

Malone Chamber holding decorating contest again

Bilow Farm on County Rt. 24 in Malone was the top prize winner of the 2020 Star of the North **Holiday Decorating** Contest. The Malone Chamber of Commerce invites all homes and businesses to enter again this year and are hoping for even more than the 29 entries last vear. Nominations for favorites will be taken from the public and judged according to originality, arrangement, theme, and overall presentation. Nominations will be taken from December 1 through 24. Call or email the chamber at 518-483-3760 or director@ malonechamberofcommerce.com. More information can be found at malonechamberofcommerce.com.





Entrance on Mill Street • downtownartistcellar@icloud.com

Holiday Hours: Thurs. & Fri. 11-7, Sat. 11-5, Sun. 12-4

Santa in the Park

Santa in the Park! Santa Clause will make a special appearance in Malone again this year. Children and their parents can come see him at Arsenal Green Park on December 4th from 1 to 3 pm. The entrance and line-up is on the Elm Street



side. The chamber asks that all practice social distancing and have fun!





PINE COUNTRY OUTLET

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Downtown Artist Cellar book launch to celebrate late author

Monday-Friday 9-5 + Saturday 10-3

AND DE NOT BEEN OF BETTER LEADING

It was supposed to have been a book signing! Ellen Mainville--Malone native, member at Downtown Artist Cellar, and local artist/ writer--was hard at work in early September finishing her new book, A Garden For Grace. She was already planning book signing events and local advertising campaigns to launch her book marketing. One book signing would surely be at the Downtown Artist Cellar, where her art has been featured for years. However, a vaccine-breakthrough case of COVID-19 ended Ellen's career just as she was finishing the book. After she died and because the book meant so very much to Ellen, her husband Mark and son Andrew worked with ABCarlson Publishing to design the cover and put the finishing touches on the book, assisted by a generous donation from her local art organization, Foothills Art Society. [Release date, Nov 29, 2021. ISBN 978-0-9962883-2-3, 68 pages, \$29.95.]

To honor Ellen, Downtown Artist Cellar, in cooperation with Ellen's publisher ABCarlson Publishing of Keene, NH, will present a book launch in conjunction with their annual holiday open house: December 5, 2021, from 2-5pm, at the

art work that was on conto support "The Thrive Projing program for children and works will also be featured house. Enjoy a warm afternoon with friends, conversation, lovely art ... and maybe gallery (410 East Main St. in take home a Christmas gift

family and Ellen's publisher, her sister Ann Carlson, will be on hand to discuss her life, art, writing, history in local schools and community organizations, and hopes for her books and writings. Both her current book A Garden for Grace, an art-book quality book of drawings and poems about gardens and flowers suitable for children from five to ninety-five, and her previous book All My Days, an illustrated book of Christian meditations, will be on sale at the event at a discount from the suggested retail. Although not currently for sale, framed original artwork from A Garden For Grace will be displayed. Ellen's remaining signment at the gallery will be auctioned off during the event. The gallery will donate proceeds from this auction and from the sale of the books ect", an inclusive art mentoradults. "The Thrive Project" believes art creates community which Ellen's work embodied. Other gallery artists will also attend and their as part of the holiday open

Malone). Members of Ellen's or two. Light refreshments, wine, and non-alcoholic drinks will be served. NOV. 15TH - 27TH APPLIANCES, IT'S THE BEST TIME TO BUY! Acceust Cobinets - Acceust Cleairs - Appliances - Bedroom Furniture - Dining Room Furniture - Lamps -Lorenzate - Mottresser - Direct Vent Rectuse Pollet & Wastel Stoves - Buclimus - Pacining Sofes - Sofes SEE STOKE FOR BETWIS. Rinnai Holiday Gift Ideas For Everyone... For Every Room! 627 East Main St., Malone • 518-483-4400 • www.TheHomeZone.net





A Franklin County Sheriff's Department car, carrying more than its usual complement of lights — as well as a rooftop Santa leads off the second annual Parade of Lights in 2019 at the Franklin County Fairgrounds. The 4th annual festival is set to take place this year at 5 p.m. Dec. 4. "We are going a little bigger this year with the parade starting at Catherine Street and going down Main Street to the Fairgrounds," Robinson said. "Like last year,

Santa will be lighting the tree first via Facebook Live (on the parade's Facebook page), then the parade will start. People are more than welcome to come down to the Fairgrounds and drive through to meet Santa and all kids will get a gift bag." Groups, businesses and families alike can register to participate in the parade by contacting Robinson on the parade's Facebook page, Malone's Annual Parade of Lights Festival, or by calling 518-521-6390.



