

GIFT *Holiday* GUIDE

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INSIDE

NOVEMBER 2024

 PENNYSAVER

The Norwich Theater Company, Inc.
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SCROOGE! The Musical

SCROOGE! Book, Music and Lyrics
by Leslie Bricusse.

Friday, December 6—7pm
Saturday, December 7—7pm
Sunday, December 8—2pm

In the Martin W. Kappel Theater, 27 W. Main St., Norwich

Tickets: Adults-\$20; Children 12 and under \$10

Tickets available at Chenango Arts Council; Service Pharmacy, Norwich, New Berlin, Sherburne; www.norwichtheatercompany.org, or by calling 607-244-3852.

Featuring: **Fiora Brasee, Tina Budd, Bianca Burton, Carolyn Christ, Brandon Cole, Terry Colf, Julia Demeo, Scott Douglas, Steve Emmons, Zoey Foulds, Gino Grenata, Guilliana Grenata, Barb Hollings, Laurie Hotaling, Hanna Hull, Kate Hull, Craig Natoli, Erica Natoli, McKenna Natoli, Nora Natoli, Tracy Owens, Egan Parmalee, Linda Reese, Robert Reese, Collin Spencer, Jennifer Spencer, Rachel Spencer, Pat Williams**

SCROOGE! Is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals.
www.concordtheatricals.com


Holiday shopping tips you can't afford to miss

The festive and fun nature of the holiday season can make it easy to forget the benefits of being frugal. Many people go overboard on holiday spending, making this time of year costly for consumers.

Sales between the beginning of November 2023 and Christmas Eve 2023 climbed 3.1 percent from the year earlier, according to the Mastercard SpendingPulse. The National Retail Federation reported in November 2023 that holiday spending was expected to reach between \$957 and \$966 billion. Trading Economics, a financial market indicator and forecast provider, said personal spending in the United States only rose 0.2 percent in May 2024 from the previous month, which marked the lowest increase since January 2024.

Shoppers who want to spend less and stick to a budget for holiday entertaining and gifting can keep these budgeting tips in mind.

- Set a value to gift recipients. It may sound harsh, but certain people on holiday shopping lists may be assigned a higher value than others. For example, you wouldn't necessarily spend the same amount on a gift for a child's teacher as you would for a grandmother. Putting a dollar figure next to each name on the shopping list helps you identify your expected spending and where you can cut back, if necessary.
- Establish your overall budget. Once you have an idea of your potential holiday expenditures, set a firm budget. Avoid the temptation of impulse buys, which can make it easy to go over budget.
- Begin shopping early. Start scouring ads and looking for deals prior to Thanksgiving or Black Friday. Keep a running list of gift ideas and when the price is right, purchase those items.
- Price check "perfect gifts." If you've spotted the perfect gift for someone but it's beyond budget, see if you can find a better price elsewhere, says



Great Christmas Cash Giveaway \$250 Win

Drawing Will Be Held On Dec. 6th
Winner will be notified by phone

OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM


Fill out this form and send it to:
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PO Box 111, Norwich, NY 13815

or, you can enter online at: www.pennysaveronline.com
Simply click the Great Christmas Cash Giveaway button on our home page, enter your information and click "submit."

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____

ANSWER:

HOW TO PLAY:
Look for this "Shop Local" logo hidden within the ads throughout this Gift Guide section, count them up and record the number on this entry form. Do NOT include the one on this form in your count.



One lucky winner will be drawn at random from all correct responses and will win \$250 from the Pennysaver.

ENTRY MUST BE RECEIVED BY 5 PM, MONDAY, DEC. 2, 2024

No purchase necessary. Making a purchase will not improve your chances of winning. Must be 18 years of age or older. Winner picked by random drawing of all correct and fully completed entry forms. Incomplete, illegible or inaccurate entries are void. Entries must be received on or by Monday, December 2, 2024. Employees of Snyder Communications and the businesses appearing in this supplement and each of their respective divisions, affiliates, parent companies, subsidiaries, advertising and promotion agencies (including family members or those living in the same household) are not eligible to enter the contest. By including your e-mail, you agree to receive special offers and/or promotional messages from the Pennysaver and/or its affiliates. Your e-mail will not be sold or distributed to any third party.

