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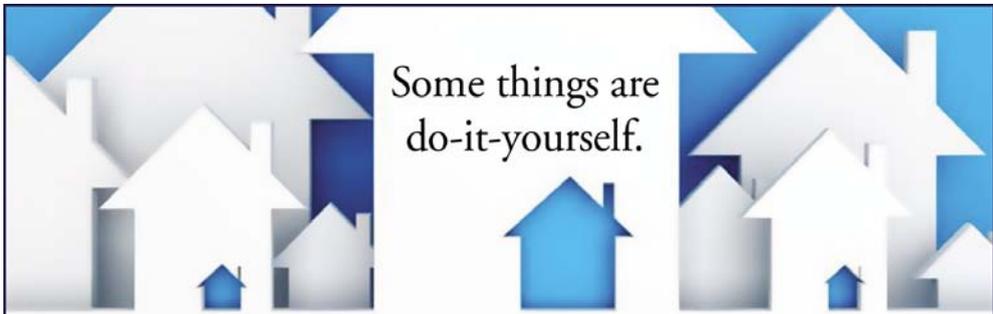
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DECEMBER 2025

FEATURES

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This holiday season, elevate everyday living with gifts that bring wellness, comfort and care long after the season ends.

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WHAT A DILEMMA

To laugh is to risk appearing a fool.
To weep is to risk appearing sentimental.
To reach out for another is to risk involvement.
To expose feelings is to risk rejection.
To place your visions before the crowd is to risk ridicule.
To love is to risk not being loved in return.
****To go forward in the face of overwhelming odds is to risk failure.**
But risks must be taken, because the greatest hazard in life is to risk nothing.
The person who risks nothing, does nothing, has nothing, is nothing.
We may avoid suffering and sorrow, but we cannot learn, feel, change, grow, love or know GOD.
Chained by our own self-assurances, we are a slave. We have forfeited our freedom.
Only the person who dares to take risks and to trust in their GOD will ever be made FREE.

In 1997, Rev. Edwin E. Bailey, father of the editor, gave this poem to his daughter 8 days before he had a stroke and 3 weeks before he died. The poem was adapted from works by Leo Buscaglia. Edwin hand wrote this on a scrap of paper and gave it to his daughter, Deborah, saying the words, "Someday you'll understand these words and use them. God bless sweetheart." **These words were used in making the decision to purchase Connections Magazine in 2002.

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“Collect memories, not things.
Fill your holidays with
experiences that will leave a
lasting impact on your soul.”

– Author Unknown

And that's what life is all about... experiences and collecting memories versus things. Leave a lasting impact this holiday season with the *Good Stuff* throughout our holiday issue.

Think outside the box when it comes to gifting and transform loved ones' homes with functional ideas that bring joy, comfort and care. *Elevate daily living with thoughtful holiday gift ideas showcased on page 6.*

Calling all cookie lovers... who doesn't love a cookie! *Bake up some fun experiences with making one of our recipes from the holiday cookie corner on page 8.*

We all know the holidays are a time for giving, but they are also a time of reflection. What change have we made in the world this year? Have we donated our time or resources to organizations that give back every day? Nonprofit organizations survive and thrive through contributions. What change do you want to see in the coming year? How do you want to make that change a reality? *For ideas on how and where to help give the gift that keeps on giving, see page 12.*

Wishing you a memorable holiday season filled with experiences that leave a lasting impact on your soul.

The CM Team
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cmag@ptd.net





Elevate

Daily Living with Thoughtful Holiday Gift Ideas

This holiday season, elevate everyday living with gifts that bring wellness, comfort and care long after the season ends.

Think outside the box when it comes to gifting and transform loved ones' homes with functional ideas that bring joy, comfort and care. From wrapping yourself in a cozy blanket on chilly mornings to recreating that same feeling with a WASHLET by TOTO bidet seat, everyday moments can become luxurious acts of self-care and wellness.

From spa-like essentials that enhance the home to innovations that turn routines into moments of renewal, these thoughtful gifts can redefine comfort at home.

Add Quality to the Kitchen

While the holidays go hand-in-hand with homemade meals, this special season isn't the only time of year your friends and family will spend countless moments together in the kitchen. Heirloom-quality cookware offers an elegant gift that lasts for years to come, providing daily joy for recipients with a constant reminder of your affection as they serve family favorites, showstopping sides and decadent desserts while celebrating milestones or savoring simple weeknight meals.

Give the Gift of Clean

After a long day braving winter's chill, imagine stepping into a warm, welcoming bathroom where comfort and care await. With thoughtful design and spa-inspired technology, WASHLET from TOTO transforms the ordinary bath into a sanctuary of warmth and renewal. More than a holiday gift, it's an invitation to experience wellness, comfort and luxury every day - beautifully expressed in an elegant bidet seat. Models including the S7A, S5 and S2 deliver a luxurious heated seat and soothing stream of warm water, turning a daily routine into a moment of quiet indulgence, like slipping into freshly laundered sheets after a candlelit bath.

A soft, warm air-dry completes the experience, leaving your loved one refreshed, clean and comfortably renewed in a way toilet

paper never could. Uniting intuitive technology with thoughtful design, the WASHLET collection from TOTO offers personalized settings for up to four users. With its sleek, modern aesthetic, each model integrates effortlessly into today's bathrooms, where design and innovation meet in perfect harmony. To discover more gifts that are good for your loved ones and the planet, visit totousa.com/washlet.

Transform the Morning Rush

Mundane mornings can be the enemy of productivity. Allow your loved ones to transform those unwelcome wake-up calls into moments of renewal with bathroom luxuries like a spa-inspired showerhead. By turning a regular morning routine into an oasis of calm, you can gift daily revitalization with a wave of serenity - giving "morning rush" a whole new meaning.

Craft with Love

Whether you're creatively inclined or visit a local shop, a handcrafted, personalized throw offers warmth and comfort long beyond the holiday season. Designed for settling into the coziness of home after cold days in winter's grasp, it's a thoughtful way to show just how much you care as a daily reminder of your appreciation for that special someone.

Refresh Body and Spirit

Bringing a breath of fresh air to your loved one's home can go beyond throwing open the windows. A sculptural air purifier designed for their space can encourage both calm and wellness by removing allergens and odors, which can affect sleep, daily living and overall health. You can breathe a sigh of relief knowing you're giving a gift that's as practical as it is personal.

By shifting your gift-giving from fleeting stocking stuffers to forever luxuries, you can add practicality and peace to your loved ones' daily rituals - all with a personal touch that exemplifies the care and comfort of the holiday season.

