

December 20, 2014



THE Original Valley
Pennysaver
The Little Paper • with **BIG** Results

Serving the Homes of the Mohawk Valley

Volume 5 • Number 23

Elves Riley Brown, Kelly Davidson, Hannah Robinson and Ella Robinson handed out treats and sang Christmas carols around the tree during Elves' Night Out under the guidance of Mrs. Debbie Eckler. See more on page 11. Photo by Elizabeth A. Tomlin

"She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." - Matthew 1:18



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Collecting

by Larry Cox

Fruit jar

Q: At a farm sale earlier this summer, I bought several older fruit jars. One is especially interesting. It is a "Leader" jar with glass lid and wire bail. It is a quart-size jar and is olive green in color. Even though I have several vintage fruit jars, I have not seen another one like it. I paid \$25 for the jar. — Melissa, Covington, LA

A: Bill Schroeder wrote what I think is one of the best references in this field of collecting, "1000 Fruit Jars Priced and Illustrated" published by Collector Books. I found your jar in this guide, and according to Schroeder it is extremely rare. How rare? He believes it is worth about \$1,000. The olive green jar is extremely desirable and you obviously got quite a bargain.

Q: I have a large decorative bowl marked "Amphora." I have not been able to find the company listed in any of my reference books. — Jonathan, Wheaton, IL

A: The Amphora Porcelain Works was one of several pottery companies that operated in the Teplitz-Turn region of Bohemia during the late 19th and early 20th century. Prior to

World War I, Bohemia was part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Art pottery identified with this mark is collectible and sometimes can be quite expensive. It would not surprise me if your bowl is worth several hundred dollars, especially if it is in good condition.

Q: I purchased an old candlestick Western Electric telephone at a garage sale. I would like to restore it so I can actually use it. Do you have any suggestions? — Phil, Albuquerque, NM

A: Ron Knappen buys, sells and refurbishes old telephones, and he might be able to help you. He carries an impressive inventory of old and new parts. Contact is Phoneco, Inc., 19813 E. Mill Road, P.O. Box 70, Galesville, WI 54630; www.phonecoinc.com

Q: I have a Charlie McCarthy "Game of Topper," which originally belonged to my dad. Is it worth keeping? — Henry, Arkadelphia, AR

A: The board game you have was made in 1938 by Whitman and Company and is worth about \$45. This assumes it is complete and in reasonable condition.

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We want to hear from you!

Send your comments & suggestions to the

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The Original Valley Pennysaver
The Little Paper with **BIG** Results

Serving the Homes of the Mohawk Valley

Published weekly on Saturday by Lee Publications
6113 St. Hwy. 5, Palatine Bridge, NY 13428

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Shoveling tips

Winter is upon us. And with winter come winter activities. Shoveling snow is one major winter activity in many parts of the United States. Although many consider shoveling a form of exercise — 15 minutes counts as moderate physical activity — you can increase your risk of an injury. Taking a few precautions while you are shoveling can help prevent unnecessary pain and suffering.

- If you have a history of heart problems or are inactive, talk to your doctor. There is an increase in the number of fatal heart attacks among shovelers.

- Warm up and stretch before you get started.

- Drink plenty of water to keep yourself hydrated.

- Shovel only fresh snow. Freshly fallen, powdery snow is easier to shovel than the wet, packed-down variety.

- Push, don't lift. It's easier on your back and uses less energy than lifting.

- Pick the right shovel for you. Don't pick up too much at

once. Use a small shovel, or fill only one-fourth or one-half of a large one.

- Lift with your legs bent, not your back. Keep your back straight. By bending and "sitting" into the movement, you'll keep your spine upright and less stressed. Your shoulders, torso and thighs can do the work for you.

- Dress the part. Dress in layers; if you work up a sweat, you'll be able to remove some of those layers. Wear a hat and gloves to protect your extremities, wrap on a scarf and wear wool socks and waterproof boots to protect your body from the cold temperature.

- If your body is telling you to stop, listen to it. Stop if you feel pain or start seeing heart attack warning signs: chest pain; shoulder, neck or arm pain; dizziness, fainting, sweating or nausea; and/or shortness of breath. Get medical help immediately.

Stay warm and be safe this winter season!

Taking a few precautions while you are shoveling can help prevent unnecessary pain and suffering

Announcements

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Our deadline is
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December 20, 2014

Hello Again,

I was planning on purchasing a nice birthday present for my wife. Her birthday was Dec. 16. I asked her if we had any money in the bank. She replied, "I don't know, I haven't shaken it lately." Then she said, "Use a check. We have a lot of checks we haven't used yet." That girl is always one step ahead of me.

Is there any better way to usher in the Christmas season than reading and applying the messages of the following? I'm sure you remember the musical scores so sing with a happy, warm heart:

O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep,
The silent stars go by.
Yet in the dark streets shineth,
The everlasting Light.
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary,
And gathered all above,



While mortals sleep the angels keep,
Their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth;
And praises sing to God, the King,
And peace to men on earth.

My Country, 'Tis of Thee

My country, 'tis of thee,
Sweet land of liberty,
Of thee I sing:
Land where my fathers died,
Land of the pilgrims' pride,
From every mountainside,
Let freedom ring!

Our father's God, to Thee,
Author of liberty,
To Thee we sing:
Long may our land be bright,
With freedom's holy light;
Protect us by Thy might,
Great God, our King!

This beautiful country, The United States of America, was founded with the promise of personal freedom and self-government.

Our government by the people and for the people was established as a representative form with a president, senators and representatives, all elected by her citizens. It is one of the oldest still-functioning governments. The following would be a suitable national prayer:

God bless America. Land that we love.
Stand beside her, and guide her. Give us
the wisdom and strength to stand with
you beside her.

The joy of Christmas is found in sharing happiness with family and friends while trusting in the truth of the birth, life, and sacrifice of our Lord Jesus.

Merry Christmas from the Lee family
to your family.

Fred Lee and the Lee Family

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Town Hall

141 W. Grand Street

AGENDA:

BUILDING OF THE NEW TOWN HALL

Paul Spencer

Comfort foods amp-up the holiday joy

Use make-ahead nostalgic foods to head off holiday stress

Everyone loves comfort food. Merriam-Webster defines it as being “prepared in a traditional style having a usually nostalgic or sentimental appeal.” A less official definition might say it is the culinary equivalent of a hug from Mom. It is food we find soothing, food that we trust to make us feel good.

There is probably no better time for such foods than during the hustle of the winter holiday season.

The end of the year is a time for gathering with loved ones, smiles and laughter all around, stories of days gone by and celebrations centering on festive meals. But for those responsible for the cooking, baking, cleaning, shopping, wrapping and entertaining, the holidays can also be overwhelming. It's no surprise then to hear the American Psychological Association say the winter holidays make 69 percent of us stressed due to a lack of time, and that it's especially true of women.

So trot out the comfort food! Whether making, serving or eating it, simple foods remind us of the easier days of our childhood and are a balm for frayed nerves.

So how else can you cope with the demands of the season?

Try these holiday kitchen hacks to get you

through the season with more joy and less stress:

- **Stock Up for the Siege** - having plenty of frequently used items like eggs, butter, flour and convenience ingredients will save time and reduce frantic dashes to the store.

- **Plan a Theme** - focusing on an event theme like brunch, appetizers or desserts will narrow down the work and shopping list, honing in on more specific foods and beverages.

- **Make Friends with Your Freezer** - make and bake as much as you can ahead of time, thaw the day before needed and have treats on-demand with no work or mess to clean up.

- **Do Ahead** - many dishes like breakfast fritatas and casseroles can be made the day before you need them, stored in the fridge and baked the next day with no mess to clean up.

- **Test It Out** - don't add stress by making a new recipe on the day you need it; test it in advance to learn of any quirks or needed adjustments and avoid ruining your menu on the big day.

For more quick-and-easy egg recipes and tips to incorporate eggs into your family's traditions, visit www.virginiaeggcouncil.org or www.IncRedibleEgg.org or www.facebook.com/incRedibleEgg.