Better Money Habits. There are apps that allow users to scan barcodes and check items across various retailers. Many stores also have price-match policies that can save shoppers money.



• Look for deals all of the time. Many people get hung up on perceived deep discounts from Black Friday and Cyber Monday offers. However, industry experts say there often isn't a huge difference in markdowns between these promotions and those during other sales. Some retailers even increase prices on goods only to mark them down for Black Friday to make it appear that there is a discount. Only by knowing the average price for items can you know if a sale is legitimate.

• Sign up for store rewards. If you don't want your regular email inbox inundated with offers, set up a separate email account for in-store and online shopping. Then you can sign up for the rewards programs at checkout. Utilize the coupon codes and advertisements for sales to save money without having your primary email data shared with other marketers.

• Track spending carefully. If you don't know how much you're spending, then you cannot possibly stick to a budget. After each purchase, keep a running tally of all holiday spending to see how far you are from the finish line.

The holidays can be expensive, but with smart budgeting and dedication to savvy shopping, it's possible to stay out of financial trouble. GG249250



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How to create a durable gingerbread house

Gingerbread cookies and houses are one of the many symbols of the holiday season, alongside Christmas trees and twinkling lights. In fact, few confections symbolize the holidays more so than gingerbread. Many a child (or a child at heart) has spent hours carefully trying to create decorative gingerbread houses. Although gingerbread recipes span various cultures, gingerbread houses originated in 16th century

Germany. The fairy tale "Hansel and Gretel" helped solidify the popularity of gingerbread, which became part of Christmas traditions.

Even though gingerbread houses can be fun to make, there's no denying it can be exacting work — especially for those who strive for perfection. Prepackaged kits attempt to take some of the guesswork out of the equation, but

those who are crafting from scratch can employ these tips as they build their gingerbread houses.

- Go for form and not flavor. Few gingerbread houses ever get eaten, so focus on finding a dough that will bake up rock hard as opposed to one that tastes good.

- Get the right icing texture. Pastry artist Catherine Beddall says royal icing is the preferred "glue" to adhere gingerbread pieces. Beddall says icing should be thick like peanut butter and not runny.

**Cut out templates
using cardboard or
posterboard for
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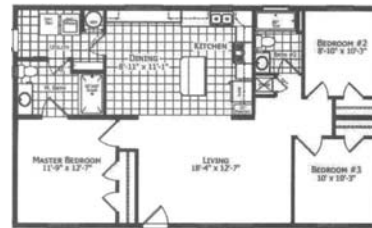




- Mind the dough. Do not roll out the gingerbread dough too thin or it may become brittle after being cooked. Always cut out shapes before the gingerbread is baked. Let the baked pieces sit overnight to cool completely before using them to build.
- Patience is key. Allow the icing to dry for at least a couple of hours after adhering each piece and before moving and handling the house, says Beddall. Work in stages so that individual items can be decorated and allowed to dry. Then the walls can be put together, followed by the roof pieces.
- Kids likely will need help. Children may not have the patience or steadiness to handle complete gingerbread construction. They can decorate the separate pieces of the house while the components are laying flat, which is easier for kids. Adults can do the main assembly later on.
- Utilize a template. Free-handing may not be easy. Cut out templates using cardboard or posterboard for various gingerbread pieces. One of the most important tips is to have fun. Don't take gingerbread house making too seriously as a novice. Rather, enjoy the experience and the centuries-old tradition. TF19C530

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HOLIDAY SCHEDULE



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Sat. December 28	1-6pm & 7-10pm
Sun. December 29	1-5pm
Mon. December 30	12-4pm

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Thurs. January 2	12-4pm & 6:30-9pm
Fri. January 3	12-4pm & 7-10pm

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The History Behind Some Beloved Christmas Songs

Holiday traditions vary from family to family, but one component of the holidays that seems to be universally enjoyed is a good Christmas song. Music is piped throughout malls and stores to entertain shoppers, and favorite tunes may be on the radio or streamed through a digital music service as families decorate their homes.