Family Features | #17654 | Source: TOTO



cookie corner

SUGAR COOKIES:

- 1 1/2 cups butter, softened
- 2 cups white sugar
- 4 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 5 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon salt

In a large bowl, cream together butter and sugar until smooth. Beat in eggs and vanilla. Stir in the flour, baking powder, and salt. Cover, and chill dough for at least one hour (or overnight). Preheat oven to 400 degrees F (200 degrees C). Roll out dough on floured surface 1/4 to 1/2 inch thick. Cut into shapes with any cookie cutter. Place cookies 1 inch apart on ungreased cookie sheets. Bake 6 to 8 minutes in preheated oven. Cool completely.

JAM BARS:

- 1 cup margarine or butter softened
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup packed brown sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 2 1/2 cups flour
- 1 tsp baking powder
- Jar of your favorite jam

Combine all ingredients, except for jam, to make the dough, divide into eight balls. Shape each ball into strips 8 x 1-1/2 inches on an ungreased cookie sheet. Make a slight indentation down the center of the strip. Fill the indent with jam--any flavor you like! Use about 1 tsp of jam per strip. Bake at 350 for about 10 to 12 minutes until the edges brown. Cool slightly. Drizzle with powdered sugar icing, which is made with powdered sugar, milk and vanilla.

KOLACHKI:

- 1/2 pound cream cheese (at room temperature)
- 1/2 pound butter (at room temperature)
- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 pound finely ground walnuts
- 1 large egg
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- water

Preheat oven to 375° F. Mix butter and cream cheese until smooth. Add flour, and mix again until smooth. Roll dough into 3 balls. Refrigerate dough to keep it from drying out. Roll out 1 ball at a time and flour lightly. Roll dough out in flour or granulated sugar so it doesn't stick. Cut dough into squares or circles using cookie or biscuit cutter. Make the filling by mixing together the walnuts, egg, and sugar and adding just enough water to obtain a sticky consistency. Add about a teaspoon of filling to each piece of cut dough. Roll squares into logs. Fold circles over and seal with fork. Bake for 10-15 minutes or until lightly browned.



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Good Stuff

Winter Curb *Appeal:*

How to Make Your Home Shine in the Off-Season Market

Provided by Disaster Blaster

*Expert Tips for Selling Your Home
During the Darker, Colder Months*

Stage Your Entryway for a Warm Welcome

The entryway is the first impression buyers get of your home—even before they step inside. In winter, make your front porch or entry area inviting by adding a clean doormat, seasonal greenery in planters, and a fresh coat of paint on your front door if needed. Remove any snow or ice promptly, and consider adding a tasteful wreath or subtle winter decorations to create a cozy, welcoming vibe.

This approach works because buyers are looking for a home they can picture themselves living in, especially when the weather is chilly. A well-staged entry signals care and attention to detail, helping buyers feel at ease and eager to see more of your property.

Maximize Lighting— Inside and Out

Winter days are short, and natural light is limited. Combat this by turning on all the lights in your home during showings, including lamps, overhead fixtures, and even closet lights. Outdoors, ensure pathways and exterior features are well-lit with bright, working

fixtures. Replace any burned-out bulbs and consider adding string lights or lanterns to highlight architectural elements or landscaping.

Bright, well-lit spaces make your home appear larger, cleaner, and more inviting. Good lighting helps buyers feel safe and comfortable, making it easier for them to notice your home's best features despite the early sunsets and gloomy weather.

Keep Walkways Clear and Safe

Snow, ice, and fallen leaves can make walkways slippery and unappealing. Shovel driveways and paths regularly, use de-icer as needed, and sweep away leaves and debris. Add a non-slip mat at the entrance and make sure any railings are sturdy and free of snow or ice.

Safe, accessible walkways signal to buyers that the home is well maintained. If a buyer has trouble entering your property or feels unsafe, it can create a negative impression and distract from the features inside your home.

Highlight Winter-Friendly Features

Show off amenities that make winter living enjoyable, such as fireplaces, efficient heating systems, or energy-saving windows. Arrange furniture to draw attention to these features—set up a seating area around the fireplace, or display information about recent upgrades to insulation or smart thermostats.

By focusing on cold-weather comforts, you help buyers imagine themselves staying warm and cozy in your home. These features can set your property apart from others on the market and appeal directly to the needs of off-season buyers.

Add Pops of Color and Seasonal Decor

Winter landscapes can be drab, so add color with cheerful accents like winter-blooming potted plants, bright pillows, or a colorful mailbox. Use tasteful, neutral seasonal decorations both inside and out, such as pinecones, winter berries, or a decorative throw in the living room.

Strategic use of color helps your home stand out in a sea of gray and white, creating

a memorable first impression. Seasonal touches make your space feel current and cared for, which encourages buyers to envision themselves living there right away.

Maintain a Cozy Indoor Atmosphere

Set your thermostat to a comfortable temperature before showings and consider background touches like soft music or the scent of baking bread or cookies. Arrange furniture to create conversation areas and make sure blankets and throws are neatly arranged.

A warm, comfortable home feels inviting during the colder months. Buyers are more likely to linger and appreciate your home's features if they're not distracted by a draft or chilly rooms. This emotional response can help them form a positive connection with your property.

Pay Close Attention to Seasonal Changes

As temperatures drop, moisture can condense on colder surfaces like the rafters in your attic or the glass of your windows where it can lead to water damage and mold growth. Signs of condensation, water damage, mold growth, and the musty odors that accompany them can all be concerning to prospective home buyers that see problems rather than a beautiful home they can picture themselves living in.

By addressing these issues timely and properly, you ensure that your home is set to impress home buyers that can imagine making memories in your home instead of headaches.

Selling your home in winter presents unique challenges, but with these tips for curb appeal and staging, you can create a warm, welcoming environment that captures buyers' interest. With careful attention to detail, you'll help your home stand out and shine—even in the off-season market.

About Disaster Blaster

Disaster Blaster is an indoor environmental firm serving the Northeastern PA Area. We have been providing our local area with unparalleled mold remediation, water damage mitigation, basement waterproofing, basement waterproofing, asbestos abatement, radon mitigation, and fire / smoke restoration services for decades, and are proud to have been named The World's Greatest Indoor Environmental Firm. For more about Disaster Blaster, as well as more helpful tips, please visit our website at: www.disasterblaster.com or call our office at (570) 963-1123.



living green

The Gift that Keeps on

Giving

By Sarah Corcoran

We all know the holidays are a time for giving, but they are also a time of reflection. What change have we made in the world this year? Have we donated our time or resources to organizations that give every day? There are thousands of non-profit organizations out there with just as many different missions, so if you wanted to give them support, how do you even start?

