

in this issue >>>

Employee of the Month
Goddess of the Month



A Monthly Insight into North Canton #2

Main St. News



Dear X-Excel Friends,

This newsletter is written, researched, and organized by the adults that work at X-Excel. This is our opportunity to teach YOU something, and to tell you what we are doing. We hope that you enjoy!

Employee of the Month

Travis has been nominated as December Employee of the Month at NC#2! Travis recently began attending X-Excel and is off to a great start! He is polite, friendly, loves to help the staff and his peers, and has been eager to try out all of the activities and jobs offered at X-Excel! Keep up the good work!



Goddess of the Month

Sif: Goddess of Grain and Wife of Thor

Researched and presented by Suzanne Dalton

Sif was originally thought to have been conceived in the form of a rowan (mountain ash) that saved Thor's life. However, this would certainly not be their last encounter. After becoming Ullr's mother, she and the thunder god became a married couple after an unspecified amount of time. The only thing Sif prized more than her mate was her luxurious golden hair. As it blankets the earth, fields of wheat appear. Like her mother-in-law, Jord, Sif is associated with the fertility of land. With Thor, she is the mother of the Valkyrie, Thrud.

One time, Loki decided to cut off Sif's prized locks as she took a nap in the sun. Upon walking, Sif became distraught when she realized her precious hair had been shorn. An enraged Thor threatened to break Loki's bones until he promised to get

her some new hair. He went to the dwarves and commissioned not only Sif's new headpiece, but Odin's spear and Freyr's compact ship (as a way of getting himself out of the doghouse) and later on Thor's hammer,



Draupnir and Freyr's boar.

When Loki returned to Asgard with all the Treasures of the Gods and Sif was given her new hair of spun gold and attached it to her head, it ended up being more luxurious and radiant than her original tresses. Some believe Sif's tale is a metaphor for wheat being cut during harvest-time or devastation caused by fire (Loki) to fields only for such flora to return with the help of the rain (Thor), sun and all the various aspects that restore growth to the land. Sif is also associated with domestic tranquility.

Sweet Treat >>>

Eggnog Cheesecake III

Recommended by Aaron Laslo

Ingredients:

- 1 cup graham cracker crumbs
- 2 Tbsp white sugar
- 3 Tbsp melted butter
- 3 (8 oz) packages cream cheese, softened
- 1 cup white sugar
- 3 Tbsp all-purpose flour
- ¾ cup eggnog
- 2 eggs
- 2 Tbsp rum (optional)
- 1 pinch ground nutmeg

Instructions:

- Preheat oven to 325 degrees F (165 degrees C).
- In a medium bowl: combine graham cracker crumbs, 2 Tbsp sugar & butter. Press into the bottom of a 9-inch spring form pan.
- Bake in preheated oven for 10 minutes. Place on a wire rack to cool.
- Preheat oven to 425 degrees F (220 degrees C).
- In a food processor: combine cream cheese, 1 cup sugar, flour and eggnog; process until smooth. Blend in eggs, rum and nutmeg. Pour mixture into cooled crust.
- Bake in preheated oven for 10 minutes.
- Reduce heat to 250 & bake for 45 minutes, or until center of cake is barely firm to the touch. Remove from the oven & immediately loosen cake from rim. Let cake cool completely before removing the rim.



Celebrating Nat'l Cocoa Day

December 13th was National Cocoa Day and we celebrated by having a COCOA BAR!!

Hot chocolate, whipped cream, candy canes, & sprinkles!!



Christmas at Beech Creek!

Beech Creek in Alliance is a beautiful place to visit during the holidays. We saw a Festival of Trees, light displays, and spent time in the botanical center.





Holiday Feast & Gift Exchange



Trimming the Tree!

