

Christmas Shopping Guide



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Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce to present “Christmas In Candyland” Holiday Parade

The Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce plans for its annual holiday parade, themed “Christmas in Candyland.” Generously underwritten by First Seacoast Bank, Rochester’s holiday parade is scheduled for Sunday, December 7, 2025, beginning at 4:00 p.m. The parade will feature an array of floats, high school marching bands, marching units, mobile units, and equestrian units.

Make plans now to participate in this family-friendly parade. Those entering floats are encouraged to decorate their entries in keeping with the theme. Floats lined up in the assembly area by 2:00 p.m. will be judged on theme, creativity, craftsmanship, and overall appearance. Plaques will be awarded for “Best of Parade,” Second Place, and Third Place.

The parade route will begin on Wakefield Street at the triangle entrance to Spaulding High School. It will proceed south on Wakefield Street, turn right onto Union Street, then left onto North Main Street to South Main Street, and disband in front of the Rochester Common. Each year, thousands of individuals participate in Rochester’s Holiday Parade, with thousands more viewing as spectators during the event. All are welcome to share in the holiday spirit of this festive community tradition. Entries will be accepted through November 30, 2025.

For additional information, call the Chamber office at (603) 332-5080. Entry forms and guidelines are available online at www.rochesternh.org/parade.



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Santa Bass's Christmas gift guide for anglers on the Nice List

When it comes to gifting the perfect holiday present to the anglers in your life, no one has better instincts than Santa Bass. Gifted with the same powers as the jolly man from the North Pole, Santa Bass handles the aquatic side of gift-giving. He sees anglers on boats in the summer when they yearn for a different size of their favorite bait. He sees blank spaces on walls where memories of the year's biggest catches could live. He sees the overflowing tacklebox that won't stay closed. Nothing gets past this sneaky creature. For the gift givers whose angler friends and family are on the Nice List this year, here are Santa Bass's top 10 picks to make this the best holiday season ever.

♥ **Frame a photo of their best catch** - The best gifts are sentimental. If you've gone on a legendary fishing trip with the person you're gifting, print your favorite photo of the trip and frame it. PRs come and go, but photos are forever!

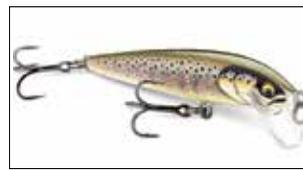
♥ **Upgrade the classics** - If your loved one is a die-hard angler, they probably already know and love certain fan-favorites such as CrushCity's The Mayor or Rapala's Original Floating lure. But do they have their favorite baits in the newest sizes or colors? The Mayor, for example, now comes in six new colors and one new size. The Original Floating comes in three new colors. Plus, Rapala just upgraded this tried-and-true killer to an even more premium design called the

Floater Elite. Treat your loved one (or yourself) to something you know they'll love.

♥ **New soft baits by the pros** - That being said, some anglers get the most fun out of trying entirely novel baits. If that sounds like someone you know, the brand-new baits developed by the pro anglers at CrushCity just might become your loved one's new favorite. The Jerk and the Salted Ned Roll are two delectable soft plastics that just launched this year and have already won big on the competition circuit.

♥ **New year, new rod** - Has your father, sister or fishing buddy been using the same cruddy rod since before the turn of the century? Watch their eyes light up when you gift them a brand-new, premium rod. If you know which technique is their favorite, check out 13 Fishing's lineup of technique-specific rods like the Shaker Rod, Jigging Rap Rod or the Power Cork Rod. If you're on a budget, consider the Jinx rod by 13 Fishing.

♥ **Put some pride on their wall** - It always feels good to decorate your space with the things you love. When Rapala released the Original Floating Giant Lure in the color USA Flag, anglers went berserk, mounting the beloved ginormous bait in small town bars, basements, log cabins, rec-rooms, offices and fishing sheds across the nation. Now, Rapala is introducing another beloved Giant Lure to the mix. Mimicking the legendary DT (Dives-To) series lure



in the USA Flag style, this 24" monster makes for a sure-fire conversation starter for the angler with more stories to tell than hook scars on their arm.

♥ **Rep your sport off the water** - There's next to no one who wouldn't appreciate a brand-new sweat-shirt, beanie or baseball cap from a brand they love. Rapala has tons of apparel so your loved one can rep what they love sitting by the fire this year.