The first thing to ask yourself is “What change do I want to see?” Would you like to share your love of reading? Consider joining the friends group at your local library. Do you love animals? Look into an animal shelter or find a group that’s working to protect a critical species. Do you love the outdoors? Support a local land trust or park, or join an environmental group, like the Sierra Club, that trains volunteers to lead outdoor programming so you can share your love of the outdoors with others. Are you worried about the future? Find an organization that’s working on an issue you care about. You could volunteer at your local citizens’ group to support grassroots initiatives, at food banks to help those suffering from food insecurity, at a school to share your experiences with the youth, with civil liberties organizations to fight for the rights of others or with environmental groups that focus on everything from climate change or water quality initiatives to clean energy infrastructure or advocating for our public lands.



Photo Credit: Randi Hausken

The next question to ask is “How do I want to support this organization?” Funds are becoming scarce for everyone these days, so you may not have the expendable income to donate to an organization. If you find yourself in this situation, consider a monthly donation at a smaller value. Something that won’t break the bank but adds up over the course of the year. You could also donate your time in whatever capacity you have. Yes, many groups are looking for someone who can dedicate a large amount of time for a specific role, but they also need people who can only help occasionally. They also need your particular skills and experiences, so think outside the box with your volunteer roles. What makes you shine? Nonprofit organizations survive and thrive through your contributions. What change do you want to see in the coming year, and how do you want to make that change a reality?



Sarah Corcoran is the Deputy Director for the Pennsylvania Chapter of the Sierra Club. Based out of Northeast PA, Sarah is a lifelong resident of the Poconos and loves sharing her knowledge and passion for the outdoors with anyone she meets. She can be

reached at sarah.corcoran@sierraclub.org. Find out more about the Sierra Club in our area by signing up for our local mailing list at <https://bit.ly/NEPASignup>, visiting www.sierraclub.org/pennsylvania or going to the Northeast PA Group Facebook page, www.facebook.com/nepasierraclub/

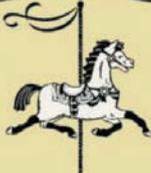
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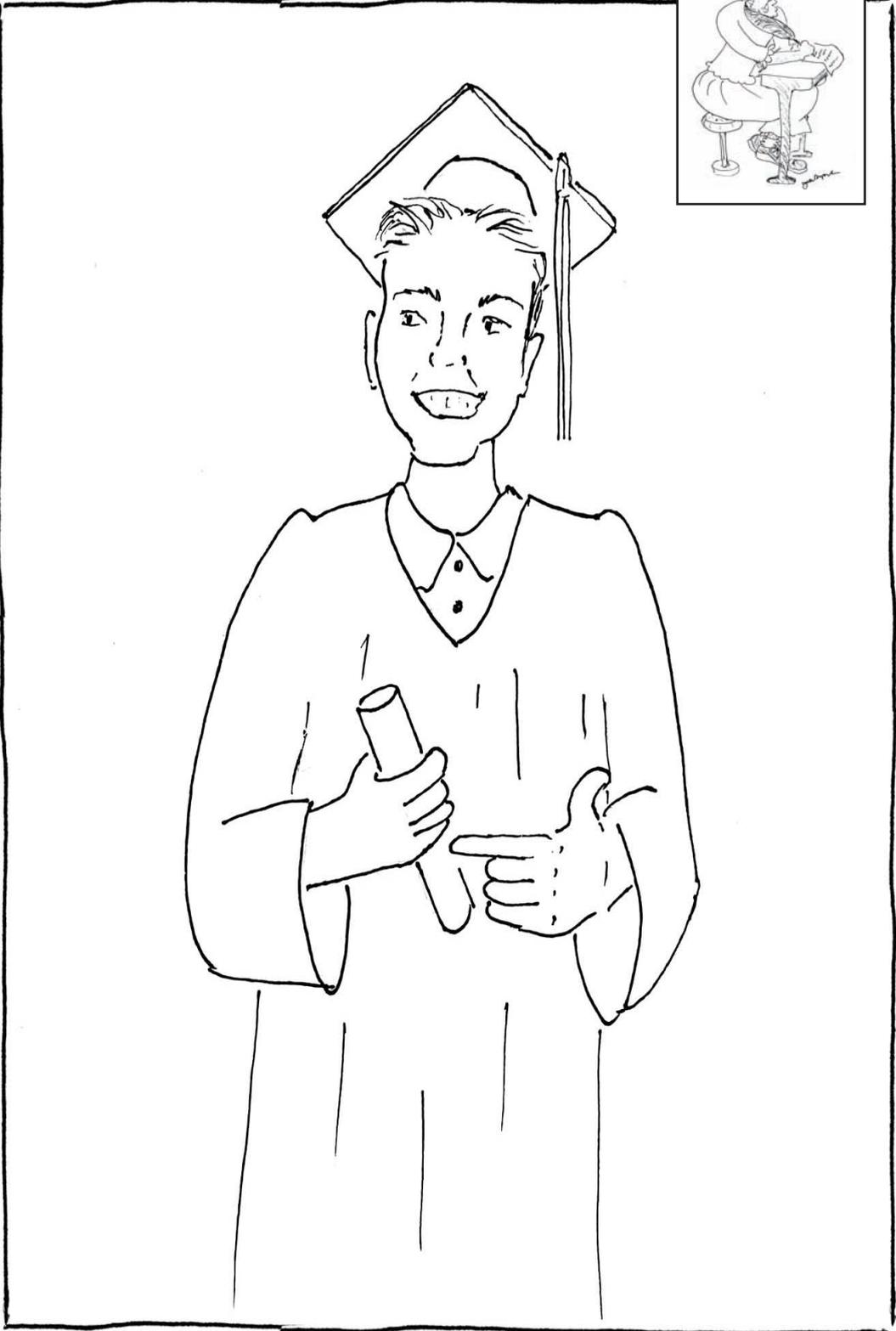
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Menu



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!



THANK YOU

By The Reverend Mrs. Silence DoGood

Dear Editor,

I am writing this letter to thank my congregation and the members of our Halo community who surprised me with an unexpected luncheon. I was invited to the Unity Grange Hall for a Sunday School committee meeting but instead found a beautiful luncheon in my honor. The Unity Grange Hall is where we are temporarily holding our church service until our new church is built. But that day, it was a thanksgiving feast. The sign "Thank You" above the buffet table said it all.

Margaret Thistle gave the toast. She is the vice chair of the Sunday School board and mother of three. "We thank you, Silence, for your outstanding leadership during the tragic burning of our former church and the building of our new glass chapel and round house. As we know, both will soon be dedicated. All our hearts are with you."

My husband Willie, whose arm was around my waist, leaned over and kissed me. My daughter Sarah with an H gave me hug. My son Toby was away.

The buffet had everyone's homemade specialty. Deviled eggs, fried chicken, nut-studded cheese balls, quiches, spinach dip, macaroni and cheese, German-style potato salad and a variety of homemade pies and breads. Dolly Anne Jermyn brought her famous soda bread which she makes year-round. It's delicious with room temperature butter. Even Helen Baxter contributed; she made her not too sweet raspberry and ginger drink served over ice.

