

Christmas Greetings

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Helping Others Despite A Bad Economy

By Monica Chen
THE HERALD-SUN OF DURHAM
DURHAM, N.C. (AP) - Jennings Brody and her staff at Parker and Otis cooked Thanksgiving meals for 46 people a few weeks ago.

They roasted chickens, mashed potatoes, made gravy and pumpkin bread at the restaurant/gourmet foods store on Duke Street, and then loaded it all into containers and gave it away.

Ask her how much it cost Parker and Otis though, and Brody replies: "You know, I have no idea."

The Herald-Sun of Durham reported that such is the easy-going manner with which Brody volunteers her time, energy and the resources of her young business that it has the directors of nonprofit organizations in Durham suitably impressed.

"There's never anything we ask her to do for the Volunteer Center that she says no to. Space for groups, for meetings, food," Stephen Raburn, director of the center bubbled over in a voice-mail message this week. "She volunteers at the Great Human Race that we have every spring. This year, she was there at the crack of dawn chopping up fruit for runners."

The Great Human Race is an annual 5K race to raise funds for fellow nonprofits in Durham.

Parker and Otis has also contributed to Genesis Home and Preservation Durham. For Caring House's annual gala, when the nonprofit serving cancer patients and their families raises much of its funds, Parker and Otis donated a party for 50 to put up for auction.

The business is also sponsoring a family for Christmas through the Volunteer Center.

Brody said she wishes there was more time to personally volunteer. Parker and Otis, which opened in June 2007, is still in that critical make-or-break period and takes up most of her time these days.

Brody used to be a professional gourmet food buyer and

said her dream was to open such a store. For the holiday season, Parker and Otis is decked out with seasonal goodies, cookies, festive candies.

Brody said she spent several years planning for, finding a space - now in the former Fowler's spot near Brightleaf Square - and then getting the financing.

After months of serious search, Brody said she finally found a lender with Self-Help Credit Union. And in that process, Brody said, she learned even more about the importance of giving back.

"(Self-Help) took a chance on me, and I hope as our business progresses, that we're able to give back to the community," she said. "I may not have much, but I feel we need to give back."

Part of Brody's volunteerism also comes from her upbringing. Her parents volunteered, and she was involved with the Volunteer Center and Caring House before becoming a business owner, doing things like answering phones, sorting through cans of food and anything else that needed to be done.

"I can't say enough nice things about what she's done for us," said Anna Jones, the operations manager at Caring House. "She still has a lot of fans who think very highly of her."

This year, Brody said the economy has made things more difficult. She has noticed more organizations coming in the store and asking for help, and wondered whether other businesses might be holding back.

Parker and Otis does not do much advertising, and Brody said money that would've gone toward advertising is used for contributing to the community.

For the Thanksgiving dinner, she said, she had fun getting the staff involved. The act felt gratifying, she said. For next year's Thanksgiving, Brody is already hatching a plan to get the customers involved as well, perhaps in a drive to collect sundries and home necessities.

"Downtown Durham has grown so much. I feel we could re-

ally give back," Brody said. "It seems like there are a lot of hungry people in Durham."

Home For The Holidays Can Actually Be Fun For The Whole Family

With travel costs fluctuating from day to day, many families are thinking twice about planning big trips for this holiday season. Although staying home for the holidays has traditionally lead to some major feelings of cabin fever, such is no longer the case. Two all-new family-friendly video games that kids, parents and family friends can join in at anytime can make days indoors a blast.

That's right, video games aren't just for kids anymore, the entire family can now join in the fun. In fact, skipping that trip to the countryside this year might not be so bad once you and the kids get your hands on two video games inspired by hit DreamWorks Animation features "Kung Fu Panda" and "Madagascar Escape 2 Africa." Both games allow up to four players to join in hilariously outrageous challenges in co-op or multiplayer gameplay modes. They'll have your family laughing and playing for hours.

