HOLMAY

NOVEMBER 2023

Special supplement of the Sedalia Democrat and the Warrensburg Star-Journal

AREAT Calendar



here is no shortage of festive holiday events happening this Christmas season in West Central Missouri. To have your event added to our online list, email news@sedaliademocrat.com or news@warrensburgstarjournal.com.

Festival of Lights

Powell Gardens, 1609 NW U.S. Highway 50 in Kingsville, will host the Evergy Festival of Lights from Nov. 16 to Dec. 30. It is open from 5 to 10 p.m. Wednesday

through Sunday. Holiday lights turn Kansas City's botanical garden into a winter wonderland in the Visitor Center and along a lighted outdoor path. For ticket information, visit powellgardens.org.

Holiday Light Show

Inter-State Studios, 3500 Snyder Ave. in Sedalia, will host its annual Holiday Light Show from 5 to 7 a.m. and 5 to 11 p.m. daily starting Nov. 22. Professional portraits in front of the Magic Tree will be avail-

able from 6 to 8 p.m. Dec. 1; the cost is one nonperishable food item for each person.

Light Up Liberty

Sedalia Parks and Recreation will host Light Up Liberty nightly from 5:30 to 11:30 p.m. Nov. 23 to Jan. 1 at Liberty Park. It is free to drive through, and there will be a bucket for donations to help add more lights in future years. In partnership with Tyson Foods, Light Up Liberty will have a canned food drive from

6 to 8 p.m. Dec. 2 to benefit Open Door.

SFCC Winter Concert

State Fair Community College Music Arts will host its Winter Concert at 7 p.m. Nov. 28 at First United Methodist Church, 916 Thompson Blvd. in Sedalia. SFCC's Concert Band and Chamber Choir will perform. The concert is free, but attendees are asked to bring a box of snacks to donate to C3 (College Campus Connection) to help students at SFCC.

CALENDAR >





UCM Holiday Market

The University of Central Missouri will host the UCM Holiday Market from 4 to 7 p.m. Nov. 29 in the Elliott Student Union Ballrooms. Vendors will be selling custom artwork, baked goods, clothing, jewelry, and more. Join from 4 to 6 p.m. for photos with Santa, cookie decorating, and crafts for kids in the Union Atrium. This year will also feature Candy Cane Lane in the Union Bowling Center for a discounted rate.

Jingle on the Quad

UCM President Roger Best and First Lady Robin Best will host Jingle on the Quad on Nov. 30. The lighting ceremony features performances by UCM music students, appearances by Mo, Santa, and Molly, the university's live mule mascot. Attendees also will be treated to hot cocoa, apple cider and cookies. Activities begin outside the Administration Building and continue in the James L. Highlander Theatre with the

annual First Lady's Holiday Concert at 6 p.m. featuring the UCM Concert Choir, Collegiate Chorus and Wind Ensemble. No tickets are required.

Jingle on the Green

State Fair Community College will host the annual Jingle on the Green at 6 p.m. Nov. 30 on campus. It features thousands of luminarias, decorated trees, musical performances, desserts and drinks, arts, crafts and tram rides around campus. Many performances and activities will be put on by SFCC, along with schools from Camdenton, Smith-Cotton, Cole Camp, Clinton, Sacred Heart, Boonville, Lincoln, Marshall, Smithton and Versailles. Special guests will include Mr. and Mrs. Claus and Rowdie the Roadrunner. The event is free.

Warrensburg Holiday Parade

The sixth annual Warrensburg Holiday Parade will be hosted at 6 p.m. Dec. 1 in downtown Warrensburg. It will start at the UCM Jerry M. Hughes Athletic Center and head north on Holden Street, through the downtown area, and halt at Holden and Gay streets. Immediately following the parade will be Santa's arrival and the lighting of the Mayor's Christmas tree on the Johnson County Courthouse lawn.

'The Grinch' at Star Theatre

The UCM Alumni Foundation's MuleNation Home Chapter is hosting movie night at the Star Theater, 112 W. Pine St. in downtown Warrensburg, following the 6 p.m. Holiday Parade on Friday, Dec. 1. Watch "The Grinch" and take a photo with the real-life Grinch. Enjoy food and beverages from Heroes while supplies last and enter to win a MuleTide ornament.

Liberty Lights Merry Mile

Sedalia Parks and Recreation will host the Liberty Lights Merry Mile on Dec. 1 at Liberty Park. Check in is from 6 to 6:30 p.m. and

the run starts at 7 p.m. The cost is \$15 for kids and \$25 for ages 13 and older. Prizes will be offered for Most Festive, Most Lit Up and Most Creative.

