drew back to within a point at 30-29 before outscoring their hosts 14-11 in the decisive fourth quarter.

Ashlyn Palmitesso led all scorers with 19 points for the Raiders including eight connections from the field including two from three point range. Michelle Gorea added seven for the 0-2 Raiders. Fowler featured a three-pronged attack that accounted for all but 10 points on the night as Latina Smith scored 12, Brianna Vassar had 11 and Jaquela Lockwood contributed 10 for the winners.

The girls will be looking to get back on track on Thursday when they play host to Carthage with JV action starting at 5:30 p.m.

For the boys it was a familiar storyline as the Falcons barged to a 19-11 lead in the first quarter and never looked back. The hosts extended their gap to 38-27 at the half before the two teams traded points through the final 16 minutes.

Like their female counterparts, Fowler relied on a three-man scoring attack as Malcolm Jones poured in a game-high 22 points to go with 15 from Larry Rivers and 11 off the hand of Dieudonne Pierre. The Raiders countered with 14 points from Tyler Terramaggi and 11 from Nate Hudson while falling to 0-3 on the season. Fulton will look to end the skid next Tuesday and Wednesday when it hosts the Booster Club Tournament in Fulton.

Icemen fall at Whitesboro

The Raiders encountered tough competition on Tuesday night as they traveled to Whitesboro for a gut-wrenching 6-3 loss to the Warriors. The puck dropped at 7:30, but Fulton didn't wake up until the bus returned home.

Whitesboro struck first with a shorthanded goal, but the Raiders returned the blow within a short amount of time. Celebrating his first game back, junior Joe Sutton found the net to tie the game as a shot rang off the crossbar, and dropped into the back of the net. With seconds left in the first period, Sutton scored another, this time deflecting a shot past the

Warrior netminder. Fulton escaped the period winning 2-1, but this did not last long.

Whitesboro jumped all over the Raiders in the second period, scoring two goals in the frame. With the Raiders facing a 3-2 deficit, the pressure was on to perform in the third period. However, the Warriors played a strong third period, putting a total of three goals past senior Kara Pafumi. Sutton completed the hat-trick on a wrap around effort from behind the net, but it proved to be too little too late as Fulton fell to 2-2-1 on the season. Pafumi had 26 saves in the effort, and Fulton took 20 total shots in the game. The next game for the Raiders is Thursday night at 5:45 as CBA comes into town for a Christmas celebration, and Fulton hopes to improve to 3-2-1 in a tough, competitive league.

(hockey article by Colin Shannon)



Opinion

On the farm, presents have to wait

By Daniel Summerville



On the morning of December 25, children all over the world will be waking up to find presents under the Christmas tree. Christmas seems to be the one morning of the year that kids wake up without being forced out of bed by their parents. Most people have the day off to spend with their families, but there is one profession that never allows for a day off, not even Christmas.

While many families will be opening presents, laughing and having fun, there are many other families who will be trying to make a living. Dairy Farmers cannot take the morning off to open presents; the cows have to be milked no matter what. Christmas morning is just like any other, waking up early and heading down to the barn for chores. Opening presents can wait until the milking is done, the cows do not know that it is Christmas. Of course, chores like cleaning the barn can wait

“Dairy Farmers cannot take the morning off to open presents; the cows have to be milked no matter what. Christmas morning is just like any other, waking up early and heading down to the barn for chores.”

until afternoon if they must, but feeding and milking must be done on time, holiday or not. If a pipe breaks or a calf gets loose, they must be taken care of before celebrating.

I live on a Dairy Farm, and as long as I can remember, my family has had to wait until my father comes in from the barn to open our gifts. Many times, we have waited for hours, sometimes until 10 am before finding out what we received that year, only once when the vacuum pump broke did we open presents at a normal time while my father waited for the repair man. Now that I am old enough, I will be milking right alongside my father, trying to put the waiting presents from my thoughts. Two hours of milking and feeding the cattle seem twice as long when there are gifts to unwrap.

After opening gifts on Christmas, farmers must head back to the barn to work. There is no more break time on Christmas than there is on any other day of the year for farmers. So this year when you are complaining about working on Christmas Eve, think about the farmers who will be working the next morning and be thankful. Farming is a full time job with no days off, Christmas is no exception.

Bizarre News of the Day

Different countries and cultures have different, and seemingly strange Christmas traditions. Here are a few examples.

In Italy they have no Christmas trees, instead they decorate small wooden pyramids with fruit. The ceppo is a wooden frame several feet high designed in a pyramid shape. This frame supports several tiers of shelves.

