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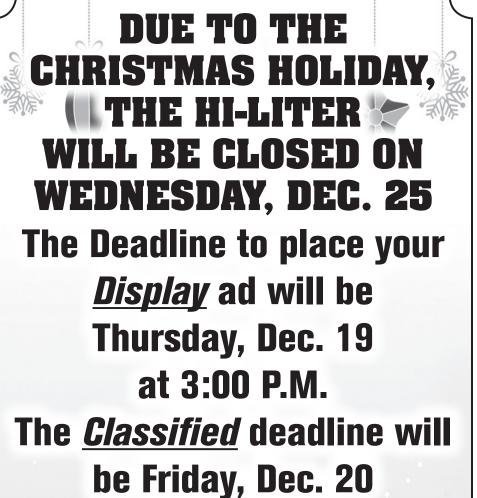
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# HI-LITER • DEC. 11-17, 2024 • 5 HILITER Holiday Gift Guide Real or artificial? The Christmas tree debate continues

passionate about the things they love. Through the years there have

character's heart.

The holiday season feabeen many debates over a tures a classic example of are two sides to every stowide range of topics, from taking sides. The debate sur- ry. Those on the fence as to which cola brand to which rounding artificial Christmas whether to go real or fake book/movie character was trees and their natural alter- this year can consider these

more deserving of a lead natives will pick back up pros and cons of each. this holiday season.

As with any debate, there Real tree



The debate surrounding artificial Christmas trees and their natural alternatives picks up each year during the holiday season. There are pros and cons to both types.



Pros: One of the biggest advantages of a real tree is its pleasing aroma. The fresh pine smell of a natural tree can trigger memories of Christmases gone by and

holiday-ready. It takes many years for a Christmas tree to grow large enough to be harvested, and as it grows it provides a habitat for animals and benefits the planet by absorbing carbon and providing oxygen, according to Megan Quinn, coordinator of conservation biology at the Nature Conservancy of Canada.

make a home feel cozy and

When trees are cut down, two or three may be planted in their place. Buying a real tree from a business nearby also supports the local economy

Cons: Real trees can be messy and require upkeep like daily watering. Cutting down a tree oneself and bringing it home can help guarantee freshness, but there is really no way to know when trees at Christmas tree lots were cut down. This means that needles can tree and how well it is main-

begin falling the moment the tained. Artificial trees also tree is placed in the living room.

Another thing to note is that live trees can't be placed just anywhere. They shouldn't be next to fireplaces or heat sources, where they can dry out prematurely and pose a fire risk.

A real tree also might have unwelcome bugs or animals hiding within its branches. According to Penn State Extension, anything from spotted lanternflies to spiders to aphids to bark beetles or lice may be on a real tree.

#### Artificial tree

Pros: Artificial trees can be convenient because they are easy to assemble, disassemble and store. Plus, you don't have to venture out each year to get one. Unlike real trees, artificial trees do not require watering or vacuuming to manage fallen needles. Since artificial trees can be reused for numerous seasons, they may be more cost-effective than real trees. Artificial trees can last

anywhere from six to 10 years, but that life span depends on the quality of the

guarantee a uniform, pleasing look year after year.

Cons: Artificial trees are made from polyvinyl chloride and other plastics, and environmentalists attest that those ingredients make them bad for the environment.

According to an assessment study of artificial versus natural trees published by Ellipsos, a sustainable development consulting firm, an artificial tree emits 8.1 kilograms of carbon dioxide per year, compared to 3.1 kilograms of carbon dioxide emitted by a real tree in a given year.

In addition, the chemicals used in manufacture may have adverse effects on human health and often are non-recyclable. Artificial trees also take up room in homes year-round since they need to be stored. Plus, they don't emit a pleasing aroma.

The debate over a real or artificial Christmas tree is sure to rage on year after year, so it's up to holiday celebrants to make their pick.

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Guess Who?

Answer: Ralphie Parker ("A Christmas Story")



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## HI-LITER • DEC. 11-17, 2024 • 6 HILITER Holiday Gift Guide



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Guess Who?

I am a father trying to host an old-fashioned family Christmas. My holiday cheer subsides when my boss decides to stop giving holiday bonuses.