Christmas at the Patch

The Patch by Rupe Family Farms, 10757 Highway 65 in Cole Camp, will host Christmas at the Patch on weekends in December. Hours are 6 to 9 p.m. Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The Patch will offer wagon rides through a Christmas light display, hot cocoa and cookies, kids crafts and more. Admission is \$5 per person and free for ages 2 and under.

Sweet Springs Breakfast with Santa

The Sweet Springs Food Pantry and Sweet Springs Optimist Club will host Breakfast with Santa from 8 to 11 a.m. Dec. 2 at First Baptist Church of Sweet Springs, 104 Main St. The cost is \$5 for adults, \$3 for children 3 to 10, and free for children 2 and younger.

The Sweet Springs Fire Department and Sparky along with the Sweet Springs Police Department will also be there. The event will include Santa's Mini Mall for kids.

Sedalia Breakfast with Santa

Sedalia Parks and Recreation will host Breakfast with Santa from 8 to 10:30 a.m. Dec. 2 at Convention Hall in Liberty Park. Join Santa, Mrs. Claus, and his elves for breakfast, holiday crafts, photos, and some reindeer games. The cost is \$15 per person and registration ends Nov. 26.

Holiday Craft Show

Sedalia Parks and Recreation will host the second annual Holiday Craft Show from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 2 at the Heckart Community Center, 1800 W. Third St. There will be plenty of snacks as well as woodworking, embroidery, blankets, and numerous other types of handmade goods.

CALENDAR





Dickens' Christmas

Warrensburg Main Street will host Dickens' Christmas from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dec. 2 in downtown Warrensburg. Father Christmas will arrive at the train station at 9:57 a.m. The event includes carolers, artisans demonstrating traditional crafts like glass blowing, paper making, crochet and woodworking, the Winter Farmers' Market in the Historic Star Theatre, horse-drawn carriage rides, and the Tiny Tim Soup Competition.

Christmas and Holiday Card Making

The Sedalia Public Library, 311 W. Third St. in downtown Sedalia, will host Christmas and holiday card making at 10 a.m. Dec. 2.

Heard House Christmas Cookie Sale

The Heard Memorial Club House will host the annual Christmas Cookie Sale from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dec. 2. Order cookies in advance for delivery. Proceeds will benefit the Club House, 200 W. Broadway Blvd. in Sedalia. For more information or to order, contact Judy at 660-827-3545 or Mary at 573-694-2204.

'The Nutcracker'

Center Stage Academy will perform "The Nutcracker" at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Dec. 2 and 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. Dec. 3 at Hendricks Hall on the UCM campus.

Carols and Candlelight

The Warrensburg Senior Center, 445 E. Gay St. in Warrensburg, will host Carols and Candlelight from 5 to 8 p.m. Dec. 2. The event will include Christmas carols, Santa and Mrs. Claus, holiday treats, a silent auction and more.

'The Tale of The Nutcracker'

Studio A Dance Conservatory will perform "The Tale of the Nutcracker" at 5:30 p.m. Dec. 2 and at 2:30 p.m. Dec. 3 at the Heckart Performing Arts Center

at Smith-Cotton High School, 2010 Tiger Pride Blvd. in Sedalia.

Sedalia Christmas Parade

The Sedalia Area Chamber of Commerce will host the annual Christmas Parade at 6 p.m. Dec. 2 in downtown Sedalia. This year's theme is "A Nutcracker Christmas."

Deck the Stalls

Whiskey Ridge Rescue, 17228 White Road in Green Ridge, will host Deck the Stalls from noon to 3 p.m. Dec. 3. Sip hot cocoa, stuff the horses' stockings, spend time with rescue equines and pups, and meet Santa. The event is free, but donations are appreciated.

DeFeet Holiday Party

DeFeet will host a holiday party from 5 to 7 p.m. Dec. 3 at the Salvation Army, 1200 E. Broadway Blvd. in Sedalia. DeFeet invites those who don't have family to gather with for the holiday to join for a time of food and fun.

A Hallmark Christmas

The Warsaw Chamber of Commerce will host A Hallmark Christmas from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Dec. 9 in downtown Warsaw. The schedule includes: 8 to 10 a.m. breakfast with Santa, 10 a.m. kids' ornament decorating, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. downtown open house and holiday market, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. food trucks, noon to 3 p.m. horsedrawn carriage rides, 3 to 6 p.m. visit Santa at the Community Building, 5 to 6 p.m. live nativity scene, and 6 p.m. Christmas parade through Main Street.

