

Holiday

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The magic of local Arts

The air is filling with anticipation and merriment. It's a time for creating memories with loved ones.



It's also the perfect time to immerse yourself in the enchantment of live entertainment and celebrate the local talent that shines in your community. From engaging theater productions to soul-stirring music concerts and captivating dance performances, local performing arts organizations offer a plethora of holiday-themed events that are sure to ignite the spirit of the season.

Join in the celebration, support local artists and experience the magic of live performances that will create lasting memories.

THEATER PRODUCTIONS

Local theaters love to include holiday productions in their seasons. Some turn to timeless tales such as "A Christmas Carol" or variations on "It's a Wonderful Life" that they offer year-to-year. Others put on new and original plays or musicals that showcase the talents of local actors and playwrights. In addition to theater companies, many local religious organizations will put on nativity plays or Hanukkah skits.

These productions showcase the talents of local actors, directors and stage designers. Attend a performance at your neighborhood theater and be transported to a world of wonder, laughter, tears and heartwarming stories.

MUSIC CONCERTS

Let the power of music fill your heart with joy by attending local holiday concerts and being swept away by harmonies that stir the soul. From symphony orchestras and chamber ensembles to choirs and bands, local music venues offer a rich array of performances that celebrate the magic of the season. Carolers and bell choirs often put on outdoor concerts in town squares or throughout the community.

Experience the transcendent beauty of holiday melodies, both traditional and contemporary, performed by talented local musicians who pour their hearts into each note. Be it a grand symphony or an

intimate acoustic performance, these concerts capture the essence of community and shared experiences.

DANCE PERFORMANCES

For many people, it isn't the holiday season without attending a production of "The Nutcracker," a performance that nearly every ballet company performs in November or December. Many communities put unique spins on the classic ballet, setting it in their home region or adding local storylines to it.

You can witness the artistry and elegance of local dance companies as they bring holiday-themed performances to life through graceful movements and captivating choreography. Some dance companies have created contemporary dance pieces inspired by winter wonders.

These performances showcase the talent, dedication and creative expression of local dancers. Attend a performance and be swept away by the beauty and emotional depth of these captivating displays.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

In addition to formal performances, local communities often organize festive events and gatherings during the holiday season. These events bring people together and foster a sense of unity and joy.

From tree lighting ceremonies and parades to holiday markets and street festivals, these celebrations provide opportunities to support local businesses, artisans and food vendors. Explore the unique offerings of your community and immerse yourself in the cheerful atmosphere that surrounds these joyful occasions.

This season, don't miss the opportunity to support local talent and immerse yourself in the magic of live entertainment. Gather your loved ones, embrace the magic and let the performances and events in your community create cherished memories that will last a lifetime.



Fun books to read to children this *holiday season*

The holiday season is a special time of year for people of all ages, but children might be the most enthusiastic celebrants come December. Children spend much of the holiday season anticipating the arrival of the man in the red suit, and that enthusiasm can be contagious.

Families have their own unique traditions during the holiday season, but one popular way to harness kids' enthusiasm between Thanksgiving and Christmas Day is to read them holiday stories. There's no shortage of great holiday books for kids, but here are a handful that kids may remember well into adulthood.

THE POLAR EXPRESS

by Chris Van Allsburg: The beloved tale is the story of a young boy who boards a mysterious train bound for the North Pole.

THE LITTLEST ELF

by Brandi Dougherty: Part of a series, this story focuses on a tiny elf named Oliver and a series of misadventures as he navigates his way through Santa's workshop.

OLIVE, THE OTHER REINDEER

by Vivian Walsh: Olive is no ordinary reindeer. In fact, Olive is a dog who heads to the North Pole believing she is a reindeer. Her decision to join Santa's team ultimately benefits the big man and his trusty reindeer.

THE MIRACLE OF THE FIRST POINSETTIA: A MEXICAN CHRISTMAS STORY

by Joanne Oppenheim: A little girl named Juanita is the star of this retelling of a traditional Mexican tale with a valuable lesson.

GINGERBREAD MOUSE: A CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY BOOK FOR KIDS

by Katy Bratton: A fallen tree branch almost ruins Christmas for Mouse, whose determination and resourcefulness mixed in with a little Christmas magic ensures she finds a place to call home in time for the holidays.