Many parishioners came up to my daughter to congratulate her on finishing her BA degree in ministry. I announced several weeks before that she was joining the ministry of The First Church of God's Love as its junior minister. I used to refer to my daughter as Sarah with an H because she called herself that as a child. Now I must call her just Sarah.

That night, as I usually do, I sat alone in my dimly lit parlor at the parsonage and thought about the events of the day. I felt happy that my congregation appreciates my work. I also reflected on the sermon that I gave about six weeks ago. It was about the necessity of saying thank you to those people who were kind or generous to us. So often in our fast-based culture that old-fashioned practice seems to have

gone away. I wondered if my congregation thought that I was referring to them in my sermon. I wasn't. I hope I didn't shame them into thanking me.

What made me think of discussing "thank you" in the first place was a personal event that happened in my family. My sister-in-law is a woman who eagerly takes. My husband Willie and his sister had a close relationship growing up, but over time her materialism interfered with her humanity. When Willie's mother died, his sister was insensitively aggressive in "taking." Willie didn't interfere but had hoped that she would at least say thank you. She never did.

Although we don't socialize with his sister, we received an invitation to his nephew's graduation party at his sister's house before he went to college. We didn't want to go nor did we. But we thought that his nephew is a new beginning apart from his sister and that we should congratulate him. Willie and I sent him a \$100 check. We never received a thank you for the gift.

A few weeks after entering college, we received a text from Willie's nephew saying that he is on the freshman golf team and was tasked to raise \$800 for supplies. Willie sent him a text saying that we had reached out to him when he graduated and sent him a gift. Willie added, "Your thank you note must have gotten lost in the mail." His nephew texted and said that he was busy getting ready for college and failed to send a thank you.

We sent him \$50 for his golf supplies, and upon receipt, he sent us a text thanking us for our generosity. A thank you sermon worked.

Amen.



The Reverend Mrs. Silence DoGood

Senior Pastor
Executive Director
President
Chairman

Choir Master (part-time)

The First Church of God's Love

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Planning After the One Big Beautiful Bill Act

..... Provided by Michael Krupa

The One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBA) reshapes financial planning, introducing potential opportunities and challenges with taxes, estate planning and how you repay student loans. It's important to know what these changes are and how they might impact future planning. Below are some key highlights to discuss with your financial professional and tax advisor to help you evaluate if your goals remain on track.

Considerations for People Ages 65 and Older

Additional Deduction for Seniors

Starting in 2025, and available until 2028, individuals ages 65 and older will benefit from an additional senior deduction of \$6,000 per person. You do not need to be receiving Social Security benefits to qualify for this deduction. This deduction is in addition to the standard deduction and the extra standard deduction, bringing the total standard deduction for single filers age 65+ to \$23,750 in 2025 (\$46,700 for married couples if both spouses are 65+).

This deduction begins to phase out for taxpayers with modified adjusted gross income above \$75,000 (\$150,000 for joint filers). Discuss with your financial professional how this deduction could help minimize your taxes.

Estate and Gift Taxes

Gift and estate tax exemptions have increased

to \$15 million for individuals and \$30 million for married couples filing jointly, indexed to inflation. Before the OBBA, the federal estate tax exemption was scheduled to be cut in half in 2026, which would have increased the number of estates required to pay the tax.

The generation-skipping tax (GST) exemption now matches the estate exemption, preserving the stepped-up basis at death and preserving more of your wealth for your grandchildren.

This may be an ideal time to review your beneficiaries and legacy plans with your financial advisor.

Considerations for Parents

Trump Accounts

It's never too soon to start setting money aside to secure a financial future, and Trump Accounts are designed to help with that. Starting January 1, 2026, any US citizen who is not yet age 18 by the end of the calendar year 2025 can have a Trump Account opened for them. In addition, children born between January 1, 2025 and December 31, 2028 will receive a one-time, tax-free \$1,000 government contribution.

Starting July 4, 2026, parents, family members and friends can contribute up to \$5,000 annually (indexed to inflation), which will grow tax-deferred. Of this \$5,000 limit, up to \$2,500 per year can come from each parent's employer and will not count toward parents' taxable income. After a child turns 18, qualifying withdrawals may be used for education costs, home purchases, or business start-up expenses and will be taxed as ordinary income. Non-qualified distributions will be taxed as ordinary income plus a 10% penalty. Be sure to discuss with your financial

Comparison of estate tax exemptions

FEATURE	2025	2026+
Exemption per person	\$13.99 million	\$15 million, indexed
Exemption for married couples	~\$27.98 million	~\$30 million
GST exemption	Matches estate level	Matches \$15 million per person

Source: The National Law Review, "One Big Beautiful Bill: Estate and Gift Tax Exclusion and the Generation-Skipping Transfer Tax Exemption Increases to \$15 Million," July 3, 2025.

professional if a Trump Account makes sense for your family and, if so, how you could properly invest in this type of account.



in employee compensation to be free from federal and employment tax, meaning the employee would not be taxed on this amount. This offers reduced tax responsibility

Expanded Uses for 529 Plans

529 plans have been a great way for families to save for their children's future higher education expenses. Under the OBCCA, the definition of what constitutes a qualified distribution has been broadened. Distributions from 529 plans now include curriculum materials, tutoring, standardized testing fees, trade school fees and certain homeschooling expenses. It also makes permanent the rollover provision from 529 plans to ABLE accounts, offering greater flexibility for families.

Child Tax Credit

The child tax credit has permanently increased to \$2,200 per qualifying child, offering additional tax savings. Consider using this credit as an opportunity to discuss 529 funding strategies with your financial advisor.

Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Adjustment Act

A working beneficiary can contribute more than the standard annual limit if they don't participate in an employer-sponsored retirement plan. The additional contribution is the lower of earned income or 100% of the federal poverty level for a one-person household in their state.

This expands eligibility to anyone disabled before the age of 46 (up from age 26). ABLE account contributions will be eligible for the Saver's credit, and 529s can be rolled into an ABLE account for the beneficiary or eligible family members.

Considerations for Workers Student Loan Payment Exemptions

Having to pay off student loans could create a hurdle in your plans. Employer-provided education assistance allows for up to \$5,250 annually

for workers paying down student debt, freeing up resources for retirement savings.

Changes to Tax on Tips or Overtime

If you or a loved one is a tipped employee, changes to how tips are taxed may provide an opportunity to save on taxes. From 2025 to 2028, qualified tips and overtime compensation will be tax-deductible, up to \$25,000 for tips and \$12,500 (\$25,000 for joint filers) for overtime. These deductions phase out for individuals with modified adjusted gross income above \$150,000 (\$300,000 joint).

