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THE EVENING SUN
CHINANGO COUNT'S HOMETOWN DAILY NEWSPAPER

CHENANGO COUNTY'S HOMETOWN DAILY

Offer good thru 1/31/2026



### OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

#### Fill out this form and send it to:

Name:

Pennysaver, Attn. Christmas Cash Contest PO Box 111, Norwich, NY 13815

or, you can enter online at: www.pennysaveronline.com Simply click the Great Christmas Cash Giveaway button on our home page, enter your information and click "submit."



### **HOW TO PLAY:**

Look for this "Shop Local" logo hidden within the ads throughout this Gift Guide section, count them up and record the num

and record the number on this entry form. Do NOT include the one on this form in your count.

One lucky winner will be drawn at random from all correct responses and will win \$250 from the Pennysaver.

Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_Phone: \_\_\_\_\_Email:

# ENTRY MUST BE RECEIVED BY 5 PM, MONDAY, DEC. 1, 2025

No purchase necessary. Making a purchase will not improve your chances of winning. Must be 18 years of age or older. Winner picked by random drawing of all correct and fully completed entry forms. Incomplete, illegible or inaccurate entries are void. Entries must be received on or by Monday, December 1, 2025. Employees of Snyder Communications and the businesses appearing in this supplement and each of their respective divisions, affiliates, parent companies, subsidiaries, advertising and promotion agencies (including family members or those living in the same household) are not eligible to enter the contest. By including your e-mail, you agree to receive special offers and/or promotional messages from the Pennysaver and/or its affiliates. Your e-mail will not be sold or distributed to any third party.

# 5 fun gift exchange ideas

Gift-giving is a significant component of the holiday season. Families can embrace traditional gift-giving, but those who want to add a touch of whimsy to gatherings with loved ones can consider these five creative and fun ways to exchange gifts.

- 1. Play the plastic wrap game. To exchange small stocking stuffer gifts, compile gift cards, cash, small toys, candy, and even some larger gifts (all participants can chip in and one person shops for the gifts). The designated person in charge begins rolling up the gifts in the plastic, adding one every few rolls. Turning the ball 90 degrees while wrapping helps make a more round, finished gift ball. To play, the person with the ball puts on oven mitts and tries to unwrap as much as they can to access the gifts, while the person to the left is attempting to roll doubles on dice. When doubles are made, that person passes the dice to the left and starts his or her own attempts to get at the gifts in the plastic ball. The game ends when all the gifts are revealed, whether everyone has had a chance to unwrap or not.
- **2. Plan a white elephant gift exchange.** A white elephant exchange is like a secret grab bag. Everyone brings a wrapped gift, and then takes turns choosing a gift based on the number they've been given. When the gift is chosen, the person opens it. The next player can select a fresh gift or steal one of the presents that's already been opened.
- **3. Host a make-and-take craft party.** With this type of exchange, participants will engage in some form of crafting for the duration of the event, whether it'spottery, painting, epoxy resin pouring, or even knit crafts. At the end of the night everyone can swap their creations with another or keep their own crafts as gifts.



- **4. Give the gift of a group outing.** Instead of exchanging material gifts, focus on sharing experiences with friends and family. A trip to watch a sports game or a theater performance can be an excellent way to spend time together, and something a person may not be inclined to do on his or her own. Certain venues will offer discounts on group tickets, so everyone can pool their resources.
- **5. Host a DIY cookie and cocoa exchange.** Cookies, cocoa and the holidays are a perfect combination. A gift exchange where participants supply ingredients for these sweet treats, share their favorite recipes and then put together the finished products can make for an entertaining and festive afternoon. Each person can fill a cookie tin with baked cookies to take home and mason jars filled with homemade hot cocoa mix and marshmallows can be an additional gift to enjoy later on a chilly evening. There are plenty of fun ways to exchange gifts during the holiday season. GG249266