Parade of Lights set for Dec. 4

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Watch for the **Elusive Elfie!**

The Malone Chamber of Commerce is bringing back Elfie for the holiday season. Shoppers who spot him at area businesses in December can call the chamber office at 518-483-3760 for a chance to win a price from that business. Elfie will be on the move all month long, so keep looking! If your business would like to host Elfie for a weekday, please call or email the chamber to reserve your day.



HOLIDAY BRIFFS

WRAPITUP

The Malone Adult Center will sponsor a "Wrap it Up" on Sunday, Dec. 5 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. to benefit Malone Junior Huskies Hockey.

Holiday raffle

The Catholic Community of Constable, Westville and Trout River 2021 holiday raffle. Tickets may be purchased before or after Mass at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Constable or call 518-358-4394 or 518-483-1176. Drawing on Dec. 5.

ANNUAL MITTEN TREE PROJECT

The United Methodist wom-

en of the Brainardsville United Methodist Church are sponsoring the annual Mitten Tree Project. Donations of new mittens, hats, scarves and money accepted. For more information, call Connie Wilcox at 518-425-0382.

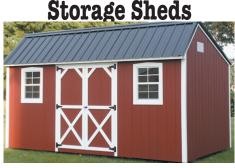
MEMORYTREE

Brushton-Moira American Legion Auxiliary Unit #939 will host a memory tree ceremony on Dec. 12 at 6 p.m. Donation is \$1 per bulb for a loved one. Call Shelley at 518-593-6448, Trudv at 315-328-4325 or Denise at 518-529-7219. Or stop at the post and give money to the bartend-



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WE TAKE CASH OR CHECK

Shop locally on Plaid Friday and Small Business Saturday

Metro

What better ways to celebrate the diversity, uniqueness and creativity of independent, local businesses than by supporting them during the busiest shopping season of the year?

Plaid Friday was conceptualized in Oakland, Calif., several years ago in an effort to encourage holiday shoppers to slow down and shop locally at small businesses rather than partake in the frenzy of the traditional Black Friday rush at big box retailers. Similarly, Small Business Saturday" was founded by American Express in 2010 as a community-centric day to support local businesses. Small Business Saturday was the catalyst for the generalized Shop Small" movement, which encourages consumers to patronize small businesses.

Local businesses are at the heart of their communities. In a 2015 survey by the Urban and Land Institute, researchers found that more than half of respondents said they wanted a neighborhood where they wouldn't need a car very often. More than 40 percent specifically noted the desirability of local shopping and entertaining as main features. A neighborhood with a Main Street

or thriving local shopping hub can be a big draw. Consumers make these neighborhoods a reality.

Every time they grab a coffee from a local cafe, purchase a piece of artwork from a neighborhood artist or dine at a family-run restaurant, shoppers are supporting local business owners and strengthening their communities. Here are some ways to make shopping small a priority this holiday season.

- Take inventory of Plaid Friday and Small Business Saturday sales by keeping up on local social media. Build holiday shopping lists around the offerings at local businesses.
- Dine out at local restaurants or shop smaller food merchants.
- Visit a local tree farm. When decorating for the holidays, support the farm or local nursery that grows Christmas trees and makes their own wreaths and garlands.
- Keep your money in your community at a local bank or credit union rather than a large national bank, Local banks may have special promotions to boost savings for holiday gifting.

The holiday season is the perfect time to support small, local businesses







5 great gifts for tweens & teens this holiday season

Children often marvel at the world around them. They're delighted to receive just about any toy, and play with items that others may not see as fun Ñ including everything from mixing bowls to cardboard boxes. Slowly that cherubic toddler turns into a school-aged wonder, and later into a young adult trying to find his or her place in the world. With each passing year, the task of finding gifts for tweens and teenagers becomes that much more challenging.

While most parents and other relatives may never seem 'cool' in the eyes of their teens, they can gift the tweens and teens they love with presents that will earn them a few extra brownie points. The following are five gift ideas that are tailor-made for tweens and teens.

1.LEDSTRIPLIGHTS

Both girls and boys may enjoy customizing their rooms as they see fit. Teens can utilize LED strip lights to create a unique ambiance that reflects their style. These often self-sticking ribbons of lights adhere right to walls. They come in a variety of lengths

Complete with multicolored options and a remote control, teens can set their room colors as their mood dictates.

