

How to care for, pick live Christmas trees

Well it is feeling like Christmas weather out there and many of us are think of getting that Christmas tree. While in Denver this past week I saw several cars with trees tied on the top coming in from the mountains. I have always thought that would be fun, going to the mountains and cutting a fresh tree. Since many of us do not have that option we need to select one that is shipped in. When selecting a cut tree



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• ag notebook

you want as fresh a tree as you can get, watch for these signs indicating that the tree is too far gone:

- Needles are a dull, grayish-green

- Needles fail to ooze pitch when broken apart and squeezed;
- Needles feel stiff and brittle;
- Needles pull off easily.

Once you have your tree home, recut the trunk about one inch above the original cut. This will open up

clogged, water-conducting tissues. Immediately place the trunk in warm water. Locate the tree in as cool a spot as possible. Avoid areas near fireplaces, wood-burning stoves, heat ducts and television sets as the heat will result in excess water loss in the tree. Make sure the reservoir stays filled. If the reservoir loses enough water that the bottom of the trunk is exposed, the trunk will need to be recut. Adding

aspirins, copper pennies, soda pop, sugar, or bleach to the water reservoir has not been shown to prolong the life of a tree.

If you choose a living Christmas tree, be sure to dig the planting hole before the ground freezes. Mulch the hole and backfill soil to keep them from freezing. Live trees should not be kept inside for more than three days. Longer periods may cause them to lose dormancy result-

ing in severe injury when planted outside. You may wish to tag the tree at the nursery and then pick it up a couple days before Christmas. After Christmas, move the tree to an unheated garage for several days to acclimatize it to outside temperatures. After planting, water well and leave some mulch in place to prevent the soil water from freezing and becoming unavailable for plant uptake.

Written to-do lists can help you to accomplish more

Do you have a written to-do list? A written to-do list is the secret to clearing your mind of mental clutter and getting more accomplished each day. How many times have you forgotten to do something and it threw your day into a chaotic and stressful mess? It then caused you to end the day exhausted and behind on everything else you needed to



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get done.

Here are some tips for a success-

ful to-do list:

Keep it consistent. Put your to-do's in the same place. If you write one in your planner and another on a post-it in the kitchen and another on the back of an envelope in the car, you're probably going to lose one.

Refer to it. What good is a to-do list if you never look at it? Refer to your list throughout the day. Use it as your daily compass.

Check it off. It's motivating and gives you a feeling of accomplishment to check things off as you complete them.

Evaluate it. A written to-do list is a tool to help you not to complicate

your life. Evaluate what's working and what's not, and then make adjustments as necessary.

Change isn't easy, but it is necessary for growth. It will take time to figure out how a written to-do list will best work for you. Don't give up. Use a written to-do list for a month and see how it improves your life.

This tip was brought to you by Western Kansas Business Consulting. We offer free and confidential business consulting to Kearny, Scott, Sherman, and Wichita counties. For more information or to set up an appointment, contact Jamie Morphey at 620-874-0771 or e-mail wkbcb@wbsnet.org. Sponsored in part by Sherman County

Genesis Food Drive
Rescheduled
Saturday Dec. 8
Please have your donations on your front porch before 9 a.m. Saturday

American Profile's
"Hometown Recipes"
available at
The Goodland Star-News
899-2338

Season's Greetings

Mrs. Angelos and the USD 352 Board of Education cordially invite you to attend our Holiday Dinner