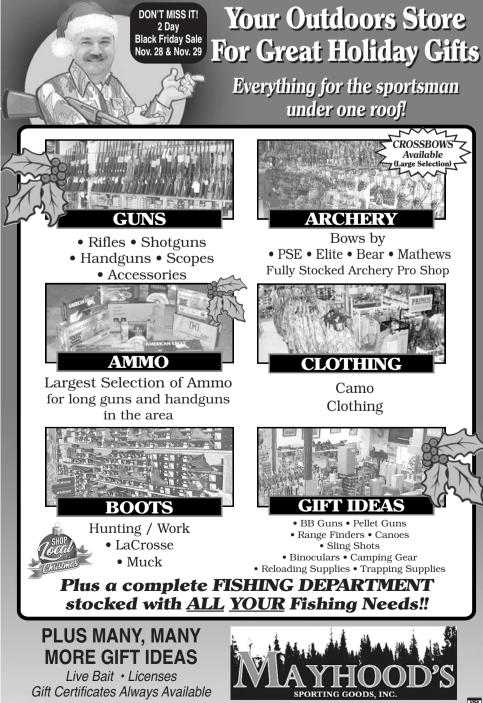
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# Be mindful of pets during the holiday season

The magic and wonder of the holiday season can be enthralling for people of all ages. There is so much to see and do during the holiday season, making it easy to forge lasting memories.

With so much to do in December, life at home can sometimes feel a little

Pets are often curious about new things, and they may climb or paw at items to try to understand them better.

hectic, especially for the family pet. Although the holidays can be exciting, the season can induce anxiety in pets. Pets like cats and dogs often thrive on routine and familiarity. Switch up that routine and various behavioral issues can arise, including having accidents in the home. Pets also may become more destructive, chewing or clawing at items to release pent-up tension and anxiety. Pet owners who want the season to be festive for their pets can consider the following strategies.

• Gradually introduce new items. Gradually decorate living spaces so pets can grow acclimated to their newly decorated environs. Add a few pieces to rooms each day until you finally have all of your decorations out for display. This way pets can sniff around the

Now till Dec. 31, 2025...

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• Keep familiar pet belongings. Try not to upset the apple cart too much in regard to pets' cherished possessions. For example, do not move the dog bed from the living room and place the Christmas tree in its place. Pets need that familiarity and having some of their items with familiar smells

decorations and realize they do not pose a threat.

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can make for a smooth adjustment to holiday decorations.

- Designate a pet-safe zone. If you will be inviting people over during the holidays, set aside a room for pets so they can be in relative quiet away from boisterous crowds. Locking pets away also helps prevent their escape from the home as guests come and go.
- Secure the tree and other decorations. Pets are often curious about new things, and they may climb or paw at items to try to understand them better. Decorative items may end up being knocked over by curious pets. Secure the tree using a string and an anchor to the ceiling or wall like you might secure a large screen TV to



prevent it from tipping over. Keep breakable ornaments and other trinkets behind display cases or beyond the reach of pets.

- Discourage pets from using decorations as toys. Reprimand pets or move them away from holiday decor so they don't get the idea that these items are now their toys.
- Be careful with holiday foods. Holiday foods and desserts are rich and full of ingredients that may not be healthy for pets. Keep a secure lid on trash pails and remind holiday guests that pets should not be fed table scraps.

Pets may need some time to adjust to the changes that come with holiday decorating and celebrating to keep them happy and safe. HL24A331









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# Holiday shopping tips you can't afford to miss

the benefits of being frugal. Many people go overboard on holiday spending, making this time of year costly for consumers.

Sales between the beginning of November 2023 and Christmas Eve 2023 climbed 3.1 percent from the year earlier, according to the Mastercard SpendingPulse. The National Retail Federation reported in November 2023 that holiday spending was expected to reach between \$957 and \$966 billion. Trading Economics, a financial market indicator and forecast provider, said personal spending in the United States only rose 0.2 percent in May 2024 from the previous month, which marked the lowest increase

The festive and fun nature of the holiday season can make it easy to forget

Shoppers who want to spend less and stick to a budget for holiday entertaining and gifting can keep these budgeting tips in mind.

since January 2024.

