

Christmas holiday entertainment survival guide

To ease stress of holiday gatherings, the Kansas City Steak Company has put together a holiday entertainment guide to help you weather the storm and come out with host-of-the-year honors. Here are a few tips.

■ **Stock the freezer and pantry with can't miss meals that delight every time**

Every host has some go-to recipes that are crowd pleasers. A succulent prime rib roast is always a great go-to meal. It's easy to prepare, doesn't require a lot of fuss and never fails to impress even the pickiest eater. A flavorful beef tenderloin roast is another easy fan favorite. You can also check out a few other special holiday meals from companies like the Kansas City Steak Company to stock your pantry with foods your family and friends will love. Don't forget to add in a few appetizers, side dishes and a dessert or two to your freezer stash.

■ **Add a few special items to make your holiday table sparkle**

From colorful holiday runners and napkins, to large platters and serving bowls, it's a great idea to pull out your holiday items and place them in an easy-to-reach location during the holiday season. Candles add a special ambience to holiday parties. And don't forget to buy

a few non-perishable foods that add elegance to any holiday spread: olives, crackers, holiday cookies, spiced nuts.

■ **Consider a potluck meal this year**

Potluck dinners can take a lot of stress off your plate and are a great way to create memorable meals anytime - especially during the holidays. Usually the host takes care of the meal's entree. Guests could bring their favorite salads, breads, desserts or whatever you need to round out the meal.

■ **Welcome guests with holiday music**

Few things say, "Happy Holidays," like the tunes that define the season. Tune into one of the stations in your area that plays holiday music 24/7 from Thanksgiving through Christmas. Or download some favorites onto your iPod and let the music waft throughout your home.

■ **Have a few gifts for unexpected guests**

It happens every year. Someone stops by to deliver an unexpected holiday gift and you haven't included that person on your gift list. Whether it's a box of special chocolates, scented candles or even a box of succulent steaks, you'll be prepared for any occasion by having extra gifts on-hand.

■ **Take time to savor special moments and**



memories

There is no perfect holiday gathering, so remember to laugh and love and move on. Advanced planning will help you survive some of the usual holiday entertaining stresses, but learning to let the little things go can go a long way to helping you see that this time together is precious. (BPT)

GRAMMY® Award-winning Guitarist

Ed Gerhard

"CONSIDERED THE PREMIERE HOLIDAY EVENT ON THE SEACOAST."
-PORTSMOUTH MAGAZINE

31ST ANNUAL CHRISTMAS GUITAR CONCERT

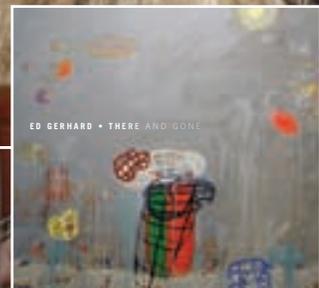
PRESENTED BY ACT ONE

Friday & Saturday
December 20th & 21st 7:30pm
Unitarian Universalist Church
292 State Street, Portsmouth, NH

Tickets \$25 in advance, \$28 at the door
Doors open at 6:00pm

Food Drive at Concert to benefit Seacoast Family Food Pantry

For Tickets call (603) 664-7200
or order online at www.edgerhard.com



THERE AND GONE
The New Album from Ed Gerhard is here!
Order your copy today at edgerhard.com

Photograph © A. Sato

Buying technology for seniors this holiday season

Seniors aren't as wary of technology as some might think. In April 2012, the Pew Internet and American Life Project reported that more than half of the 65 and over population were online and using email. The number is growing as seniors see the advantages of technology, from convenience to safety benefits. Help the seniors in your life manage more from the comfort of their home.

A new laptop or tablet can be a valuable tool for communicating with loved ones, managing finances and even taking care of some shopping. More than the gift itself, they'll appreciate the time you take to show them the ropes with a video chat program or online bill pay services, not to mention getting them connected with family and friends on social media.

If you're in the market for a portable computer, there are numerous options. An all-purpose laptop typically offers a larger screen, which can be helpful if eyesight is an issue. At 4.5 to 8 pounds, they are ideal for the home, but can be carried to the corner coffee shop without much hassle. The Acer Aspire offers a 15.6-inch screen, great for viewing videos and images, and weighs less than 6 pounds. Netbooks are smaller and more lightweight,

good for some simple Web browsing and email, but often not robust enough to handle streaming video or multiple applications running simultaneously. Asus offers some high quality options, which are generally more budget-friendly than a laptop. Tablets have taken the market by storm, and new devices are being designed with seniors in mind. The Claris Companion blends in with a home's decor, featuring a bamboo bezel, a stand and speakers built into the front. The 10-inch screen has big buttons, large text and a simple user interface, and it accommodates alerts set up by the senior or family to keep abreast of medication or other critical tasks.

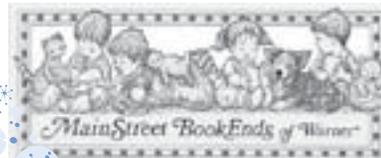
Provide seniors - and yourself - with the gift of a cellphone and peace of mind. Even if they don't text or surf the Internet, your loved ones can benefit from having a convenient way to call for help in an emergency. Consumer Cellular carries senior-friendly phones, like the Doro PhoneEasy 618, with large and backlit buttons and hearing aid compatibility. No contract phone service with flexible plans means paying only as much as they use the phone.

Of course, some seniors may be ready for smartphone features at their fingertips,

including powerful cameras for capturing memories of the grandchildren. As with other products, consider a device with a larger screen size to avoid eye strain. Also, keep the interface simple. Apple products tend to be fairly intuitive, so an iPhone may be a contender. The LG Escape from Consumer Cellular is another option, particularly if you want to give a phone loaded with advanced features.