2. GIFT CARDS

Teens try to keep up with the latest styles. A gift card or clothing gift from one of their favorite retailers can help them build their ensembles that much quicker. Aeropostale, Abercrombie & Fitch, Hollister, Forever 21, Zumiez, American Eagle, and Tilly's are just some of the stores popular among today's tweens and teens.

3.WIRELESS EARBUDS OR **HEADPHONES**

Wireless headphones are used on a daily basis by tweens and teens. They rely on them for listening to music, watching movies on their devices and even during remote learning sessions. There are many brands to choose from, and Beats by Dre and Apple AirPods are among the most popular.

4. SNEAKERS AND SHOES

Sneakers have long been popular gifts for teenagers, but they tend to be costly, especially

perimeter of the room, if desired. Vans Slip-On Core Classics, Converse Chuck Taylor All Star High Top Sneakers, Reebok Club C 85 Vintage, Nike Air Force One, and Adidas Sobakov are popular among today's tweens and teens. In addition, thanks to the resurgence of 1990s style, Dr. Martens boots are once again in demand.

5. VIDEO GAME CONSOLES

Each gamer has his or her preferred platform for gaming. From the Nintendo Switch to the Xbox Series X to the Sony PlayStation 5, these systems are in high demand. Due to that demand, these products may be harder to find the closer you get to Christmas Day. Grab them while you can and soak in the smile on your favorite tween's or teen's face.

Teens and tweens are notoriously challenging to shop for. However, with some knowledge, loved ones can find gifts tweens and teens are more likely to use and enjoy.









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Tips for the perfect gift wrapping

By CYD CONVERSE

s a kid I remember my mom staying up long into the night every year on Christmas Eve wrapping gifts. Occasionally I'd sneak down the hall from my bedroom, never actually attempting to steal a glimpse of any presents, but more just to share in the excitement. Hearing the scissors run along the length of paper and each piece of tape being snipped off the roll was some oddly tangible source of glee for me.

Fast forward to when I first started buying gifts to give on my own and my first college apartment where I had a tiny wisp of a Christmas tree adorned with thrift store ornaments and cheap tinsel garland. I found so much joy in tucking stacks of brown paper packages tied up with string under that tree for my friends. Really there was no looking back at that point for me.

I am a certifiable lover of a well-wrapped gift. Sure, I have a bit of a reputation for being "extra" as we call it these days, but I wear that badge with honor. I truly believe that a beautifully wrapped gift is a part of the gift itself. Taking a few extra moments of care to create something special for someone makes that person feel so loved, it nary matters the color of the socks or scarf stashed inside.

Each year my family knows that I wrap to a certain color palette or theme. As silly as this may sound, it's actually my way of making it easier to create a lovely array of packages without having to think too hard about things as I'm wrapping. Don't believe me? Here are my go-to tips for creating festive packages with flair without being tempted to pull out your hair.

Founded in 2008 by editor and cocktail shaker in residence, Cyd Converse, The Sweetest Occasion is a food and lifestyle blog featuring easy party recipes, entertaining tips, festive cocktails and more! Visit thesweetestoccasion. com.

1. CHOOSE A COLOR PALETTE

Choose a color palette for your gift wrapping by simply choosing a paper you love and then select two to three others that look nice paired together. If your inspiration paper is a little pricey, this is also a good way to keep the costs down by mixing in less expensive papers.

2. BROWN PAPER PACKAGES

Brown parcel paper or kraft paper is always a great option. You can wrap all of your gifts for that classic Christmas look, or mix it in with other papers. It's affordable and always feels appropriately nostalgic.



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3. ADD PRETTY



Use a mix of tags keeping your color palette in mind. You can find simple white sticker tags with gold foil borders at Target just about every year that are lovely - then mix in a few fancier hang tags for a luxe look.

4. DON'T FORGET THE RIBBON **AND BOWS**

Not every package needs a ribbon or bow to keep things simpler, but adding baker's twine, ribbon, pom poms or bows to every few packages will make your entire spread under the tree look decadent.

6. USE LOTS OF

Similarly, use lots of tape! Not to the point of excess, but adding little pieces of tape as you wrap and fold will keep the paper pulled tight and hold it in place for especially impressive pack-



7. HAVE FUN

Wrapping is supposed to be fun. If at any point you're feeling stressed out, cut yourself some slack and scale back. Grab a cup of cocoa, crank the Christmas music and get back to it.

8. START EARLY



The best way to keep it fun? Start early! I know, I know. I'm often shopping at the last minute, too. But those things I do have early get wrapped early so I am not having to wrap all in one sitting, which tends to suck the joy out of the process.