Other considerations

State and Local Tax (SALT) Deductions

Property taxes continue to go up wherever you live. If you are in an area with high property taxes, the update to the State and Local Tax (SALT) deduction may be helpful. The OBCCA has increased the SALT deduction cap to \$40,000 but will revert to \$10,000 in 2030. High-income taxpayers (earning \$500,000+) will see a phase-out of the increased cap. Tax strategies that don't rely on itemized deductions, such as qualified charitable distributions, may be worth exploring.



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Permanent versus temporary provisions

PERMANENT	TEMPORARY
Trump Account	Trump Account tax credit
Estate and gift tax exemption	Additional standard deduction for age 65+ for tax years 2025–2028
Child tax credit	No tax on tips and overtime for tax years 2025–2028
ABLE account enhancements	Passenger vehicle loan interest deduction for tax years 2025–2028
Additional qualified education expenses for 529 plans	SALT deduction cap increase
Student loan payment exemption	

POCONO

secrets

Welcome

WINTER

By LA Guzda

The beginning of winter in the Pocono Mountains offers an abundance of opportunities to enjoy both Mother Nature and the nature of creativity.

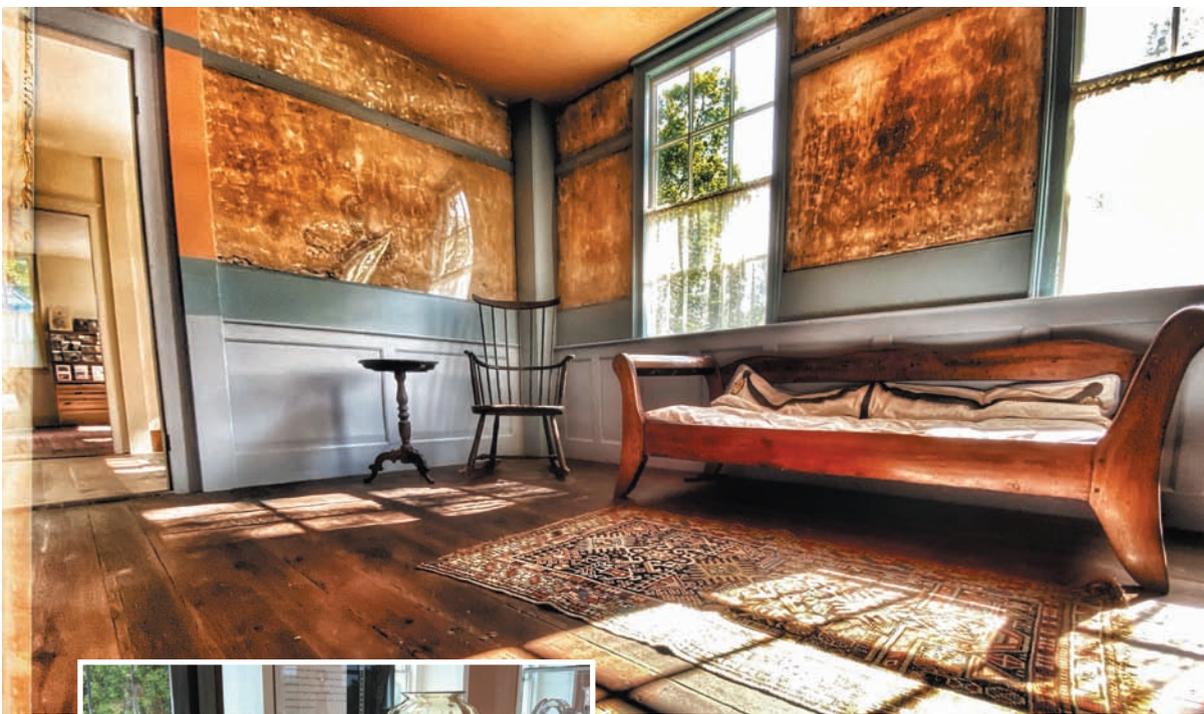
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Surrounded by game lands and parks, this season invites you to bundle up, step outside, and breathe in that delicious mountain air. It's true—you really can enjoy the cold when you dress for it. Layer up, stay cozy, and head out for some unforgettable experiences.

SNOWSHOEING

Snowshoeing is a fantastic way to rediscover your favorite trails in a whole new light. Northeast Wilderness Experience offers both rentals and group outings, making it easy to get started. And if Mother Nature is being stingy with the snow, consider a winter bike ride instead! Visit newildernessexperience.com to see what's happening and join their e-list to stay in the know.





ART / MUSEUMS / HISTORY

Prefer to warm up indoors—or unwind after a day outside? Head to the Art Factory in White Mills. This spacious gallery and community art center showcases work from more than 70 local artists. It's also an excellent place to find unique holiday gifts. Learn more at ArtFactory-ofWhiteMills.com.

You can also explore the Dorflinger Factory Museum and Dorflinger-Suydam Wildlife Sanctuary, featuring the elegant glasswork of Christian Dorflinger, designer of Abraham Lincoln's White House glassware.

For history lovers, the Wayne County Historical Society on Main Street in Honesdale is home to a full-size replica of the Stourbridge Lion—the first commercial locomotive in the United States. The Society also oversees many local historic sites, including Bethel School, D&H Canal Park at Lock 31, and the Old Stone Jail. Don't miss the Winter Solstice Celebration at D&H Canal Park, Lock 31, on December 21 at 5 p.m. More information at Wayne-HistoryPA.com.

SNOWMOBILING

If you're craving something a little more high-energy, explore NEP Sno & ATV Trails in Forest City (near Carbondale). They offer convenient snowmobile rentals and access to great riding terrain. Details at nepsnotrails.com.

ICE FISHING

Lake Wallenpaupack is one of Pennsylvania's top spots for ice fishing. Several local outfitters rent all the gear you'll need—just don't forget your fishing license. You can get one at pfbc.pa.gov/fishpub/summaryad/licenses.html.



THE AREA'S *GOOD STUFF*

DEC '25

Ongoing Events

MONDAYS

Brewpub Bingo

6-8 p.m. Wallenpaupack Brewing Company, Hawley. Until Dec. 29. Free fun and the chance to win WBC prizes. Family-friendly event. Must be 21 to drink with ID. Free to play. Info: 570-390-7933 or content@wallenpaupackbrewingco.com.

TUESDAYS

Needlers Group

1-3 p.m. Newfoundland Area Public Library, Newfoundland. Love to knit, crochet, or quilt? People of all experience levels welcomed to meet and work on projects together. Info: 570-676-4518 or napl@waynelibraries.org.