If shopping for avid readers, consider giving an e-reader and load some classics to get them started. The Amazon Kindle starts with a 6-inch screen, but larger sizes (up to 9.7 inches) are featured on certain models. Seniors can increase fonts to a comfortable size for reading, and they don't need to spend a bundle on books as many libraries now lend e-books. (BPT)





MainStreet BookEnds
16 East Main St. Warner, NH
Call us at 603-456-2700
www.mainstreetbookends.com
Events • Browse • Order Books • eBooks

Community Bookstore
Including Toys • Cards • Gifts

Buy Local!
Fine Art • Crafts • Milk & Meats
Free WiFi • Coffee • Gather and Relax
Open every day 9am to 6pm

100% Solar Powered



EVINRUDE OUTBOARDS
E-TEC



Gift Certificates Available

- Boats
- Motors
- Accessories
- Supplies

HAGGETT'S MARINE, INC.
112 Airport Road • Concord, NH (603) 224-0171
www.haggettsmarine.com

Detailed Stained Glass
Classes • Supplies • Custom Work
Exquisitely Handcrafted Glass Gifts
Made in the USA
Paperweights, Kaleidoscopes, Marbles,
Jewelry, Ornaments, Oil Lamps & More

Open for Midnight Merriment **GIFT SALE**
★ Dec. 6 from 10AM-11PM ★ 6PM-11PM ★

Hours: Mon.-Fri. 10:00 am - 5:30 pm
Tues. 10:00 am - 7:00 pm • Sat. 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
24 Pleasant Street • Concord, NH
(603) 224-7100

DEXTER'S INN TRAILS by NORSE
X-C Ski & Snowshoe
Sunapee, NH



- * Groomed Trail Network
- * Equipment Rental & Lessons
- * Cozy Warming Room with Fireplace
- * Lunch, Snacks and Beverages Available

We Love Beginners, Families, and Groups!!

Gift Certificates and Season's Passes Available



dexters@tds.net 763-5571 www.dextersnh.com

How to have a high-tech holiday without the high price

Have a holly, jolly, high-tech holiday - and in case you didn't hear - it doesn't have to cost you an arm and a leg. Some of the season's hot-test tech gifts are affordable than ever this year.

■ **1. Dual docking speaker**

A Dual Docking Speaker system allows anyone to get the most out of a music collection with impressive style, design and functionality. A Dual Docking speaker like LG's ND5630 is compatible with iPod, iPhone and Android and also boasts built-in Wi-Fi, so it's simple to stream music via Airplay or Bluetooth.

■ **2. Ultra-wide monitor**

Gamers and geeks alike will light up when they open a modern ultra-wide monitor that brings cyberspace to life. With a 21:9 aspect ratio screen (2560-by-1080p resolution), these new monitors produce a theater-like experience when playing games or watching movies.

■ **3. Smart/3D Blu-ray disc player**

Some Smart Blu-ray Disc players can play DVDs, and 2D or 3D Blu-ray discs. They can also stream content like movies from Netflix or Hulu Plus or videos from YouTube - especially great if that special person on your shopping list isn't ready to upgrade to a smart TV yet. You can get one from LG (BP530) as little as \$100 at some online retailers. (BPT)

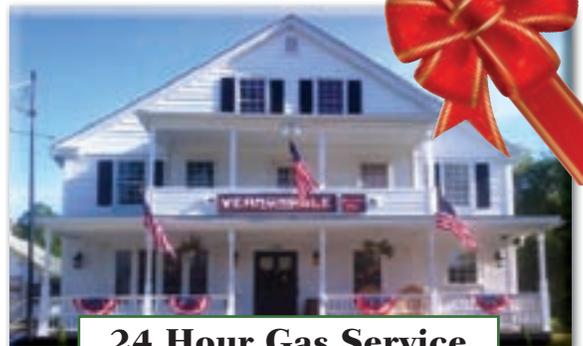


Celebrate Days Gone by at the Vernondale Store!

~ **GENERAL STORE** ~
Everything from Sundries to Pet Food
Penny Candy, Grocery Items, Deli
Locally Made Gift Items

Merry Christmas
to you and yours
from your family &
friends at the
Vernondale Store!

~ *Gift Cards Available* ~



24 Hour Gas Service

Open 7 days:
Sun. 7^{AM}-6^{PM}; Mon.-Sat. 7^{AM}-8^{PM}
Breakfast from 7^{AM}-11^{AM}
Deli & Grill 11^{AM} until
one hour before closing
Ice Cream Fountain Noon - closing
LOCAL ICE CREAM from Gifford's

927-4256 • 1526 Rt. 114 • North Sutton, NH • vernondalestore.com

Not home for the holidays: the beauty of holiday traveling

Vocalists from Perry Como and the Carpenters to Michael Buble have warbled about how wonderful it is to be home for the holidays. But who says you have to buy into that belief? Not being home for the holidays offers many advantages, including the opportunity to travel, visit far-off loved ones or just immerse yourself in total relaxation during one of the most hectic times of the year.

Instead of hurrying to decorate your home, host a soiree, accept every invitation, prepare enough food to feed an armored battalion, and find exactly the right gift for everyone you've ever met, going away to a resort during the holidays can help ease holiday stress. Opt for a quintessential winter getaway like in the Village of Kohler, Wisc., and you'll enjoy a snowy holiday season, complete with carolers, hot cocoa and holiday decor around every corner.

The American Club Resort, one of only 45 hotels in North America to boast both AAA Five-Diamond and Forbes Five-Star designations, has been hosting happy holidays for decades. Immerse yourself in spirit-soothing relaxation at Kohler Waters Spa, enjoy snow shoeing through an



800-acre wildlife preserve, or catch up on last-minute shopping at 25 specialty and

boutique stores in the Shops at Woodlake Kohler. (BPT)

Upstairs at Daniel's
boutique & gift shop

Open House Nov. 29-Dec. 1
10% off storewide! (non-sale items)

December Holiday Savings!

- Dec. 2&3: 20% off jewelry
- Dec. 4-6: 20% off linens
- Dec. 9-11: 20% candles and cards
- Dec. 12-13: 20% off glassware
- Dec. 16-17: 20% off toys
- Dec. 18-20: 20% off gourmet food items

Open 7 days for the Holiday Season!