Answer: Clark Griswold

## Answers on page 14! —

#### MERRY CHRISTMAS WORD SEARCH ANGEL **EVERGREEN MERRIMENT** BIRTH **FRIENDS MISTLETOE**

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## **HI** Holiday Gift Guide Enjoy the holidays with a festive cookie recipe

When we think about the holidays, a lot of the special moments we remember most fondly from years past involve sharing food with loved ones — from festive cookie exchanges to the scents and smells of family-favorite dishes and desserts, to warm beverages on cold nights.

That's why McCormick is dishing up these cooking tips for creating special moments:

• Incorporate seasonal herbs, spices, and seasonings like sage, pumpkin pie spice, cinnamon, and nutmeg into your cooking and baking to provide long-lasting fresh flavors, vibrant colors and appetizing aromas.

• Use ready-to-make dry recipe mixes, such as turkey or brown gravy, to easily create perfectly blended flavors for sauces that elevate your holiday meals.

• Rely on extracts like pure vanilla and peppermint to enhance the flavors and aromas of holiday treats.

In the spirit of the season, McCormick is also sharing the following recipe.

#### Candy Cane Pretzel **Bark Cookies Ingredients:**

• 2 sticks (1 cup) unsalted butter, softened

• 3/4 cup granulated sugar

• 1/2 cup light brown sug-

• 1 large egg

• 1 teaspoon McCormick Pure Peppermint Extract

• 1/2 teaspoon McCormick Pure Vanilla Extract

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt • 1/2 teaspoon baking
- powder

• 1/4 teaspoon baking soda

• 2 cups white chocolate chips

• 1/4 cup plus 3 tablespoons McCormick Candy

Cane Sugar, divided • 1 1/2 cups mini pretzels



STATELINE PHOTO Southern Lakes Newspapers

cup Candy Cane Sugar in

medium bowl. Use a 1/3-

cup measuring cup or 2

3/4-ounce cookie scoop to

portion dough into balls.

Toss dough balls in Candy

Cane Sugar to coat and place

2 to 3 inches apart on pre-

utes, until edges are golden

brown. Cool completely be-

4. Bake 8 to 10 min-

Tip: Can't get your hands

pared baking pans.

fore serving.

before baking.

"The holiday season is all about sharing. That's why we're so excited to share one of our favorite holiday cookie recipes and encourage creative bakers all around the country to do the same," says Giovanna DiLegge, vice president of Marketing, North American Consumer at McCormick.

#### **Directions:**

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Spray two half-sheet pans with no-stick cooking spray or line with parchment or silicone baking mats. Mix butter and sugars in large bowl with heavy spatula for about 2 minutes until well blended. Add egg and extracts, stirring until combined and fluffy, about 1 minute.

2. Mix flour, salt, baking powder, and baking soda in medium bowl. Add dry ingredients to butter and sugar mixture, stirring just until combined. Stir in white chocolate chips, 3 tablespoons of the Candy Cane Sugar and mini pretzels, mixing until evenly blended. 3. Place remaining 1/4

on McCormick Candy Cane Sugar? Increase McCormick Peppermint Extract to 1 1/2 teaspoons, stir in 2 tablespoons of red colored sug-

ar along with the chocolate

chips, then use 1/4 cup red

colored sugar to roll cookies

(STATEPOINT)

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R Α Κ L н С F U

— Answers on page 14! —

## HI-LITER • DEC. 11-17, 2024 • 13 HIELITER Holiday Gift Guide

# Get creative with holiday decor

volves decorating a home in ing to Today's Homeowner, Thanksgiving. nearly 70 percent of Ameri- Everyone has a different extra to holiday displays.

those choosing to decorate,

The end of the year is cans plan to display outdoor vision of a well-appointed upon us and that often in- holiday decorations. Among holiday home, but there's always room to make things its holiday finest. Accord- 34 percent will do so before more unique and creative. These ideas can add a little



# **Creative Coloring**

## Color in this picture to create your own masterpiece.



#### Decorate other rooms

Who says holiday decorating is exclusive to living and dining areas? Think about decorating unexpected places, like swapping out everyday towels and shower curtains with something festive. Swags of greenery wrapped in lights can be added to bed frames.

#### Coordinate the ornaments

Identify a color theme and then showcase it with ornaments. Think about matching the ornaments to the presents wrapped under the tree as well. Purchase white package paper and color or paint the paper to be the same hues as the ornaments on the tree boughs.

#### It's hip to be square

While round wreaths are traditional, make your own wreaths in a different geometric shape by using wire or another material as the frame. Square wreaths may be unexpected, and you also can turn the square on its side for a diamond shape.