Many people may love Christmas songs and carols, but not everyone shares the same favorites. Thankfully, there's no shortage of material when it comes to Christmas songs, ensuring there's something for everyone.

In 2014, Time magazine researched records at the U.S. Copyright Office to determine the most popular and most recorded Christmas songs since 1978, when copyright registrations were digitized. The following are some of the more beloved holiday tunes and a bit of history about each song.

- "Silent Night": One of the most rerecorded songs in history (733 versions since 1978), "Silent Night," was composed in 1818 by Franz Xaver Gruber and put to lyrics by Joseph Mohr. It was first performed on Christmas Eve at St. Nicholas parish church in Oberndorf, a village in Austria. Today's version is a slow lullaby, but it's believed the original was a dance-like tune in 6/8 time.
- "O Holy Night": This popular song was composed by Adolphe Adam in 1847 to a French poem titled, "Minuit, chrétiens (Midnight, Christians)." Many notable performers, including Perry Como, Céline Dion, Josh Groban, Michael Crawford, and Lea Michele, have performed "O Holy Night."
- "Silver Bells": Now a Christmas classic, "Silver Bells" originally was written for the Bob Hope film, "The Lemon Drop Kid." Songwriter Jay Livingston wanted to title the song "Tinkle Bell," but his wife dissuaded him from using the word "tinkle."
- "White Christmas": Irving Berlin believed his song "White Christmas" would be an instant hit. His prediction was correct, especially after singer Bing Crosby recorded it.
- "Jingle Bells": Although it has become one of the more popular Christmas



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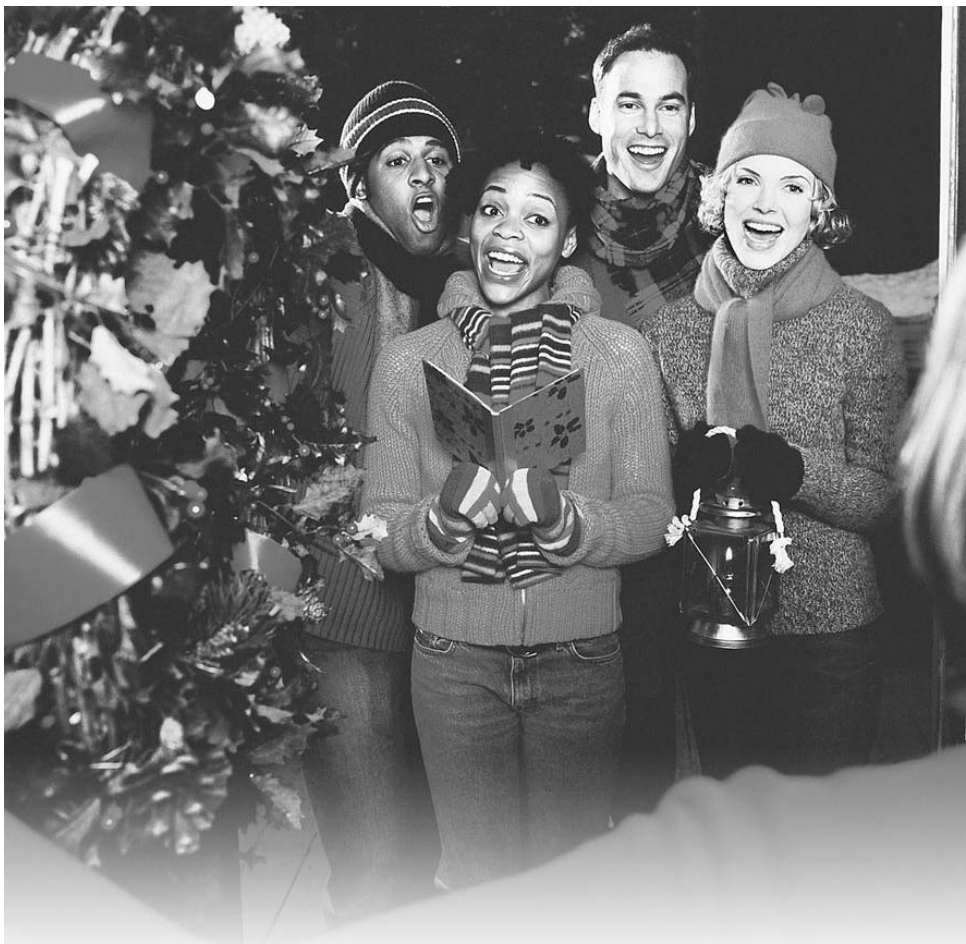