Christmas parties, any size.
Gift cards, any amount,
Just call & we'll mail them!
603-428-7621
Main St., Henniker, NH
Open 7 days a week from 11am

COUNTRY PINE FURNITURE
TOWNLINER OUTDOOR FURNITURE

Check out the new 'stuff'
in our showroom!

ITEMS FROM AMISH COUNTRY
AND MUCH MORE! COME SEE!

Open 7 days

FRESH
CHRISTMAS
TREES &
WREATHS!



U-HAUL

Rt. 11, ANDOVER, NH
603-735-5778

Pet safety parenting tips around the holiday season

Pet parenting can be as crazy as it is fun, especially around the holidays. Add the stress of hosting family and friends, and many pet parents end up ignoring Fido or Fluffy in favor of cooking a feast or wrapping last-minute gifts. So, how do you find balance between preparing for the holidays and tending to your pet?

Rose Hamilton -- Chief Marketing Officer at Pet360.com, the ultimate pet-parenting destination -- offers the following tips to keep your pet top of mind during the holiday season.

■ **Keep Plants and Goodies Out of Reach:** Many traditional holiday plants, like poinsettias and mistletoe, can be harmful to your pet's health, so be sure to keep these out of reach. Also, refrain from sharing specific holiday treats with your tail-wagger, particularly fruitcake and sugar-free goods, which contain dog-toxic ingredients.

■ **Decorate Wisely:** Holiday decor can be dangerous for pets, so it's important to take certain precautions when decorating. Place fresh trees in discreet corners, and keep lights, ornaments and tinsel off the lower branches. Deter your pet from electrical

cords by spraying the cords with lemon peel or bitter orange tea.

■ **Mind Your Pet's Manners:** Heightened activity at home can affect your pet's behavior, so it's important to prepare. Hosting small gatherings prior to the holiday can help reinforce good manners. If you know your pet won't hold back his excitement, set aside a safe room with a bed, water, toys and some treats where he can stay during your event.

■ **Get the Right Travel Gear:** Crates are useful for all forms of travel, but if flying, be certain to use an airline-approved shipping crate. Take all health records with you, and ensure that your pet is wearing a collar and tag with appropriate contact information.

■ **Give Back with Gifts:** While toys and treats are always welcomed by our furry relatives, consider a comfortable bed or deluxe grooming session to pamper your pet instead. Older pets may especially benefit from a therapeutic bed or massage.

For more tips on pet parenting around the holidays, visit www.Pet360.com. (NewsUSA)



Make her day sparkle!

Sbobba Jewelers Inc.

20 Depot St. Peterborough, NH 603-924-3086

~ The Toadstool Bookshops ~

We'll help you find the perfect books, calendars, CDs and DVDs for everyone on your Christmas list!

We have 3 stores full of ideas!
Visit us in Peterborough, Keene, and Milford

Here are just a few suggestions:

AN OTIS CHRISTMAS BY LOREN LONG – Otis is everyone's favorite tractor and the hero of earlier picture books for young children. Christmas on the farm is saved when Otis makes a daring trek through impassible snow to bring back Doc Baker to care for a mare awaiting the birth of a foal.

A STREET CAT NAMED BOB AND HOW HE SAVED MY LIFE BY JAMES BOWEN James is a street musician struggling to make ends meet. Bob is a stray cat looking for somewhere warm to sleep. When James and Bob meet, they forge a never-to-be-forgotten friendship that has been charming readers from Thailand to Turkey.

OUT ON A LIMB: WHAT BLACK BEARS HAVE TAUGHT ME ABOUT INTELLIGENCE AND INTUITION - BEN KILHAM has been studying the bears and at times raising orphaned infants in the woods of northern New Hampshire for four decades. His observations and his personal story of dyslexia make for a fascinating book.

DWELLING IN POSSIBILITY: SEARCHING FOR THE SOUL OF SHELTER BY HOWARD MANSFIELD The mystery that attracts Mansfield's attention is that some houses have life, are homes, are dwellings, and others do not. The book is a search for the ordinary qualities that make a house a home, and some public places more welcoming than others.

Depot Square, Peterborough M-F, 10-6 Sat. 10-5 Sun. 10-4 924-3543 • www.toadbooks.com

Colony Mill Mktpl, Keene M-Sat. 10-9 Sun. 11-6 • 352-8815
 Lorden Plaza, Milford, M-Sat. 9-9, Sun. 11-5 • 673-1734

It's not too late to prep your home for the holidays

The holiday season is here, and in no time family and friends will descend upon your home for divine meals and holiday cheer. Now isn't the time to panic, there's plenty of time to prep your house (and your family). Integrating a few of the tips below can help relieve some holiday stress and dress up your home.

- Buy new towels for the bathroom. This is the ideal excuse to replace threadbare towels, which can be done at a reasonable cost.

- Place a runner in the entryway to help absorb slush and snow – and protect your floors.

- Sharpen your knives – they are going to get a lot of use in the next couple months.

- Fill scratches in the dining room table with colored wax.

- Clean out the entry closet to allow room for guests' coats and winter gear.

- Treat fabric furniture with protective spray.

- Clean out guestroom dressers or closets. Guests shouldn't have to live out of their suitcases.

- Test your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors to ensure they are functioning properly. Ideally, there are detectors on each floor of



the house.

- Place travel-sized toiletries in the bathroom – someone will surely forget shampoo or

toothpaste.

- Purge your fridge. No need for ancient mustard or spoiled mayo, plus the extra space gives you room for your holiday platters and party trays.

- Have your heating and water-heating equipment serviced.

"One of the best ways to stave off unnecessary holiday stress is planning," said Kerri Walker, senior marketing manager at Rinnai. "Prior to holiday occasions, have your heating and water-heating equipment checked by a professional. If it's time to upgrade, this gives you the opportunity to select the ideal unit and have it installed before problems occur."