A NIGHT IN SANTA'S GREAT BIG BAG

by Kristin Klackstrup: Santa saves the day in this tale starring a young boy's favorite stuffed animal, whose excitement for Christmas compels him to climb into Santa's big bag of presents on Christmas Eve.

SANTA CLAUS AND THE THREE BEARS

by Maria Modugno: This twist on the popular tale "Goldilocks and the Three Bears" finds three unsuspecting bears encountering a familiar fellow in a red suit upon returning home after a nighttime walk.

HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS

by Dr. Seuss: Children can join generations of fans that came before them as they hear the redemption story of the Grinch who was once determined to ruin Christmas for the happy people of Who-ville.

THE NUTCRACKER

by the New York City Ballet: The classic story is retold based on famed choreographer George Balanchine's production.

The holiday season is steeped in tradition. Reading new and classic holiday stories to children is one tradition any family can embrace.

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Food & Beverages

Local producers can flavor your feasts with goods that have a small carbon footprint.

Supporting local food and beverage producers during this festive time allows you to indulge in delightful treats while contributing to the growth and vitality of your community.

OFFERINGS

Local food producers, bakeries, wineries and breweries often take advantage of the holiday season to showcase their finest creations. From artisanal chocolates and gourmet treats to locally sourced wines and craft beers, these offerings are ways to impress your guests and please your own palate.

Seeking out these local delicacies enhances your holiday experience and supports the passion and dedication of small businesses in your community.

Finding the perfect gift for loved ones who already have everything or for whom space is a premium can be a challenge. Why not consider the gift of locally crafted food and beverages? These offerings can make for excellent presents, showcasing the flavors and specialties of your region. From gift baskets featuring artisanal goods to customized wine or beer selections, these gifts are sure to be cherished by recipients.

By choosing local, you can delight your friends and family with something special and unique and contribute to the sustainability and growth of local businesses.

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Supporting local food and beverage producers fosters a sense of community around food and drink. When you choose local products, you are directly supporting the hard work and creativity of people in your community. By building relationships with local producers, you can learn more about their craft, their stories and the values they uphold.

This connection adds a personal touch to your holiday festivities and deepens your appreciation for the rich tapestry of flavors and traditions within your community.



Many local food and beverage producers have a deep-rooted connection to their region's culinary heritage. By choosing their products, you can savor the taste of tradition. Whether it's an age-old family recipe passed down through generations or a technique that reflects the unique geography of the region, these local offerings carry a sense of history and cultural significance. It gives you an opportunity to honor the culinary heritage of your community during your holiday meals and celebrations.

GREEN ADVANTAGE

Supporting local food and beverage producers has a positive economic effect on your community. By choosing local products, you contribute to the growth of small businesses, job creation and the overall economic vitality of your region.

Purchasing locally sourced food and beverages often reduces the carbon footprint associated with long-distance transportation. By supporting local, you play a role in fostering a more sustainable and resilient food system.

The Michigan State University Extension lists several advantages to eating locally produced food including that the food has more flavor and nutrients because it arrives on your plate close to when it was harvested and it was picked at the height of its ripeness. Local food also promotes a safer food supply – since the food doesn't travel as far, there are fewer opportunities for contaminants to be introduced.

Make this holiday season a time to appreciate and support the local flavors that make your community special.



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One-of-a-Kind Gifts

Embrace the spirit of giving by supporting local artisans and businesses when doing your holiday shopping.

In a world dominated by mass-produced goods, shopping local allows you to find unique items and contributes to the growth and vitality of your community. The holidays can be an excellent time to explore the wealth of local talent and craftsmanship.

DECORATIONS

Shopping local can lead to the discovery of unique and handmade decorations that can brighten your home and give it a personalized feel. Local artisans and crafters offer

CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE...

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BEEF — it's what's at Nick's!

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

a wide range of exquisite creations, from intricately crafted ornaments to stunning wreaths and festive home décor.

Supporting the creative talents of individuals in your community provides you with the opportunity to adorn your home with beautiful pieces. Often, these pieces come with stories that you can learn directly from the creator and then share with those who are guests in your home.

CUSTOM-MADE GIFTS

Shopping local often lets you purchase directly from an item's creator and develop a relationship with them. Doing so means you might be able to put in custom orders or ask for gifts that are personalized.

Many local businesses specialize in providing personalized items such as monogrammed products, engraved jewelry or custom artwork. These gifts carry a personal touch, allowing you to show your loved ones just how much you care.

