

The DALLAS POST

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Decorated holiday homes light up the Back Mt.

Six Kingston Township homes were nominated for Holiday House lighting contest

By SARAH HITE
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Michael and Lisa Golden didn't believe their home was nominated for the 2010 Kingston Township Holiday House lighting contest.

One reason for their skepticism? A family whose members are very skilled in the art of practical joking.

But mainly, they thought the nomination was a fluke because their 12-year-old son, Michael Jr.,

is responsible for the hundreds of lights that adorn their home on Tamanini Drive in Shavertown.

Michael Jr. has mapped out a lighting plan every Christmas for the past two years - trees get white lights, bushes are colored. No inflatables.

"It evens it out," he said.

The whiz kid works on the festive décor in his spare time, even by himself if he has to.

"It's nothing for me to come home from work and see Michael out there toying with the lights," said Lisa.

He said his inspiration stems from classic and current Christmas movies, from "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation" with

the blindingly bright lights of the fictional Griswold family, to "Deck the Halls," starring Matthew Broderick and Danny DeVito who play neighbors competing for the brightest light display.

"He is competitive," said Michael Sr. "We'll drive around the neighborhood to see who has more lights."

Lit candy canes line either side of the winding path from the driveway to the entrance of the Golden home, and the sweet touch was almost scrapped this year due to rain.

"When we had all that rain, all the lights (in the candy canes)

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Mike and Joan Dzanko of Harris Hill Road pose with the Victorian ice skaters Mike made by hand.



The Ford house on Maple Leaf Road, Shavertown, is also a finalist in the house decoration competition.

IT'S NOT 'SNOW' BAD OUTSIDE



CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK/FOR THE DALLAS POST

A winter storm predicted to bring up to seven inches to Northeastern Pennsylvania only brought heavy winds and slick roads for Back Mountain residents. Other parts of the state, including Philadelphia, received close to a foot of the white stuff just after Christmas. The storm also made traveling difficult - many flights all over the country were canceled or delayed due to the snow.

A hands-on holiday art camp

By SARAH HITE
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Creative tykes tinkered with clay and plastic animals at the Dietrich Theater in Tunkhannock on Dec. 28 as part of a holiday camp that aims to keep kids busy - and out of their parents' hair - during the long school break.

Amy and Steve Colley, artists-in-residence at the Dietrich, taught 34 kids ages through 12 during the three-day camp about clay, pottery, drawing and painting.

Tuesday's class was reserved for clay model making. Students got their hands dirty while molding clay into animal shapes, from horses to lizards. The final formations were then baked, or fired, in a kiln to become little statues for the students to appreciate.

"We try a bit of everything," said Amy, of Tunkhannock. "A lot of kids are busy during the school year and don't have the opportunity to try art classes."

It wasn't the first time 8-year-old Abigail Kaleta of Tunkhannock played with



Matthew Williams, Tunkhannock, enjoys time working with slab clay pieces.

clay.

"I like pottery - it's my favorite type of art," she said. She said she's made clay birds, a vase and a nest with eggs in the past, all of which she's given as gifts for family.

She kneaded the clay on Tuesday, hoping to transform it into the likeness of a lizard.

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Abby Ritz, Tunkhannock, and Taylor Lynn enjoyed some slab work at the Dietrich Theatre Holiday Camp this week.

CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK/PHOTOS/FOR THE DALLAS POST

Students generous hearts credited

Chemistry students at Lake-Lehman donate items for local soldier overseas

By SARAH HITE
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A simple extra-credit assignment turned into a whirlwind of generosity for Lake-Lehman High School teacher Cecelia Candelario's chemistry classes.

It wasn't long after the school's Veterans Day program that Candelario got an idea to send supplies and goodies to soldiers overseas. What she didn't expect was the outpouring of support from students, who donated their money and time to the cause.

"I'm incredibly proud," Candelario said. "I didn't know they had it in them."

Students brought in items such as beef jerky, peanuts, toothbrushes, shampoo - even used movies and video games - to earn an extra five points on any test during the quarter. In just two weeks, 120 students brought in enough items on a wish list to fill between 10 and 15 boxes of items.

"We're swamped," said Candelario, who kept the goods in the back of her classroom. "I had nowhere to put anything at first."

The students also collected nearly \$250 to cover the cost of shipping the boxes, which are being sent to Richard Fenner, a local soldier serving in Afghanistan. Local businesses were also solicited to help cover costs.

Colleen O'Callaghan, 17, of Sweet Valley, offered to help with the complications of mailing packages overseas. Her mother works for the Dallas Post Office and helped walk Candelario through the paperwork.

Students even took time out of their school schedule to help out - some came to Candelario's room during study halls to help pack boxes, others stayed behind after school to organize and package the items.

"I did nothing," said Candelario.

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