Although the tips above won't ensure a stress-free holiday season, they will help you prepare. Involve the kids in some of these tasks as well, by making it a game. If it's time to upgrade your heating or water-heating equipment, act before Dec. 31, you may qualify for additional incentives. Purchase a Rinnai Condensing Tankless Water Heater and earn a \$200 rebate from Rinnai. Any Rinnai Tankless Unit or a Rinnai Condensing Boiler purchase earns homeowners up to \$300 in federal tax credits. (NewsUSA)

**New for
2013**



DOWNTOWN ABBEY CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS



RECTANGULAR GLASS



GLASS CAR



1ST THREE SEASONS GLASS ORNAMENTS

ALSO AVAILABLE - CASTLE GLASS BALL, ABBEY PULL BELL, ANTIQUE BRASS STOCKING HOLDER, 18" STOCKINGS

Tatwell Gallery

255 Newport Road ~ New London, NH ~ 526-2910

Handcrafted designs
by our goldsmiths

One-of-a-Kind

MJ HARRINGTON
Jewellers & Designers Since 1948 **65th Anniversary** & CO.

www.mjharrington.com

35 MAIN STREET • NEWPORT, NH • 603.863.1662

Smart TV smarts: Learning the truth about them

Even though smart TVs have been around for almost five years, many consumers still don't have all the facts. "A new consumer survey found that 52 percent of U.S. consumers already know what a smart TV is," says Matt Durgin, a smart TV expert at LG. "And, out of those unfamiliar, when they learned more about smart TVs, more than half said they would consider buying one." Understanding the smart TV concept is easier than one would think. Smart TVs are Internet-connected TVs that work kind of like a cable or satellite provider's on-demand system, allowing users to tailor what they watch and when - a buffet of TV shows and movies. The difference is that smart TVs offer much more content from multiple providers and deliver it via your home's Internet connection. LG's smart TVs, for example, offer access to online content such as Netflix, Hulu Plus, YouTube, and more, as well as Internet browsing capabilities. Some even include downloadable apps to provide interesting information and games. Durgin and the TV pros at LG share the truth about smart TVs:

■ **Smart TV are still TVs** - It's still the same "lean back" entertainment experience people love, with all the same features people



are familiar with using. You still have a cable or satellite provider and can hook up Blu-ray players and other devices, but you get the added benefit of more content options via the TV itself, on your schedule.

■ **Smart TVs are easy to set up** - Most are Wi-Fi enabled and connect to a home's existing wireless network just like a PC, tablet or smartphone. You don't need a tangle of extra wires to access online content from your smart TV.

■ **Smart TVs are affordable** - Smart TV capabilities are increasingly common at all price points. In fact, more than 70 percent

of LG's 2013 TVs have smart TV capability starting as low as \$500. As with garden-variety flatscreens, how much you pay for a smart TV is more often determined by factors like size and brand, and even where you purchase it.

■ **Streaming content is getting faster**

- While how fast content loads and streams is partially influenced by the speed of your Wi-Fi network, a household with a broadband connection should have plenty of bandwidth to enjoy uninterrupted viewing in up to 1080p quality (depending on the content provider).

■ **You don't need to be a techie** - Smart

TVs are as intuitive as using a smartphone. For example, LG's Magic Remote mimics a computer mouse, including point-and-click functionality and a scroll wheel. You can even search and change channels with voice commands. -

■ **Smart TVs offer easy ways to share content** - You may already be used to sharing photos, music or movies between your home PC, tablet, laptop or smartphone. Content sharing with a smart TV is just as easy. Most smart TVs have inputs for phones and other devices (e.g. USB and HDMI ports) for content sharing and some allow you to do it via a Wi-Fi connection. (BPT)

Shaker Holidays




At the Enfield Shaker Museum

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE
Saturday, December 7 - Sunday, December 15
Bring a non-perishable food pantry donation to vote for your favorite tree!

DECEMBER MUSEUM HOURS
Mon. — Sat., 10 am to 4 pm; Sun., Noon to 4 pm

EXTENDED GIFT SHOP HOURS
Friday, December 13, 10 am to 8 pm
Refreshments and 10% Discount

PANCAKE BREAKFAST WITH SANTA
Saturday, December 14, 9 am to 11 am

COOKIE FAIR AND SINGING WITH CANTERBURY SINGERS
Sunday, December 15, 1 pm and 2:30 pm

ENFIELD SHAKER MUSEUM
 447 NH Route 4A, Enfield, NH
 (603) 632-4346 • www.shakermuseum.org



Henniker Fitness Center

Your fitness is our priority

Unbelievable

Black Friday SPECIAL

Check it out at:
www.hennikerfitnesscenter.com

Open 24/7
 Liberty Hill Road
 Building #4 • Henniker
 603-428-7131

Stuff their stockings with budget friendly beauty gifts

Stuffing stockings is a fun and memorable holiday tradition. This year, celebrate by filling stockings with budget friendly beauty gifts that friends and loved ones will truly adore.

Here are a few gift giving ideas:

■ **Scent:**

Embrace the magic of the winter season with Softsoap's limited edition body washes, in Wintermint Snowfall and Sparkling Berry Bubbly. The festive scents celebrate the spirit of the season while the moisture-rich formula will leave their skin feeling soft and smooth all winter long.

■ **Nails:**

Everyone wants to add a little glitter and glam during the holidays. Give the women in your life a little sparkle with fun festive nail polishes in colors of red, gold and silver.

■ **Lips:**

Women like lip balms that moisturize and shine at the same time. Tuck a few tubes of flavored lip balms into their stocking. Fun flavors include berry, gingerbread cham-

pagne or citrus.

■ **Rejuvenation:**

Create a themed stocking overflowing with special spa gifts. Tuck in herbal tea bags, dark chocolate truffles, a pretty bath loofah and a coordinating bottle of moisturizing Softsoap body wash, which is available in seasonal holiday fragrances and packaging. To see more fragrances, go to www.softsoap.com.

■ **Hair:**

Head accessories are all the rage so make sure to include at least one in each stocking. Black or red velvet are both traditional choices. Or, go a little more exciting with leopard prints, neon colors or rhinestones. Both types are fun for all ages.

