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Weather



TODAY:
30 PER CENT
CHANCE OF
FLURRIES

HIGH OF -5
LOW OF -7



TUESDAY:
CLOUDY

HIGH OF -4
LOW OF -12



WEDNESDAY:
PERIODS OF
SNOW
HIGH OF -3
LOW OF -3



THURSDAY:
FLURRES

HIGH OF 1
LOW OF -4



FRIDAY:
CLOUDY
PERIODS

HIGH OF 3
LOW OF -2

I'm having a "Blue Christmas"

By Mable Hastings

Every day of late we are reminded that this holiday season much like the rest of this past year is not going to be "normal." Family units will likely not be gathering with those from other communities and areas or with family members living close by. The reality of the Covid pandemic is causing some to struggle daily with the melancholy sadness and isolation that is required to remain healthy, to keep loved ones healthy and to end this madness once and for all. Sacrifices are being made and it makes for some painful decisions and puts the meaning in a "blue Christmas." Without neither analyzing too deeply nor projecting my own personal thoughts onto the rest of you, I cannot help but wonder if there isn't a positive that can be found in the situation we are all in this holiday season.

The expression, "absence makes the heart grow fonder" comes to mind. Reflect here for a moment on your past few Christmases and likely you will recall sentiments of anxiety over shopping for gifts in crowded stores, rushing to prepare the annual traditional holiday baking, the arrangements to visit a variety of family members going from home to home to celebrate the season together. The list of usual complaining and the stresses of the season are going to be hushed this year. Many are opting to shop online and realize that they will miss the walks through an overcrowded mall while carols play and strangers smile while sharing a holiday greeting. Baking will be done on a smaller scale and shared by fewer mouths. We will likely not have the luxury of going from home to home embracing loved ones and creating memories that we and our children will carry for years to come. No, this Christmas



Peyton and Jessie Johnson

PHOTOS COURTESY

will be different.

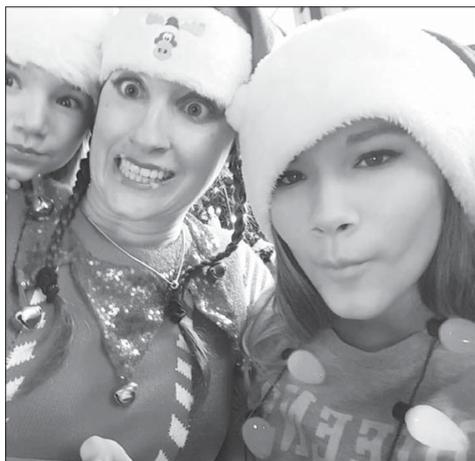
In what will not be there is likely a reminder of all we take for granted. We tend to think that the "normal" is promised to us forever and without a time limit. Shopping, greeting and sharing the common sounds, smells and sights of the holiday season are no longer as readily available to us without a potential cost that affects more than our pocketbooks. In taking the "normal" for granted, we may have lost something that this isolated season will return and instill as being a gift rather than a burden, rush, chore... "Don't it always seem to go that you don't know what you've got till it's gone..."

This holiday season take the rare

opportunity to take a photo with your own household members and share it with family and friends while encouraging them to do the same. Bake cookies, cakes, sweets and spend time with your tribe while appreciating the opportunity to do so; making those memories not while regretting what we cannot do but in celebration of what we can do and what we still have. Build a snowman, go sliding, rush out into a snowstorm and let the flakes melt upon your tongue embracing the past and what you miss. Consider this year the holiday season of counting our blessings. This year may very well make the years to come a treasure in doing the "normal" things while looking at them in a different light.

Covid will not win over the human spirit and a collective "thank you" for health, happiness and loved ones to be missing this season. The treasures within the absences will give us something to look forward to for many years to come when a new normal returns. Grab your camera, collect those living within your walls whether human or a pet and get a Christmas photo to share. As for me, I'm having a Blue Christmas this year and with Willie Nelson singing, I'm going to embrace it as best I can....

*"Pretty paper, pretty ribbons of blue
Wrap your presents to your darling
from you
Pretty pencils to write I love you
Pretty paper, pretty ribbons of blue"*



Alexis, Julia and Kate put a little fun into their photo!



Ava and Kendra Jersey-Fortin

Ben by Daniel Shelton