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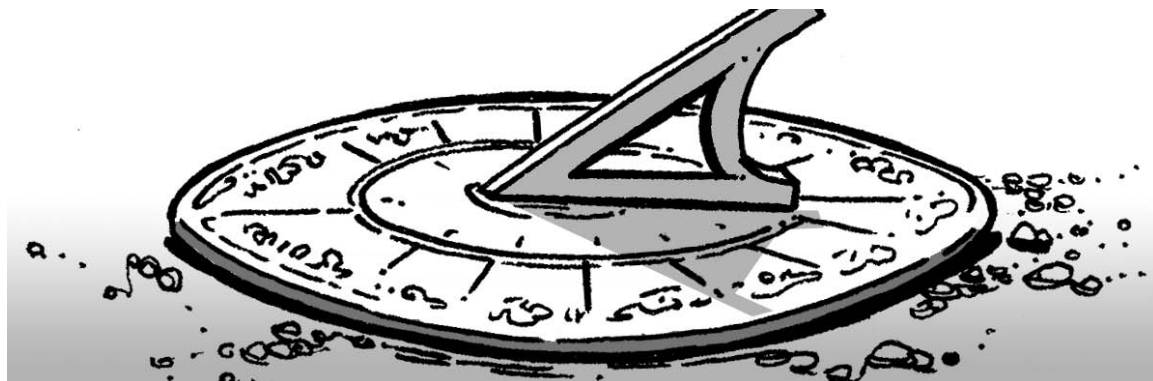
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THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: "Lets Attend Church This Sunday". You and your family are welcome at Grandview Baptist Church, corner of Lydius & Washington St., Ft. Plain, NY. Sunday School 10am. Morning Worship 11am.



With Thoughts of You at Christmas

As the holiday season approaches, our hearts are warmed by thoughts of the many good people we've had the opportunity to serve this year. You've certainly brightened our year! Thank you for your support and loyalty. We look forward to seeing you in the new year.

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Wed., Dec. 24th thru Sun., Dec. 28th.
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Santa Claus and elves visit Canajoharie on Elves' Night Out

by Elizabeth A. Tomlin

Sleigh bells were ringing and children were singing all around the village of Canajoharie on the Chamber of Commerce's annual Elves' Night Out event.

"It was a smaller turnout than last year," reported Chamber President Dolores Jacksland. "The weather was against us — as it has been for the past few years, with snow, sleet and rain, but there were still enough people out to make the merchants happy!"

Jacksland said that many people followed Santa from the post office to the center of town where the Christmas tree, elves, choir and members of the high school band's brass section were waiting to kick off the holiday season. After the caroling, folks headed to Arkell Library for free horse and carriage rides, hot chocolate, cookies and a chance for parents to get free safety identification cards for their children.

Sue Barker of Patriot Federal Bank explained that the bank was responsible for this Elves Night Out feature, which was just added this year to the event. "This is a great benefit for the kids," Barker stated.

Montgomery County Sheriff's deputies Noah Monge and Joseph Glasser were on hand to take fingerprints and photos and fill out the paperwork for each child.

"I'm not exactly sure of the number, but there were many children taking part in the program," said Jacksland.

As this was Jacksland's last year heading up the Chamber, the event had special meaning to her.



Memories were made for siblings Alexander, Viktor and Joseph Stabinski of East Lykers, when they visited Santa and even sat in his magical sleigh at the Canajoharie Post Office on Elves Night Out.

Photos by Elizabeth A. Tomlin

Jacksland does not intend to leave the chamber completely, but expects to still be involved in Chamber and community events.



Avery Fichthorn (front) and Madison Davis examined the wide assortment of beads at Twenty-Two Fashion and Accessories, with assistance from proprietor Kris Belzak.



Musicians Austin Countryman, Samantha Field, Alex Sydow and Cassandra O'Neil played Christmas carols under the direction of John DeValve, while attendees joined in with singing.

Christmas Is in the Air



In the spirit of the holiday season, we'd like to share our best wishes for a very merry Christmas. May you and yours enjoy a festive season of peace, joy and goodwill.

Thanks for brightening our year with your visits.
We look forward to seeing you again in 2015!

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Did you know?

The winter solstice takes place in December every year and marks the longest period of darkness in the Northern hemisphere. The summer solstice takes place concurrently in the Southern hemisphere at this time. The winter solstice does not last the entire day but is the point at which the sun is shining farthest to the south, directly over the Tropic of Capricorn. The sun also appears at the lowest point in the sky. Its noontime elevation seems to be the same for several days before and after the solstice. The solstice typically falls on Dec. 21 or Dec. 23 each year. Areas of the Northern hemisphere

will experience only about nine hours of daylight on the solstice, while other areas that are farther north, such as Iceland and Nome, Alaska, may only have between four and seven hours of daylight. However, all areas above a latitude of 66.5 degrees north, including the Arctic Polar Circle, do not experience a sunrise during the solstice. While it may seem like winterdarkness will stretch on interminably, following the winter solstice, the days begin to gradually grow longer and the nights shorter.

In 2014, the winter solstice will occur on Sunday, Dec. 21.

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~Janice Maeditere

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3. Kill Floor Foreman: Candidate must have high school diploma with 1 to 3 years of experience with livestock killing procedure and management. Must have HACCP.
4. Pen Man (Animal Handler): Candidate must have diploma or vocational training in animal care & handling (cattle, sheep, goat & poultry, etc.) with 1 to 3 years of practical experience. Must have HACCP.
5. Hanger: Must have vocational training certificate with 1 year of experience of hanging and caring of cattle, goat, sheep & poultry. Must have HACCP.
6. Transfer, Ledger, Skinner (Butcher): Candidate must have 1 year of experience of ledgering, skinning and chopping of cattle, goat, sheep & poultry. Must have HACCP.
7. Sider, Hider, Putter Viscera Remover (Butcher): Saw man, trimmer, scale man, offal remover must have 2 years of practical experience in the meat processing industry. Must have HACCP.

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08 F250 4x4 with a fisher V/plow, 98K 8 cylinder auto, asking \$12,500. 315-894-4411.

— **King Crossword** —
Answers
Solution time: 24 mins.

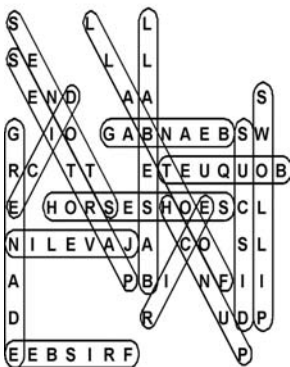
S	C	O	T	T	D	U	K	A	S		
C	L	O	C	H	E	E	R	I	C	A	S
A	U	S	T	I	N	M	A	R	T	I	N
R	I	M	S	T	E	E	L	I	L	O	
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A	M	A	L	G	A	M	T	O	R	S	I
L	O	N	E	L	A	C	W	E	E	D	
P	H	D	L	L	O	Y	D	N	A	Y	
H	A	R	V	E	E	C	A	R	E	L	L
A	W	E	I	G	H	L	I	E	G	E	S
	K	A	Z	O			E	S	T	E	R

Answers to
this week's
puzzles

— **Weekly SUDOKU** —
Answer

1	3	5	4	6	7	8	2	9
8	4	9	1	2	5	6	3	7
6	2	7	8	3	9	4	5	1
4	5	1	7	9	2	3	6	8
7	8	2	3	1	6	5	9	4
3	9	6	5	8	4	1	7	2
5	1	8	2	7	3	9	4	6
9	7	3	6	4	8	2	1	5
2	6	4	9	5	1	7	8	3

THINGS THROWN



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will reopen Friday, Dec. 26th at 7:30AM

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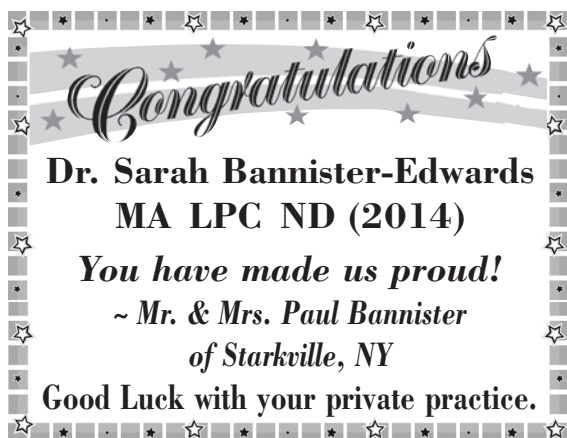




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Safety tips for senior citizens

As we become older we also become less able to defend ourselves or appear confident. Senior citizens are often the target of theft, robbery, or fraud. There are some helpful tips to help you to remain safe both in and outside of your home.

Safety at home

- Keep doors locked, both when you are home and when you are away.
- If someone knocks at your door, don't open the door unless you know your visitor.
- Have a peek hole installed in exterior doors if possible.
- If a person claims to be from a specific place, ask the person to show you identification either through a mail slot or by sliding it under the door. Refuse to open the door for those who cannot provide this information.
- If someone knocks at your door to ask to use the telephone, never open the door. Ask for the information and make the phone call for them.
- If someone comes to your door who you do not know or trust or who you feel may be dangerous, call your local police department or 911.
- Never hide a key to your home outside your door, such as under a mat, in a flower pot, or in the mail box. Burglars will know where to look!

Telephone safety

If you receive numerous "wrong number" calls, never allow yourself to engage in a conversation where you reveal your name, address, marital status, or any other information that



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might indicate you're alone or vulnerable. And NEVER give bank or credit card information over the phone even if the caller wants you to "verify" it.