Once you've checked stocking stuffers off of your list, throw a few extra items into the shopping cart for yourself. After all, everyone deserves to shine, shimmer and to smell wonderful during the most magical time of year.

Photo: Getty Images. (Family Features)



Country Bridals and FORMAL WEAR
"Affordable Elegance"

We pride ourselves on personal service in a relaxed atmosphere.

- **ALLURE TRUNK SHOW**
DECEMBER 6 - 10
~ Make your appointment now
- **In-Stock Bridal and Prom Specials**
through December 31

Complete Tuxedo Rentals starting at \$84.99
Bridal • Bridesmaid • Flowergirl • Mothers
Tuxedos • Special Occasions • Prom
Accessories & Much More!

17 Main Street, Jaffrey, NH • 603.532.7641 • info@countrybridals.com • www.countrybridals.com



Spice up your wardrobe for holiday festivities

Sure, the little black dress is a staple of holiday parties this time of year. It can be dressed up or down, and it is the epitome of understated elegance. But it's not the only option for fashionable women. "This is the time of year that women can put some fun in their wardrobe," says Elliot Staples, whose fashion designs are featured at The Limited stores and thelimited.com. "It's as much a celebration of decorating yourself as well as celebrating the holidays." It's also the time of year that many women need an outfit to play double duty by going from the office to a party.

■ **Fancy That.** Focus on black and white trousers and pieces worn in sharp contrast to one another. A soft blouse tones down what could be a too-severe look. This style works well for a dinner party, work event, or an upscale occasion.

■ **Going Baroque.** Wear jewel tones in luscious greens and cobalt blues and jet black. This trend reflects a sexier, more youthful look for going out – be it with the girls, a party, or a more casual event. This style is as easy as a special top with black jeans. Gold is a key accent color in printing, buttons, and accessories. To round out the look, pair with a clutch adorned with fabric or touches of sequins.

■ **Skyles the Limit.** Sweaters and yarns take on a slightly rustic and darker mood and color this season. Pair them with simple skinny jeans, furry accents, and fringe inspired boho necklaces.

■ **Grande Classique.** Pair lush fabrics and textures. Use grey prominently with shades of dark red or deep wine, along with cobalt blue and purple accents. (NewsUSA)



Upsie Daisies
nearly new children's clothing
860-3933

New & Nearly New Children's Clothing
Newborn to Pre-Teen

HILLSBOROUGH PLAZA
Wed-Sat 11-7,
Sun 11-4

REASONABLE PRICES

Vist us on  for monthly children's events

Sometimes the best treasures are found off the beaten path

THE CALICO HEN

Seasonal Folk Art for a Happy Heart

Christmas Open House

November 29 - December 8
10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Daily

Many Sweet Deals to Entice You...
Door Prize • Daily Specials • Refreshments

Join us for a celebration of the Christmas Season

371 Burnham Intervale Rd.,
Contoocook
(603) 746-5659

Regular hours
Wednesday-Saturday 10-5,
Sunday noon-5,
through Christmas Eve,
or by chance or appt.

 www.TheCalicoHen.com



DIY decorating that lasts all the season long

As the holidays roll around, it's natural to want to spread good tidings and cheer with festive decorations like wreaths, candy canes and Santa Claus figurines. But this year, instead of digging out the same old holiday decorations, why not create some new looks that will last the entire winter season, even after you put away the gift wrap and ornaments?

■ **Stimulate the senses**

Nothing says winter like the fresh smell of pine and the soft, warm glow of candle light. Repurpose simple glass bottles into an outdoorsy candleescape with Krylon Natural Stone Textured Finish spray paint. Available in eight colors, like Olivine, it goes on easy and gives you the natural beauty of stone and an elegant, professional-looking appearance. Once dry, wrap artificial garland with pinecones around the bottle's neck or let the garland cascade down the bottle. Place pine tree-scented white taper candles in the bottle openings, light and enjoy for a fresh look and smell that will stimulate your senses well into 2014.

■ **Color works wonders**

Another easy way to excite the senses during a drab, gray winter is with pops of

color. For a decorative display that lasts all season, avoid the red and green color combination associated with Christmas and branch out with more contemporary choices like teals, blues, purples and pinks. Metallics like silver and gold are also a great way to glitz up the season without looking like the North Pole in overdrive. Try Krylon's ColorMaster Metallic in Gold to spice up old ornaments, vases, frames, centerpieces and more in no time at all. Group spray-painted ornaments or pine cones in a hurricane vase or glass bowl and display on the mantel for added ambiance to any living room.

■ **Deck the halls**

Looking for a way to display the abundance of holiday cards from friends and family? Repurpose an old window shutter to create a unique display. Start by spray painting it with a festive shade, such as green or burgundy, which adds a touch of holiday spirit. Once dry, hang the shutter in the kitchen or entryway and place holiday cards in the slats of the shutter for a creative way to stay organized. Once the holidays have passed, you can still use the shutter to display birthday cards, thank you notes, party



invitations and more all year long.

■ **Outdoor decor**

The inside of the home isn't the only space you can be creative. Make a lasting statement before houseguests even step inside your home by focusing decorative attention to the outside. Line walkways and driveways with lights or faux miniature pine trees, and place white flameless candlesticks on each windowsill to add a simple touch of holiday spirit without going overboard. Prop a vintage snow sled outside the front door to welcome guests. For more product or project ideas, visit www.krylon.com. (BPT)

The Quilter's Workshop

Where Inspiration is Our Business



- Classes, Kits, Notions and Books
- FREE HELP for all your sewing questions
- Over 4000 Bolts 100% Cotton Quality Quilting Fabrics
- Large collection of Batik Fabrics • 400+ quilt patterns
- Many blocks of the month • Longarm Quilting Services
- Your headquarters for machine embroidery designs and accessories
- Madera embroidery thread



Authorized Babylock Dealer
Sales and Service with Babylock



Owner, Gail Peck

19 Main Street, Newport, NH 03773 • Mon.-Fri. 9:30-5:00 Sat 9:30-3:00
www.gailpecksquiltersworkshop.com • 603-863-7888

Tips for adding top design trends to your holiday decor

From decking the halls to trimming the tree, everyone loves the tradition of decorating their home for the holiday season. It's a time to pull out heirloom pieces and blend them with modern elements to make your home truly one of a kind. This year, refresh your holiday motif with a few top decor trends for a look guaranteed to impress.

