

## Storytime at the library

Cindy Cooper, head of the children's services at gallery of the library, Wednesday night, (Dec. 15) during Georgetown Library, entertained scores of children, both which time she read a number of Christmas stories for the young and old as she hosted the Family Storytime, in the

TED BROWN Independent/Free Press children.

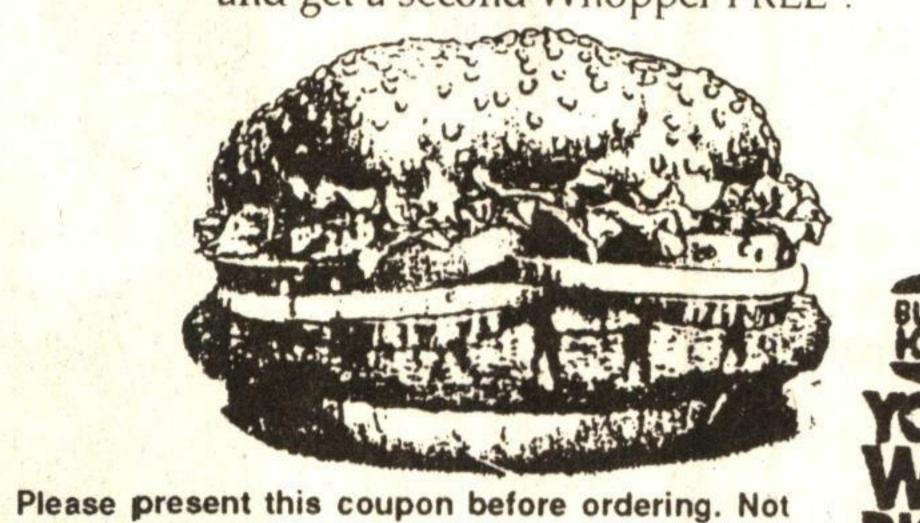


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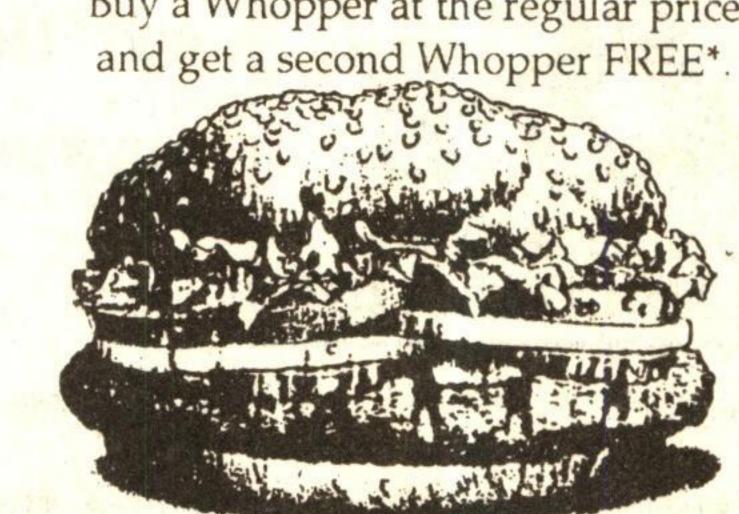
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#### GREEN THUMB GARDENING



By CHRISTINE COLE Carefree

### Christmas Cactus

As their name suggests, Christmas cactus bloom around Christmas. Their timely and attractive blossoms are an indication that Christmas is just around the corner. Their cascading pink, red or salmon flowers are borne on tips of arching and segmented branches. Their graceful structure permits them to be grown as a hanging basket as well.

Unlike other specialty plants, Christmas cactus can be easily induced to bloom every year at this time. Once the plant has finished blooming for the season, it should be allowed to rest. You can do this by reducing the water so that the soil is barely moist. In June it enjoys being set outside (even in a flower bed) in a partially shaded location. It will flourish outside for the summer if it is watered and fertil-

ized regularly. In September it should be brought back into the house before it is damaged by frost. Once again, the soil should be kept fairly dry and, if the plant is kept in a cool room during September and October, the flower buds will develop regardless of the day length. However, the buds will form as well if the plant is in total darkness from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. starting in September.

Christmas cactus are very tolerant of household conditions, have very few pest problems, and have a long life expectancy. As such, it's an ideal houseplant, and when mature, it is an impressive sight. At this time of year they will grace any room with a little holiday spirit and color.