♥ **Sharpen their tools** - A colorful, premium piece of filleting equipment is the perfect gift for the angler who appreciates quality, but it's also a special treat for the more frugal anglers whose knives could use more than a little love. Rapala's Fish 'N Fillet knife is a great bet for both characters. Continuing with the original features - a progressively tapered, full-tang blade of European stainless steel that takes and holds an ultra-sharp edge, and a birch handle with fine tooled leather sheath - anglers can now pick up this mighty knife in the color Firetiger.

♥ **Don't forget stocking stuffers** - They say the best gifts come in small packages. Well, if what your loved one is seeking is a major bite under the ice, the

Nano Rap is the gift of the season. This lure is the smallest that Rapala has made in all its 90-year history. Made for those times when panfish such as perch, crappie or bluegill succumb to winter lethargy and a slower metabolism, this micro lure is the perfect easy meal to trigger a bite. A well-equipped ice angler will have a few of these in their tackle box to tie on when all else fails.

♥ **Keep your angler cozy** - Some ice anglers can be stubborn about what gear they wear to the lake. So, gift your loved one who always arrives home a little chillier than they should a new jacket and bibs so they stay on the ice even longer. Top ice anglers helped create the StrikeMaster pro jacket, which is built to keep anglers warm even in the roughest winter conditions.

♥ **Go big to win big** - Saltwater anglers all know this one pelagic truth: Big fish eat big fish. As of this year, Rapala's Sarda lure now comes in the biggest size yet, size No. 22, with a body length of 8-1/2 in. For coastal anglers on the hunt for massive bluefin tuna, this lure is a day-maker. (BPT)

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Make a Christmas statement with charming poinsettias

Decorating your home for the holidays is the perfect opportunity to bring in rich colors and natural texture. That is why displaying poinsettias remains a top seasonal favorite in floral decor.

While poinsettias are mostly seen in their traditional deep red or crisp white, you can make a statement with your holiday floral design by choosing from today's fun and unexpected colors, patterns and shapes.

Here are some of the latest poinsettia options that will wow your holiday guests well into the new year, from the garden experts at Ball Horticultural Company.

Color helps you customize your decor

New color options mean you can choose from poinsettia hues that best complement your home furnishings, holiday decorations and personal style.

♥ **Just peachy:** You're bound to turn heads with the truly unique, eye-catching Peach Glow poinsettia. This lovely soft peach tone is beautifully offset by dark green leaves, perfect for a table centerpiece or as a host gift over the holidays.

♥ **Light up any room:** The unexpected sunny yellow color of Lemon Glow poinsettia brightens up the shorter days of winter, adding a cheerful pop of color to the season.

♥ **Embrace autumn colors:** The Sky™ Orange poinsettia reveals a striking starry pattern, enhanced

by its speckled deep orange color. It's a fun choice for Thanksgiving tablescapes or festive room decor throughout the holidays.

Shape brings new life to tradition

While still clearly recognizable as poinsettias, many of the newer options play with the shape and texture of their leaves and blooms, offering even more visual interest and variety.

♥ **Starry days and nights:** If you love the festive star-like look of the Sky™ Orange poinsettia, explore other colors in the same eye-catching pattern, such as Sky™ Fantasy, a red speckled poinsettia that shines in any holiday display.

♥ **Southern favorite:** The Christmas Beauty™ series is known to be long-lasting for many weeks of enjoyment. The Christmas Beauty™ Prince poinsettia features a subtle mottled red color and smaller, slightly rounded foliage, offering a classic yet refined look for an elegant tablescape.

♥ **Not a creature was stirring:** For a fun and playful shape that may especially appeal to the youngest members of your household, the Christmas Mouse® poinsettia features charming rounded leaves that resemble little mouse ears. Available in pink or red, this whimsical plant is sure to bring smiles and stand out as a festive centerpiece.

No matter which colors or shapes you choose for your holiday floral displays, you'll find plenty of differ-



ent options in the latest poinsettia varieties to enhance your home throughout the winter months.

You can purchase these and other poinsettia

varieties for your holiday decor, or as gifts, at your local garden centers and floral retailers. Visit Ball Horticultural to learn more. (BPT)



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Local Christmas Happenings

Festival of Trees

Event Date: Friday, December 6, 2025

The Annual Festival of Trees, presented by the Franklin Opera House, returns the first Friday - Sunday of December. Donations of decorated trees, wreaths, wall hangings, gift baskets, etc. are welcomed from individuals, families, businesses, and organizations.