Design expert Kate Law, who has designed flowers for the likes of Ellen and Jennifer Lopez, lends insight into the top holiday decor trends and how you can easily integrate them into your home:

■ **Relaxed rustic**

Taking cues from classic holiday stories set in the countryside, beautiful rustic decor sets the tone for a festive season whether you live in the city, a suburb or rural area. Rustic elements can be easy to incorporate into your home's holiday look. Start with a centerpiece that features live greenery, such as the Burlap Rosemary Tree or Incense Cedar Candle Ring from ProFlowers. A quilted table runner and stockings in appliqued felt complete the rustic design.

■ **Personalization**

Personalizing your holiday designs

can help make your home decor special. Unique touches enhance your enjoyment of the holidays and can serve as conversation starters when guests visit. The easiest way to add a personal touch to your holiday decor is through customized items, like monogrammed pillows and towels, personalized wall hangings that feature a special message, and ornaments and figurines that highlight the family name.

■ **Bold patterns**

The holiday season is full of colors and designs that delight the senses, and bold patterns have never been more popular. Polka dots and chevrons are trending for the year and bring personality to any home's holiday celebrations. Welcome guests in style with a Chevron Monogram Doormat from Personal Creations. Try your hand at home-made polka dot and chevron ornaments. Make your time baking even more special by treating yourself to a whimsical polka dot sugar cookie apron.

■ **Mason jars**

One of the most affordable and accessible holiday trends of the season is mason jars. You can find these at your local craft



store, grocery store or even at second-hand stores. Try using jars as candle sleeves and place tea lights within for a warm holiday centerpiece. Fill with various shades of holiday candy for colorful decor throughout the house. Complete your punch or eggnog drink station with mason drinking jars for a fun alternative to traditional glasses. (BPT)

Contoocook Dance & Gymnastics Center

Ballet, Jazz, Tap, Rhythmic & Artistic Gymnastics, Combo Dance Classes
 → SPACES STILL REMAIN IN OUR PRESCHOOL CLASSES TUES. & SAT.

◆ Happy Holidays to all from the staff at Contoocook Dance & Gymnastics Center

◆ Thank you for your patronage

For more information call 746-3282
 161 Pine Street, Contoocook

"Really-Aged" Cheddar Cheese
 Vintage May 2011

Fine Gourmet Items • Pure Maple Products
 Great Holiday Gifts & Stocking Stuffers

Mention this ad to take advantage of these specials:

Ship 2 pounds of Harman's Really-Aged Cheddar Cheese with VT Common Crackers Only \$29.00 Anywhere in the USA!	Ship a NH Breakfast: Polly's Pancake Mix 1/2 pint NH Maple Syrup Maple Sugar Shaker Spiced Blueberry Jam Only \$40.00 Anywhere in the USA!
---	---

All gift-wrapped for the Holidays, no extra charge.

Harman's Cheese & Country Store
 1400 Rte. 117 • Sugar Hill, NH • Open Mon.-Sat. 9:30-4:30
 603-823-8000 • www.HarmansCheese.com



Tips on selecting a real tree at a choose your own farm

Remember, the Christmas trees purchased from local Christmas tree farms are as fresh as a Christmas tree can ever be.

Evaluate your needs before departing for the farm

Measure the ceiling height in the room where the tree will be displayed. The trees in the field look small when the sky is the ceiling. Don't overbuy.

Measure the width of the area of the room where the tree will be displayed. Most trees on tree farms are trimmed to an 80% taper. So a tree that's 10' tall will be 8' wide at the bottom. A tree that will fit in the room vertically may be entirely too big horizontally.

What decorating theme will be used?

Some species have more open foliage, stiffer branches or longer needles.

Research the characteristics of the different species on the NCTA website www.realchristmastrees.org, then find a farm near you that has the species you are looking for.

What you should expect when you arrive at the farm

Most tree farms keep their fields very well groomed, but there are some things that are beyond the farmer's control. Be careful of fire-ant mounds, tree stumps, an occasional blackberry vine, uneven ground and sharp saws.

Fir SprigGo to the farm prepared for a day in the country. Wear comfortable shoes and old clothes. Bring rain gear if the weather is threatening. The "cutter downers" and the "loader uppers" should also have gloves. DON'T FORGET THE CAMERA. It's best to leave "Rover" at home (many farms will prohibit pets). But, if a pet is allowed and must come along; keep him on a leash at all times. Please don't let him "mark" other people's trees.

Saws are usually provided by the farm operator. Check ahead of time.

Some farms measure and price their trees individually, others sell them by the foot. Ask about the pricing policy before heading out in

the field.

Head out to the field and select the tree that fits your predetermined needs. Check the trunk to be sure that it is sufficiently straight. Keep in mind that pines will usually have, at least, some crook in their trunks. Also check that the tree has a sufficiently long handle to accommodate your stand.

In the fall of the year ALL conifers drop, or shed, a certain portion of their oldest needles. This is a normal part of the life cycle of the tree. This phenomena occurs because the tree is preparing itself for winter. Most farms provide shaking, or blowing, services so that you will depart with a perfectly clean tree.

Cutting the tree is easiest as a two person project. The "cutter downer" usually lies on the ground. While the helper holds the bottom limbs up. While the cut is being made, the helper should tug on the tree lightly to ensure that the saw kerf remains open and the saw does not bind. The tugging force should be applied to the side of the tree opposite the cut. In the case of the Leylands, the cut is best made by an attendant at the farm using a chain saw. A back cut should be made first with the final cut coming from the opposite side.