African Escape

The whole family joins Alex the Lion, Marty the Zebra, Melman the Giraffe, Gloria the Hippo and the frisky penguins, outrageous lemurs, and aristocratic monkeys in an all-new wacky adventure in the Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa video game set against the African Sa-

vannah. Based on the feature film from DreamWorks Animation, the game offers twice as many multiplayer mini-games than before, allowing up to four players to participate in some old favorites and all-new outlandish competitions alongside or against friends and family. Players experience a wide range of fresh, exciting gameplay as they face challenges like racing, soccer, safari photography, diving, and dancing. The Nintendo DS version is rated "E" (Cartoon Violence, Comic Mischief), the Playstation 2 and Wii versions are rated "E" (Cartoon Violence, Mild Suggestive Themes, Simulated Gambling) and the PS3 and Xbox 360 versions are rated "E10+" (Mild Cartoon, Mild Suggestive Themes, Simulated Gambling) by the ESRB.

Kung Fu Action

The Kung Fu Panda: Legendary Warriors video game takes fans of the summer's blockbuster animated film, "Kung Fu Panda," on a brand new, awesome kung fu adventure. Exclusively developed for the Nintendo Wii and DS, the game lets players unleash acrobatic kung fu moves using gesture-based controls to chop, kick and punch through hordes of opponents. A second player can join the action at any point in the pick-up and play co-op mode, or challenge each other in the head-to-head or team-based multiplayer mode for up to four players. The game also supports interconnectivity between the Wii and DS. This enables gamers to use the DS to unlock multiplayer content on any Wii console to share and experience the excitement with friends. Both versions are rated "E10+" (Cartoon Violence) by the ESRB.

For more information, please visit www.activision.com.



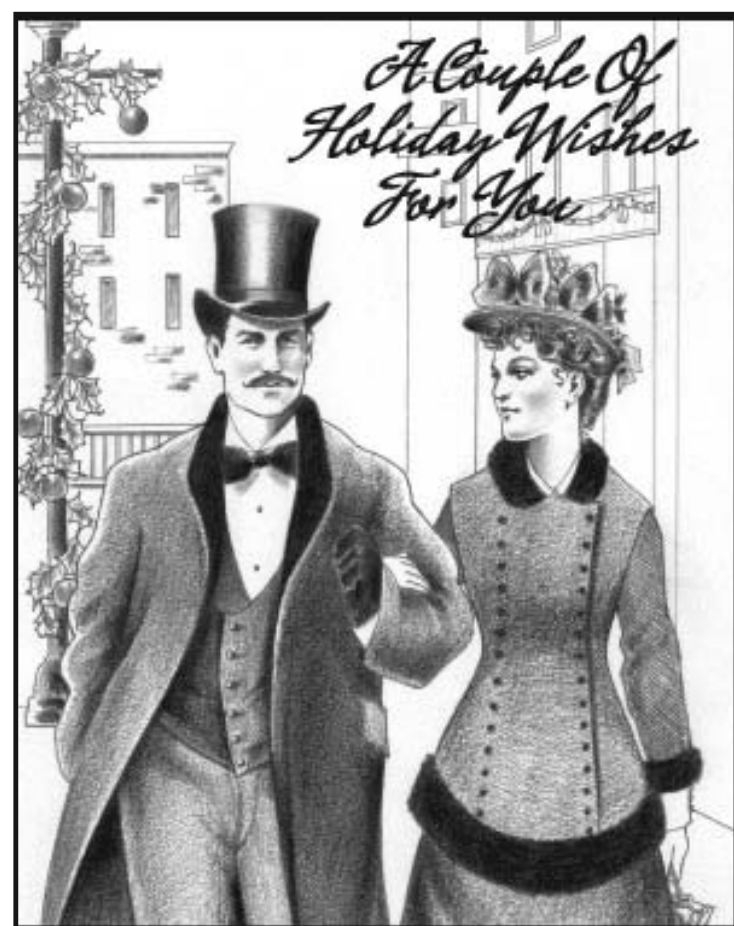
With You In Mind At Christmastime

When the sound of sleigh bells fills the air,
We think of our good friends everywhere
For it fills our hearts with joy to say,
We wish you a merry holiday!

Tin Man Auto Body

Waterfall

Greetings of the Season



A Couple Of Holiday Wishes For You

May this holy time shine with peace & bring happiness to your family.

Representative Dick and Shirley Hess

MERRY CHRISTMAS



During this holiday season and every day of the year, we wish you all the best.

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With the hope it will last the whole year through!

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Everyone here is ho...ho...hoping that all your news is good news this beautiful holiday season. We really appreciate your loyal readership.

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THE FULTON COUNTY NEWS



WITH THANKS FOR YOUR TRUST

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