This admission free event offers folks the opportunity to purchase sheets of 25 raffle tickets for \$5 (buy as many sheets as you like) for a chance to win one of the donated items.

The festival takes place generally Friday 5-9pm. Saturday 10am-8pm and Sunday 10am-3pm at which time the raffle will be drawn. Visit franklinoperahouse.org for up-to-date information.

Christmas Cookie Decorating Class

129 Centerville Road

Dec 21 from 3pm to 4:30pm EST

Join us for a fun Christmas Cookie Decorating Class where you can unleash your creativity and indulge in delicious holiday treats!

Get festive with us at Henniker Brewing Company for a cheerful

Christmas Cookie Decorating Class!

Perfect for beginners and seasoned bakers alike, this holiday workshop will teach you easy decorating techniques while you sip a beverage from the taproom. Leave with beautifully decorated cookies and the skills to wow your friends and family this holiday season. The cost is \$55.20

Your ticket includes:

Step-by-step instruction from a cookie artist

6 Christmas-themed cookies to decorate

One beverage (alcoholic or non-alcoholic) from Henniker

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All tools, icing, and packaging provided for use during class.

Christmas Fair

Sat., Nov. 29 from 9am to 2pm – annual Christmas Fair at two locations this year: Washington Elementary School AND at Camp Morgan Lodge right next door. Come and shop for special gifts, local homemade items and delicious food delicacies. Lunch will be served at Camp Morgan Lodge. Sponsored by the Washington Congregational Church. (Not a school sponsored event).

Get Christmas and gift ready, a checklist to prepare for the season

Creating lasting memories during the holidays is all about spending quality time with loved ones. Being prepared for everything the season brings helps minimize stress so you can maximize that special time together.

If prepping for the holidays has you feeling overwhelmed, use this checklist to ensure your home is guest-ready, your thoughtful gifts are wrapped early and your celebrations are festive and worry-free.

♥ Clean, Declutter, Restock Ahead of Guests' Arrival

To guarantee your home is ready for everything the holiday season can throw at it, start with a thorough cleaning. Focus on high-traffic areas like the living room, kitchen and guest bathrooms. Don't forget the bedrooms if you'll have company staying over during the holidays. Declutter your living spaces to make room for holiday decor and create extra space for guests to move around comfortably. Make room in the refrigerator and restock essentials such as snacks, beverages and toiletries, and set out towels and bedding for overnight guests. Whether or not you're hosting guests, having a clean home during holiday chaos can help bring peace of mind.

♥ Stress Less with Smart Boundaries

The holidays often bring packed calendars, endless to-dos and added financial pressures, but setting boundaries can help you prevent burnout. Create a realistic budget and stick to it, opting for thoughtful

yet affordable gifts. Don't be afraid to delegate tasks, whether that's asking family members to bring an extra dish to dinner or letting kids help wrap presents. Just as important, block off a few evenings when you can commit to no obligations, giving yourself time to rest and recharge. By setting limits on your time, spending and energy, you'll be able to enjoy the moments that matter most.

♥ Wrap Presents as You Go to Stay Ahead

Wrapping presents as you purchase them can help avoid the stress of last-minute giftwrapping, not only saving time but also allowing you to be more creative with your wrapping style. Keep supplies such as paper, ribbons and tags on hand in an easily accessible location so your gifts are gift ready the moment you bring them home.

♥ Set the Mood with Music and Lighting

Create a warm and inviting ambiance with the right music and lighting. Whether it's a lively gathering or a quiet family dinner, playing holiday music can get everyone into the festive spirit. Soft, warm lighting from lanterns or seasonal string lights, along with holiday fragrances, can create a relaxing environment that makes everyone feel welcome.

♥ Get Gift Ready to Avoid the Rush

Planning your list in advance can help you avoid the last-minute rush to find thoughtful, elevated gifts for friends and family members. Perfectly gift-



ready, Air Wick Essential Mist is an easy, thoughtful holiday surprise for anyone on your list. Featuring a range of fragrances and portable design, it effortlessly transforms any space into one that feels more elevated, inviting and holiday-ready. With its long-lasting scents and effortless setup, it's an affordable present that delivers a multi-sensory experience.