Bring the tree to the processing area where it will be cleaned and netted. Netting makes transporting and handling the tree substan- ▶

SANTA IS COMING TO TOWN!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7TH
9:30^{AM} - 1:30^{PM}

HILLSBORO DUNKIN DONUTS
258 W. MAIN STREET, HILLSBORO, NH

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14TH
9:30^{AM} - 1:30^{PM}

WEARE DUNKIN DONUTS
427 S. STARK HWY. (LANCTOT'S PLAZA) WEARE, NH



Come get your picture taken with Santa!
He'll be in the store, deciding if you've
been naughty or nice this year.
Bring your camera!



tially easier.

Now you're ready to load up and head home to decorate your Real Christmas Tree.

Follow NCTA's tips for caring for a Real Christmas Tree, and keep in mind that the freshness of a tree you just cut is greater than that of one from a retail lot. Trees from the Choose Your Own farm won't absorb as much water initially as other trees because it has not had time to dry out, unless you don't put it into a water holding stand right away.

Source: National Christmas Tree Association and your local Christmas Tree professional.

How to care for your farm-grown fresh Christmas Tree

When a Christmas tree is cut, over half of its weight is water. With proper care, you can maintain the quality of your displayed trees. Below are a number of tips relating to the care of displayed trees:

Displaying trees in water in a traditional reservoir type stand is the most effective way of maintaining their freshness and minimizing needle loss problems.

Fir Cones Make a fresh cut to remove about a 1/2-inch thick disk of wood from the base of the trunk before putting the tree in the stand. Make the cut perpendicular to the stem axis. Don't cut the trunk at an angle, or into a v-shape, which makes it far more difficult to hold the tree in the stand and also reduces the amount of water available to the tree.

Once home, place the tree in water as soon as possible. Most species can go 6 to 8 hours after cutting the trunk and still take up water. Don't bruise the cut surface or get it dirty.

If needed, trees can be temporarily stored for several days in a cool location. Place the freshly cut trunk in a bucket that is kept full of water.

To display the trees indoors, use a stand with an adequate water holding capacity for

the tree. As a general rule, stands should provide 1 quart of water per inch of stem diameter. Devices are available that help maintain a constant water level in the stand.

Use a stand that fits your tree. Avoid whitening the sides of the trunk down to fit a stand. The outer layers of wood are the most efficient in taking up water and should not be removed.

Keep displayed trees away from sources of heat (fireplaces, heaters, heat vents, direct sunlight). Lowering the room temperature will slow the drying process, resulting in less water consumption each day.

The temperature of the water used to fill the stand is not important and does not affect water uptake.

Check the stand daily to make sure that the level of water does not go below the base of the tree. With many stands, there can still be water in the stand even though the base of the tree is no longer submerged in water.

Drilling a hole in the base of the trunk does not improve water uptake.

Use of lights that produce low heat, such as miniature lights, will reduce drying of the tree.

Always inspect light sets prior to placing them on the tree. If worn, replace with a new set.

Do not overload electrical circuits.

Always turn off the tree lights when leaving the house or when going to bed.

Monitor the tree for freshness. After Christmas or if the tree is dry, remove it from the house.

Go to www.realchristmastrees.org and type in your ZIP code to find a recycling program near you.

Never burn any part of a Christmas tree in a wood stove or fireplace.

Prepared by Dr. Gary Chastagner and Dr. Eric Hinesley, Edited by the Scientific Research Committee of the National Christmas Tree Association

If you get a tree with roots attached, either in a pot or burlap, please read these suggestions:

The adaptability of the species should be considered. Many species are shipped outside of their natural area and may not be adaptable to other areas. Check with a reliable nursery or extension forester.

Keep in mind that Living Trees are VERY heavy and bulky. A six foot tall balled and burlapped tree will weigh as much as 250 pounds.

The tree should be stored in an unheated, sheltered area such as a garage or porch, out of the wind and sun. Do not expose the tree to freezing temperatures at any time.

The tree will need adequate water. The root ball or soil should be kept slightly damp but not flooded. Wrap the root ball of a balled tree in plastic or place in a tub while it is in the house.

Live trees may be decorated, but with care. If lights are used, they must not give off any heat.

Do not remove the tree directly from a warm house out into freezing temperatures. Instead, move to a sheltered area first for several days.

If the ground is unfrozen, the tree may be replanted. The spot to be dug should be mulched to prevent freezing. Plant as soon as possible.

Do not remove the burlap and strapping (unless it is plastic). This keeps the root ball solid and secure. In the instance of a plastic cover, cut the cord and roll down the plastic at least half way prior to planting. Tap the tree container ▶

DONAGHEY TREE FARM

Choose & Cut Trees ♦ 45
Decorated Wreaths ♦ \$20

OPENING
NOVEMBER 30TH
8:00AM until Dusk
• Weekends Only •

3rd Range Road • Off Pembroke Hill Road • Pembroke, NH • (603) 485-8070

MOODY POND

Established 2009

MARKETPLACE

Christmas Trees
(will be available Nov. 29)
Wreaths & Kissing Balls
Many unique garden accents

529-POND
3 George Moody Rd., Weare, NH
(across from TD Bank)



of a potted tree and remove prior to planting. Do not attempt to remove soil from the root system. Earth removed from the original hole should be backfilled around the root ball. Mulch heavily over the top of the planted root ball to prevent it from freezing. Water only as needed: a flooded tree may not survive.

Stake the trees to prevent wind tipping or damage during the first growing season.

'Quick' tips on selecting a tree at a retail lot

Use the practical tips to be a more informed consumer and to ensure a great experience with your Real Tree:

Be sure you know what size (height and width) you need before heading to the retail lot.

If you want the same species you know or

have always used, great. If you want to try a different species, browse the NCTA website realchristmastrees.org to become familiar with the species popular in your area before heading to the retail lot.

Go to a retail lot that is well-lit and stores trees in a shaded area.

Often, a tree obtained soon after its arrival on the retail lot will be very fresh because it was cut recently. Consumers should ask the retailer when he/she gets the trees: are they delivered once at the beginning of the season, or does he/she obtain several shipments during the season.

Do a freshness test on the trees. Green needles on fresh trees break crisply when bent sharply with the fingers -- much like a fresh carrot.

