

Cast Your Cheer

Take pride in celebrating the Christmas season and your family traditions.



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I am writing this column on Election Day. As the day has progressed, the voter turnout across the country has been incredible. I live in an agricultural community with a population of about 2,500 residents. When I arrived at my designated polling place 15 minutes before it opened, there was already a line of more than 50 people waiting to cast their votes. Once the doors were open it took about 20 minutes to get through the line, and our county polling workers did a fantastic job keeping things moving and preparing the voting areas as people made their way to the next available station.

Marking the ballot with my choices always gives me a good feeling, and as I watched others come out of the voting area, you could see the pride in their decisions by the expressions on their faces. As I walk through the office today, I see the same pride on the faces of the American Hereford Association staff as they proudly show off their “I Voted” stickers. I hope all of you were able to express your opinions and pride by voting.

Celebrate your traditions

It is hard to even think of words to properly describe 2020, but as we move into the Christmas season, we can all agree this is “the most wonderful time of the year.” The Christmas season is full of joy, family and generosity. Each of us can certainly share stories and traditions of how we celebrate Christmas and, over time, those seem to change and evolve.

During my childhood, we celebrated in a variety of ways, but I



always remember Christmas Eve. The entire Ward family would gather at my grandmother’s house. My dad has two brothers and a sister and between grandkids, great-grandkids and spouses, there could be 40 people or more gathered in her small house — and no one minded. There was always plenty of food and drink and my grandmother always had a gift for all of the grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Even though we were crowded, each of us would share a chair, sit on the corner of the couch or just find a space on the floor to sit and visit with each other. I always remember the stories and the laughter and, most importantly, the gleam in my grandmother’s eyes as we all sat around for a couple of hours to celebrate the season.

Before the passing of my parents, we celebrated in much the same way. My mother was an outstanding cook and she always prepared a fantastic Christmas meal. As my six brothers and sisters and I had moved to different parts of the country with our own families, it was always fun to get everyone together over the holidays. While it is not possible for

all of us to get together as we used to, each of us has found our own traditions to celebrate the Christmas season with our families.

I hope each of you has the ability to celebrate in your own ways this Christmas season and cherish the traditions you have with your families and friends. I wish you all a merry Christmas and a very blessed New Year. **HW**