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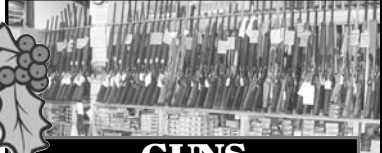
songs, "Jingle Bells" really was written for Thanksgiving. It's also one of the oldest holiday songs of American origin. James Lord Pierpont, the song's author, was inspired by the famous sleigh races of Medford, Massachusetts.

- "Do You Hear What I Hear": Noel Regney wrote this song as a call to peace during the Cuban Missile Crisis. The original context has long been forgotten, and "Do You Hear What I Hear" is now a staple of holiday celebrations.
- "Santa Claus is Coming to Town": James Gillespie wrote this tune while riding a subway and reminiscing about his childhood with his brother. It became a hit after being performed at the famed Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.
- "The Christmas Song": This classic Christmas song was written in 1944 by Bob Wells and Mel Tormé. It's usually subtitled "Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire." The song was written during a heat wave as a way to think cool thoughts. It only took 40 minutes to write the music and some of the lyrics. Nat King Cole's rendition of the song is among the more popular versions. Christmas songs are enjoyed and performed year after year. Popular songs continue to endure and attract new fans.

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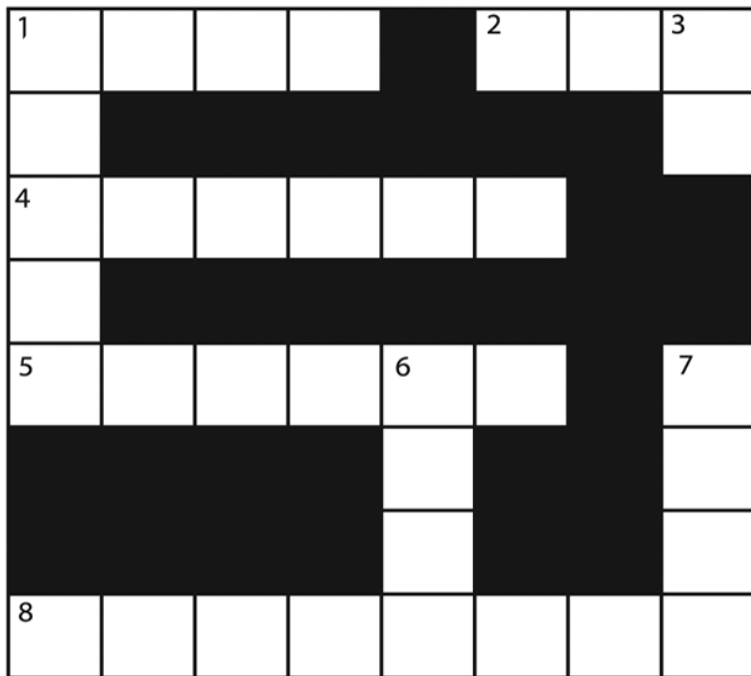
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Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