At the edge of the village



5. PULL THE PAPER TIGHT

The best way to elevate your holiday wrapping? Cut your paper so it's just slightly bigger than the item you're wrapping, place as many items as possible in boxes with nice square edges, and pull the paper tight, giving it a good crease as you fold it. Neat wrapping always looks super chic, no fuss required.



How to make your holiday table pop

By ALEX GAULT

he holiday season is upon us, and families and friends will soon be gathering for feasts. If you're hosting one of these events, they can be an opportunity to wow your guests and put your decorating and cooking skills on dis-

When it comes to decorating for one of these events, a welllaid out table should be at the top of the list. Brianna Pisani, owner of the Pretty Little Vintage Co., a specialty and vintage furniture and decorations rental company in Adams Center, has some tips

for how you can make your holiday table pop.

Ms. Pisani said the first thing to consider is how the table will be used. Is the meal going to be family-style, with all of the food in dishes on the table? Or will it be buffet-style, with the food set up in a separate place?

"This will really determine the amount of space you get to style," Ms. Pisani said. "Keeping the food on a separate buffet table is nice and allows you to decorate the table a little more, but it might not always be feasible."

Once you know the space you have, Ms. Pisani suggests develShe suggests you take cues from the space you're working in, and

oping a theme or color palette. try to introduce complementary tones and textures if possible.

Ms. Pisani suggested con-

fabrics against one another. For

See TABLE 11







Table

example, if you have a wooden table, she suggests using woven or colored charger plates, a fabric runner or varied placemats. If your table has a linen tablecloth, try adding some wood or metal décor on top.

Don't get caught up trying to match colors to the traditional holiday colors, or thinking too much in the season – Ms. Pisani said some of the best tables she has ever designed have been monochrome or neutral.

"You can go with traditional holiday colors, monochrome tones, or mix it up to match the space you're celebrating in," she said. "Either way, there are plenty of ways to give a 'nod' to the holiday, make it beautiful and make it your own."

For a Thanksgiving table, Ms. Pisani suggested adding some fall elements, like leaves or branches fallen from trees in your neighborhood. You can also add fruits, spices or vegetables from the grocery store, like brown pears, apples and pomegranates, cinnamon sticks, mini pumpkins and gourds.



PHOTOGRAPHY BY: KIMBERLY SCHULDT PHOTOGRAPHY

thing that can help you do just

ant to us, and it just so happens

that we have a whole warehouse

full of them," she said. "We have

so many fun options to choose

from and that allows our clients

"The little details are import-

For a Christmas table, she suggests adding pinecones, jingle bells, springs of pine from your Christmas tree, ornaments, et-

"If you're setting the table for Christmas, the options for sweet little details are endless," she

Another great way to integrate the table with the meal is to use your food as décor. Adding small charcuterie boards, personal mini-pies, mini bread loaves can really warm up your space! Flowers, lights, candles and other accoutrement can add flair to the table as well.

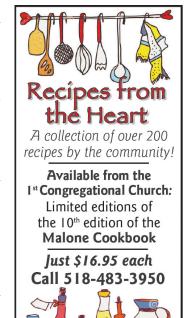
Ms. Piasani said she believes anyone can set up their own unique, beautiful table, and she just so happens to have some-

top packages to fit their theme, color palette and overall holiday table vibe," she said.

On Nov. 1, Pretty Little Vintage Co. will launch their holiday tablescape packages which include all the décor and little details that can make your holiday table really stand out.

"Our tablescape packages include fresh floral centerpieces, charger plates, china, flatware, glassware and all of the pretty little details, so anyone can have a fully styled holiday table this year," she said.

If you're interested in a holiday tablescape package, to make your holiday hosting a little easier, head over to @PrettyLittleVintageCo on FaceBook or Instagram, or their website, prettylittlevintageco.com, to check them out and place an order!



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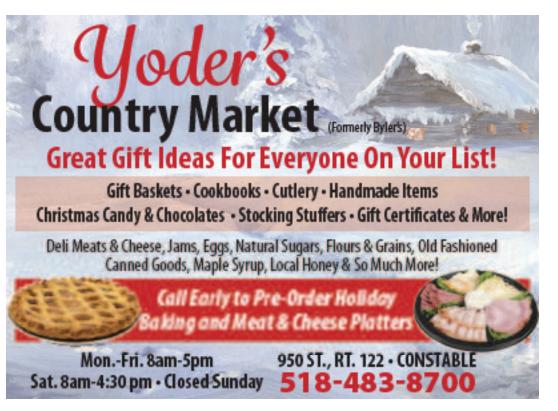
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