Breakfast with the Grinch

Green Ridge PTO will host Breakfast with the Grinch from 8 to 10 a.m. Dec. 9 in the Green Ridge School little gym, 401 W. Pettis St. in Green Ridge. The cost is \$5 per person and includes breakfast, photo ops, face painting, snowball fights, games, a bounce house, crafts, and meeting the Grinch. Proceeds will be used to help with student field trips.

Open Door Pancake Breakfast

Open Door Service Center will host a pancake breakfast from 8 a.m. to noon Dec. 9 at Church on the Move, 2805 S. Ohio Ave. in Sedalia. The cost is \$10 for ages 10 and up, \$6 ages 9 and under, and \$12 for deliveries. To order pickup meals, call 660-827-1613 by Dec. 6. There will be a special appearance by Santa and The Grinch. Proceeds benefit Open Door.

Santa on Amtrak

Children can talk with Santa while riding Amtrak's Missouri River Runner on Dec. 9. Travel on your own to Warrensburg's train station at 100 S. Holden St. to board Train 318 at 9:57 a.m. Tickets are \$5. Once the train arrives in Sedalia at approximately 10:27 a.m., enjoy a photo opportunity with Santa and his crew, along with cookies and punch inside Lamy's, 108 W. Pacific St.

CALENDAR





Knob Noster Cookie Stroll

The Knob Noster Chamber of Commerce will host the annual Cookie Stroll from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Dec. 9 in downtown Knob Noster. Visit local participating retailers that will be offering specials and cookies.

Lincoln Parade & Craft Fair

The Lincoln Chamber of Commerce will host the 32nd annual Christmas Parade and Craft Fair on Dec. 9. The parade begins at 11 a.m. on Main Street and the craft fair is from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Lincoln R-2 School District, 101 W. Lamine St.

A Family Christmas Experience

Maplewood Church, 25396 Highway O in Sedalia, will host A Family Christmas Experience from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Dec. 9. It will include food, crafts, photo-op backdrops, a live nativity, prizes, interactive family activities, and games. It is free and open to the public.

Old Fashioned Christmas

Arrow Rock State Historic Site, 39521

Visitor Center Drive in Arrow Rock, will host an Old Fashioned Christmas on Dec. 9. Begin the afternoon with a lecture and demonstration on period dance at 4 p.m. at the Schoolhouse. Make your way down a luminaire-lighted Main Street to the historic buildings where interpreters and volunteers will welcome you in period decorated homes. Shops will be open for Christmas shopping.

Swim with Santa

Sedalia Parks and Recreation will host Swim with Santa from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Dec. 15 at the Heckart Community Center. Santa and Mrs. Claus will be hanging out at the indoor pool. The cost is included in memberships and day passes.

Santa at Sedalia Library

The Sedalia Public Library, 311 W. Third St. in downtown Sedalia, will host Santa for a visit from 10 a.m. to noon Dec. 16. The event is free.

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Pizza & PJs with Santa

Sedalia Parks and Recreation will host Pizza and PJs with Santa from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Dec. 16 at Convention Hall in Liberty Park. Join Santa, Mrs. Claus, and his elves for pizza in your PJs. The evening will include holiday crafts, photos, snacks, and reindeer games. Cost is \$10 per person and registration deadline is Dec. 10.

Cookies with the Clauses

Sedalia Parks and Recreation will host Cookies with the Clauses from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Dec. 17 at Convention Hall in Liberty Park. Mrs. Claus wants children ages 3 to 10 to help decorate some desserts. There will also be holiday stories and refreshments. Cost is \$10 per child and registration ends Dec. 10.

Winter Art Camp

The Liberty Center Association for the Arts, 111 W. Fifth St. in downtown Sedalia, will host Artful Afternoons Winter Art Camp from 1 to 4 p.m. Dec. 28 and Dec. 29. Classes will be taught by Jordan Fields and Kelsey Raines. It is open to K-5

students and the cost is \$50.