Safety outside of the home

- Always be alert of your surroundings, especially in parking lots.
- Carry as little cash as possible at all times and carry any credit cards concealed. If you carry a purse, never carry it wrapped around your wrist. Rather, carry close to the front of your body. If you carry a wallet, try to avoid carrying it in a pocket that it could easily be removed from. If a burglar attempts to grab your purse or belongings, do not resist. Give the object to the burglar and never pursue the burglar. Make noise to alert bystanders!
- When approaching your vehicle, have your keys ready. It's a good idea to have your key in your hand before leaving the store. Before you get in your car, glance in the back seat and front seat to be sure. Once in the car, don't linger, especially putting money in your wallet. Lock your doors immediately and start your engine. Beware of papers stuck to your windshield. Do not exit your vehicle to remove anything on your windshield. Drive to a safe location first before getting out to see what it is.

Source: www.herkimercounty.org

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Hours: Tues-Sat 12-5 • Open Wed. Nites till 7PM • www.ayresanimalshelter.com



FIDDLER - Handsome 4-5 year old tiger and white male. Came to the shelter on September 19th. Fiddler is good with dogs. He has FELV, the feline leukemia virus.



JOEL - 9-10 year old male tiger. Came to the shelter in 2003. Interactive with other cats, not good with dogs. Prefers adult home.



QUEENIE - 3-5 year old female. Came to the shelter in April 2013 because her family could no longer care for her. Fine with other cats, not good with dogs.



PEPPER - 8-9 year old female tiger. Came to the shelter on March 29th. Beautiful cat who likes lots of loving! Good with kids. Lap cat.



RASCAL - 2 year old tiger and white male. Found in a barn in Charleston in August 2012. Very playful and fun to watch. Fine with other cats.



ROWDY - 2 year old male tiger (with white). Found in a barn in Charleston in August 2012. Very playful and fun to watch. Fine with other cats.



LIZZIE - 1 1/2 year old black female. Very shy. Found with daughter Lexi (adopted) on a porch in Canajoharie in May.



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TOMIK - 3-4 year old male Husky, silver with black. Found on Conway Road, Canajoharie on November 28th.



PORSCHA - Female Lab mix about 3 years old. Found at Ann and East Main Sts, St. Johnsville on November 4th.



LORI - 7-9 year old female Beagle mix. Found on Paris Road, Town of Minden on June 18th. Very sweet and loving. Fine with dogs, cats, kids.



KEITH - Adult male Coonhound. Found on Hickory Hill Road, Palatine on August 28th. Friendly and high-energy. Not good with cats.



FELIX - Male Shepherd/Rottie mix. Found on Hickory Hill Road, Town of Palatine on August 6th. Super friendly and has personality plus! Fine with other dogs.



NICK - 6-8 year old male Beagle mix, 36 lbs. Found on Dygert Road, Canajoharie in March 2010. Active dog who loves his toys and tennis balls. Should be the only pet in an adult home.



MILLIE - 1-2 year old female Pit Bull. Found on Cannon Road, Town of Root on August 6th. She's a black and white beauty!



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world, and
behold,
everything is
softer and
more beautiful.
~Norman Vincent Peale**

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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

- Baseball
Beanbag
Bouquet
Dice
- Discuss
Football
Frisbee
Grenade
- Horseshoes
Javelin
Parties
Pillows
- Punch
Rice
Stones

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4	5	4	3	2	7	3	8	6	8	7	4	3
B	B	E	A	N	P	M	F	Y	E	O	A	B
7	5	4	3	5	7	3	5	4	2	8	7	5
W	E	G	I	C	E	T	O	R	E	R	N	
2	8	4	3	5	7	3	4	3	7	3	8	7
W	L	E	I	G	F	O	E	N	U	P	I	L
5	6	7	6	2	8	5	6	7	5	3	2	6
E	O	K	U	G	N	N	F	N	I	A	O	L
7	5	3	4	7	3	5	3	7	6	2	6	8
O	A	Y	A	W	S	L	O	L	O	A	U	G
7	8	4	3	7	2	8	4	7	6	8	4	3
E	S	B	F	D	L	A	L	G	R	R	E	F
7	8	2	6	8	2	8	2	6	8	2	8	6
E	E	S	I	H	S	I	E	S	G	T	H	H

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

1					7			9
			9		2	5		3
	2			8			4	
4	5				2			6
7				3			5	
			6		8			2
			8			3	9	
	7			6				1
2					5		7	3

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
★★★ HOO BOY!

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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 "Great —!"
6 "The Sorcerer's Apprentice" composer
11 Woman's snug hat
12 Jong and Kane
14 Steve of the WWE
15 Steve of "The Jerk"
16 Edge
17 Bessemer material
19 U.N. workers' org.
20 Screen image
22 Day divs.
23 Acknowledge
24 Muddle with liquor
26 Fishermen
28 However
30 Moray, e.g.
31 Combination
35 Trunks
39 Unrivaled
40 Fond du —, Wis.
42 Garden intruder
43 Third degree?
44 Frank — Wright
46 Aye undoer
47 Steve of "Family

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11						12			13
14						15			
16				17	18			19	
20			21	22			23		
24				25	26	27			
28				29	30				
31	32	33			34	35	36	37	38
39				40	41	42			
43				44		45	46		
47			48			49	50		
51						52			
53						54			

- Feud"
49 Steve of "Evan Almighty"
51 Just off the ocean's floor
52 Feudal lords
53 Buzzing instrument
54 Perfumery compound
- land
7 Kazakh river
8 Creme de cassis cocktail
9 Hardly idle
10 Tar
11 Antillean tribe member
13 "The — of Kilimanjaro"
18 Historic time
21 Aristocratic
23 Let
25 Yank
27 Understand
29 Fox hunt cry
31 Socially dominant
32 Punk rocker's coif,
- maybe
33 Tenor Bocelli
34 Long March leader
36 Break a promise
37 Caulking matter
38 Pastoral pieces
41 Washer phase
44 Toy block name
45 Speaker's spot
48 Namely (Abbr.)
50 Pensioned (Abbr.)

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See Page 14 for the Answers to All of These Puzzles

Celebrating St. Nicholas Day at Fort Klock

by Elizabeth A. Tomlin

Children and their families traveled from several counties to celebrate St. Nicholas Day at Fort Klock in St. Johnsville. The annual event has become a tradition for many families, with parents that had come to the event when they were youngsters now bringing their own children to visit with St. Nicholas and hear the story of how he became a legend.

The scent of hot cider, mulled with cloves, oranges and nutmeg added to the atmosphere, while Fort Klock volunteers and re-enactors of the Tryon County Militia dressed in attire appropriate for the time period, along with Colonial Christmas carols, brought about a feeling of reliving the past.

While some of the older children passed St. Nicholas by, the younger ones waited shyly to sit on his lap and tell him why they deserved presents this year. St. Nicholas reminded them that he was aware of both their good behavior and bad.

Each child received a dated, handmade wooden ornament.

“Every child who comes here gets a hand-made ornament,” remarked Eugene Wagner, who has played the role of St. Nicholas for many years. He said that he has seen some families that have been coming to the annual event for over 30 years.

The tradition of Santa Claus originated with St. Nicholas, who was born during the 3rd century in Patara on the southern coast of Turkey.

Nicholas came from wealthy parents and was raised as a devout Christian. His parents died while he was very young. Legend states that Nicholas chose to obey the words of Jesus to “sell what you own and give the money to the poor.” Giving away his inheritance, he dedicated his life to serving God, assisting the needy, the



Graham Hewitt poses for a photo with St. Nicholas at Fort Klock's annual St. Nicholas Day celebration.

Photos by Elizabeth A. Tomlin

sick and the suffering, becoming Bishop of Myra at a young age. He was known for his generosity to the needy, his love for all children, and his deep concern for sailors and ships.

Nicholas died on Dec. 6, 343 and became the Patron Saint of Children. The anniversary of his death became known as St. Nicholas Day.

St. Nicholas Day was brought to this area by Mohawk Valley Dutch and Palatine German pioneers.

St. Nicholas Day is observed at Fort Klock on the first Sunday of each December.



Children from Fulton, Herkimer and Montgomery counties gathered at Fort Klock in St. Johnsville, to celebrate St. Nicholas Day.



Charlotte Houle and her brother, Elijah, received hand-carved Christmas ornaments and heard the story of St. Nicholas told by Mary Brewster at Fort Klock's annual St. Nicholas Day.



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Deadline Monday, December 22nd

Now here's a tip

by JoAnn Derson

• When there are big family jobs to be done (like getting ready for the holidays), we write all the tasks down on slips of paper and put them in a hat. We take turns choosing tasks until all the paper is divvied out. Sometimes we trade, but we all get a fair chore list. — V.O. in Oregon

• Leftover bread can be repurposed as croutons or breadcrumbs. In fact, this is an excellent job for kiddos. With clean hands and a butter knife, older children can cut leftover rolls into manageable size pieces. Spray with olive oil cooking spray, and bake at a low temperature

(225 F) to dry out. Or crumble stale bread into crumbs and store in the freezer.