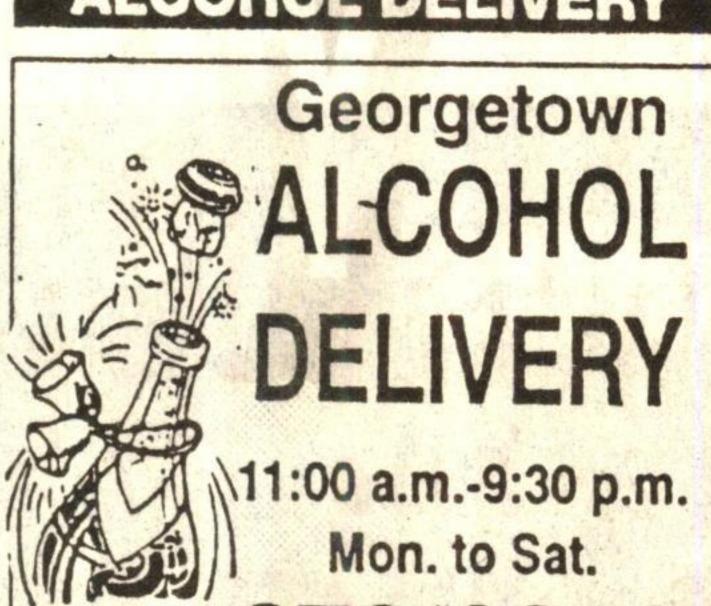
For information on our free gardening classes, call the Garden Centre at 853-2480.

Each week Christine Cole of Tuitman's Garden Centre and Landscaping, Highway 25, 1 mile south of Acton, 853-2480, will be presenting helpful tips and information to assist you in creating your garden showplace!

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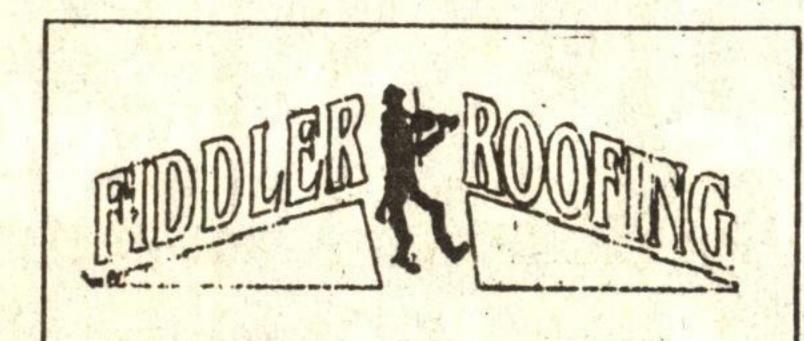
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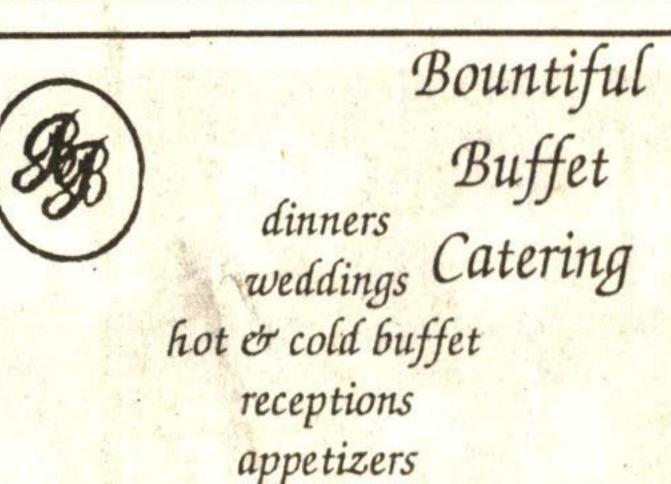
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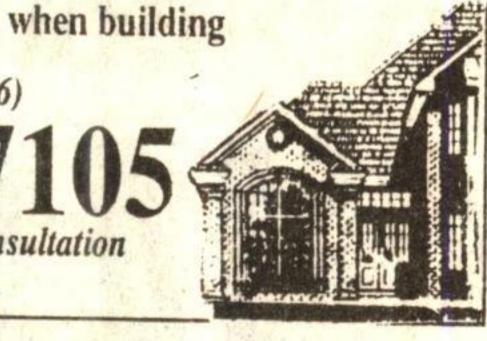
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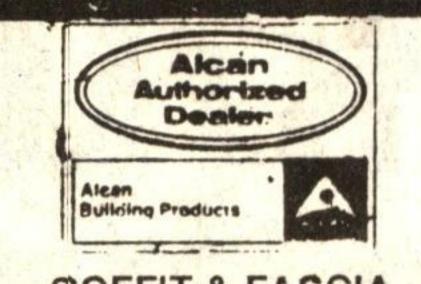
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