Some artists will accept commissions and you can have pieces created that will fill the person you are giving the gift to with delight. Just be sure to order well in advance and observe the artists' policies for commissions. In most cases, this is not the place to barter as you are not only paying for the gift, but for the artist's time and creativity.

FINDING GIFTS

Many communities organize local holiday markets and fairs, transforming their streets into vibrant hubs of festive cheer. These events bring together a diverse range of local vendors, artisans and food producers, offering a treasure trove of unique gifts and delectable treats.

Attending these markets and fairs serves the dual purpose of checking items off your gift list with an array of local offerings and providing you with an enjoyable holiday activity that you can do with friends and family.

Local boutiques and galleries are hidden delights brimming with unique gift options. These establishments showcase the work of local artists, designers and creators, filled with exceptional items not found in mainstream retail stores.

Whether it is handcrafted jewelry, original artwork or artisanal clothing, these local businesses offer creative shopping experiences filled with individuality.

Let your holiday shopping journey lead you through the path of local stores where you can support your neighbors who are artisans, crafters and business owners. Doing so lets you shower your loved ones with unique and meaningful gifts while contributing to the vibrancy and resilience of your community.

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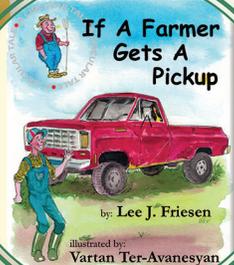
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Yarn Trees

SUPPLIES:

- yarn in as many colors as you'd like
- cardboard or styrofoam cones
- wooden toy wheels in a large and small size
- dowel rod that will fit the hole of the wooden wheels
- small wooden stars
- white and gold paint
- gold glitter paper
- scrap piece of cardboard
- hot glue gun

Take your hot glue gun and glue the start of your yarn all the way around the bottom of your cone. Keep gluing the yarn around and around as close to the previous layer as you can until you have filled the cone to the top with yarn.

If using a hollow cone that doesn't have a bottom, once your cone is full of yarn, trace the bottom of the cone onto a scrap piece of cardboard and cut out the circle.

Glue the circle onto the bottom of your cone so you have a platform to attach your tree base to.

Cut your dowel rod into 2-3" sections and slide a small wheel on one side and a larger wheel on the other side. You can glue these together if you like, but they usually fit pretty snugly even without glue.

Paint the tree bases white and let dry. Glue the base to the center of the bottom side of each cone.

Paint your small wooden stars gold. Trace the star shape onto the back of some gold glitter paper. Cut out the stars and glue them to the fronts of the wooden stars and attach the star to the top of the tree. Set out your trees and admire your work!



Peppermint Meringues

from the Pioneer Woman

INGREDIENTS:

- 3 large egg whites, at room temperature
- 1/4 tsp. cream of tartar
- 1/4 tsp. peppermint extract
- 1/4 tsp. kosher salt
- 1 2/3 c. powdered sugar
- Red gel food coloring

Preheat the oven to 250 . Line 2 baking sheets with parchment paper. Combine the egg whites, cream of tartar, peppermint extract and salt in a large bowl. Beat with a mixer on medium speed until foamy, about 2 minutes. Increase the speed to medium high and beat until thick and opaque, about 1 more minute. Gradually add the powdered sugar, about 1/4 cup at a time, and beat until stiff shiny peaks form, 8 to 10 minutes.

Using a thin pastry brush, make 5 to 6 stripes of gel food coloring inside a pastry bag fitted with a large star tip. Carefully spoon the meringue into the bag. Pipe 2-inch meringues about 1 inch apart on the prepared pans.

Bake the meringues for 1 hour, then turn off the oven and leave the meringues inside for 2 more hours to cool and dry.

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Organizations & Non-Profits

*It's a time for giving,
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This time of year, many people make end-of-year donations either for a tax break or in the spirit of the season. While there are many national and international charities that do great work, there are also local charities and nonprofits in every community that work tirelessly to make a difference.

There are many ways this time of year that you can support their meaningful work through either donations or volunteering.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Local charities and nonprofits address various social issues and provide essential services to those less fortunate. Others are devoted to making the community a better place to live for everyone through cultural enrichment or taking care of the environment. During the holiday season, the efforts of many of these groups become even more critical, as they work to ensure everyone can experience the warmth and joy of the festivities.