#### Add a spot of color

Certain holidays are known for their particular color palettes, such as red and green for Christmas. But you also can do something unexpected. Whether using

a lighter shade of the same ing citrus creation. color family or adding an accent color like purple or blue, you can change things up in a creative way.

#### Make an unexpected bouquet

Swap flowers for pine cones, berries and greenery in unique vessels. For example, arrange your centerpiece in a tall fountain glass or even a cocktail shaker.

#### Try a different accent tree

Use a styrofoam cone as the base of a tree for a centerpiece or sideboard. Attach the home but add a festive poinsettia branches for a vibrant red tree, or stacked lemons or oranges filled with greens can fill spaces. greenery for a fresh-smell-

#### Suspend belief

Instead of attaching a tree topper to the tallest bough, hang one from the ceiling just above the tree to add even more whimsy.

#### Mix and match

When it comes to a holiday table, mix and match table settings for an eclectic tableau.

#### Shift into neutral

Instead of a large holiday display in familiar colors, rely on neutral, wintry tones that will blend in with touch. Natural wood, whites and creams, and muted

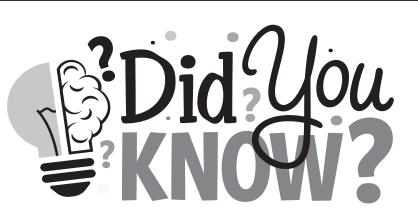
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Apply Before The Snowflakes Fly! Meadowview Village in Twin Lakes for those 55+ has a 1BR apartment coming available in January, 2025. Our friendly site staff is eager to tell you all about this wonderful apartment

## HI-LITER • DEC. 11-17, 2024 • 14 HILITER Holiday Gift Guide



Food historians trace gingerbread back to the ancient Egyptians, who used it for ceremonial purposes. The ancient Greeks came up with the first gingerbread recipe.

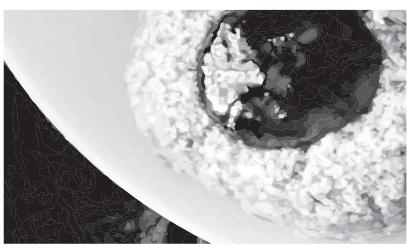
## **Puzzle and game answers**

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE? (PAGE 8):

**Answers:** Top row – Picture 1, missing North Pole. Middle row – Picture 6, all mail is green. Bottom row – Picture 8, missing belt.

I SPY (PAGE 6):

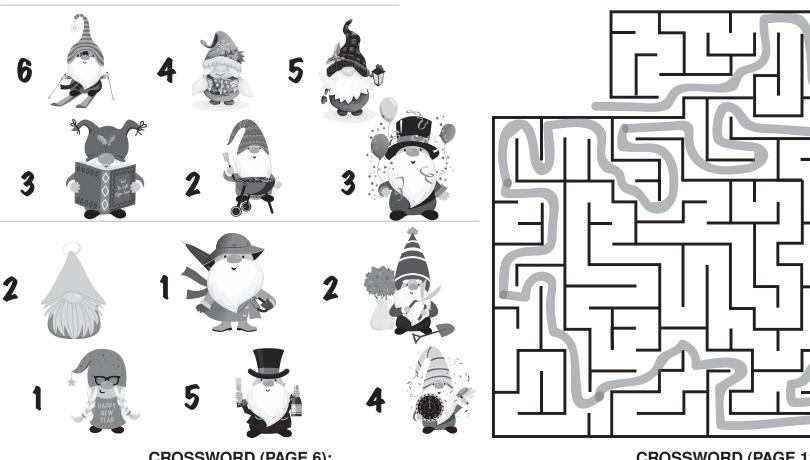




## Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Jelly thumbprint cookie

HOLIDAY MAZE (PAGE 10):



CROSSWORD (PAGE 6):

CROSSWORD (PAGE 12):

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#### **APARTMENT MANAGER**

Meadowview Village Apartments in Twin Lakes is seeking an enthusiastic and organized individual to manage this senior apartment community. The successful applicant will possess strong customer service skills, administrative and marketing skills, be organized, detailed and have great verbal and written communications. Previous housing experience is preferred. This is a 20-25 hour/week part-time position.