1. "Santa _____"
2. "We Wish _____ a Merry Christmas"
4. "Oh _____ Town of Bethlehem"
5. "_____ Bells"
8. "O Come all Ye _____"

DOWN

1. "Jingle _____"
3. "_____ on the Rooftop"
6. "As _____ Happy Christmas"
7. "The First _____"

Answers:
 Across
 1. Baby 2. You 4. Little 5. Silver 8. Faithful
 Down
 1. Bells 3. Up 6. Each 7. Noel

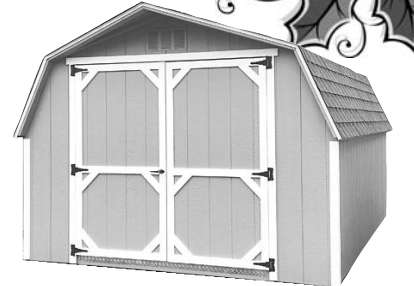
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G	C	D	I	T	F	O	I	U	R	E	A	Y	F	A	J	D	D	N	P
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M	T	S	D	P	J	B	L	O	O	Y	O	F	E	M	T	N	A	U	E
F	N	B	A	B	H	E	P	T	P	A	T	M	C	J	E	I	V	F	B
H	R	T	G	M	B	T	S	K	T	S	A	G	I	E	R	E	E	L	N
O	S	S	S	G	T	W	R	H	T	Y	R	C	N	I	G	R	K	H	D
O	B	T	C	H	D	S	G	O	K	W	A	D	A	Y	W	D	A	L	D
S	S	O	R	R	G	I	I	P	N	Y	E	N	M	I	H	C	L	Y	J
U	H	O	A	T	N	I	U	R	A	E	Y	Y	R	S	L	Y	F	T	V
A	C	B	G	D	O	D	E	Y	H	L	L	A	K	H	D	J	W	H	J
L	L	U	I	A	B	Y	E	L	L	C	T	V	K	Y	F	N	O	U	L
C	M	M	F	E	O	T	S	O	S	R	M	G	E	T	H	V	N	U	M
C	R	A	U	Y	B	E	J	M	W	D	S	G	G	S	V	E	S	V	U

WORDS

- BEARD
- BELIEVE
- BOOTS
- CHIMNEY
- CHRISTMAS
- CLAUS
- ELVES
- FLYING
- GIFTS
- JOLLY
- MIDNIGHT
- NAUGHTY
- NICE
- NORTH POLE
- REINDEER
- RUDOLPH
- SANTA
- SLEIGH
- SNOWFLAKE
- STOCKINGS
- TOYS
- TREE
- WINTER
- WORKSHOP

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5 fun gift exchange ideas

Gift-giving is a significant component of the holiday season. Families can embrace traditional gift-giving, but those who want to add a touch of whimsy to gatherings with loved ones can consider these five creative and fun ways to exchange gifts.

1. Play the plastic wrap game. To exchange small stocking stuffer gifts, compile gift cards, cash, small toys, candy, and even some larger gifts (all participants can chip in and one person shops for the gifts). The designated person in charge begins rolling up the gifts in the plastic, adding one every few rolls. Turning the ball 90 degrees while wrapping helps make a more round, finished gift ball. To play, the person with the ball puts on oven mitts and tries to unwrap as much as they can to access the gifts, while the person to the left is attempting to roll doubles on dice. When doubles are made, that person passes the dice to the left and starts his or her own attempts to get at the gifts in the plastic ball. The game ends when all the gifts are revealed, whether everyone has had a chance to unwrap or not.