By supporting these organizations, you can make the holidays better for your neighbors and the people in your community, helping them navigate challenging times and creating positive change.

Tell others about the local charitable organizations and nonprofits that make your community a better place to live. Research and showcase the diverse range of services they provide, such as food banks, homeless shelters, toy drives, clothing drives and programs for children and seniors. Talk about them on social media. By raising awareness about these organizations, you can inspire others to get involved and support their noble causes.

CONTRIBUTING

One of the most common ways to support local charities and nonprofits is through monetary donations. Consider allocating a portion of your holiday budget towards charitable giving. Even a small



donation can make a difference. There are many organizations that depend on numerous small donations. Some will ask for people to donate the price of a single cup of coffee.

Find out the ways that the charities of your choice accept donations. Some will take money through online platforms; others through in-person drop-offs. Some will invite you to participate in fundraising events. Consider attending fundraising galas, holiday dinners or going to markets that raise money for charitable causes. Volunteering is another excellent way to help the local non-profits in your community. Donate your time and skills in ways that make sense for you. Perhaps you can serve meals at a community kitchen or participate in gift-wrapping drives or organize charity events. Find how what sort of volunteer activities are needed and you or your family or a group of friends can get involved and spread holiday cheer.

Supporting local charities and nonprofits benefits those in need, but it also strengthens the sense of community. Engage with the organizations you care about, the organizations that are enriching your community and helping those in need in ways beyond financial or time donations.

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The perfect holiday party playlist

Experienced party hosts understand that certain elements are essential to throwing a successful get-together. Guests expect a few things when they arrive, with good food and drink topping the list. Music also figures into the magic formula for a well-received party.

The late Aretha Franklin said, “Music does a lot of things for a lot of people. It’s transporting, for sure. It can take you right back, years back, to the very moment certain things happened in your life. It’s uplifting, it’s encouraging, it’s strengthening.”

The power of music is so strong that party hosts know they must curate a playlist to complement the festivities. When hosting during the holiday season, hosts can rest easy in the knowledge that curating a playlist tends to be easier than at other times of the year. That’s due in large part to the prominent role some classic holiday tunes play come December. When curating a holiday party playlist, be sure to include these options.

“Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas” (1943)

This is a song written for Judy Garland for the MGM musical “Meet Me in St. Louis.” Many artists have covered it, including Frank Sinatra and Sam Smith.

“Run Rudolph Run” (1958)

Written by Chuck Berry, and first performed by him, the song is a 12-bar blues. It’s similar in style to Berry’s popular “Johnny B. Goode.”

“It’s the Most Wonderful Time of the Year” (1963)

Recorded by Andy Williams for his first Christmas album, this song is a celebration of holiday gatherings with friends and family.

“What Christmas Means to Me” (1967)

Stevie Wonder’s recognizable tenor shines through on this song that shares all the traditions that help make Christmas merry and bright.

“Happy Christmas (War is Over)” (1971)

John Lennon and Yoko Ono released this song in 1971. Though it’s a protest song against the Vietnam War, it has since become a Christmas standard.

“Santa Claus is Coming to Town” (1975)

Bruce Springsteen’s rocking version of this song is one no holiday playlist should be without.

“Do They Know It’s Christmas?” (1984)

Written by Bob Geldof and Midge Ure, this song was recorded to raise money for famine relief in Ethiopia. It features Band Aid, a supergroup made up of popular Irish and British musical artists.

“All I Want for Christmas Is You” (1994)

Love it or loathe it, Mariah Carey’s song is one of the few modern Christmas songs to enter the esteemed Christmas music canon. It also helped pave the way for Carey to be forever tied to Christmas.

“It’s Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas” (2011)

Several artists have recorded this song, which was written in 1951. Jazz standards artist Michael Bublé made it his own in 2011.

Curating a holiday party playlist can start with the above songs, and the list can then be customized with more tunes that help make the season magical.