WEDNESDAYS

Stitch and Sip: Yarn Over the Falls Weekly Crafty Hangout

6-8 p.m. Hawley Silk Mill, Hawley. Meet in the lobby of the Hawley Silk Mill in a relaxed, no-stress meet-up perfect for knitters, crocheters and fiber lovers of all kinds. Whether you're a beginner or have been crafting for years, everyone's welcome. BYOB. Info: 570-226-1337 or info@cocooncoffeehouse.com or hawleysilkmill.com.

THURSDAYS

Trivia Night With B-Ray

6-8 p.m. Wallenpaupack Brewing Company, Hawley. Through Dec. 18. Flex your brainpower and prepare for evenings packed with fun, laughter, delicious beer, mouth-watering food, and fantastic prizes. Team up to six. Info: 570-390-7933 or content@wallenpaupackbrewingco.com.

THURSDAYS

Jazz Nights at Here & Now Brewing Company

6:30-9 p.m. Here & Now Brewing Company, Honesdale. Through Dec. 25. Musical guests appear weekly and each week takes you on a different journey of sound. Free. Info: 570-253-0700 or info@hereandnowbrewing.com.

THURSDAYS-SATURDAYS

Maple Tour & Tasting Experience

11 a.m.-5 p.m. Pocono Mountain Maple, Newfoundland. Until Dec. 19. Indulge in a tasting

of all organic and kosher maple syrup flavors each with its signature taste. Pair your tasting experience with complimentary treats from the farm store café. Top off your visit with a refreshing maple water tasting; an all-natural hydrating electrolyte drink sourced directly from our maple trees. Info: 570-499-8974 or social@PoconoMtnMaple.com.

FRIDAYS

Hawley Farmers' Market

2-5 p.m. The Hawley Hub, Hawley. Through mid-May. Delicious fresh & local produce and more. All types of PA Preferred fresh & local produce in season. Rain or shine. Info: 570-226-1644 or hawleyfarmersmarket@gmail.com.

SATURDAYS

Main Street Farmers Market

11 a.m.-1 p.m. The Cooperage, Honesdale. Through Apr. 25, 2026. Features local farmers with fresh produce, meats, and eggs, along with producers of local honey, baked goods, and a wide variety of unique regional items. Purchase a meal or snack at the Red Door Cafe, prepared by local caterer The Mustard Seed Cafe. Seating available. Info: ally@thecooperageproject.org or 570-253-2020 ext 6.

THUR DEC. 28

WCAA Holiday Art Sale

Wed, Thurs, Sun 11 a.m.-4 p.m. and Fri & Sat 11 a.m.-6 p.m. WCAA Gallery, Honesdale. Info: www.waynecountyartsalliance.org

December 1-31

DEC. 4, 11, 18

Christmas Tea

2-4 p.m. The Settlers Inn, Hawley. Bask in the beauty of the Inn's elegant holiday decor as you sip freshly brewed teas and indulge in a delightful assortment of finger sandwiches, pastries, and decadent desserts. Gather with friends and family for a cozy, heartwarming afternoon filled with charm, flavor, and holiday spirit. Info: 570-226-2993 or desk@thesettlersinn.com.

DEC. 5-7**Dramatic Production:****Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol"**

Check for times. Grey Towers National Historic Site, Milford. Dramatic reading performed by Joe Plummer Jr. Performance is 90 minutes and not recommended for children under the age of 10. Info: 570-296-9625 or info@greytowers.org.

DEC. 5-7**Candlelight Christmas Dinner**

5:30-9 p.m. The Settlers Inn, Hawley. Holiday punch, syllabus, passed hors d'oeuvres, horse and carriage ride, farm-to-table feast, live music, and handcrafted holiday desserts. Reservations required. Info: 570-226-2993 or desk@thesettlersinn.com.

DEC. 5, 19**Family Yoga**

10-10:45 a.m. Newfoundland Area Public Library, Newfoundland. Led by Buds in Bloom Kids' Yoga. Geared toward ages 0-5 and their caregiver, learn some yoga poses and practice mindfulness. Free. Info: 570-676-4518 or napl@waynelibraries.org.

DEC. 6**The Great Honesdale Cookie Stroll**

11 a.m.-4 p.m. The Greater Honesdale Partnership, Honesdale. Participants receive a collectible Honesdale cookie tin and can visit 13 local shops to collect a baker's dozen of cookies crafted by talented local bakers. Info: 570-228-0848 or events@visithonesdalepa.com.

DEC. 6, 12, 20**Art for Relaxation**

Noon-2 p.m. Newfoundland Area Public Library, Newfoundland. Drop-in craft club focused on creating art for fun, relaxation, and social connection. 2-hour session features a themed project announced in advance. Most sessions are free. No registration needed. Info: 570-676-4518 or napl@waynelibraries.org.

DEC. 6**Milford's Annual Tree Lighting**

Noon-9 p.m. Milford Community House, Milford. Get into the holiday spirit with activities throughout the town all day long. Cookie swaps, photo booths, Mr. and Mrs. Claus, extended shopping hours, luminaries, the tree lighting (just before 4:30 p.m.) with Santa and so much more. Free. Info: 570-296-8700 or info@pikechamber.com.

DEC. 6**Holiday Bows & Boughs**

1-4 p.m. Pocono Environmental Education Center, Dingmans Ferry. Join PEEC to create your own holiday decorations using natural materials. PEEC provide evergreen boughs and materials for you to make wreaths, swags, and table

decor. Preregistration required. Call or register online. Info: 570-828-2319 or peec@peec.org.

DEC. 6**Paint And Sip**

1-4 p.m. The Wake Zone Indoor Golf & Taproom, Tafton. Guests receive a drink, canvas, supplies, book light, and step-by-step instruction from Suzy Williamson -- no experience required. Craft brews and snacks available for purchase, and guests are welcome to bring their own food. Info: 570-390-7933 or content@wallenpaupackbrewingco.com.

DEC. 6**Where Do the Animals Go When It Snows?**

2-3 p.m. Van Scott Nature Reserve of the Delaware Highlands Conservancy, Beach Lake. Join the DHC as they read "Over and Under the Snow" by Kate Messner and do some fun activities and crafts to learn about wildlife in winter. Program is intended for elementary-age kids and families. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Advance registration requested. Info: 570-226-3164 or rachel@delawarehighlands.org.

DEC. 6**Christmas in the Village**

4-8 p.m. Apple Valley Restaurant, Milford. Family-friendly event promises an afternoon of festive fun. Kids can write letters to Santa, enjoy exciting sleigh rides, and get creative with holiday-themed crafts. Plenty of games, seasonal treats, and even a gift-wrapping station. Local vendors offering unique holiday gifts. Free. Info: marketing@milfordhospitalitygroup.com.