♥ Keep Host Gifts On Hand to Be Party Ready

Be prepared for any last-minute invitations by keeping a few host gifts on hand. While 66% of can-

dle purchasers consider candles an appropriate gift for hosts or dinner parties, according to the National Candle Association, 1 in 3 recipients say they're likely to regift candles because they received a scent they don't even like. With Air Wick Essential Mist, there's no such risk - its wide range of fragrances makes it a ready-for-anything gift that can be easily tailored to the recipient's preference. By having the diffuser on hand, show your appreciation effortlessly, without the stress of last-minute shopping. (Family Features)

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Christmas desserts just got a dairy-forward upgrade

Holiday desserts set the stage for seasonal delight and add a touch of joy to gatherings. From festive cookies to indulgent dips, these delicious desserts bring people together to create memories that will last a lifetime.

If you're looking to impress guests, Santa Cookies are the ultimate treat. Made with Maple Hill Salted Butter, they're rich, soft and full of festive spirit.

Whether you're hosting or deciding what to bring to the potluck, Maple Hill's 100% grass-fed organic dairy makes it easy to whip up desserts that are as wholesome as they are delicious. Rich in nutrients and free from GMOs, hormones and antibiotics, each product comes from farms that prioritize regenerative practices as nature intended. With a 40% healthier ratio of omega 3:6 and 40% higher levels of CLA fatty acids compared to traditional organic dairy, you can feel good about sweet treats at the holiday table.

To find more recipes, visit MapleHill.com.

♥ SANTA COOKIES

Yield: 14 cookies

- 1 cup (2 sticks) Maple Hill Salted Butter, at room temperature
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1 tablespoon vanilla extract
- 1 large egg, at room temperature
- 2 1/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/4 teaspoon salt

- 1 teaspoon red food coloring
- mini chocolate chips
- mini red chocolate-coated candies

♥ Frosting:

- 1/2 cup (1 stick) Maple Hill Salted Butter, at room temperature
- 4 ounces cream cheese, at room temperature
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 1/2 cups powdered sugar

Preheat oven to 350 F and line two baking sheets with parchment paper.

In large mixing bowl, beat butter, sugar and vanilla until light and fluffy. Add egg and beat until combined. Add flour and salt; mix until dough begins to form ball. Remove 1 cup dough and set aside. Add red food coloring to remaining dough.

From red cookie dough, make one 1-inch ball and five 1/2-inch balls. From plain cookie dough, make one 3/4-inch ball and five 1/4-inch balls.

On prepared baking sheet, place red 1-inch ball and gently flatten until 1/2-inch thick. Attach four red 1/2-inch balls for arms and legs. Attach plain 3/4-inch ball for head and gently flatten until 1/2-inch thick.

Attach plain 1/4-inch balls for hands and feet. Shape remaining red 1/2-inch ball into triangle for hat and attach. Repeat with remaining dough, arranging cookies 2 inches apart on baking sheet. Add chocolate candies for eyes and buttons. Bake 12-15 minutes,



or until lightly golden. To make frosting: In medium bowl, beat butter and cream cheese until light and fluffy, about 3 minutes. Add vanilla and powdered sugar; mix until combined.

To decorate: Place half of frosting in piping bag

with small tip to line Santa's arms and legs. Place other half in second piping bag with small star tip to add Santa's beard, hat and hands. Put small dot of icing between eyes and beard and place red mini chocolate-coated candy on face for nose. (Family Features)

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Ways you can help tackle hunger; strengthen communities this Christmas Season

The holiday season is often a time of joy, connection and celebration. For millions of families across the country, however, it is also a season of uncertainty, wondering how to put food on the table or meet other essential needs. According to the USDA, more than 47.4 million people in the United States experience food insecurity each year.

That's why, each holiday season, thousands of Charles Schwab employees come together to fight hunger and strengthen the communities where they live and work. Through employee meal-packing events and nonprofit grants, volunteers and partners help families access nutritious meals and vital support during the holidays and beyond.

"As we gather with loved ones this season, it's important to remember that not all of our neighbors have that security," said Kristine Dixon, managing director of Charles Schwab Community Affairs. "By working side-by-side with local hunger relief organizations, we're helping ensure more families can share in the joy of a holiday meal and the peace of knowing they are supported."

As you prepare for the holidays, here are a few ways you can help address hunger relief and support your neighbors.

