

# Island aglow with holiday cheer

The holidays truly are a magical time of year, and even if there's no snow, there's no better place to celebrate the season than right here on Anna Maria Island. This past weekend was a busy one, with the Holmes Beach Holiday Open House Friday night, the Privateers' Christmas Parade on Saturday and the Winterfest arts and crafts show

Saturday and Sunday. We hope you had a chance to get out and enjoy all the activities. And don't forget the Bethlehem Walk this Saturday starting at 6:30 p.m. at Roser Memorial Community Church in Anna Maria. It's a wonderful recreation of Mary and Joseph's search for shelter the night Jesus was born.



Above, the Privateer's lead the Christmas Parade from Bayfront Park in Anna Maria to Coquina Beach in Bradenton Beach where Santa gave out gifts to youngsters on Saturday. Below, Bekka "Teach" Stasney, Tim "Hammer" Thompson and Alice "Splash" Domey help themselves to some grog at the Holmes Beach Holiday Walk Friday.



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Above, sitting on toilets in the showroom, Bill and Katie Krokroskia enjoy the food at LaPensee Plumbing during the Holmes Beach Holiday Walk Friday.

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At left, Harriet and Mortimer Spiller lit the Hanukkah candles at the Beach Bistro last week. It was their 15th year of lighting the candles. Hanukkah began at sundown on Tuesday, Dec. 4. The festival occurs in December and lasts eight days. A candle is lit each of the eight days. Below, jewelry maker Tracy Womack won First Place, three dimensional, for her glass jewelry and ornaments at the Anna Maria Art League's Winterfest 20th Annual Festival of Fine Arts and Crafts held last weekend in city hall park in Holmes Beach.



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Above, a piece by Jim Smith, who won Best of Show, three dimensional, at the Anna Maria Island Art League's Winterfest 20th Annual Festival of Fine Arts and Crafts held last weekend in city hall park in Holmes Beach. Other winners were Best of Show, two dimensional, Jay Canterbury, photography; First Place, two dimensional, Linda Molto, graphics/pastels. Below, Signa Bouziane makes punch at Mister Roberts during the Holmes Beach Holiday Walk.

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Elves Julia Ware and Rebecca Hinds look at ornaments made by students at Anna Maria Elementary School that were for sale at the Anna Maria Island Chamber of Commerce office during the Holmes Beach Holiday Walk on Friday.

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