LOCAL BUSINESS EVENTS

- Evelyn Valley Ranch, 653 NE 1200 Road in Windsor, will host a Christmas vendor event from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 2
- Western Missouri Medical Center, 403 Burkarth Road in Warrensburg, will host the Employee Holiday Market from noon to 6 p.m. Dec. 5 in the main lobby. Hospital employees will showcase their talents and businesses; it is open to the public.
- State Fair Floral will host a Holiday Mini Garden class from 6 to 9 p.m. Dec. 6 at The 518 Provisions, 520 S. Ohio Ave. in downtown Sedalia. The class includes three plants, holiday accessories, a prefilled container and a complimentary glass of wine or coffee. The cost is \$50.
- Buttermilk Forty Alpacas, 17363 Ream Spring Road in Sedalia, will host a Christmas Open House from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dec. 9 and 1 to 3 p.m. Dec. 10. Meet the alpacas and shop in the farm store for holiday gifts.
- Moonlit Petrichor, 111 E. Culton St. in downtown Warrensburg, will host a

winter "Gilmore Girls" event from noon to 6 p.m. Dec. 9. There will be vendors, along with Chef Jbird acting as Warrensburg's own Luke Danes, plus free coffee and themed raffles. Bring a donation for the Old Drum Animal Shelter to recieve 10% off your purchase.

- Twister Sports, 240 NW state Route 13 in Warrensburg, will host a Very Merry Christmas Party from 5 to 7 p.m. Dec. 16. The open play event will have a visit from Santa, Buddy the Elf, Elf on the Shelf and Olaf. There will be bounce houses, trampoline, air track, gymnastics equipment, ninja area, rope swing, beach balls, a bootcamp obstacle course, coloring sheets and festive music. Cost is \$10 per child and no cost for parents.
- Wine, Antiques & More, 301 E. Main St. in downtown Cole Camp, will host an Ugly Christmas Sweater Party at 7 p.m. Dec. 16. There will be door prizes every hour, speciality drinks, and \$100 to the ugliest sweater.
- Colton's Steak House & Grill, 85 NE 501 Road in Warrensburg, will host Santa and Mrs. Claus from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Dec. 16. Cookies will be provided.























































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Fun books to read to children this holiday season

he holiday season is a special time of year for people of all ages, but children might be the most enthusiastic celebrants come December. Children spend much of the holiday season anticipating the arrival of the man in the red suit, and that enthusiasm can be contagious.

Families have their own unique traditions during the holiday season, but one popular way to harness kids' enthusiasm between Thanksgiving and Christmas Day is to read them holiday stories. There's no shortage of great holiday books for kids, but here are a handful that kids may remember well into adulthood.

• "The Polar Express," by Chris Van Allsburg: The beloved tale is the story of a young boy who boards a mysterious train bound for the North Pole.

• "The Littlest Elf," by Brandi



Dougherty: Part of a series, this story focuses on a tiny elf named Oliver and a series of misadventures as he navigates his way through Santa's workshop.

• "Olive, the Other Reindeer," by Vivian Walsh: Olive is no ordinary reindeer. In fact, Olive is a dog who heads to the North Pole believing she is a reindeer. Her decision to join Santa's team ultimately benefits the big man and his trusty reindeer.

• "The Miracle of the First Poinsettia: A Mexican Christmas Story," by Joanne Oppenheim: A little girl named Juanita is the star of this retelling of a traditional Mexican tale with a valuable lesson.

• "Gingerbread Mouse: A Christmas Holiday Book for Kids," by Katy Bratun: A fallen tree branch almost ruins Christmas for Mouse, whose determination and resourcefulness mixed in with a little Christmas magic ensures she finds a place to call home in time for the holidays.

• "A Night in Santa's Great Big Bag," by Kristin Kladstrup: Santa saves the day in this tale starring a young boy's favorite stuffed animal, whose excitement for Christmas compels him to climb into Santa's big bag of presents on Christmas Eve.

• "Santa Claus and the Three Bears," by Maria Modugno: This twist on the popular tale "Goldilocks and the Three Bears" finds three unsuspecting bears encountering a familiar fellow in a red suit upon returning home after a nighttime walk.

• "Twas the Night Before Christmas: Edited by Santa Claus for the Benefit of Children of the 21st Century," by Clement C. Moore: Parents will appreciate this updated version of the popular tale that, among other things, has removed the reference to Santa smoking.

• "How the Grinch Stole Christmas!" by Dr. Seuss: Children can join generations of fans that came before them as they hear the redemption story of the Grinch who was once determined to ruin Christmas for the happy people of Who-ville.

• "The Nutcracker," by the New York City Ballet: The classic story is retold based on famed choreographer George Balanchine's production.



Tips to pick the perfect Christmas tree

hristmas trees are among the most recognizable symbols of the holiday season, and the popularity of trees is undeniable. According to the National Christmas Tree Association, approximately 25 to 30 million real Christmas trees are sold in the United States each year. Christmas trees also are big business in Canada, where Statistics Canada notes cash receipts from Canadian Christmas tree producers totaled nearly \$163.5 million in 2022.