♥ **Donate to a Local Food Bank**

Food banks and pantries are at the heart of efforts to make nutritious food accessible for all. Inflation and rising costs of living have stretched budgets thin, making it harder for families to afford groceries. Nonperishable donations such as canned goods, pasta and rice are always in high demand. Monetary donations often go even further, giving food banks the ability to purchase exactly what is needed most.

♥ **Volunteer Your Time**

The gift of time is just as valuable as food donations. Food banks and hunger relief nonprofits rely on volunteers to sort, pack and distribute meals. Even a few hours can make a meaningful difference, adding up to thousands of volunteer hours to help nonprofits meet urgent needs during the holiday season and year-round.

♥ **Support Community Partnerships**

No single organization can solve hunger alone. Collective action from neighbors, companies, nonprofits and others is what creates lasting impact. This year, Schwab employees will join forces with partners like Harvest Pack to pack more than 1 million nutritious meals for families across the country. Supporting these types of efforts, whether through donations, volunteering or spreading awareness, can expand the impact. Hunger is about more than food; it's about



stability and opportunity. By giving, volunteering and partnering with organizations that serve families in need, you can make the holiday season

brighter for millions of Americans. Learn more at aboutschwab.com/season-of-giving. (Family Features)



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Give your skin a Christmas glow with winter care tips

As your sun-kissed glow gives way to crisp winter air, your skin may start to feel the effects of cooler, drier weather. Yet, with the right care, it's possible to maintain that healthy, luminous look all season long. Winter skin care isn't about adding complexity - it's about preserving hydration, protecting the barrier and choosing products that nurture instead of strip. Rooted in the century-old European tradition of natural botanical skin care, the experts at Herbacin aim to show that radiant skin is achievable year-round with just a few mindful adjustments to your daily routine.

♥ Skip Long, Hot Showers

A steaming shower may feel heavenly on a chilly morning, but the heat can actually pull moisture from your skin. To keep your complexion balanced, choose warm (not hot) water and limit shower time. Gentle cleansing helps maintain the skin's natural oils, which are vital for keeping dryness and irritation at bay.

♥ Lock In Moisture Immediately

After showering, pat skin lightly with a towel and apply lotion while it's still slightly damp. This simple step helps trap water before it evaporates. Look for a lightweight, fast-absorbing formula enriched with natural emollients. A trusted choice like Herbacin Daily Moisturizing Lotion combines nourishing jojoba oil and shea butter to soften and hydrate. Aloe vera and chamomile calm irritation while leaving

a light, refreshing scent. Suitable for all skin types, it delivers lasting softness without any greasy feel - perfect for daily use from head to toe.

♥ Ease Up on Exfoliation

When your skin feels rough or flaky, it's tempting to exfoliate frequently. However, over-exfoliating can remove the skin's protective barrier and worsen dryness. Instead, use a gentle scrub or enzymatic exfoliant no more than once or twice a week and always follow with moisturizer to soothe and restore balance.

♥ Layer for Maximum Hydration

Layering products allows each formula to do its job effectively. Start with the thinnest, most water-based product - such as a hydrating serum or lightweight moisturizer - and finish with a richer cream to seal it all in. For a deep-moisture boost, try Herbacin Skin Solutions Daily Skin Moisturizer, formulated with a hydro-boosting complex featuring hyaluronic acid, myo-inositol and fucose biopolymer. This quick-absorbing, silky-soft lotion provides long-lasting hydration - up to 24 hours - and helps soothe even sensitive or irritated skin. Plus, its airless dispenser keeps the formula fresh and easy to use.

♥ Choose a Thicker Moisturizer for Extra Protection

Winter's cold winds and low humidity can weaken your skin's barrier. A richer, cream-based moisturizer creates a protective layer that locks in



moisture and shields against environmental stressors. Even those with oily or combination skin can benefit as the right moisturizer helps balance oil production and prevents dehydration.

♥ Don't Ditch the Sunscreen

Sun protection isn't just for summer. Winter UV rays can still damage skin and contribute to

premature aging. Apply sunscreen daily to exposed areas, such as your face, neck and hands, especially when spending time outdoors. Reapply as directed for continuous protection.

♥ Add a Little Light

Emerging research supports the benefits of red light therapy, which helps stimulate collagen ▶

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containers is perfect for on-the-go skin protection. Each tin provides hands and skin with natural all-around protection free from parabens, mineral oil, animal byproducts or synthetic colors with Herbacin Hand Cream in original, unscented and intensive moisture formulas, and Wellness Hand Cream in wild rose and lavender.

