

## Enjoy a happy and safe holiday season

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By the time this issue reaches your hands this week, you will likely be in full-on Christmas mode, gearing up for a holiday full of food, folks and fun.

Oh, and presents. Don't forget the presents.

Whether you're traveling out of town to visit loved ones in distant lands, staying put and welcoming family into your own home, or leaving the cooking and cleanup to some other blessed soul, we hope this holiday season is a very merry one for all of our readers.

While the holiday season is a reflective time — when we celebrate the Christ child's birth and look back fondly (or not so much) on the passing year, while looking forward to the next — it can also be a stressful time for many.

Many of those around us have lost loved ones this year, and may feel deep sorrow due to the absence of that familiar face at the dinner table.

Hopefully the presence and presents of friends and family and the laughter of children will be enough to lighten even the heaviest of hearts.

Before we all start shoveling ham into our mouths, let's all say a quick prayer or two for our troops overseas.

Let's say a prayer for their safe return and also for their families who celebrate the holidays with one less seat at the table this season. These times can be especially stressful for them.

The shopping blitz that goes on right before Christmas can also be enough to send many holiday revelers into a tizzy.

With the trying economic times as of late, the sheer financial aspect of the season can be extremely worrisome and draining.

Dealing with the crowds, researching and finding the perfect gift, and good folks spending their hard-earned money could make any celebrant want to hoof it on over the ol' liquor store at the end of the day.

And that brings us to our next topic.

Many of those among us will celebrate the holidays with spirits of the alcohol variety.

We see nothing wrong with responsible partaking, but we would like to remind our readers that driving while in any intoxicated fashion whatsoever is never acceptable.

Being a responsible driver is important during any time of the year, but it is especially crucial during this time of the year when weather poses a challenge itself and so many travelers are traveling hither and yon.

Too many holiday celebrations are tainted by the scourge of family members who have been injured or killed by drunk drivers.

Be a good citizen and do yourself — and your friends and family — a holiday favor: don't drink and drive.

With that said (and we mean it), may the blessings of the season be upon you and yours this yuletide season.

We at the Breeze wish you all a merry and safe holiday season.