Resume to Denise at

dloveland@horizon-management.net or Horizon Management Group PO Box 2829

La Crosse, WI 54602

Horizon Management Group is an equal opportunity provider and employer Equal Housing Opportunity

#### **Help Wanted**

HELP WANTED: WAREHOUSE LIGHT MACHINES, MAILINGS, INKJET. WILL TRAIN THE BEST CANDIDATE. 3 DAYS PER WEEK. 18-26 HOURS. MON/ TUES/WED. CALL TO INQUIRE 262-725-7704.

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#### **Part Time Help Wanted**

DATA ENTRY, MAILROOM PREPARATIONS FLEXIBLE HOURS. PLEASE APPLY AT 1102 ANN ST. DELAVAN, WI OR CALL 262-725-7704 TO IN-QUIRE

#### **Skilled Trades**

JOIN THE SPX FLOW TEAM In Delevan, WI! Be part of a thriving community and a growing company. We're hiring for various roles, including CNC Machining, Welding, Polishing, Assembly, and Warehousing. What we offer: Sign on bonus, shift premiums, over 3 weeks paid time off, & a strong culture in a clean manufacturing environment. Apply Now SPXFLOW.COM/ABOUT/ CAREERS/ or reach out to our recruitment team at Kate. heaps@spxflow.com



#### **ADVERTISING SALES EXECUTIVE**

Southern Lakes Newspapers, your hometown newspapers serving Walworth, Racine, & Kenosha Counties, has an opening for an experienced Media Sales Representative to call on current and new accounts in a protected sales territory.

Growing area with many new businesses, this is a great opportunity for the right applicant.

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EAST TROY COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT OPEN POSITIONS

- Food Service Cook Little Prairie Primary
- Food Service Cook Prairie View Elementary
- Food Service Cook East Troy Middle School
  - Food Service Floater

Part Time School Year Positions Pay Rate Is \$17.54

For more information, or to apply, visit https://www.easttroy.k12.wi.us/district/employment.cfm or call the district office at 262-642-6710 🕷



### EAST TROY COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT OPEN POSITIONS

#### SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS

The East Troy Community School District has a need for confident, reliable, dedicated bus drivers to fill morning and afternoon routes for the year. This is the perfect parttime work for retirees, parents (even those with preschoolers-bring them along!), or anyone looking to help the community and make a little money on the side. We offer a competitive hiring bonus of \$750-\$1,000 for bus drivers. We provide paid training to obtain your CDL and our trainers are excited to help. New bus drivers are also eligible for additional bonuses during and at the end of the school year.

For more information, or to apply, visit https//www.easttroy.k12.wi.us/district/employment.cfm or call the district office at 262-642-6710

## **HELP WANTED**

#### **CRASH TEST TECHNICIAN**

**MGA Research** is one of the leading companies in automotive crash testing located outside of Burlington, WI. This role is for a full-time, salaried, entry-level position to prepare vehicles to successfully go through crash tests. This includes instrumenting vehicles with various test devices, photographing and measuring vehicles, setting up video cameras and data acquisition systems, and interacting with global customers. MGA is looking for highly motivated individuals that have a willingness to learn in a fast-paced environment. Applicants must be comfortable using power tools, computers, and other precision equipment.









Plus tax, title, license and doc fee. \*Savings from MSRP. MSRP may not be the actual price at which the vehicle is sold in the trade area. Ends 1/2/2025 \*\$4,500 due at lease inception includes 1st months payment & security deposit. Plus tax, title, license & doc fee, to qualified buyers. Charge at lease end for excess wear and mileage. 10K miles per year. \*\*Savings from MSRP. MSRP may not be the actual price at which the vehicle is sold in the trade area. Ends 1/2/2025

\*\$4,700 due at lease inception includes 1st months payment & security deposit. Plus tax, title, license & doc fee, to qualified buyers. Charge at lease end for excess wear and mileage. 10K miles per year. \*\*Savings from MSRP. MSRP may not be the actual price at which the vehicle is sold in the trade area. Ends 1/2/2025

Plus tax, title, license and doc fee. \*Savings from MSRP. MSRP may not be the actual price at which the vehicle is sold in the trade area. Ends 1/2/2025



1422 Main St ● Union Grove, WI (Corner of Hwy 11 & 45) ● 262-878-1226 ● martinsgarage.net HOURS: Monday 8am-8pm ★ Tuesday 8am-6pm ★ Wednesday 8am-8pm ★ Thursday 8am-5pm ★ Friday 8am-6pm ★ Saturday 8am-3pm ★ Sunday CLOSED

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