• If you love to burn candles, then the odds are good that you have a lot of candle “ends” that can no longer be used. You can purchase new wicks at the craft store and make a new candle from your leftovers.

Simply scrape out the leftover wax into a clean tin can with one end removed. Set this can into a pot on your stovetop. Add a few inches of water, and boil to melt the wax. Then, holding the wick in place, you can pour the melted wax back into a candle-safe jar to let cool. Burn away!

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Holiday waste by the numbers

The holiday season generates a lot of waste, and many things contribute to this excess of trash this time of year.

- Thousands of paper and plastic shopping bags end up in landfills after the holiday season. Reusable cloth bags can limit the amount of bags tossed away, and users of plastic bags can recycle those bags at appropriate receptacles.
- Four million tons of waste is attributed to shopping bags and wrapping paper. Recycling paper or looking for reusable items in which to wrap gifts can cut down on paper waste.

- Approximately 33 million live trees are cut down and sold in North America each year for Christmas. If you use a live tree, be sure to recycle it so it can be turned into mulch instead of being sent to a landfill. Otherwise, consider buying a potted tree and planting it after the holidays.
 - Nearly 2.65 billion Christmas cards are sold and exchanged each year in the United States alone.
- This many cards can fill a football field 10 stories high. One less card sent per person can save roughly 50,000 cubic yards of paper.

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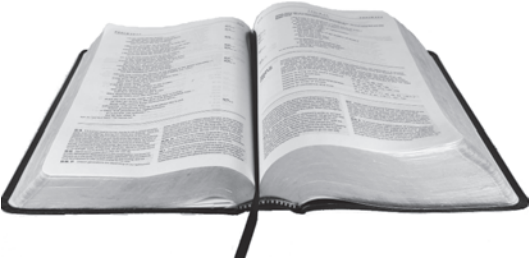
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- Make sure fuel-burning appliances are properly installed, operated and serviced by qualified technicians according to the manufacturer's instructions and local building codes.
- Properly vent all fuel-burning appliances to the outside of

the house and make sure the vents are not covered with snow, tarps or other items.

- Consider buying a vented space heater when replacing an unvented one.

- Never use a portable generator, gas or charcoal grill or portable fuel-burning camping equipment inside a home, building or shed.

- Open the fireplace damper before lighting a fire and don't close it until the ashes are cool.

- Move your idling car or truck outside the garage to warm up.

Never use gas appliances, such as stoves, ovens, or clothes dryers, to heat your home. Working carbon monoxide detector alarms provide you and your family with warning signals and critical time to escape your house in case of a carbon monoxide incident. Place carbon monoxide alarms in a central location outside each sleeping area and on every level of your home. Test all alarms every month to make sure they are working properly. If you suspect carbon monoxide poisoning:

- Open all windows and doors.
- Get out of the building and into fresh air.
- Call the fire department from outside the building.

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Terry O'Connell - Dec. 23rd
Melissa George - Dec. 24th
Mallory Baum - Dec. 25th
Judy Kalinowski - Dec. 26th
Ashley Nellis - Dec. 26th
Bonnie Servidio - Dec. 27th

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These items are sold "as is" by auction or negotiated sale, either online, in-person or both. Online auctions work much the same way as other auction sites, such as eBay. You visit an agency's auction site, register your name and place your bid.

Unlike most state governments, there is no single online auction web site in the federal government. Federal agencies responsible for disposing of excess government property, such as the General Services Administration (GSA) or Department of Defense (DoD), have their

own auction sites. Federal law enforcement agencies also run auction sites for seized property.

The following websites offer government surplus goods and real estate for sale.

Auction Sites

- GovSales.gov

This resource aims to help you find everything you need for your small business in one place. It catalogs most surplus items and real estate for sale by the federal government, from cars and commercial real estate to furniture, computers and office equipment.

Guides to Government Auctions

- Guide to Federal Government Sales: Consumer Tips

Offers a tip sheet from the General Services Administration (GSA) so that you know what to expect at government sales or auctions and how to buy.

- Government Auctions and Sales by Agency Provides a full list of online retail stores and auctions run by U.S. government agencies.

- State and Local Surplus Property

Identifies more surplus property sales and auctions run by state and local governments.

Source: <https://www.sba.gov/content/buying-government-surplus>



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Monday, Dec. 22nd - Normal Monday Sale.

Monday, Dec. 29th - Normal Monday Sale.

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Monday, Jan. 5th - Normal Monday Sale & Fat Cow & Feeder Sale.

Monday, Jan. 12th - Normal Monday Sale & Monthly Heifer Sale.

Monday, Jan. 19th - Normal Monday Sale & Monthly Sheep, Lamb, Goat & Pig Sale.

Monday, Jan. 26th - Normal Monday Sale.

**LOOKING TO HAVE A FARM SALE OR JUST SELL A FEW -
GIVE US A CALL.**

****Trucking Assistance** - Call the Sale Barn or check out our trucker list on our Web-Site. **Call to advertise in any of these sales it makes a difference. Watch website for any last minute updates.**

Directions: Hosking Sales 6096 NYS Rt. 8, 30 miles South of Utica & 6 miles North of New Berlin, NY.

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Tom & Brenda Hosking
& Family
6096 NYS Rt. 8, New Berlin, NY 13411
cell: 607-972-1770 or 1771



607-699-3637

or 607-847-8800

DINING & entertainment

Hungry Bear Cafe 
(518) 568-2700

Tues., Dec. 23rd

- Chicken & Biscuits, Mashed & Dressing
Come in and have free goodies & coffee. It's our 7th Year in Business
 - Thank you for your patronage

Wed., Dec. 24th

Open For Breakfast ONLY
 6:00AM - 11:00AM

Thurs., Dec. 25th

- CLOSED -

Merry Christmas 

Fri., Dec. 26th

Open For Breakfast & Lunch
 ONLY 6:00AM-2:00PM

- Fresh Haddock, FF or Mashed & Salad
 - Fresh Haddock on a Roll

Sat., Dec. 27th

- 2 French Toast, Meat & Home Fries
 - Sausage Gravy on a Pancake or Biscuit w/2 Eggs

Sun., Dec. 28th

- Mushroom Swiss Omelette w/HF
 - 2 Blueberry Pancakes w/2 Eggs

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Mon., Dec. 22nd

♦ ALL YOU CAN EAT
 PANCAKES 3-7 PM
 ♦ Salisbury Steak
 w/Potato & Veg
 ♦ Tuna Wrap w/Chips

Tues., Dec. 23rd

♦ Spanish Rice w/Veg
 ♦ Grilled Chicken Salad

Wed., Dec. 24th

Breakfast Only
 7AM-Noon

Thurs., Dec. 25th

♦ CLOSED ♦

Merry Christmas 

Fri., Dec. 26th

♦ Fresh Haddock Dinner
 Baked or Fried, w/Potato & Veg
 ♦ Mac-N-Cheese w/Veg
 ♦ Manhattan Clam Chowder

Sat., Dec. 27th

♦ Prime Rib Dinner
 w/Potato & Veg 3-7 PM
 ♦ Fried Clam Dinner

Sun., Dec. 28th

♦ NY Strip Steak & Eggs
 Breakfast Only • Closed at 12:30pm

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New Year's DINING & *entertainment*



CHRISTMAS EVE

SERVING 4-8PM

APPETIZERS

Antipasti Plate prosciutto, mozzarella, aged provolone, olive, peppers

Shrimp Cocktail with spicy cocktail sauce & lemon

ENTREES

Surf & Turf Strip Steak with Shrimp Scampi & Vegetable

Crab Stuffed Haddock with Pilaf & Vegetable

Chicken Parmesan with Marinara & Mozzarella on Pasta

Meat Lasagna Sweet Sausage, Beef Tenderloin & Four Cheeses

DESSERTS

Chocolate Mousse made in French traditional manner

Raspberry Creme Brulee custard with caramelized sugar cap

Canoli flavored with chocolate, cinnamon & orange zest

WINE FEATURE

Mulled Mazza Holiday Wine

Concord grape wine flavored with cinnamon, cloves & orange



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Menu
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D.J. @ 10:30pm No Cover Charge

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New Year's

DINING

& entertainment

Rt. 80 Bowl

VanHornesville 315-858-2149



Moonlite Scotch Doubles

8PM • \$30/couple
includes cover charge

D.J.
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NEW YEAR'S EVE "WHITE OUT" PARTY!

This is going to be an elegant affair! Come dressed in your best "white" dress, suit, or jeans, your choice.

EVERYTHING WILL BE WHITE!