Pines have different indicators because of the fibrous nature of their needles compared to firs. The needles on fresh pines do NOT break, unless they are very dry.

Look for other indicators of dryness or deterioration: excessive needle loss, discolored foliage, musty odor, needle pliability, and wrinkled bark. A good rule-of-thumb is, when in doubt about the freshness of a tree, select another one. If none of the trees on the lot look

fresh, go to another lot.

Some species last longer and remain fresh longer than others in different climates. Ask your retailer which tree performs best in your climate.

Ask the retailer about recycling Christmas Trees in your community.

Involve the whole family in the selecting and plan fun things for everyone to do during the trip.



Beloin Tree Farm

Now with 2 LOCATIONS for your convenience!

- 193 South River Road, Bedford, NH - Right across from Target and Lowe's huge granite walls
- 125 Route 101A, Amherst, NH - Behind the KFC/Taco Bell

Quality Christmas Trees

These trees come direct from the grower in Colebrook, NH!!

Wreaths and Roping

by **EMILIE'S WREATH FACTORY**
(my sister)

(formerly at the Gray Goose in Londonderry, NH)

We will be open for business
11/29 to 12/25
8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

We will offer Fraser Fir, Blue Spruce, Balsam Fir from 2 feet to 15 feet

Tree Shaking and Baling





The Rocks Estate

4 Christmas Lane, Bethlehem, NH 03574
Please call 603-444-6228 www.therocks.org

With festive fun and trees galore, The Rocks Estate radiates holiday magic!



Farm opens for shopping November 2, for Christmas trees
November 23

BETHLEHEM, N.H. - There's a reason The Rocks Estate has been featured in media outlets from the Boston Globe and Martha Stewart's Living to WMUR's Chronicle and Good Morning America. This tree farm overlooking New Hampshire's Presidential mountains absolutely oozes Christmas spirit.

The Rocks offers visitors more than just a place to find their perfect tree. With its neat rows of Christmas trees, festive shops, and horse-drawn wagons moving through snowy fields, it provides a hearty dose of Christmas magic and adventure, too.

"We have families who have been coming to the farm to get their trees for generations," said Rocks Estate manager Nigel Manley. "We strive to help all our customers not only find a tree and other holiday items, but also have a really fun experience and create their own traditions."

The Rocks opens for the Christmas tree season Nov. 23 and will be open daily through Dec. 24. Visitors may choose and cut a tree from the fields or select a freshly cut tree from the retail lot at the farm. Manley said the Classic Victorian Christmas Tree, introduced at The Rocks last year, has become a customer favorite. The Victorian trees offer a more open branch stature, traditional in the Victorian era when decorated evergreens became a holiday tradition.

In addition to Christmas trees, The Rocks also offers an array of classic and whimsically decorated handmade wreaths, garland, ornaments, and Christmas tree accessories. The farm boasts two shops, brimming with unique gift items and holiday décor.

"We try to bring back customer favorites and add fun, new items to the shelves each year," said shop manager Carleen Quinn. "There really is something for everyone on your gift-giving list in our shops."

The Marketplace at The Rocks features New England-crafted and Fair Trade items, from pet goods and pottery to jewelry and home goods. New items this year include locally-made wooden snow people and soaps and candles crafted with balsam fir needles. Gifts for wildlife lovers include bird feeders, carved wooden bears, and a

line of playful bears in lighted trees, available in a variety of sizes.

Both shops at The Rocks will open for early holiday shoppers Nov. 2 and remain open daily through Dec. 24 (except Thanksgiving Day) from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. The Rocks will be participating in New Hampshire Made's "New Hampshire Open Doors" Nov. 2-3.

Weekend visitors to The Rocks may enjoy a range of activities, from horse-drawn wagon rides through the historic and picturesque Estate to roasting marshmallows in the fire pit and noshing on freshly popped kettle corn. The Rocks' own Green Father Christmas will greet visitors young and old each Saturday, presenting children with fir tree seedlings to bring home.

The Rocks will also again participate in the national Trees For Troops program, which has donated over 100,000 farm fresh Christmas trees to military personnel and families serving at home and abroad.

The Rocks opens for the season Nov. 23. Horse-drawn wagon rides will be offered Nov. 23 and 29-30, Dec. 1, 7-8, and 14-15, and 21.

Can't make a trip to The Rocks this season? Don't fret; the shopper-friendly Rocks Estate online store offers a variety of Christmas trees and holiday wreaths, along with ornaments, garland, and tree accessories, as well as The Rocks' own maple syrup. All items include free shipping, and customers may create a holiday wish list and ship to multiple addresses with one order.

The Rocks Estate is the North Country Conservation and Education Center of the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests (HYPERLINK "<http://www.forestsociety.org/>" www.forestsociety.org). The Forest Society is a non-profit membership organization founded in 1901 to protect the state's most important landscapes and promote wise use of its natural resources.

The landmark 1,400-acre Rocks Estate includes numerous buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places and offers Agri- and Eco-tourism opportunities throughout the year. For more information please visit HYPERLINK "<http://www.therocks.org/>" www.therocks.org For reservations and other inquiries e-mail HYPERLINK "<mailto:info@therocks.org>" info@therocks.org or call 603-444-6228.

When you buy Carhartt, you buy Quality!



A267 Helmet-Liner Mask



**100129
Suttons Hat
Purl Knit**

**A342 1889
Script Knit Hat**



**A204 Fleece
Neck Gaiter**



**K121 Midweight
Hooded Pull Over
Sweatshirt**



**100684 Wms Bardwell
Longsleeve Turtleneck**

**R27
Sandstone
Duck Bib
Quilt
Lined**



**WK103 Wms
Lakeshore
Sweatshirt**

**J141
Sandstone
Sierra-Sherpa
Lined Jacket**



**100060
Boyne
Fleece
Vest**



HENNIKER FARM & COUNTRY STORE

OPEN: MON.-SAT. 8-5; SUN. 9-1
110 BRADFORD ROAD • HENNIKER • 428-3255