In Caracas, the capital city of Venezuela, it is customary for the streets to be blocked off on Christmas Eve, so that the people can roller-skate to church. It is custom to roller-skate to this early morning service. Before bedtime children tie one end of a piece of string to their big toe and hang the other out the window. The next morning, roller-skaters give a tug to any string they see hanging.

It is a British Christmas tradition that a wish made while mixing the Christmas pudding will come true only if the ingredients are stirred in a clockwise direction. Also, a traditional Christmas dinner in early England was the head of a pig prepared with mustard.

Finally, sending red Christmas cards to anyone in Japan is considered bad etiquette, since funeral notices there are customarily printed in red.

By Morgan Firenze

**Seniors! Stay in touch with your class!
Check out the new website
for the senior class at
<http://grbclass2011.blogspot.com/>**

Quote of the day:

**“One of the most glorious messes in the world is the mess created in the living room on Christmas day.
Don’t clean it up too quickly.”
~Andy Rooney**

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While we prefer school related issues, RaierNet Daily welcomes letters on any appropriate topic. Letter writers must sign their name and include their advisory or seminar teacher's name for verification, or they will not be printed.

Our deadline is Tuesday of each week. All letters should be given to Mr. Senecal or e-mail to: theraider@fulton.cnyric.org

Letters received via e-mail or on a disk in microsoft word in text format will be given top consideration.

This week in Raider Sports

Today: Wrestling @ Cortland (5:30); Bowling vs. ES-M @ Strike n' Spare (3:30); Volleyball @ Phoenix (5:30/7 p.m.); Swim vs. Pulaski (5 p.m.)

Thursday, Dec. 23: Girls basketball vs. Carthage (5:30/7 p.m.); JV Wrestling @ Carthage Tourney (4 p.m.); Hockey vs. CBA (5:45)

Tuesday, Dec. 28: Booster Tournament Boys Basketball: JV: Fulton vs. Marcellus (noon); E. ROchester vs. Sayre (1:30); Varsity: E Rochester vs. Sayre (4 p.m.); Fulton vs. Marcellus (5:30 p.m.); Wrestling @ Haines Tournament @ SUNY Oswego (10 a.m.); JV Volleyball Tournament @ Fairgrieve (9 a.m.); Varsity Volleyball @ Watertown Tournament (10 a.m.); Indoor track @ Kirschenheiter Relays @ SUNY Cortland (2:30 p.m.)

Wednesday, Dec. 29: Boostere Tournament JV: consolation (noon); championship (1:30); Varsity: consolation (4:30) championship (6 p.m.); Wrestling @ Haines Tournament @ SUNY Oswego (9:30 a.m.); Girls basketball @ Marcellus Tournament (TBA); Volleyball @ Fulton Tournament (Fairgrieve) (9 a.m.)

Friday, Dec. 31: Hockey @ C-NS (12:30)

Going someplace cool?

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World Sports

UEFA's "Sweet 16" has soccer fans smiling

By Tyler Crandell

NFL fans are anxiously awaiting the end of the regular season and the start of the playoffs that will determine this year's "world champion" of American football. But to soccer fans throughout Europe, an even bigger event is the May championship final of the UEFA Champions League.

The UEFA Champions league pits the best club teams around Europe against each other to determine the best team on the continent. The tournament runs during the teams' domestic league seasons and operates separately. The best teams in the top-flight leagues across Europe, such as the English Premier League, Spain's La Liga and Italy's Serie A, all compete against each other.

The tournament consists of qualifying rounds (for certain fringe teams), the group stage, and the knockout rounds. After a hard fought group stage, the first and second place finishers in each table advanced on to the round of sixteen. Last Friday morning, in a televised event, UEFA held the drawing to determine which teams would square off in a two game, total goals format.

Coming out on top of their groups and moving on were England's Tottenham Hotspur, Manchester United and Chelsea. Spain's Barcelona and Real Madrid also topped their groups, while Germany's Bayern Munich and Schalke 04 and Ukraine's premier club, Shakhtar Donetsk advanced as the top spots in their groups as well.

Finishing in second place and moving through to the round of sixteen includes Italy's city rivals, AC Milan and defending champion Inter Milan, as well as AS Roma. Spain's Valencia and Denmark's FC Copenhagen also advanced because of their second place finishes. The French Ligue 1's Olympique Lyon and Olympique Marseille along with England's Arsenal also moved on from second position.