Don't want to drive that's OK, we have a limo that will come pick you up, but you must purchase tickets first! Get those tickets at Erie Station.

Tickets are \$55

What do you get for 55 bucks? Limo ride to and from home, dinner, champagne toast, all the New Year's trinkets, and access to the live performance by PURE Entertainment!

Purchase tickets early for the complete package for \$80 per couple.

\$10 admission after the dinner party.

Event starts at 6pm.
Party ends when you say it does!!!

**Hurry and
get your tickets
they are going fast!**

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lunch/dinner specials



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Employment

What are "home warranties", and should I consider them?

Home warranties offer you protection for a specific period of time (e.g., one year) against potentially costly problems, like unexpected repairs on appliances or home systems, which are not covered by homeowner's insurance.

Warranties are becoming more popular because they offer protection during the time immediately following the purchase of a home, a time when many people find themselves cash-strapped.

Source: hud.gov

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Good Housekeeping

Cranberry-Apple Sauce

Wonderful with ham as well as turkey.
1 bag (12 ounces) cranberries
1/2 cup golden raisins
1 cup packed brown sugar
3/4 cup water
2 tablespoons cider vinegar
1 cinnamon stick (3 inches)
Pinch ground cloves
Pinch salt
1 large Rome Beauty apple, peeled, cored and chopped
1. In nonreactive 3-quart saucepan, combine cranberries, raisins, brown sugar, water, vinegar, cinnamon stick, cloves and

salt; heat to boiling over high heat.
2. Reduce heat; simmer, stirring occasionally, 6 minutes. Add apple and cook until most cranberries have popped and syrup has thickened slightly, about 4 minutes. Discard cinnamon stick.
3. Cover and refrigerate until well-chilled, about 3 hours or up to 4 days. Makes about 4 cups. • Each 1/4 cup: About 81 calories, 0g protein, 21g carbohydrate, 0g total fat, 0mg cholesterol, 15mg sodium.
~ www.goodhousekeeping.com/recipefinder

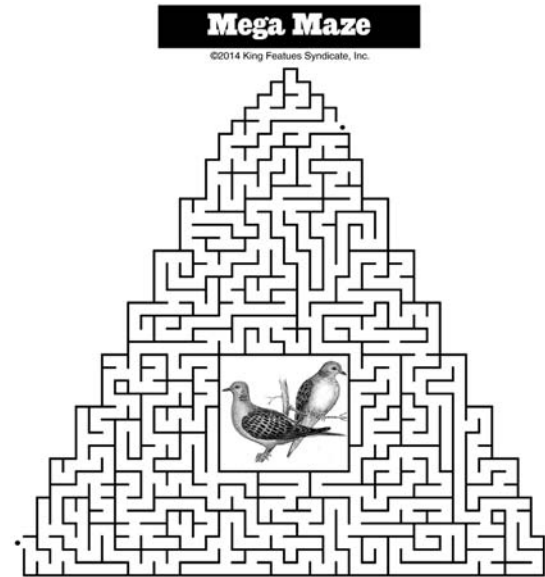
Whatchamacallits

The Capitol Theatre in Rome, NY dates back to 1928, so during a trip to the regional landmark, one might expect to see some evidence of past eras. One such item is this old-fashioned wooden wheelchair, located upstairs.
It isn't exactly known when wheelchairs were first invented. They are thought to have made their European debut around the 12th century. Self-propelled wheelchairs date back to the 17th century.
This particular chair was manufactured by the Gendron Wheel Company at their Perrysburg, Ohio location, which operated between 1941 and 1963. Gendron made many wheeled products