DEC. 6**Teen Open Mic + Karaoke**

7-9 p.m. Stoneworks Youth Center (behind The Cooperage), Honesdale. For grades 9-12. High school students are invited to drop in. Bring your instruments or top karaoke picks, slam poetry, original short acts, or any other performance pieces, or just come hang out, eat snacks, and cheer on the performers. Snacks, games, couches, mics. Free. No registration needed. Info: 570-253-2020 or thecooperageproject.org.

DEC. 6, 7, 13**Santa Christmas Tree Express**

Check website for times. Honesdale Station, Honesdale. 2-hour round trip excursion with layover. Tree cost is an additional cost. Info: thestourbridgeline.net or 570-470-2697 or info@thestourbridgeline.net.

DEC. 7**Wacky Science Adventures**

10 a.m.-Noon. Pocono Environmental Education Center, Dingmans Ferry. Put on your lab coats and prepare to conduct some crazy exper-

iments. You'll get to create your very own slime, oobleck, and attempt to launch a rocket into space. Call to register. Info: 570-828-2319 or peec@peec.org.

DEC. 7**Acrylic Pour**

10:30 a.m.-Noon. Art Factory of White Mills, White Mills. Workshop with artist Cindy Davis. All materials included. Pre-registration required. Info: 570-251-1181 or info@theartfactoryofwhitemills.com.

DEC. 7**3rd Annual Holiday Young Artisans Market**

11 a.m.-3 p.m. Stoneworks Youth Center (behind The Cooperage), Honesdale. Market is open to young crafters, makers, and entrepreneurs age 17 and under. All wares are made by the artisans. No fundraising or selling of commercial made products allowed. Info: jessica@thecooperageproject.org or 570-253-2020 x5.

DEC. 7**14th Annual Holiday Artisans' Market**

11 a.m.-3 p.m. The Cooperage, Honesdale. Pick up gifts for the special people in your life, or purchase a treat just for you. Features expertly crafted products created from a wide range of artistic media. Info: 570-253-2020 or thecooperageproject.org.

DEC. 7, 14, 21**Christkindlmarkt at The Brewery**

Noon-5 p.m. Wallenpaupack Brewing Company, Hawley. A festive holiday marketplace. Enjoy cozy afternoons of holiday shopping, seasonal brews, delicious food, and community cheer while browsing handcrafted gifts, local art, and unique creations from talented vendors. On Dec. 21 is a special visit from Santa, offering a chance to snap a photo before he heads back to the North Pole. Free. Info: 570-390-7933 or content@wallenpaupackbrewingco.com.

DEC. 7**Adapting to Change**

1-2:30 p.m. Van Scott Nature Reserve of the Delaware Highlands Conservancy, Beach Lake. Join DHC for a hands-on activity, where you'll explore how the choices you make in altering the land affect the wildlife that inhabits it, through various scenarios. Program is intended for elementary-middle school-age kids and families. Info: 570-226-3164 or rachel@delawarehighlands.org.

DEC. 7**Ecozone Discovery Room!**

1-4 p.m. Pocono Environmental Education Center, Dingmans Ferry. Climb into a bald eagle's nest, crawl into a bat cave, explore a beaver

lodge, and dig in a fossil pit. Explore this indoor discovery room and enjoy hands-on exhibits on natural history, sustainability and the local environment. No registration required. Info: 570-828-2319 or peec@peec.org.

DEC. 7, 21, 28**Deluxe Dinner Train**

Check website for times. Honesdale Station, Honesdale. Info: thestourbridgeline.net or 570-470-2697 or jhiller@thestourbridgeline.net.

DEC. 7, 21, 27-30**Pocono Winter Wonderland Express**

Check website for times. Honesdale Station, Honesdale. 1.5-hour round trip. Info: thestourbridgeline.net or 570-470-2697 or info@thestourbridgeline.net.

DEC. 11**Senior Gathering**

1:30-3:30 p.m. The Cooperage, Honesdale. Seniorpalooza Resource Fair. Welcoming afternoons designed to bring older adults (60+) together in a warm and friendly setting. Light refreshments and engaging conversation. Staff from local bean to bar company Moka Origins illuminates us about where coffee and cacao come from, how they become the products we know and love, and why fair trade matters. With samples. Info: 570-253-2020 or thecooperageproject.org.

DEC. 12**Girls Night Out**

Noon-8 p.m. Milford. Shop and stroll of the streets of Milford for food tastings, product giveaways, prize drawings, and much more. Enjoy 40 plus participating businesses. Free. Info: 570-491-4701.

DEC. 12**Free Performance for Winterfest:****An Evening of Theater**

6 p.m. St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Hawley. Monologues, readings and Jules Feiffer sketches. Info: 570-226-2411.

DEC. 12-14**Hawley Winterfest**

Downtown Hawley is aglow with fun festivities and twinkling lights as you stroll through town and visit with store owners, shop holiday bargains, have the kids make a craft and get your gift list completed. Enjoy live theater at The Ritz Playhouse, live music at many local churches, a live nativity play, horse and carriage rides, many craft vendors, ugly sweater contest, Trees for a Cause, holiday decorating contest, holiday lights, beer tour, Christmas Tree Express train rides, and so much more. Free. Info: 570-226-4064 or info@visithawleypa.com.

DEC. 13**Romping Radishes + MicroGreens (Combined)**

10-11 a.m. Stoneworks Youth Center (behind The Cooperage), Honesdale. "Snow your love for a snowman." Kids make snowman cards to give to their loved ones this holiday season. Info: 570-253-2020 or thecooperageproject.org.

DEC. 13**Breakfast with Santa**

10 a.m.-Noon. The Waterfront at Silver Birches Resort, Hawley. Bring the family for a fun morning with gingerbread cookie decorating. Info: 570-226-4388 or info@silverbirchesresortpa.com.

DEC. 13**Winter Ecology Hike**

10 a.m.-Noon. Pocono Environmental Education Center, Dingmans Ferry. Learn how different plants and animals survive the winter. Join PEEC on a hike and experience the park in the wintertime. All ages welcome. Call to register. Info: 570-828-2319 or peec@peec.org.

DEC. 13**Winterfest Artisan Fair**

10 a.m.-5 p.m. Hawley Silk Mill, Hawley. Unique treasures and handcrafted artistry at the Art on the Edge holiday market, hosted inside Hawley Silk Mill. Two floors filled with juried artisan and fine craft goods, perfect for holiday gifting or treating yourself. Part of the festive Hawley Winterfest celebration. Info: 570-226-1337.

DEC. 13**Abstract Alcohol Ink**

10:30 a.m.-Noon. Art Factory of White Mills, White Mills. Workshop with artist Rosellyn Grohol. All materials included. Pre-registration required. Info: 570-251-1181 or info@theartfactoryofwhitemills.com.

DEC. 13**Watercolor Painting**

12:30-2 p.m. Art Factory of White Mills, White Mills. Workshop with artist Rosellyn Grohol. All materials included. Pre-registration required. Info: 570-251-1181 or info@theartfactoryofwhitemills.com.