♥ **A Practical, Pampering Trio**

This Pamper Yourself Trio of mini tubes includes a selection of products to cleanse and care for your skin and hair. Each product is dermatologically tested and vegan, with no parabens, mineral oils or synthetic colors. The set includes Herbal Shower Gel in dragon fruit and passion fruit, as well as the Herbal Shampoo Care and Herbacin Intensive Body Lotion. (Family Features)



production and improve circulation. The result is firmer, more resilient skin that holds moisture better and appears more radiant.

♥ **Keep the Air Comfortable**

Indoor heating can sap moisture from the air - and your skin. Maintaining an indoor humidity level between 30-50% supports not only skin health but also respiratory comfort. If your home's air feels overly dry, consider adding a humidifier to your bedroom or main living space. From a quick morning shower to evening self-care, small daily choices can have a big

impact on your skin's health - no matter how cold it gets outside. Discover more seasonal skin-care tips and explore the full collection at herbacinusa.com.

♥ **Stocking Stuffers for Better Skin Care**

A stocking stuffed with treats is the perfect way to shower a loved one with practical gifts that show how much you care. Nature-inspired skin care gift sets offer a spa-like experience that feels both luxurious and genuinely thoughtful.

♥ **5-in-1 Bliss**

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Christmas goodies perfect for gifting

Gadgets and gizmos may be all the rage, but stuffing stockings with holiday gifts can be as simple as delicious goodies that highlight the flavors of the season. When seeking that special surprise for a special someone, look no further than a customizable combination of festive snacks.

Whether selecting a unique ready-to-go hostess gift, crafting the perfect combo for every person on your list or picking up hard-to-find ingredients for holiday treats, Nuts.com can deliver something for everyone and every need. Its convenience makes it an ideal destination for hosting and gifting, no matter your budget.

Give a gift box filled with favorites, curate your ultimate party tray or build the trail mix of your dreams with thousands of showstopping snacks, treats and ingredients to choose from, all without the hassle of heading to the store. Consider these unique gift ideas and find more by visiting Nuts.com.

♥ Mixed Nut Sampler

Perfect for family and friends who like to entertain or to elevate your

own gathering, the Large Mixed Nut Sampler is a bountiful tray with 2 pounds of premium goodies. It includes a little something for everyone with jumbo pistachios, milk chocolate peanuts, milk chocolate raisins, butternut peanuts, jumbo roasted and salted cashews and more.

♥ Winter Wonderland Cheer

Delicious snacks can taste just as good as they look, especially when they offer the friendly flavors of the season. Give a festive Box of Winter Wonderland with 3 pounds of tasty goodies including salted pistachios; dark, peppermint malt balls; chocolate-covered sunflower seeds and additional tasty, crunchy treats.

♥ Custom Holiday Tray

If you just can't find the right gift for that special someone who has it all, a Custom Tray may be the perfect fit. You can mix and match from 150-plus available morsels and sweets to create the five-snack tray of your loved one's dreams. The options are nearly endless, including cinnamon gummies, Turkish figs, chocolate-covered espresso beans and beyond. (Family Features)



22nd Annual Starry Starry Weekend

Friday, December 5
10am - 8pm



Saturday, December 6
10am - 8pm



Sunday, December 7
10am - 5pm

Begin the weekend Friday with a Candlelight Tour of Historic Hopkinton Village, then gather Saturday in Contoocook Village for the annual Tree Lighting with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Explore festive markets, handmade gifts, kids' crafts, live music, and local food and drink across both villages. From holiday brunches to food trucks and farmers markets, the spirit of the season shines December 5-7.