(such as doll carriages, coaster wagons and bicycles) prior to WWII, but during the war, their focus switched to hospital equipment, such as wheelchairs and wheeled stretchers.
Capitol Theatre Assistant Manager Jack Theakston theorizes that because of the short legs on this wheelchair, it may have been a child-size model. A chair similar in appearance can be viewed at the historic Saranac Laboratory in Saranac Lake, NY.
~~~  
Have your own Whatchamacallit? Send picture and description to [kgallagher@leepub.com](mailto:kgallagher@leepub.com) or call Kelly at 518-673-0145.

Visit our Facebook page each week to see if you can figure out what the upcoming Whatchamacallit is.





Puzzles4Kids

by Helene Hovanec

WORD FUN

Study the two words on each line to find the **ONE** letter in the left column that is **NOT** in the word in the right column. Write the extra letter on the blank space. Then read **DOWN** to answer this riddle:

WHAT DID THE SNOWMAN SAY TO HIS FRIENDS?

|        |     |       |        |     |       |
|--------|-----|-------|--------|-----|-------|
| SEARCH | ___ | RACES | SAILED | ___ | LEADS |
| PIRATE | ___ | TRIPE | SCRAPE | ___ | REAPS |
| GRAVEL | ___ | GLARE | CAROLE | ___ | CORAL |
| MOBILE | ___ | LIMBO |        |     |       |
| STAPLE | ___ | PELTS | MISLED | ___ | SMILE |
| PARENT | ___ | TAPER | EASTER | ___ | RESET |
|        |     |       | YIELDS | ___ | SLIDE |

For more puzzle fun, go to [www.braintzles.com](http://www.braintzles.com)

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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

DIFFERENCES: 1. Hat is different. 2. Log is shorter. 3. Sun is missing. 4. Arm is moved. 5. Sign is moved. 6. Sign is different. 7. Thermometer is missing.

New! 24 HOCUS FOCUS puzzles \$3.50 • 24 Volumes • Order at: [rbmamall.com](http://rbmamall.com)

FUN SPOT

COLOR BY NUMBERS

WARM WISHES! Ho, ho, ho, who needs snow? Santa's dreaming of fun in the sun. Colors: 1—Red. 2—Lt. blue. 3—Yellow. 4—Lt. brown. 5—Flesh tones. 6—Green. 7—Dk. brown. 8—Dk. blue.

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words:

DEBONAIR

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters.

Try to score at least 50 points.

Possible twosomes: Iron, bead.

ANSWER KEY

How did you score on this week's puzzles?

Puzzles4Kids

Answer

|        |   |        |   |        |   |        |   |        |   |        |   |        |   |        |   |        |   |        |   |
|--------|---|--------|---|--------|---|--------|---|--------|---|--------|---|--------|---|--------|---|--------|---|--------|---|
| SEARCH | H | PIRATE | A | TRIPE  | V | GLARE  | E | LIMBO  | N | TAPER  | I | LEADS  | E | CAROL  | D | SMILE  | A | SLIDE  | Y |
| STAPLE | A | PARENT | N | PELTS  | A | GRAVEL | E | MOBILE | N | YIELDS | H | MISLED | D | REAP   | A | RESET  | S | SCRAPE | C |
| SAILED | I | SCRAPE | C | SAILED | I | SCRAPE | C | SAILED | I | SCRAPE | C | SAILED | I | SCRAPE | C | SAILED | I | SCRAPE | C |
| CAROLE | E | CAROLE | E | CAROLE | E | CAROLE | E | CAROLE | E | CAROLE | E | CAROLE | E | CAROLE | E | CAROLE | E | CAROLE | E |
| LEADS  | L | LEADS  | L | LEADS  | L | LEADS  | L | LEADS  | L | LEADS  | L | LEADS  | L | LEADS  | L | LEADS  | L | LEADS  | L |
| REAPS  | R | REAPS  | R | REAPS  | R | REAPS  | R | REAPS  | R | REAPS  | R | REAPS  | R | REAPS  | R | REAPS  | R | REAPS  | R |
| RESET  | R | RESET  | R | RESET  | R | RESET  | R | RESET  | R | RESET  | R | RESET  | R | RESET  | R | RESET  | R | RESET  | R |
| SMILE  | S | SMILE  | S | SMILE  | S | SMILE  | S | SMILE  | S | SMILE  | S | SMILE  | S | SMILE  | S | SMILE  | S | SMILE  | S |
| TRIPE  | T | TRIPE  | T | TRIPE  | T | TRIPE  | T | TRIPE  | T | TRIPE  | T | TRIPE  | T | TRIPE  | T | TRIPE  | T | TRIPE  | T |
| GLARE  | G | GLARE  | G | GLARE  | G | GLARE  | G | GLARE  | G | GLARE  | G | GLARE  | G | GLARE  | G | GLARE  | G | GLARE  | G |
| MOBILE | M | MOBILE | M | MOBILE | M | MOBILE | M | MOBILE | M | MOBILE | M | MOBILE | M | MOBILE | M | MOBILE | M | MOBILE | M |
| YIELDS | Y | YIELDS | Y | YIELDS | Y | YIELDS | Y | YIELDS | Y | YIELDS | Y | YIELDS | Y | YIELDS | Y | YIELDS | Y | YIELDS | Y |

# Calendar of Events

## ORIGINAL VALLEY PENNYSAVER

**NOTE: Calendar entries must arrive at the Original Valley Pennysaver's office by the Tuesday prior to our publication date for them to be included in the calendar of events. Send events to Lee Publications c/o The Original Valley Pennysaver, 6113 State Highway 5, P.O. Box 121, Palatine Bridge, NY 13428 or Kathleen Lee at [kkelly@leepub.com](mailto:kkelly@leepub.com)**

### DEC 1-31

#### Arkell Center Events for December

Arkell Center, Canajoharie, NY. Arkell Center Programs for ALL AREA Seniors during December are as follows:

- **Monday-Friday:** 11:45 am. The OFA Meals of Montgomery Program serves hot meals, suggested \$3 donation for 60 and older. Call 673-2000 for reservations.
- **Monday-Friday:** 10-12 noon. Arkell's Indoor Walk-

ing Program will continue. Seniors invited.

- **Mon, Wed & Fri:** 10-10:30 am. Arkell Center Senior Exercise Program is in the basement. Coffee after.

- **Wed, Dec. 10, 17:** 2:30-3:30 pm. Gentle Yoga with instructor Patty Pietrowicz in the basement.

There will be NO Activities at Arkell Center on Dec. 24 and Dec. 31 due to the holidays. ARKELL CENTER IS CLOSED CHRISTMAS DAY

#### SPECIAL EVENTS

- **Mon, Dec. 8:** 10:45 am. Gary Van Slyke performing Christmas Music, All are Welcome.

- **Wed, Dec. 10, 17:** 12:30-4 pm, Senior Citizens Pinochle Card Party, donation \$2.00, prizes & refreshments. If you would like to sub call Terry-673-5635.

- **Fri, Dec. 12:** 2 pm. Cana-

joharie Head Start will be singing Christmas Carols & refreshments will be shared.

- **Tues, Dec. 23:** 11:15 am-12:15 pm. Blood Pressure Clinic. Home Health Care Partner's Corp. (Co-Sponsored by St. Mary's & Nathan Littauer Hospital). Home Health Care Partners Corp. also provides health and wellness information.

#### MEETINGS

**Tues, Dec. 9:** 6 pm. Canajoharie/Pal Bridge Chamber of Commerce meeting.

**Tues, Dec. 23:** 10-11 am. Alzheimer's/Dementia Caregiver Support Group meeting.

### Dec 20

#### Herkimer Holiday Stroll

In the village. 11am-2pm.



# Show 'n' Sell



# Show & Sell



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USDA - Rural Development is the largest provider of loans directly from the Federal Government to finance single family housing units throughout rural America. Over 400,000 home ownership and repair loans are currently outstanding throughout the United States. Loans are made directly to low and very low income applicants for the purchase, construction, or repair of a home in towns and villages outside metropolitan areas. In addition, Rural Development provides guarantees in rural areas in instances where lenders wish to make loans for the purchase of homes in rural America. For more information about Rural Development, please visit <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/>.

USDA - Farm Services Agency is committed to delivering the highest level of customer service, helping to ensure a strong safety net for

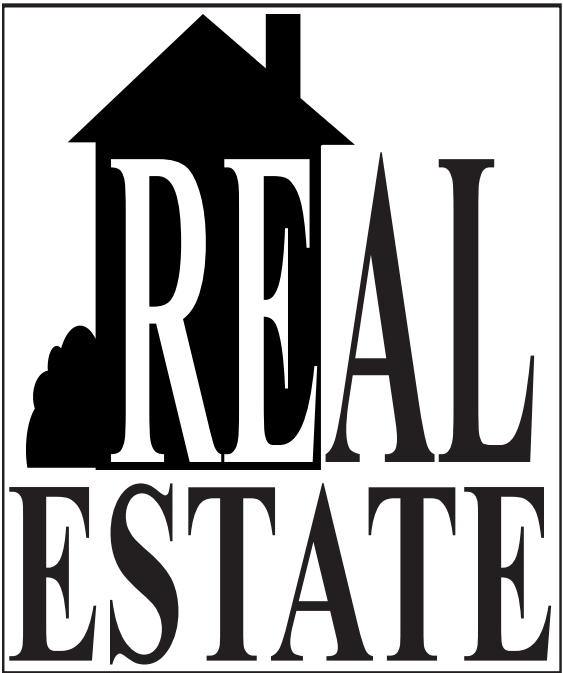
America's farmers and ranchers. More than 2,346 state and county offices are the primary distributors of programs in the 48 continental states, as well as Hawaii and Puerto Rico.

Farm Services Agency committee members are the local authorities responsible for fairly and equitably resolving local issues while remaining dually and directly accountable to the Secretary of Agriculture and local producers through the elective process.

These members make decisions affecting which programs are implemented county-wide, the establishment of allotment and yields, commodity price support loans and payments, and many more programs. For more information about Farm Services Agency, please visit <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/>. Other helpful sites may include:



- GovSales.gov
- HomeSales.gov
- USDA.gov

For Property Purchasing/Loan Information: Please contact your local USDA - Rural Development/Farm Services Agency servicing office.



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**WE moved!** Manheim Liquors is now located just down the street at 66 North Main Street, Dolgeville, NY 13329 (315) 429-8190

**MERRY CHRISTMAS** to All and may this coming year be a year of peace and plenty for all the people of the world. Plaide Palette

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**May Peace be your gift at Christmas and your blessing all year through!**

**~Author Unknown**



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**2006 Ford Taurus**  
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in his heart will  
never find it under a tree.  
~Roy L. Smith**

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has to be at least one day of the  
year to remind us that we're here  
for something else besides our-  
selves.**  
~Eric Severeid

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## Ready your home for holiday guests

The holiday season is about more than just rushing to stores to stock up on presents. Socializing and hosting friends and family members to catch up on a year's worth of news also makes this time of year so special.

Before friends and family arrive, holiday hosts must take steps to prepare their homes for their guests. The following home prep plan can make relatively easy work of tidying up the house and ensuring it is inviting to guests.

### Start with the entrance

Hosting can motivate homeowners to finish certain home improvement projects that enhance the appearance of their homes. Tidy up your home's entryway to make it more welcoming. Be sure the front door and walkways are well lit. Remove obstructions and trim back bushes and other plant life. Festive decorations can brighten up the space. Don't forget a welcome mat to reinforce to guests that they truly are welcome at your home.

### Quick cleaning

Sometimes the joy of hosting can be overshadowed by the task of preparing for your guests. Although a thorough cleaning of the home is great if you have the time, it may not be necessary. Go from room to room identifying spaces that are in need of a thorough cleaning. Spend time in the kitchen clearing clutter from the counters and make sure the dining space is clean and the table is presentable. A table runner and a centerpiece of festive flowers can brighten up the space instantly. Fluff cushions on sofas and give floors or carpets a quick vacuuming. Always be sure the bathrooms are clean and fresh, with laundered hand towels at the ready. Children's bedrooms and other areas of the house may not require such a critical eye. Simply keep doors closed in off-limits rooms.

**Create a guest sanctuary**  
Overnight guests

should have a designated space they can use as a retreat. If you do not have a guest room, consider having children bunk with one another and designating one of the kids' rooms for your guests. Fresh linens, an alarm clock, a television, and Internet access are nice touches.

A guest room also can be set up in a den or office with a pull-out sofa bed. Provide access to a nearby bathroom so guests can enjoy some privacy.

Hosting children is easier than hosting adults because they won't require the same level of privacy and space. An extra mattress tucked under the bed in your child's room can be an impromptu place for kids to retire.