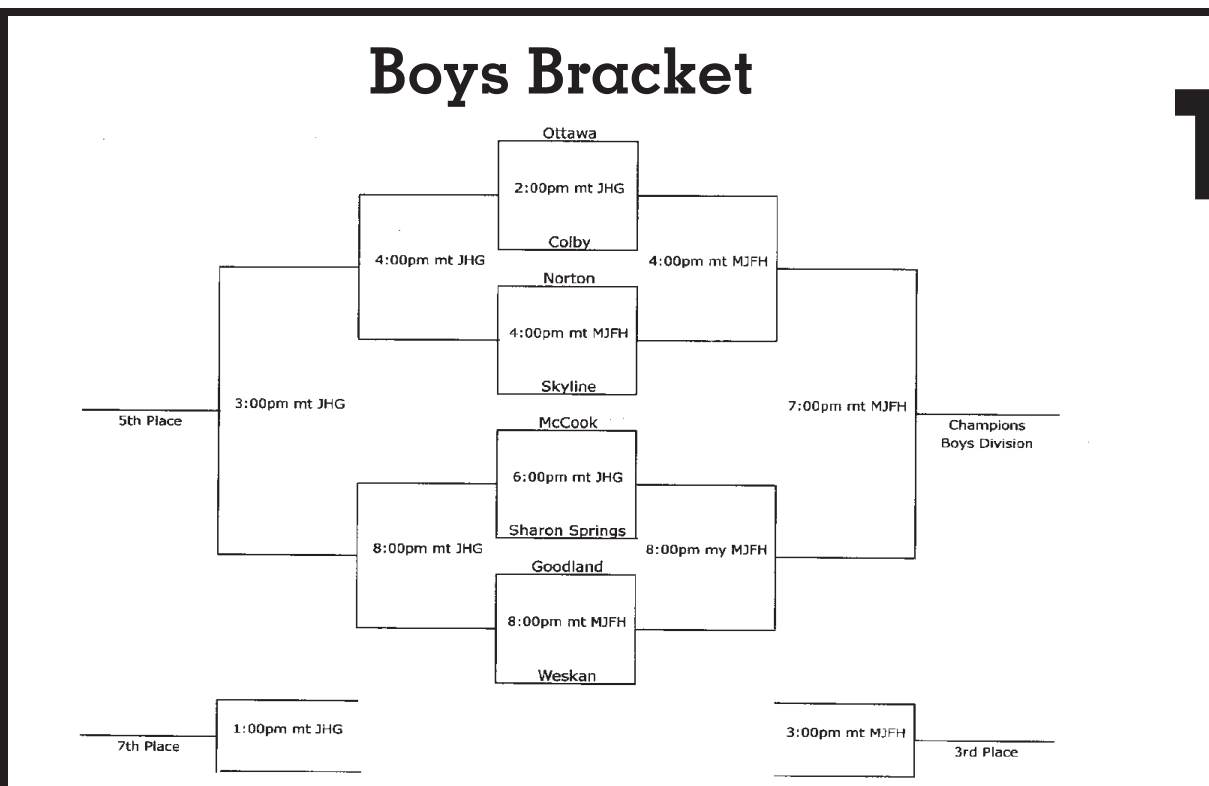
December 12, 2007
11 am – Entertainment by GHS Students
12 Noon – Dinner GHS

RSVP by Dec. 5th by calling 890-5656 or 890-2397 if you need transportation, please call. We will also deliver meals to those who are not able to leave their homes. Please RSVP.

The members of Family, Career and Community Leaders of America, National Honor Society and Letterman's Club will serve as the hosts and hostesses.

Valet Parking will be Available

Go Cowboys and Cowgirls



Topside Tip-Off Basketball Tournament

Dec. 6, 7 and 8, 2007
Max Jones Fieldhouse



TOPSIDE SPONSORS: Back Row (left to right): Donna Price of Sherman County Convention and Visitors Bureau, Don Newell of S & T, Darlene Baker of Americas Best Value Inn, Dan Brenner of Dan Brenner Ford-Mercury, Richard Vasquez of Goodland Coca-Cola Bottling Co., Ron Lucas of Goodland Greenline Inc., Shirley Raile of Frontier Ag Inc., Chance Schilling of Peoples State Bank, Jacque Drennan of Eklund's Insurance LLC. Front Row (left to right): Brenda Cress of S & T, Willie Weems of Kansasland Tire, Debbie Martin of First National Bank, Karen Ginther of Western State Bank, Laura Pope of Wal-Mart Supercenter. Not Pictured: Dick Short of Short and Son Inc. and Scott and Shelly Angelos of McDonalds. Photo by Mark Scheopner

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