Annual spending on Christmas trees underscores how important they are to holiday decor. Christmas trees serve as the centerpiece in millions of holiday home decor schemes, so it's important to pick a tree that can shine in



that role. This holiday season, celebrants can consider these tips as they look for the perfect Christmas tree.

• Measure the area where the tree will be placed. A large tree can be awe-inspiring, but also can stick out like a sore thumb if it takes up too much space. There should be enough room around the tree for families and their guests to sit around it. The home interior experts at Better Homes & Gardens recommend leaving a minimum of six inches between the top of the tree and the ceiling. If a tree topper will be added, make sure the top of the tree is at least 12 inches from the ceiling. Measure the area before leaving to buy a tree so it can fit nicely into the room

and the surrounding decor.

• Try the shake test. Anyone who has purchased a fresh-cut Christmas tree is undoubtedly familiar with the shake test, which remains an effective way to measure the dryness of the tree. A slight shake will produce some fallen needles. If the needles are brown and few and far between, then the tree likely is not overly dry. However, a lot of falling green needles indicates the tree is already drying out, which means it could shed quite a bit and lose its looks before Christmas Day.

• Pick a tree with a symmetrical look. Trees are living things, so it's unlikely that buyers will find a perfectly symmetrical tree. However, a tree that's mis-

shapen or already has some sagging branches won't make for an awe-inspiring addition to a home decor scheme.

• Find the trunk (if you can). A trunk that's visible through the branches indicates the tree does not have dense branches, which will be necessary if homeowners want to dress the tree with ornaments. If it's hard to find the trunk because of all the thick branches and green needles, then the tree is likely pretty healthy.

• Test the needles. The home improvement experts at Lowes note that needles should be flexible but still snap when bent sharply. Avoid trees with needles that are already losing their color and can easily be pulled off.





Homemade pie makes for a perfect ending to a holiday meal

illions of people insist no holiday meal is complete without some pie for dessert. Pie served with coffee certainly makes for a fitting end to a holiday meal, and hosts can serve any type of pie and still end up with some satisfied guests.

Though pie afficionados typically have their own go-to pie, pumpkin pie is especially popular at the holiday dinner table. Hosts who want to cater to the masses can serve up the following recipe for "Pumpkin Pie" courtesy of Emily Luchetti's "Classic Stars Desserts." Featuring homemade pumpkin purée and cream, this recipe is sure to make guests happy this holiday season.

Pumpkin Pie

Serves 8

3 large eggs

½ cup firmly packed light brown sugar

½ cup dark corn syrup



1½ cups heavy whipping cream 1½ cups pumpkin purée,

homemade (see below) 1 tablespoon rum

1 teaspoon ground cinnamon

¾ teaspoon ground ginger

½ teaspoon salt

1 prebaked 9½-inch pie crust 1 recipe chantilly cream (see below) Preheat the oven to 350 F.

In a large bowl, whisk together the eggs and brown sugar until blended. Add the corn syrup and whisk until smooth. Whisk in the cream, pumpkin purée, rum, cinnamon, ginger, and salt until well mixed. Pour into the prebaked pie crust.

Bake until the filling is set,

about 30 minutes. Let cool to room temperature. Serve with the chantilly cream.

Chef's Tip: The pie may be made a day in advance, covered and refrigerated. Bring to room temperature before serving.

Pumpkin Purée

Makes 21/2 cups

2½ pounds sugar pumpkins ¼ cup water

Preheat the oven to 325 F. Cut each pumpkin into sixths. Scrape out the seeds and any stringy pulp. Put the pumpkin pieces, cut-side up, and the water in a baking pan and cover the pan with aluminum foil. Bake until soft when pierced with a fork, about 1 hour and 10 minutes.

Remove from the oven and, when cool enough to handle, scoop out the flesh with a spoon and purée in a food mill or food processor. If the purée is watery, place it in a large sauté pan and cook over medium

heat, stirring frequently, until thick. The timing will depend on how watery the purée is.

Let cool, cover and refrigerate until using.

Chantilly Cream

Makes about 21/4 cups

1 cup heavy whipping cream ½ teaspoon vanilla extract 1 tablespoon granulated

sugar

Put the cream, vanilla and sugar in a bowl and whip by hand with a whisk or with an electric mixer on medium speed until soft peaks begin to form. The cream should hold its shape but still be very smooth.

Cover and refrigerate until serving.

Chef's tip: You can whip the cream an hour or two in advance, cover and refrigerate it. If it sits longer than that, it will start to thin out and you will need to rewhip it lightly before using. A few quick stirs with a whisk will do the trick.