2. Plan a white elephant gift exchange. A white elephant exchange is like a secret grab bag. Everyone brings a wrapped gift, and then takes turns choosing a gift based on the number they've been given. When the gift is chosen, the person opens it. The next player can select a fresh gift or steal one of the presents that's already been opened.

3. Host a make-and-take craft party. With this type of exchange, participants will engage in some form of crafting for the duration of the event, whether it's pottery, painting, epoxy resin pouring, or even knit crafts. At the end of the night everyone can swap their creations with another or keep their own crafts as gifts.

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4. Give the gift of a group outing. Instead of exchanging material gifts, focus on sharing experiences with friends and family. A trip to watch a sports game or a theater performance can be an excellent way to spend time together, and something a person may not be inclined to do on his or her own. Certain venues will offer discounts on group tickets, so everyone can pool their resources.

5. Host a DIY cookie and cocoa exchange. Cookies, cocoa and the holidays are a perfect combination. A gift exchange where participants supply ingredients for these sweet treats, share their favorite recipes and then put together the finished products can make for an entertaining and festive afternoon. Each person can fill a cookie tin with baked cookies to take home and mason jars filled with homemade hot cocoa mix and marshmallows can be an additional gift to enjoy later on a chilly evening. There are plenty of fun ways to exchange gifts during the holiday season. GG249266

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Be mindful of pets during the holiday season

The magic and wonder of the holiday season can be enthralling for people of all ages. There is so much to see and do during the holiday season, making it easy to forge lasting memories.

With so much to do in December, life at home can sometimes feel a little hectic, especially for the family pet. Although the holidays can be exciting, the season can induce anxiety in pets. Pets like cats and dogs often thrive on routine and familiarity. Switch up that routine and various behavioral issues can arise, including having accidents in the home. Pets also may become more destructive, chewing or clawing at items to release pent-up tension and anxiety. Pet owners who want the season to be festive for their pets can consider the following strategies.

- Gradually introduce new items. Gradually decorate living spaces so pets can grow acclimated to their newly decorated environs. Add a few pieces to rooms each day until you finally have all of your decorations out for display. This way pets can sniff around the decorations and realize they do not pose a threat.

- Keep familiar pet belongings. Try not to upset the apple cart too much in regard to pets' cherished possessions. For example, do not move the dog bed from the living room and place the Christmas tree in its place. Pets need that familiarity and having some of their items with familiar smells

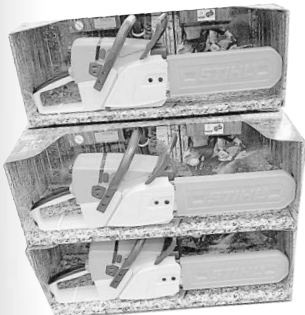
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can make for a smooth adjustment to holiday decorations.

- Designate a pet-safe zone. If you will be inviting people over during the holidays, set aside a room for pets so they can be in relative quiet away from boisterous crowds. Locking pets away also helps prevent their escape from the home as guests come and go.

- Secure the tree and other decorations. Pets are often curious about new things, and they may climb or paw at items to try to understand them better. Decorative items may end up being knocked over by curious pets. Secure the tree using a string and an anchor to the ceiling or wall like you might secure a large screen TV to

prevent it from tipping over. Keep breakable ornaments and other trinkets behind display cases or beyond the reach of pets.

- Discourage pets from using decorations as toys. Reprimand pets or move them away from holiday decor so they don't get the idea that these items are now their toys.

- Be careful with holiday foods. Holiday foods and desserts are rich and full of ingredients that may not be healthy for pets. Keep a secure lid on trash pails and remind holiday guests that pets should not be fed table scraps.