- Set a value to gift recipients. It may sound harsh, but certain people on holiday shopping lists may be assigned a higher value than others. For example, you wouldn't necessarily spend the same amount on a gift for a child's teacher as you would for a grandmother. Putting a dollar figure next to each name on the shopping list helps you identify your expected spending and where you can cut back, if necessary.
- Establish your overall budget. Once you have an idea of your potential holiday expenditures, set a firm budget. Avoid the temptation of impulse buys, which can make it easy to go over budget.
- Begin shopping early. Start scouring ads and looking for deals prior to Thanksgiving or Black Friday. Keep a running list of gift ideas and when the price is right, purchase those items.
- Price check "perfect gifts." If you've spotted the perfect gift for someone but it's beyond budget, see if you can find a better price elsewhere, says





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Better Money Habits.
There are apps that allow users to scan barcodes and check items across various retailers. Many stores also have pricematch policies that can save shoppers money.

• Look for deals all of the time. Many people get hung up on perceived deep discounts from Black Friday and Cyber Monday offers. However, industry experts say there often isn't a huge difference in markdowns between these promotions and those during other sales. Some retailers even increase prices on goods only to mark them down for Black Friday to make it appear that there is a

discount. Only by



knowing the average price for items can you know if a sale is legitimate.

- Sign up for store rewards. If you don't want your regular email inbox inundated with offers, set up a separate email account for in-store and online shopping. Then you can sign up for the rewards programs at checkout. Utilize the coupon codes and advertisements for sales to save money without having your primary email data shared with other marketers.
- Track spending carefully. If you don't know how much you're spending, then you cannot possibly stick to a budget. After each purchase, keep a running tally of all holiday spending to see how far you are from the finish line

The holidays can be expensive, but with smart budgeting and dedication to savvy shopping, it's possible to stay out of financial trouble. GG249250



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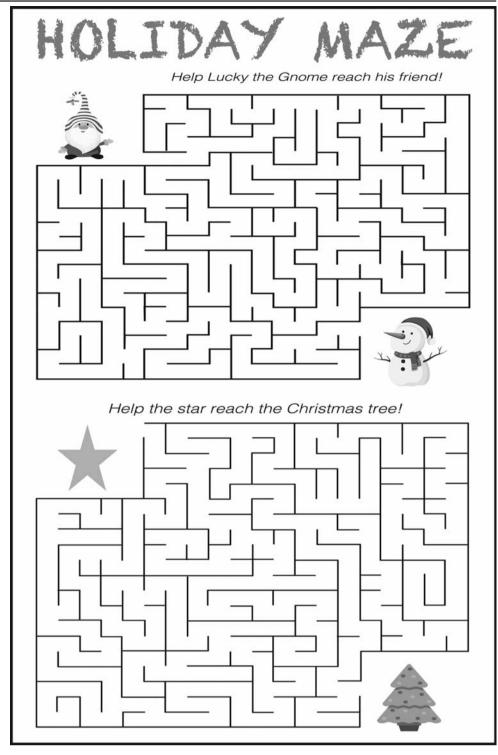
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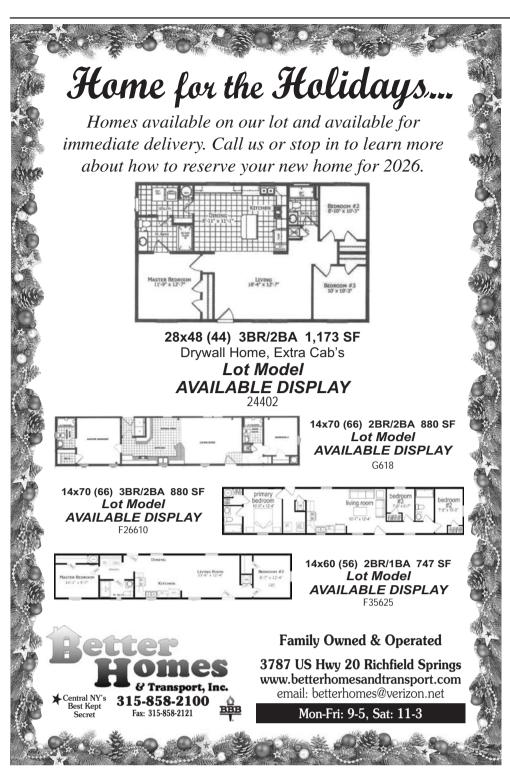
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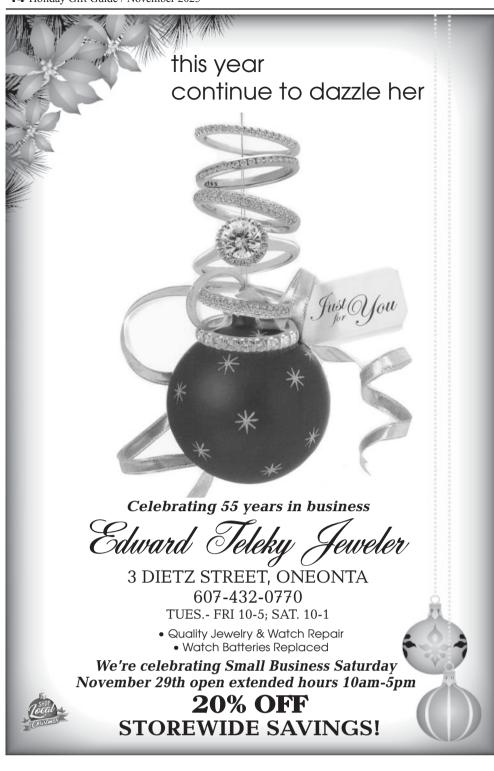
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# The Benefits To Buying Local This Holiday Season