The round of sixteen is a two legged round in which teams are assigned their opponent and have to play two games against them, one home, and one away. This is to give each side the home-turf advantage that comes from playing in their own stadium for their own fans. Goals carry over between the games and the team with the higher aggregate score advances to the next round.

Because of home-field advantages, away goals take precedence over home goals. For example, an aggregate score might be 2-2 at the end of both legs. However one team may

have won 2-1 away and then lost 1-0 at home. While the aggregate score is tied, the team has gotten more away goals than their opponent, and so advances to the next stage of the tournament.

While all the matchups of the round of sixteen look like they will be great matches, there are some that stand out compared to the others. Last year's finalists, Bayern Munich and Inter Milan, will be squaring off against each other with Inter intent on defending their UEFA Champions League crown. However, at the



moment Bayern is ranked fifth domestically and Inter Milan is ranked seventh in Serie A. So while these two clubs were in exceptional form last season, they may not be at such a high level in their matchup this year. The 2009 champions FC Barcelona, boasting the three Ballon D'Or for 2010, will be looking to repeat a dismantling of Arsenal from last year. Lionel Messi, 2009's World Player Of The Year, shined in an amazing home performance where he was on target for four goals.

The other two candidates for the Ballon D'Or, Xavi and Iniesta, also just so happen to be integral members of the 2010 World Cup winning Spanish side. Arsenal, strong in the English title race, hope to get past Barcelona this time around. Debates about the best club team in the world shifted in Barcelona's favor after Pep Guardiola's men were able to destroy Real Madrid with a 5-0 rout in La Liga. However Real Madrid still boasts a vast array of talent, such as the Portuguese star, Cristiano Ronaldo, and a manager dubbed, "The Special One;" Jose Mourinho. The second place side in Spain's premiere division will take on France's Lyon.

Manchester United, currently residing at the top of the English standings, will take on French champions, Olympique Marseille, who are fifth at the moment in an extremely tight Ligue 1 table. Defending English Champions, Chelsea, look to take on Copenhagen, the first

Danish team to progress through the group stage. Chelsea won five out of their six group games and looks to keep the offense going against the Danish side. Tottenham have been very impressive in their inaugural Champions League campaign, defeating the title holders, Inter Milan, and topping their group. They scored more goals than any other team in the tournament at 18, with a ton of offense generated by their young Welsh Wizard, Gareth Bale.

Tottenham looks to attack Inter's rival, AC Milan at the San Siro in Italy. At this venue Bale picked up a hat trick in a valiant effort, despite the game only finishing as a 4-3 win for Inter. Shakhtar Donetsk look to battle Serie A's AS Roma. Surprising Shakhtar managed five wins in the group stage while Roma battled hard to get through with only three wins. Spain's Valencia awaits FC Schalke 04 with Valencia ironically in "04th" spot in La Liga and Schalke in a disappointing tenth spot in the German top division.

Whatever the outcome of the games that will be played in February and March, you can count on some amazing matches of soccer being played. Whether Inter's Sneijder strikes a goal or two against Bayern or Chelsea's Droghda dismantles Copenhagen is yet to be determined. For soccer fans everywhere, The UEFA Champions League allows for some of the greatest stars to meet up and do battle against each other, and this helps to create amazing matches.

Until the games are played we can sit and imagine what is going to happen or how one player may take it to his opposition. The first leg of the round of sixteen will be held toward the end of February, with the return fixtures taking place in early to mid March.

"The UEFA Champions league pits the best club teams around Europe against each other to determine the best team on the continent. The tournament runs during the teams' domestic league seasons and operates separately."

School of Thought compiled by **Patty Morrison & Andrew Pitcher**

What is your favorite holiday tradition?



"Giving Gifts."
Mrs. Wilmot



"To go on a sleigh ride."
Mr. Thurlow



"Gifts at Grandmas."
Bella DeGelorm



"Baking Cookies."
Mysteria Pike

Meteorology and you

by Carson Metcalf



Today:



Cloudy with a few snow showers. High around 30s.
Record high-66 (1949)
Avg. high-34

Tonight:



Cloudy with a few snow showers. Low in the low-20s.
Record low: -13 (1989)
Avg. low: 19

Tomorrow:



Cloudy with a few snow showers. High in the upper-20s.
Record high-61 (1957)
Avg. high: 34

*GRB junior Carson Metcalf is an aspiring Meteorologist and the creator of the Central New York Weather Center @ www.centralnewyorkweather.com
Look for his daily weather forecasts for Fulton on RaiderNet Daily.*