### Stock up on supplies

Purchase extra travel-sized toiletries at the drug store so your guests' needs are covered in case they forget something. Store them in a zip-top bag and let guests know where these items are kept.


Purchase a guest set of towels, sheets and pillowcases. Keep these in an air-tight storage bag or bin, so when guests arrive, they will have their own set of linens. Launder these linens after use.

### Stock up on food

Ask guests which foods and beverages they prefer and try to have some on hand. Use your spare time to prepare some meals and freeze them. This way if someone drops by unexpectedly, you can simply defrost a meal and have it ready in no time. Keep a tin of cookies and tea bags ready for those who pop in for a snack and conversation.

With the holiday season in full swing, holiday hosts must ready their homes for overnight guests.





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# Things to consider before buying this holiday season

Few holiday shoppers can resist a great deal. Whether it's heavily discounted merchandise on Black Friday or last-minute sales for shoppers who procrastinate, there are deals to be had from the start of the holiday season until its unofficial end sometime around New Year's Day.

But not all deals are what they seem. Many a shopper has swiped their card on a gift for a loved one only to find out later they overspent or didn't read the fine print and subjected themselves or their friends and family mem-

bers to potentially costly fees. The following are a handful of things shoppers should consider before making any purchases this holiday season.

## Restocking fees

As thoughtful as holiday gifts may be, many are ultimately returned. Recipients may already have similar items at home or find a particular gift does not suit their personal styles. Because returns are so common, shoppers should read the fine print before buying gifts to ensure their purchases are not subject to restocking fees if they

must be returned. Restocking fees can apply to any product, but they are most often applied to electronics. A restocking fee is a charge the person returning the gift must repay upon bringing the gift back to the store or mailing it back to the warehouse. Restocking fees often apply to items that are not returned in

their original factory-sealed box, and these fees can be exorbitant, sometimes as much as 20 percent of the cost of the product. So before buying that big-ticket television or appliance, holiday shoppers should ensure the item's recipient will not be subject to a considerable fee if he or she decides to return the gift.

## Extended warranties

Many items come with manufacturer warranties that cover damaged items for a predetermined period of time. But many shoppers want to go the extra mile and buy extended warranties that protect the products for longer periods of time. While that's good in theory, studies from Consumer Reports have shown that products rarely break within the time period covered by extended warranties, meaning shoppers are simply buying a false sense of security they're unlikely to ever use. When considering an extended warranty, first research the product you want to buy by reading customer reviews of the product on popular sites such as Amazon.com. Such sites can offer valuable insight with regard to how reliable products are. If multiple reviewers note that a given product has never given them a reason to reconsider their purchase, then you likely don't need an extended warranty. If you still want

the extra protection, read the fine print of the extended warranty so you know just what it does and does not cover.

## Return policies

Because so many gifts are returned once the holidays have come and gone, it's important to understand a retailer's return policy before buying a gift for a friend or family member. In-store purchases may be subject to different return policies than items bought online, which may need to be returned via the mail, a potentially costly expense for the gift's recipient depending on the size of the gift. Try to shop only at stores with flexible, consumer-friendly return policies so your friend or family member does not have to jump through hoops just to return the gift.

Resisting a holiday deal can be difficult. But shoppers should first read the fine print before making any purchases so they can rest easy knowing they made the best decision possible.



*Shoppers should first read the fine print before making any purchases so they can rest easy knowing they made the best decision possible.*

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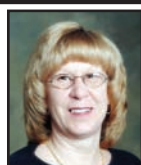
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**174: JOHNSTOWN:** This 68.5 acre vacant land is located in a Planned Unit Development, with mixed usage, which consists of Residential, Retail, Professional and Entertainment business. There is 2,455 feet of road frontage and is located in a fast expanding developing area. There is a 10 acre pond on the property. Hales Mills Road Ext. runs between two heavily traveled roads: NY State Road 30 heading to Great Sacandaga Lake and the Adirondack Mountains, and NY State Route 29 heading east to the Saratoga Region. .... **Asking \$350,000**



**175: CANAJOHARIE:** This 66.9 acre lot is divided by Dugway Rd with approx 20+ acres on the north side of the road and 60+ acres on the south. The property can be purchased in its entirety or divided into 2 lots to be purchased separately. This property has a great view of the Cherry Valley Mountains and would be a perfect place to build your new home. .... **Asking \$198,000**



**177: DOLGEVILLE:** This apartment house is located in a very nice neighborhood. It would make a nice home for the buyer and rent the 2nd apartment to cover part of the mortgage or would make a nice 2 family rental. It does need some updating, but is worth a look. .... **Asking \$70,000**



**213: ST. JOHNSTOWN:** This property is priced to sell!!! MUST BE SEEN TO BE APPRECIATED!!! Many updates from the basement to the roof. Kitchen completely redone w/granite countertops. Appliances new within 5 years. Both full baths redone. Cozy living room with pellet stove. Updated windows throughout. Updated seven zone boiler with attached coal add on is optional. Updated 200 entrance. Very private sunroom has been added to the back of the house which is 99% completed. Really nice large backyard. This beautiful home can be yours!!!! **Asking \$99,900**



**237: CANAJOHARIE:** Beautiful grand Victorian home with lots of space - many renovations have been tastefully completed. Huge wrap-around porch to sit and enjoy your coffee. Large yard and driveway. Carriage house kitchen with Coran countertops. Move-in ready. Wide plank floors and new hardwood floor in the family room. .... **Asking \$109,900**



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**605: FORT PLAIN:** Quiet county setting is the location of this home. Over 3 acres with 281 feet of road frontage. 1995 double wide with central air, pellet stove and artesian well. Reasonably priced and a MUST SEE HOME!!! **Asking \$64,900**



**616: CANAJOHARIE:** Cape Cod home with updated roof, siding and windows. Living room w/a view of the valley and a cozy fireplace. Hardwood floors throughout. Back porch and deck. Private backyard. .... **Asking \$84,500**



**817: CANAJOHARIE:** Lovely brick home. This two family home could become a large one-family home with an in-law apartment. Large yard, back deck leading to an above ground pool. Walk to schools, hardwood floors, picture windows, new roof, new windows. A MUST SEE HOME!!! Apartment 2 will be rented as of 8/1/14. .... **Asking \$99,900**



**950: FORT PLAIN:** Nice 3 bedroom starter home with enclosed porch. Just needs a little TLC!!! **Asking \$29,900**



**958: FORT PLAIN:** Quaint country home on 7 private acres. House is in the process of being remodeled. It can be finished by the buyer or the owner will finish it. Motivated seller, bring offers. .... **Asking \$89,000**



**980: FORT PLAIN:** A quaint country home ready for new owners. Lots of updates to the house, pool and deck. Great backyard for the family and friends. .... **Asking \$115,000**



# How to simplify the process of returning gifts

Returns are an inconvenient reality of the holiday season. Whether you're returning clothes that don't fit or big-ticket items that don't suit your lifestyle, the idea of making those returns is unlikely to inspire enthusiasm. However, the following are a few ways to simplify the process of returning gifts so it goes as quickly and as smoothly as possible.

- Gingerly open packages. Much of the frustration associated with returning gifts can be traced to returning the items in boxes that were torn apart when opening the gifts. Before tearing into a package or removing tags from any clothing, consider the gift and if you think you might want to return it. Some stores will not allow returns unless packaging is completely intact, while some clothing retailers will only accept returns that include the original tags. So examine all gifts before you go tearing into any packaging so your initial excitement may impede your ability to return ultimately unwanted gifts.

- Don't delay a return. Men and women who wait to return an item may be making things more difficult on themselves. Some stores only allow returns for a predetermined number of days after the product is purchased, while others may not offer cash back after that period has expired. If you know you want to return a gift, do so soon after receiving the gift to minimize the headaches that come from procrastinating with regard to returning gifts.
- Bring the original receipt. When possible, bring the original receipt instead of just the gift receipt. Returns made with only a gift receipt may only be eligible for store credit or a retailer may not give you full credit for the amount spent on the gift. In the latter case, without the actual receipt, you likely won't know how much store credit you deserve or how much cash back you can expect.
- Know the return policy before visiting the store. Return lines can be long, and no one wants to finally

make it to the front of the line only to be told an item must be returned via the mail or that returns are subject to fees they don't want to pay. Save yourself the time and frustration of a failed return by researching the retailer's return policy before you head out to return any items.



# Presenting...

## Holiday Gift Guide



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## Celebrate with religious sights and sounds

In many ways, secular celebrations garner more attention than religious gatherings during the holiday season. But all it takes is a little digging to find religious services to fill our calendars come the month of December.

### Midnight Mass

Many Christian churches commemorate Jesus Christ's birth with a special midnight Mass on Dec. 24. Some Christians wait until the clock strikes midnight to place baby Jesus figurines into their Nativity scenes at home. Midnight Mass may bring entire communities together to share the holiday season message of joy and peace. Midnight Mass also may feature awe-inspiring performances by church choirs or private performers who lend their talents to the festivities.