Pets may need some time to adjust to the changes that come with holiday decorating and celebrating to keep them happy and safe. HL24A331



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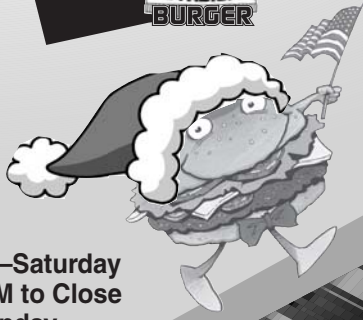
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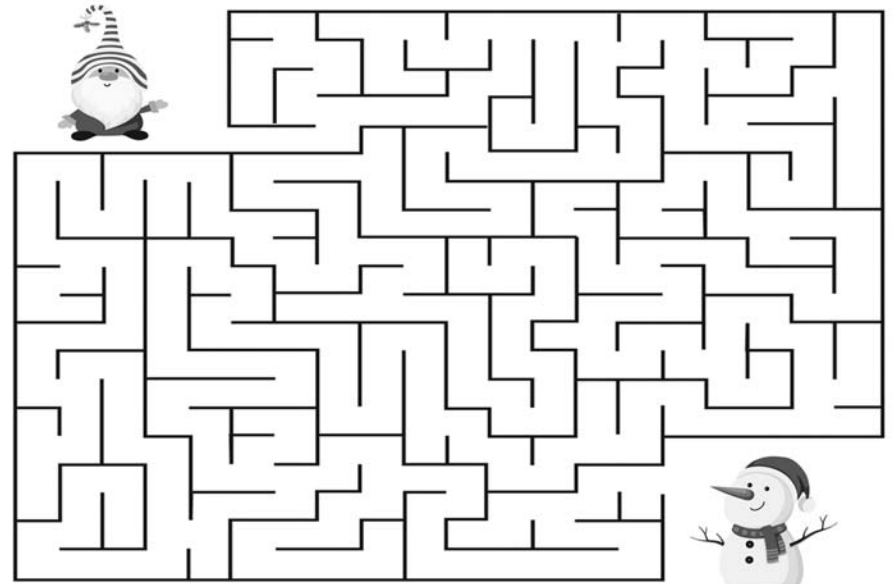