DiscoverTooky.com/StarryStarryWeekend



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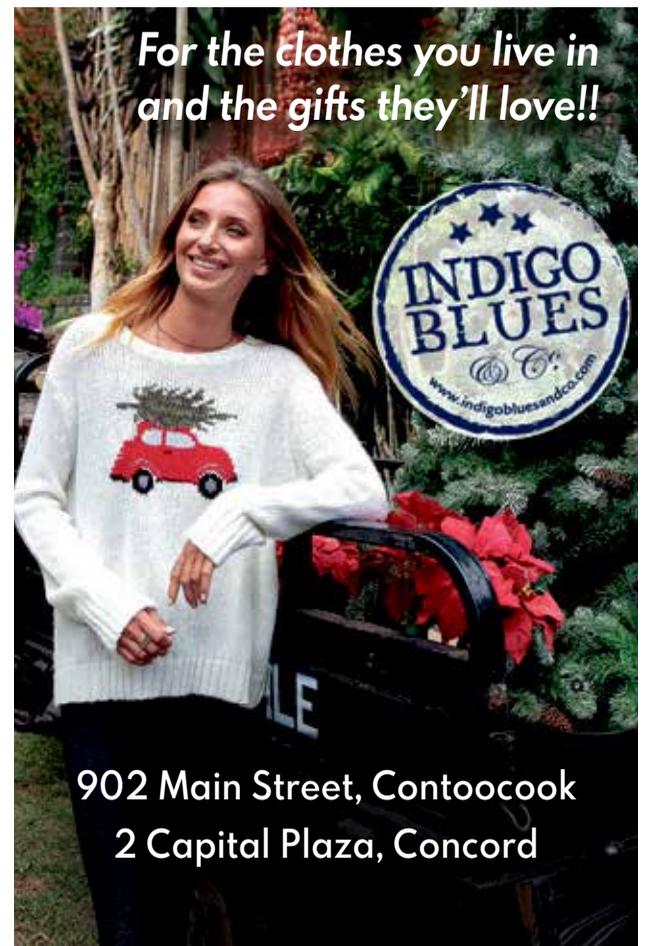
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Practical gifts that inspire creativity and confidence

Holiday gifting shouldn't mean giving objects that sit in the corner and gather dust. Consider these gift ideas that will inspire growth, learning, creativity and confidence -- and which will actually get used:

♥ **Musical possibilities:** Open the door to a world of creative possibilities for your gift recipient with the CT-S1-76 keyboard from Casio, which is designed for anyone who's ready to spread their musical wings. Its 13-watt bass-ported stereo speaker system delivers punch and clarity at all volumes, but it can also be played quietly with a good set of headphones. With 76 full-size keys with touch response and more than 60 tones, including stereo grand piano, it's a versatile, customizable instrument, and one built to accommodate many types of use. It's sleek and portable design is well-suited for on-the-go music-making; its built-in metronome keeps the beat; and its one-button recorder makes it easy to capture one's compositions and performances.

♥ **Handwritten inspiration:** Whether your gift recipient is a poet, lyricist, doodler or big thinker, a digital notebook is a must-have for getting creative juices flowing. This handy, stylish tool for the workplace, classroom, or on-the-go, combines the digital benefits of being able to save, organize and search for one's work, with the distraction-free experience of writing on paper by hand.

♥ **Mathematical fun:** Students and recreational math enthusiasts alike should be armed with the best scientific calculator to support their studies. The fx-991CW ClassWiz from Casio comes with a new quadruple graded LCD display, so that users can easily find their cursor while writing and modifying expressions. With the ability to store and recall up to nine variables, which can contain integers, computations and functions, and to recall variables between sessions, the ClassWiz is a powerful learning tool. All

of its functions can be accessed through the Math Catalog, which hosts 47 scientific constants and 40 measurement conversions. By partnering the calculator with an internet-capable mobile device, solutions can be graphed and visualized through ClassPad.net.

♥ **Fitness that keeps on giving:** For the fitness enthusiast in your life, or someone who aspires to be, consider a subscription box aimed at supporting them on their athletic journey. Some subscriptions are categorized by sport to appeal to yogis, hikers, weight lifters, marathoners and more, and others are tailored by type of product, such as apparel, healthy snacks or recovery gear. With so many options to choose from, you'll be sure to find a subscription that will inspire your fit friend or family member. This holiday season, make the season merry and bright by using gift-giving as an opportunity to support your love ones' talents and passions. (StatePoint)

Gingerbread Cookie Shake

Try this healthy spin on a classic cookie treat. For more recipes go to culinary.net.

- 1 1/2 cups vanilla protein shake
- 1 tbsp. molasses
- 1/2 tsp. ground cinnamon
- 1/4 tsp. ground ginger
- 1 frozen banana
- 1 tbsp. chia seeds
- 1/2 cup ice

1. Add all ingredients into a blender and blend until smooth. Serve.



*We at the
Messenger
wish you all
Peace on Earth
Good Will to Men*

*Merry
Christmas*

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