### Living Nativity

Area houses of worship and community centers may produce their own Living Nativity performances. Costumed volunteers and actors present the story of Christ's birth and the good news that followed. This can be an especially exciting experience for children and may also be a creative way to reinforce religious beliefs, especially to children who may have difficulty otherwise relating to written text.

### Christmas pageants

In some areas, children play integral roles in recreating the story of Christmas. Private Catholic schools may offer performances of Christmas pageants that explain the Nativity and other events leading up to the birth of Christ. Parents and extended members of the family can enjoy a religious experience while also sharing praise for their youngest performers.

### Volunteer efforts

Houses of worship may organize clothing drives, holiday meals, toy donation collections, and many other community events this time of year. Volunteer to lend a hand at such events, which can help to remind you that the holiday season is one of giving.

### Community candle lighting

Jewish celebrants may participate in a community-sponsored hanukkiyah (Chanukah menorah) lighting

ceremony. Although candles or oil is traditionally burned for Chanukah, many public places use an electric system for safety and convenience. The lighting has

British tradition of wassailing, has largely fallen out of favor. However, many close-knit towns and communities still include caroling among their traditions. Caroling



Nativity scenes are popular in time for Christmas. Some may be filled with statuettes, but some communities sponsor a live Nativity show.

a schedule based on tradition and ritual. A Chanukah candle lighting service can bring the religious experience alive for many involved.

### Caroling

Christmas caroling, which likely evolved from the

can be a great way to spread holiday share cheer. Although carols are often a blend of religious and secular tunes, many people find their faith is revitalized by joining their friends and neighbors to carol during the holiday season.



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## Emphasize safety when buying gifts for children

Toys will once again be high on kids' wish lists this holiday season, when advertisements will highlight this year's most coveted gifts. But just because a particular toy is this year's must-have item does not mean it's the safest gift for kids of all ages.

According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, there were an estimated 265,000 toy-related injuries treated at hospitals in the United States in 2012. Of those injuries, an estimated 72 percent happened to children younger than 15 years of age while 69 percent affected kids 12 years of age or younger. In addition, an estimated 34 percent of those injuries happened to children younger than five years of age. Many toy-related deaths were the result of drowning and asphyxiation.

No one wants to think about injuries or deaths involving kids, but holiday shoppers must keep safety in mind when purchasing children's gifts to safeguard youngsters from injury.

### Balloons

The CPSC notes that balloons are the leading cause of suffocation death in children. Children may swallow broken or uninflated balloons, which can then stick to the throat and airway, making it impossible to breathe. Holiday shoppers should avoid giving balloons to children age eight or younger. In addition, dispose of balloons if or when they deflate.

### Painted toys

Lead paints and toys containing lead are not legal in North America, but that doesn't mean that imported toys are made in adherence to stringent safety guidelines. Before buying a toy, confirm that it is lead-free, as exposure to lead can cause serious neurological problems, espe-

cially in young children.

### Button batteries

Button batteries, or the small-sized batteries found in some toys, watches and hearing aids, can be hazardous. Batteries can become stuck and cause chemical burns.

Adults should always verify that the battery compartments on chil-

dren's toys are secured with screws. Other products that have remote controls may contain batteries that are not adequately secured. In addition to button batteries, AAA batteries, which are small, can be hazardous to kids.

### Magnets

Small magnets can be swallowed and become

lodged in the digestive system of a child. If two or more magnets or a magnet and metal component are swallowed, they can attract to one another through intestinal walls. This can cause blockages, perforations and infections. Avoid toys that use small magnets, and check the CPSC website to ensure that magnetic toys are not among recalled products. GG14B646

**Toy Safety Tips• Read the packaging to ensure that toys are age-appropriate.**

- Avoid projectile toys

or those with sharp points.

- Store toys that belong to older children out of reach of younger kids.

- Don't buy toys with removable parts that can be swallowed.

- Only buy toys made from nontoxic materials.

- Only buy fabric toys that are labeled as flame-resistant or flame-retardant.

- Only buy stuffed toys that are washable.

- Graciously decline hand-me-down toys that may not meet current safety standards.



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## Enjoy Lots of Holiday Fun!

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**923 Langley Rd., Town of Florida**

NICE LOCATION, COUNTRY SETTING, BUT CLOSE TO THRUWAY. 3 BDRM Ranch w/Fireplace, 2 car garage, Sun-Room, Full Basement all on 1.4 acres. Move-Right-In-Condition!

**Just Listed \$129,900**  
**6 Ford Street, Amsterdam**

LOCATED ON A QUIET DEAD END ROAD, IT IS A GREAT LOCATION, this 3 BDRM Charming Cobblestone home is a unique find. Double lot, Cathedral Ceiling, wood stove, Koi pond, pool, wood stove & low taxes.

**Just Reduced \$165,000**  
**19 Maple Drive, Fultonville**

OVER 1,800 SQ. FEET OF NOTHING BUT A BEAUTIFUL HOME HERE. 3 BDRMS, 2 Full baths, HUGE Basement HUGE Attic & HUGE 2 car garage, large 2.5 acre yard, private driveway & FFCS School District.

**Reduced \$104,900**  
**280 Cty. Hwy. 140, Town of Ephratah**

WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? 3BR, 2 full bath, 2 car garage, new carpets, private country setting, full basement with bar area that is MOVE-IN CONDITION! Johnstown School District.

**Just Listed \$125,000**  
**278 Cty. Hwy. 111, Caroga Lake**

IT IS A SUPER COZY ADIRONDACK HOME! Beautifully maintained, 3 BDRMS & Huge Family Room that has a Cathedral Ceiling. Taxes with Basic Star are only \$1,307.48 annually. YES YOU READ IT RIGHT, \$1,307.48 annual taxes!!!!

**Just Listed \$159,000**  
**324 Mohawk Drive, Tribes Hill**

IT'S HUGE & LIKE A HOME FROM THE MOVIES! Over 4,800 sq. ft. here, 6 Bdrms, 2 full baths, 2 kitchen areas, 1.6 acres, full basement, Marble fireplace & separate wood stove. Could easily be converted to a 2 unit or use as a in-law apartment.

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(PICK UP AVAILABLE)

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**2002 Dodge**  
4WD, 8 Ft. Box, 3/4 Ton,  
8 Ft. Fisher Plow  
**\$6,250**



**2004 Chevy**  
4WD, 5.3 Motor, 8 Ft.  
Fisher Plow, Like New  
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**We Have a Large Inventory That Changes Weekly - Stop in and check them out!**  
**Need to Sell Some Before The Snow Flies - Stop In & Save Money!**

## Cut the costs of holiday travel

Travel is a significant and often expensive part of the holiday season for many men and women. Whether you're hitting the open road or taking to

the friendly skies to visit loved ones, this year there are various ways you can cut the costs of holiday travel.

• Book a budget-friend-

ly rental. The holiday season is a busy time of year for rental car agencies, and holiday travelers who are late to reserve their vehicles may find them-

selves driving gas guzzlers for the duration of their trip. When booking your automobile rental this holiday season, do your best to reserve a car early so you have access to the agency's entire inventory and not just what's left on the lot. If you do not specifically reserve a fuel-efficient vehicle, you might be stuck with a large SUV or another car or truck that costs a lot at the pump.

• Bring along your own food. Food is another oft-overlooked expense of holiday travel. If you're flying, try to eat before you leave for the airport or look up the airport and/or airline regulations to determine if you can bring your own food. Food purchased at the airport or on the airplane will be more expensive and is often more unhealthy than meals you can prepare at home. When driving, pack a cooler instead of relying on truck stop eateries, which tend to be fast food restaurants.

• Try to bring gifts rather than ship them. When possible, try to squeeze as many of your holiday gifts into your car rather than shipping them. Shipping costs can quickly add up, but you can save a lot of money if you make room for gifts in your trunk or in the backseat of your vehicle. Just be sure that the gifts

do not compromise your visibility on the road. Even if you are flying, it might be more economical to place gifts in a bag you can check rather than paying separate shipping charges for each gift. Research the baggage fees versus the cost of shipping to make a more informed decision.

• Split hosting duties. If you want to save money but are accustomed to traveling to visit family and friends during the holiday season, then consider hosting a gathering at your own home. Friends and family likely won't scoff at being relieved of some of their annual hosting duties, and you can limit the cost of

your travel to just one trip instead of multiple trips.

• Share lodging. If you are used to staying in hotels when traveling for the holiday season, then you may want to share a hotel room with family members who also stay in hotels. Lodging costs tend to be very expensive during the holiday season, but splitting such costs with a friend or family member can help you stay within budget.

Traveling during the holiday season can be expensive, but men and women willing to make a few travel concessions can save themselves a substantial amount of money.

## MOHAWK VALLEY IBA DUTCHMAN STOVES MOHAWK VALLEY FABRICS

### Annual Year End Inventory

#### ★ Reduction Sale ★

**Monday and Tuesday,  
December 29th & 30th  
7:00AM to 5:00PM**

**10%  
Off  
Store  
Wide**

**Up to  
25% Off  
on Rocky  
Iron Clad  
Boots**

**Up to  
20% Off  
End of bulk  
and  
remnant  
fabrics**

ALL ITEMS MUST BE IN STOCK AND PAID FOR ON SALE DAY.



*Traveling during the holiday season can be expensive, but men and women willing to make a few travel concessions can save themselves a substantial amount of money*

## Herkimer County Science Fair at Herkimer College | Saturday, February 7, 2015

Open to Herkimer County high school students grades 7-12 | \$1,000 in cash prizes awarded.

Application deadline January 15, 2015

For more information visit [www.herkimer.edu/science-fair](http://www.herkimer.edu/science-fair)



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97k Miles \$13,995**

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**2008 Jeep Liberty Patriot  
85k Miles \$7,995**

**4 Door SUV  
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ONLY \$8,498**

**3rd Row  
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**2005 Dodge Durango SLT  
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**MUST  
SEE**



**2003 Ford F150 Ext Cab  
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