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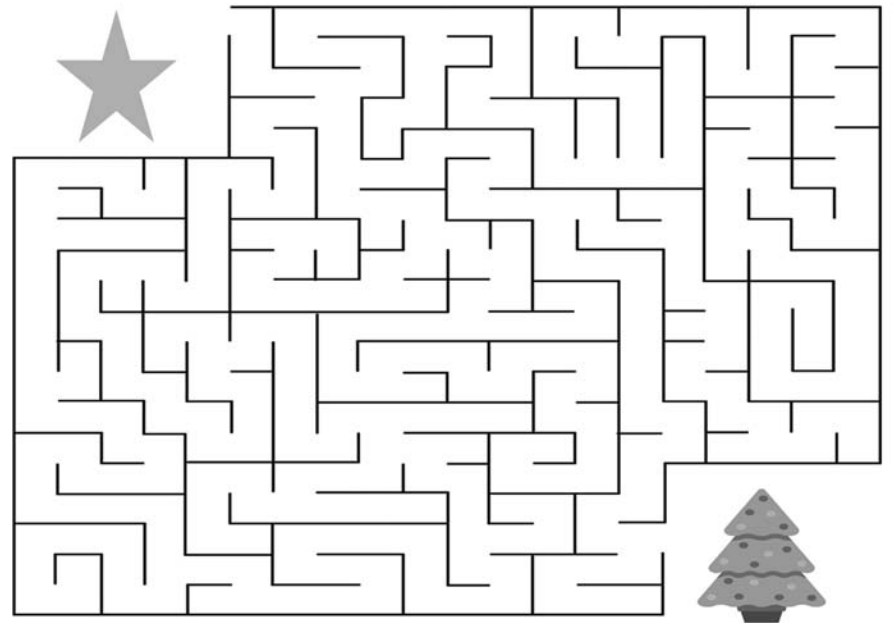
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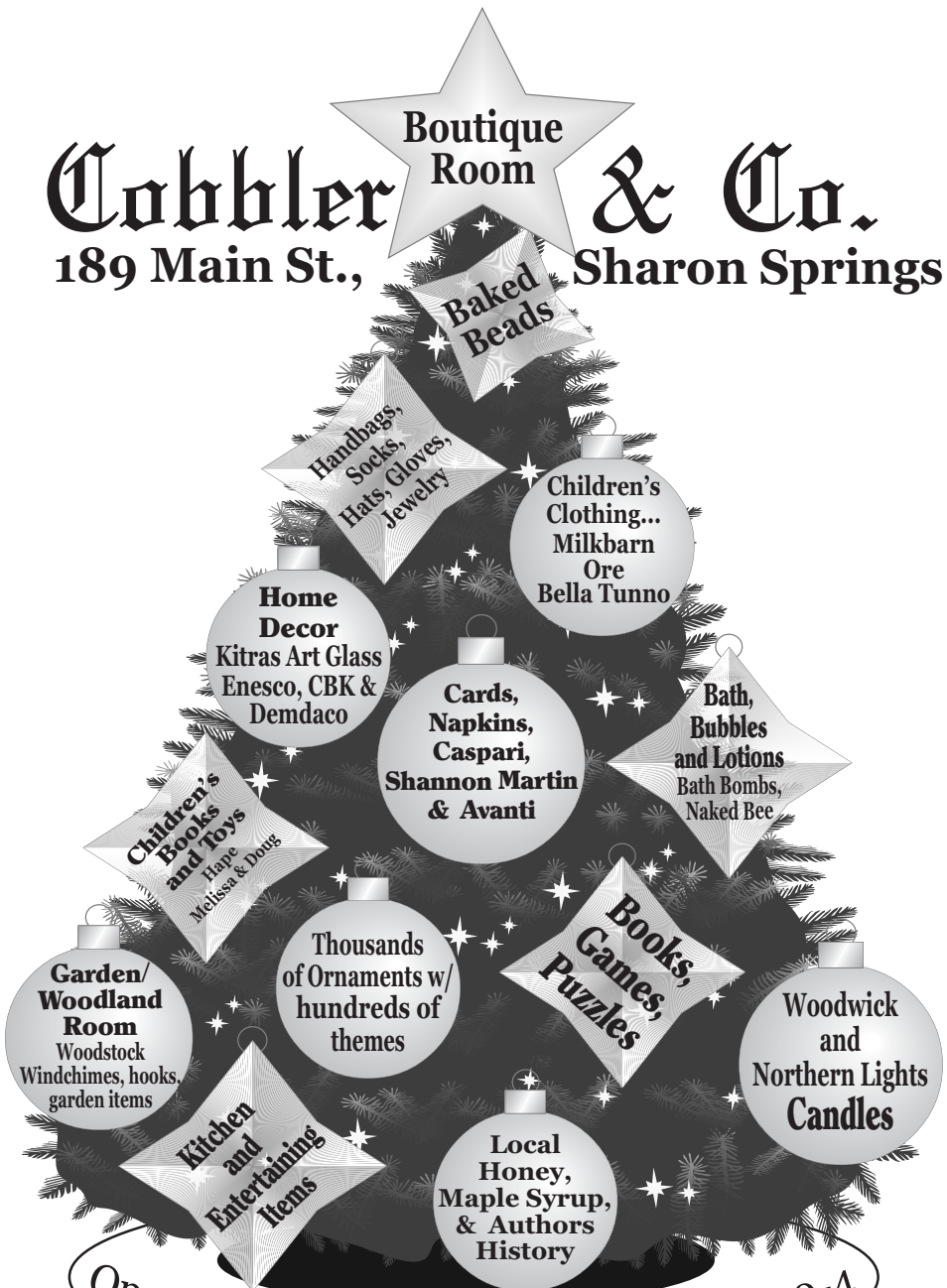


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