



An Evening Sun Publication December 2024

Norwich DPW employee restores downtown Nativity scene

SARAH GENTER
EVENING SUN STAFF WRITER

NORWICH — The Nativity scene depicting the birth of Jesus has been a staple of the holiday season in downtown Norwich for decades, but had fallen into disrepair over the years.

City of Norwich Mayor Brian Doliver said the city was considering no longer setting up the display, so Department of Public Works (DPW) Pool and Parks Technician Phil Francisco decided to take on the project of restoring it.

“The last time they’ve done a restoration on this was around 15 years ago, and I noticed that people were just putting screws into the figures to keep it together,” Francisco said. “It means a lot of a lot of people, so I wanted to respect it and bring it back to what it was.”

“I have a family full of artists and I always want to honor that, too,” he added. “I try to make things better. I think stuff like this brings more people in, and people can enjoy it better.”

Francisco said many of the animals in the display had pieces broken off, so he used dowel rods to hold them together. He then used spray foam to reconstruct pieces, shaved it into shape, and wrapped it all in plaster of Paris. After that, he primed all the



City of Norwich DPW Pool and Parks Technician Phil Francisco standing with the Nativity scene he spent three months restoring. (Photos by Sarah Genter)



The Nativity scene put on display in downtown Norwich for the holiday season each year has been in use for decades, but had fallen into disrepair. (Submitted photos)



figures and repainted them.

“I tried to get better colors, like the gold, because it’s a special moment for a lot of people. So I tried to bring out more of what it was like,” he said. “I’m really happy with it.”

Although the exact

age of the display is unknown, Doliver said it’s been in use at least since the 1980s, and had been restored by a local art class about 15 years ago.

“The last time they restored it they had an art class I think in the high school or middle school. They did

what they could with what they had to work with. So they kept it going, and we really appreciate that, but it needed a major overhaul if we were going to save it. Phil to the rescue!” said Doliver. “Thank you again to Phil for all that he did for us. Just one exam-

ple of the many great employees we have at the City of Norwich. We’re very blessed to have him.”

The City of Norwich DPW puts out the Nativity scene each year in early December, and leaves it on display until the New Year. All that’s

missing from the scene is baby Jesus, who will be added on Christmas Eve.

Additionally, Doliver said any community members of other faiths are welcome to contact the city about putting up their own holiday display or decoration.

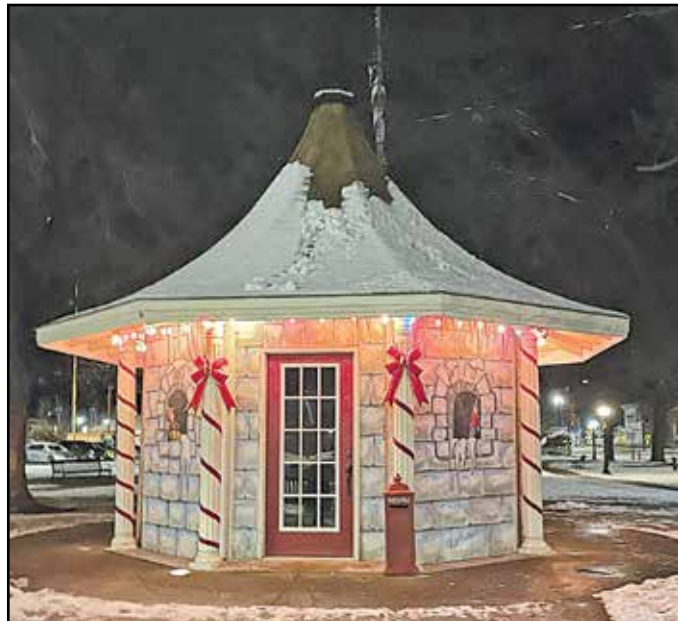
“I’ve always tried to encourage our other faiths in the community to do something as well,” he said. “Our Muslim community, our Jewish community, anybody that would like to do something, especially in our parks. We’d love to help them with that.”

Doliver encourages individuals in the area to stop by the Nativity scene and take a look at Francisco’s hard work.

“It’s just a world of difference. He did a great job,” said Doliver. “It’s a special time, the holiday time, and people look forward to these things, and I wanted to keep doing it. And of course Phil took it upon himself to take this on, and it was just wonderful that he did this.”

“We’re in a society of replacing everything. I always like to restore things and keep what we have,” Francisco said. “This is craftsmanship that we can’t replace anymore, so if I can make it last a couple more years, that makes me happy.”

Santa comes to town at his igloo in Norwich



NORWICH - Santa Claus will also make special appearances this December in Norwich's East Park, stopping by his igloo for photo opportunities.

Santa will be available each week leading up to Christmas, from 5 to 8 p.m. on Thursdays and Fridays and 1 to 4 p.m. on Saturdays.