THE SDSU SCHOOL OF PERFORMING ARTS PRESENTS

2024
SEASON



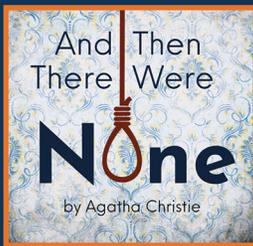
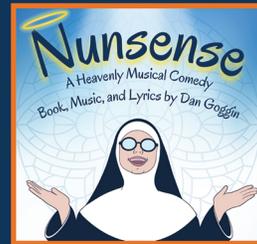
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And Then There Were None

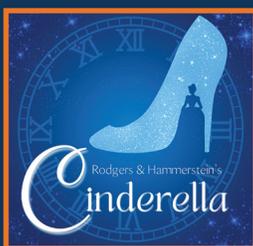
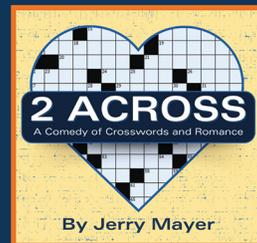
By Agatha Christie

June 19-21 at 7:30pm | June 22 at 2:00pm

2 Across

By Jerry Mayer

June 26-28 at 7:30pm | June 29 at 2:00pm



Cinderella

Music by Richard Rodgers

Book and Lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein

Adapted for Stage by Tom Briggs from the Teleplay by Robert L. Freedman

July 10-12, 17-19 at 7:30pm | July 22, 29 at 2:00pm

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Did you know?

‘T’WAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS’ ACTUALLY HAS A TOTALLY DIFFERENT TITLE.

Clement Clarke Moore’s iconic 1823 poem is actually called “A Visit from St. Nicholas.” It’s more commonly known as “Twas the Night Before Christmas” because of its famous first line.

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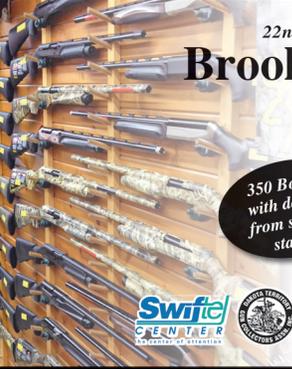



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SNAP A GREAT *Christmas card photo*

Greeting cards are among the first signs that the holiday season has arrived. Mailboxes are filled with cards and email inboxes have new messages popping up each day wishing others well. Many of these greetings feature family photos.

A Shutterfly poll conducted by Ipsos in 2021 discovered that, while traditional holiday messages are by far the most popular missives at 63 percent, younger age groups show more interest in other types of cards, such as photo cards (between 34 and 38 percent depending on age group). Forty-one percent of people polled prefer to receive photo cards. That means holiday well-wishers may want to brush up on their photography skills.

KEEP CARDS IN THE BACK OF YOUR MIND.

While the Norman Rockwell-esque family tableau or a wintry Christmas scene is a go-to holiday card, any photo-worthy moment throughout the year can suffice. Keep a lookout for ideas while vacationing or enjoying time together as a family.

AVOID BUSY PRINTS.

Stick to solid colors when posing for holiday photos; otherwise, recipients' eyes may not know where to look when viewing the photo. Photo subjects should coordinate, but wardrobes that completely match can seem contrived.

PLAN AROUND NAPTIMES.

If photos involve young children, schedule the photo shoot to occur when children are well-rested and fed. Now may be the time to offer kids treats they don't normally get in an effort to reward patience and happy smiles.

AVOID RED EYE.

Proper lighting can help avoid the occurrence of "red eye" in photographs, which happens when the flash bounces off a wide pupil.

Asking subjects to look into bright light before the photo, or utilizing a camera that snaps a small burst of flash before the actual flash, can help alleviate this problem.

EMBRACE CANDID SHOTS OR MIXUPS.

Some of the funniest and most memorable photos are when things didn't go according to plan. A crying infant or a parent looking away from the lens may not be magazine worthy, but don't be so quick to discard those less-than-perfect snaps.

ZOOM IN TIGHT AND CROPPED.

Card recipients want to look at you and not the surroundings. Avoid landscape shots on holiday cards, and be sure to focus on the subjects' faces as much as possible.

ANGLE CORRECTLY FOR FLATTERING PHOTOS.

Adjust your body posture to look your best. Turn the lower half of your body to the side and then adjust the upper half to move slightly toward the camera to appear more svelte. Position the camera lens at eye level or above to avoid double chins in photos.

SHOW OFF YOUR SENSE OF HUMOR.

You can show friends and family you like to laugh by posing in funny ways or by mimicking pop culture references in your photo cards. Recreate childhood photos of yore, or imitate photos from album covers or movie posters.

Relax and have fun with holiday greeting cards. Plan outfits, watch lighting and catch kids at the right time to create memorable cards.



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