Holiday shopping dominates many people's free time between the day after Thanksgiving and the final days before Christmas. While many people may shop 'til they drop on Black Friday and Cyber Monday, those days still account for a relatively small amount of the hundreds of billions of dollars that are spent each holiday season.

Shoppers now have a bevy of options at their disposal as they embark on holiday shopping season. Traditional in-store retailers are still around, and online shopping continues to grow in popularity with each holiday season. But many holiday shoppers are looking to buy local this holiday season, and such a decision can pay a host of dividends for both shoppers and the communities they call home.

- Buying local benefits your local economy. Studies from Civic Economics, an economics and strategics planning firm, found that independent, locally-owned retailers return a far greater percentage of their revenue into their local economies than national chain stores. One such study examined the disparity between revenue recirculation among independent, locally-owned businesses in Raleigh, North Carolina, versus four major national chains in the city. The former recirculated 51.1 percent of revenue into the local economy, while the latter recirculated less than 14 percent. Similar results were discovered in many cities, indicating that buying local not only benefits local business owners, but also the communities those owners and their customers call home.
- Buying local creates jobs in your community. One of the biggest ways local business owners in Raleigh recirculated their revenue in the local economy was job creation. While national chains also create jobs, such jobs only benefit your community if the chains are located within your community. If your local mall is a considerable drive away, chances are the chains within that mall are not employing many of your fellow community members. Local businesses in your community are more likely to employ residents of your town.
- Shopping local may provide access to more unique gifts. In addition to the economic benefits of buying local, shoppers may find merchandise made by local craftsmen is more unique than mass-produced items found on the shelves of national retailers. Recipients may cherish more unique items that they cannot

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find on their own, and that appreciation may even spur them to visit more local retailers after the holiday season has come and gone, benefiting their own communities in so doing.

• Local business may provide a more personal touch. Buying from national chains has its advantages, but customer service is not always one of them. Should your loved ones encounter problems with their gift that requires assistance, they might be forced to wait on the phone for extended periods of time as they and thousands of others wait for customer service representatives to answer their calls. Local businesses do not deal with nearly the volume of customers as national retailers and, therefore, are capable of addressing concerns more quickly and personally than large chains.

Buying local not only benefits small business owners, but it also pays dividends for their customers and the communities they call home. GG159480



Friday, December 26 12PM-4PM & 7PM-10PM Saturday, December 27 1PM-6PM & 7PM-10PM

> Sunday, December 28 1PM-5PM & 6PM-8PM

Monday, December 29 12PM-4PM

Tuesday, December 30 12PM-4PM

Friday, January 2 12PM-4PM & 7PM-10PM

Wednesday, December 31 2-5PM & 8PM-1AM

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