Pictures of pets with Santa to help Chenango SPCA

NORWICH - On December 18 from 5 to 7 p.m. The "Santa Pictures with Pets" tradition, started in 2022, will welcome pets of all kinds, with treats provided by Kacey and Company. Donations collected during the event will benefit the Chenango SPCA.



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Nina's and Colonia raise thousands for Toys for Tots

SARAH GENTER

EVENING SUN STAFF WRITER

NORWICH — Nina's Pizzeria and the Colonia Theater held their annual dinner and a movie fundraiser to benefit the Chenango County Toys for Tots December 4, and raised thousands of dollars in cash and toy donations.

Nina's Pizzeria Employee Lon Yerton said they raised approximately \$1,900 in cash, \$1,250 in checks, and an estimated \$4,000 in toy donations. Colonia Theater Owners Rich and Todd Barnes, in addition to donating the venue for the event, also contributed a generous donation.

"People were overly generous this year," said Yerton. "I'm glad we could do the event to help out that cause."

Attendees of the fundraiser enjoyed a dinner of spaghetti

and meatballs provided by Nina's Pizzeria and watched the 1998 film "Jack Frost," which was made possible by a sponsorship from NBT Bank.

"It was a beautiful night. We fed quite a few people," Yerton said. "I think everybody had a great time."

The funds and toys collected at the event will benefit the Chenango County chapter of Toys for Tots, which gives out toys each holiday season to local families in need. Yerton said they currently have over 200 applications for toys.

"All the money will go to Toys for Tots. We will go shopping for toys with what we've taken at the door," said Yerton. "We believe in making sure no kid goes without."




Above: The 2024 dinner and a movie fundraiser for Toys for Tots kicked off with a spaghetti and meatballs dinner in the Colonia Theater's upstairs ballroom, followed by a screening of "Jack Frost." (Photo by Sarah Genter)



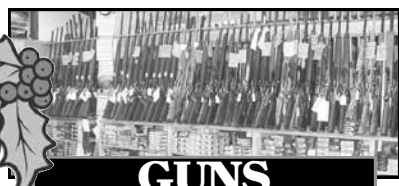
Above: Nina's Pizzeria Owners Jessica and Dave Shull with an employee serving spaghetti and meatballs at the Toys for Tots fundraiser. (Photo by Sarah Genter)



Right: Nina's Pizzeria employees at the annual dinner and a movie fundraiser to benefit the Chenango County chapter of Toys for Tots on December 4. (Submitted photo)

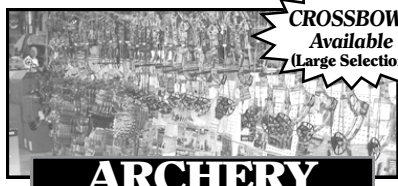


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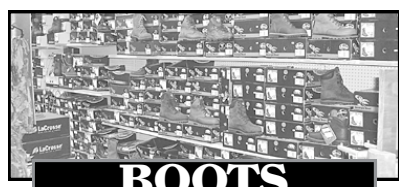
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- Words
- BEARD
 - BELIEVE
 - BOOTS
 - CHIMNEY
 - CHRISTMAS
 - CLAUS
 - ELVES
 - FLYING
 - GIFTS
 - JOLLY
 - MIDNIGHT
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Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Let It Snow!

Words by Sammy Cahn
Music by Jule Styne

Verse Moderately Fast

1. Oh, the weath - er out - side is fright - ful but the fire is so de -

light - ful. And since we've no place to go, let it snow, let it snow, let it snow! 2. It

Chords: F (3211), C7 (3241), F (3211), Am7 (2 1), G7 (32 1), C7 (3241), Gm (111), D7 (213), Gm (111), C7 (3241), F (3211)

does-n't show signs of stop - ping, and I brought some corn for pop - ping. The
fire is slow - ly dy - ing And my dear, we're still good - bye - ing. But as

lights are turned way down low, } let it snow, let it snow, let it snow! When we
long as you love me so, }

To Coda ⊕ F (3211)

Chords: F (3211), C7 (3241), F (3211), Am7 (2 1), G7 (32 1), C7 (3241), Gm (111), D7 (213), Gm (111), C7 (3241), F (3211)

Bridge

fin - al - ly kiss good - night, how I'll hate go - ing out in the storm. But if

you'll real - ly hold me tight, all the way home I'll be warm. 3. The snow!

D.S. al Coda ⊕ *Coda* F (3211)

Chords: C (32 1), C#°7 (1324), Dm7 (211), G7 (32 1), C (32 1), A7 (1 2), D7 (213), G7 (32 1), C7 (3241), F (3211)

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At the light in Downtown Oxford



J'll Be Home For Christmas

Words by
KIM GANNON

Music by
WALTER KENT

Slowly, with expression

mf

I'll Christ Be mas Home Eve For will Christ find mas. me You Where can the

plan love on light me. Please have snow and

mis - tle - toe And pre - sents on the tree.

