

• Special to the Daily Leader As the Christmas season nears, there's nothing like seeing and experiencing how various citizens decorate their homes for the holidays. The OTLR annual Holiday Tour of Homes will take place from 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 5. Tickets must be presented at each home for entry. Homes on the tour include:

o OTLR/Ashley Duncan, 716 S. Virginia: This home, owned by OTLR, was built in 2005 as a part of the Community Housing Development Organization grant. The energy efficient home has three bedrooms, two bathrooms and is one of 20 homes owned by OTLR. Ashley has chosen to do the traditional Christmas color decorating theme. Those colors include a mixture of gold, red, green, blue and white. She decorates with anything that represents Christmas and makes it enjoyable for her children;

o Denise Hagemann, 2500 Aster Lane: My family moved to this house in 2006. One of my favorite hobbies is celebrating holidays and events. As you will see in my house, one of my themes is "snow," which will be evident throughout the tour. Growing up in Colorado with lots of snow and imaginations, making snowmen in the front yard was always a regular family tradition, and it seems natural to keep it up with my decorations. My family hopes you enjoy our celebration this Christmas holiday as much as we do;

o Annette and Bill Larrabee, 220 Canna Lane: In 1989, Larry Owsley built this spacious ranch style home. After moving in, we added Scantlin's parquet floors, and the new kitchen by Circle D Appliances and Kitchens Incorporated. Bill and his sister-in-law, Kris, laid out the country style backyard. The Christmas decorations, blown by the Sheafor family, designer Joyce Knott and my son, Kevin Baldwin, fill the windows, mantels and stairways. Kevin created the paperweights and glass knobs on bathroom cabinets. Enjoy finding the glass spinners, teardrops, icicles, discs, Hobbit houses and the many gifts given to me by my sister, nephew, niece and son. Bill and I wish you a merry Christmas;

o Trevor Gonzales, 301 Canna Lane;

o Christy and Conrad Hergert, 2530 Lilac: A self-proclaimed believer in Santa, Christy's holiday spirit spreads throughout her 11-year-old three-story home she shares with her husband, Conrad, and son, Ryan. Her love for Christmas stated as a child, and as you will see, there is a seasonal surprise in every room from collections of snowmen and Santa to a Christmas tree in every room;

o Virginia Colvin, 600 Lilac: This 40-year-old ranch style home owned by Virginia Colvin comes alive with Christmas spirit. Each room boasts its own theme from traditional to whimsical and everything in between. Upon entering the home, you are surrounded by a winter wonderland with a tree that rotates 360 degrees. It is decorated with crystal snowflakes and icicles with a touch of silver. The theme in the kitchen is snowmen, and lots of them in red, white and silver. The main tree in the living area screams ho, ho, ho. Lots of Santa's colorful ornaments glitter. Walking down the stairs to the basement, you might hear the chomp, chomp of a gater. That's right, a Florida Gator themed tree, complete with orange and blue lights and a tree topper that is

an actual football helmet. If you love Christmas, this house is a must see;

o Velma Williams, 510 Tamarack Lane: March 2010, my family and I moved in to our new built from the ground up home that we helped build. It has three bedrooms upstairs and a full basement;

o Cheryl Louderback, 433 Tamarack Lane: Decorating for the holidays is an exciting time of year for me. I moved in to my small ranch style one owner home in the spring of 2008. It has lots of personality and comes alive with Christmas lights and greenery. You will see many nativities throughout to express the true meaning of Christmas and jolly snowmen everywhere to delight the child in each one of us. And be sure to watch for Santa, as he flies in, with his new airplane. This house is home to Cheryl and her puppies, Riley and Junior. We welcome you and wish you a merry Christmas; and

o Landmark Real Estate Center, 307 N. Kansas Ave.: This location was built in the early 1930s. In the late 1940s, it became the location of the F.W. Woolworth five and dime variety store including a soda fountain. Later, it became the headquarters for Panhandle Eastern Pipeline Company. Eventually, it was converted to the office of Coldwell Banker Witzke and Associates LLC, a real estate firm with 10 offices, service area and conference room. Witzke and Associates LLC, owned by Don and Kay Witzke, moved to this location in 1991. The firm operated in this location for 15 years at which time Richard Farrar and William "Bill" Hockett purchased the business and building. It is now the home of Landmark Real Estate Center LLC. We thank you for joining us this Christmas season.

Tickets will be sold at OTLR at 150 Plaza Drive Suite D, First National Bank, Sunflower Bank, Southern Office Supply, The Registry by El Kan and the Southwest Times.