DEC. 13**Free Performances for Winterfest: Holiday Concert**

2 p.m. St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Hawley. Tomoko and David Kuhn with Koaki Shinkai on solid gold flute. Info: 570-226-2411.

DEC. 13**Pastels**

2:30-4 p.m. Art Factory of White Mills, White Mills. Workshop with artist Rosellyn Grohol. All materials included. Pre-registration

required. Info: 570-251-1181 or info@theartfactoryofwhitemills.com.

DEC. 13**Rockin' Christmas**

6-9 p.m. Glass - Wine.Bar.Kitchen, Hawley. Featuring the lively sounds of Gypsy Trip, performing live all evening. Savor great food, sip your favorite drinks, and soak up the holiday spirit, no cover charge. Info: 570-226-1337 or info@ledgeshotel.com.

DEC. 13, 14**Winterfest Brunch**

11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. The Settlers Inn, Hawley. Celebrate Hawley Winterfest with a farm to table brunch and enjoy the Inn decked out in its holiday finery plus live music by harpist Kristy Chmura. Info: 570-226-2993 or desk@thesettlersinn.com.

DEC. 13-16**Presidents' Day Family Camp Weekend**

Pocono Environmental Education Center, Dingmans Ferry. Bring friends and family to experience PEEC in the wintertime with plenty of programs to pick from, such as cross country skiing, animal tracking, nature hikes, campfire and more. Price includes three nights of lodging and meals from Fri. dinner thru Mon. lunch. Commuter & day rates available. Call to register. Info: 570-828-2319 or peec@peec.org.

DEC. 14**Acrylic Painting**

10:30 a.m.-Noon. Art Factory of White Mills, White Mills. Workshop with artist Rosellyn Grohol. All materials included. Pre-registration required. Info: 570-251-1181 or info@theartfactoryofwhitemills.com.

DEC. 14**Brunch With Santa**

11 a.m.-2 p.m. Hotel Anthracite, Carbondale. Take photos with the jolly old elf himself. Info: 570-536-6020 or info@hotelanthracite.com.

DEC. 14**Alcohol Ink Landscapes**

12:30-2 p.m. Art Factory of White Mills, White Mills. Workshop with artist Rosellyn Grohol. All materials included. Pre-registration required. Info: 570-251-1181 or info@theartfactoryofwhitemills.com.

DEC. 14**Alcohol Ink Tiles**

2:30-4 p.m. Art Factory of White Mills, White Mills. Workshop with artist Rosellyn Grohol. All materials included. Pre-registration required. Info: 570-251-1181 or info@theartfactoryofwhitemills.com.

DEC. 14**Santa WinterFest Express**

10 a.m. & 1 p.m. Hawley Station, Hawley. 2-hour round trip with Santa.

Info: thetourbridgeline.net or info@thetourbridgeline.net.

DEC. 17**Boxwood Christmas Trees Sip and Snip**

5:30-7 p.m. Gorgeous Floral, Hawley. Create your own charming tree to brighten your home or office decor. Enjoy festive treats as you craft in a cozy, cheerful atmosphere. Call 570-576-0490 to reserve your spot. Info: 570-576-0490 or info@gorgeous-floral.com.

DEC. 18**Book Club**

3-4 p.m. Newfoundland Area Public Library, Newfoundland. Have some good reads, lots of laughs, and great company. Read a variety of books; as long as it's discussion-worthy, they might read it. Meets once a month on the last Thur. unless otherwise noted.

Info: 570-676-4518 or napl@waynelibraries.org.

DEC. 19**Teen Art Lounge**

6-8 p.m. Stoneworks Youth Center (behind The Cooperage), Honesdale. Grades 6-12. Collaborate with local artists while hanging out with friends. Pre-registration required. Info: jessica@thecooperageproject.org or 570-253-2020 or thecooperageproject.org.

DEC. 20**Family Jam**

11 a.m.-Noon. Stoneworks Youth Center (behind The Cooperage), Honesdale. For young musicians of all ages and their musical adults. Join in a drop-in music circle, then head next door to The Cooperage to visit the farmers' market and pick up some fresh local products, enjoy a hot lunch from Mustard Seed, and hang out with the community. Free.

Info: 570-253-2020 or thecooperageproject.org.

DEC. 20, 21, 24**Santa Express (Honesdale)**

Check website for times. Honesdale Station, Honesdale. 2-hour round trip excursion with layover. Info: thetourbridgeline.net or 570-470-2697 or info@thetourbridgeline.net.

DEC. 21**Brunch with Santa**

Noon-2 p.m. Wallenpaupack Brewing Company, Hawley. Enjoy brunch, signature craft brews and a visit from Santa. Kids can share their holiday wishes with Santa, snap photos, and harvest the memories while mom and dad relax with a delicious meal and delicious brews.

Info: 570-390-7933 or content@wallenpaupackbrewingco.com.

DEC. 31**New Years Eve Around the Globe**

5-10 p.m. Glass - Wine.Bar.Kitchen, Hawley. Take your tastebuds on a culinary journey around the globe. The elegant 6-course tasting menu showcases celebratory foods from the world's continents. Complimentary champagne toast. Info: 570-226-1337 or info@ledgeshotel.com.

DEC. 31**New Year's Eve Dinner**

5:30-10 p.m. The Settlers Inn, Hawley. Savor a special new year's eve dinner menu featuring seasonal dishes and chef inspired creations. Enjoy the soulful sounds of live music by Dan Bradley, setting the perfect tone for a night of celebration, great food, and good company.

Info: 570-226-2993 or desk@thesettlersinn.com.

DEC. 31**Viva Las Vegas: New Year's Gala**

8 p.m.-1 a.m. The Varsity Room Speakeasy, Tom Quick Inn, Milford. Enjoy an evening of glamour and live entertainment featuring Tony Sands performing the timeless sounds of the Rat Pack, along with an open bar, gourmet hors d'oeuvres, and DJ-led celebrations that will carry you into 2026 with sophistication and flair. Info: 570-300-4940 or events@milfordhospitalitygroup.com.

DEC. 31**New Year's Eve Ball**

8:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m. Hotel Anthracite, Carbondale. Ring in 2026 with a ball in Gravity Hall. Featuring live music by the JeffreyJames Band, food stations throughout the night and more. Info: 570-536-6020 or info@hotelanthracite.com.

DEC. 31**New Year's Eve Bash**

8:30 p.m.-1 a.m. The Waterfront at Silver Birches Resort, Hawley. Usher in 2026 complete with DJ, decadent buffet, dancing, champagne and a noisemakers. Reservations required.

Info: 570-226-4388 or

info@silverbirchesresortpa.com.



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