



BECKY SCHIPPER/ACKLEY WORLD JOURNAL

**Hot Garbage**

A Knight Sanitation driver once again discovered his load smoldering last Tuesday morning. This is the second time in approximately a month that the same driver has faced the issue, according to Ackley Fire Department members responding to the scene. Upon noticing smoke from the rear compartment, the driver called in the issue, meeting the Ackley Fire Department members at the fire station where members, including Jon Forgy, quickly took control of the smelly situation. The smoldering mess was doused with water and part of the load was dumped on Ackley's Main Street to allow for better access to the small blaze which could be seen inside. Once firefighters felt in control of the blaze, the truck was moved to an empty lot where the remainder of the compacted trash was dumped out and the final embers put out.

**Oh Christmas Tree!**

I hope that you are at least thinking about decorating for Christmas.

Because I'm what you might call a "Christmas Freak", I decorate early in the season. Check that. I OVER-DECORATE for the season! I can't help myself. Typically by Thanksgiving, often a few days earlier, my trees are up and the house is lit up like...well, a Christmas tree! Decorations are everywhere, so many that my husband often says I have too much JUNK.

After 39 years, he should be used to it. But he's not. He tolerates it well, disappearing on the two days it takes to put everything up. Usually fishing. Or shopping for more fishing supplies. It's a give-give/win-win situation.

Because I do decorate early, I'm not able to use real trees (yes, trees.) Don't ask how many. I'll have to tell a fib. It might be 10. But you didn't hear it from me.

I have my traditional tree filled with all the ornaments the grandchildren have made, the antique tree filled with antique ornaments from my parents and grandparents, a flocked tree with antique miniature ornaments, a silver tree with red bells, an aluminum tree filled with more old ornaments, and my personal favorite: the husky tree which is filled with Siberian husky ornaments and stuffed huskies given to me over the years. There are others.

In my defense, only three are full-size trees. The remainder are less than three feet. (Don't judge me!)

As a child, my dad would take us to a local tree farm where we'd pick out the perfect tree, cut it down and transport it home. I shall never forget the wonderful smell of a fresh evergreen and the fun our family shared on those days.

It's a tradition that our own family did not continue, sadly. The

kids and I managed it a couple of years when they were small, but I'm not much of a lumberjack!

Anyway, for those of you fortunate enough to have real trees in your home, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach does offer these tips for keeping your tree in the best possible shape over the holiday season:

Don't display the tree where it is subject to direct sunlight, wind, or heat. All will accelerate drying and therefore more needles will fall. Rather, find a cool, moist area (basement). Be sure to make two diagonal cuts on the butt end of the tree and immediately put it in water. This will increase water uptake, keeping it fresh until it's put up in the home.

Keep the tree stand filled with water. Check that level each and every day. Trees may use up to a quart of water each day.

Experts disagree on putting additives in the water. Some say it will prolong freshness, other say it clogs water uptake vessels and promotes bacteria or fungi. So perhaps just keeping the tree stand filled with plain water might be best.

Remember - the tree should be placed well away from warm air vents, fireplaces, radiators and even televisions.

The longer a tree remains in the home, the more flammable it becomes. A fresh tree should not be kept in the home longer than three weeks.

Whatever type of tree you choose - live or artificial. Enjoy it. Sit beside it with your grands and sing a few Christmas carols. Make memories that will last well past your own demise.

Until next week - I'm doing just that with my grandchildren... Though I'm not at all sure they enjoy my singing voice! ●



# OPERATION CHRISTMAS MEAL

## IS COMING TO IOWA FALLS!

### FREE, 5-POUND PORK LOIN FOR LOCAL FAMILIES IN NEED

## WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14

## 4 P.M. - 6 P.M.

IOWA SELECT FARMS - 811 S. OAK ST.

FOLLOW IOWA SELECT FARMS ON SOCIAL MEDIA FOR EVENT UPDATES!

iowaselect.com