Coda gleams. I'll Be Home For Christ

mas. If on - ly in my dreams. *rit. e dim.*

Chords: C, Cdim, Dm7, G7, Dm7, G7, C, Gm6, To Coda A7, Dm, Gm6, Dm, Gm, Ddim, A7, Dm, Fm6, G7, C, G, Am, Am7, D7, Am7, D7-9, G7, D.C. at Coda Dm7, G7, Dm, Dm7, F6, Fm6, C, G+, Gm6, A7, Dm, Dm7, Fm6, G7, C, F6, C

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Santa Claus visited the Oxford American Legion, Post 376, during the Sunday community breakfast on Sunday morning. (Photo by Jeanie Petersen)

Oxford American Legion welcomes Santa

OXFORD – The dining hall at the Fort Hill American Legion in Oxford was decorated for Santa on Sunday. Local children and families met with Santa and the post collected non-perishable food donations. On Friday, Dec. 21, 7 to 10 pm, is the 3rd annual Ugly Sweater Contest. There will be prizes and the jukebox will be free, but the event is for adults only. The Oxford American Legion Post #376, is located at 17 S. Washington Avenue. For inquiries, contact Post 376 at (607) 843-8166. Online: OxfordLegion.com and Oxford-ALA.Chenango.org.

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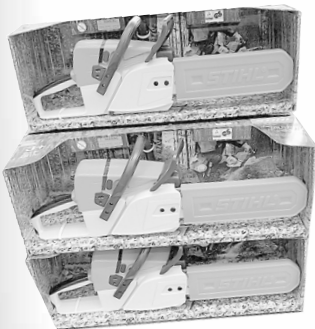
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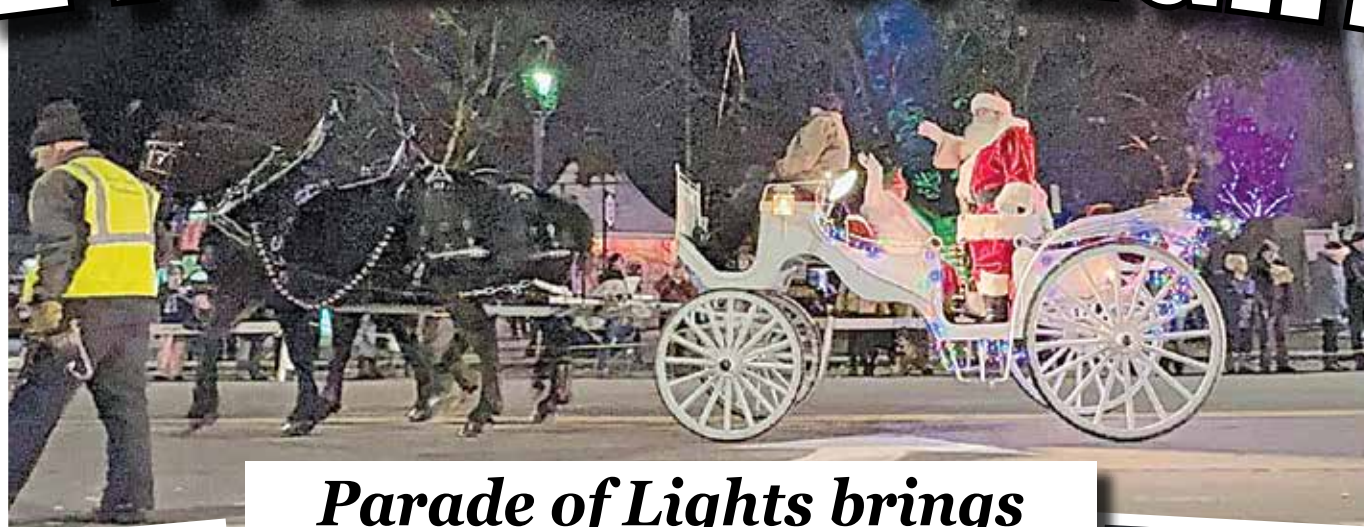
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2024 PARADE OF LIGHTS

Photos from Norwich Business Improvement District



Parade of Lights brings holiday cheer to Norwich

BY TYLER MURPHY
EVENING SUN MANAGING EDITOR

NORWICH - The 2024 Chobani Parade of Lights illuminated downtown Norwich on Saturday, NOV. 30, bringing together residents and visitors to celebrate the holiday season.

Organized by the Norwich Business Improvement District (BID) and sponsored by Chobani, the annual parade saw one of its biggest turnouts yet, with more than 125 participants, including businesses, schools, nonprofits, public safety organizations, and community groups.

BID Board Member Mindy Chawgo said "Thank you Chobani for making a night for us to celebrate the holidays, make memories and be around the community that we love! Everyone was truly amazing and it is impossible to pick any winners because you were all exceptional."

The parade is a holiday tradition and showcased creative floats and decorated fire trucks, with thousands of local residents lining the streets.

The Parade of Lights and the season's events are made possible through the support of local sponsors, including Chobani, Rentals To Go, Norwich Tractor, Burrell's Excavating, Live Event NY, Blueox Energy, and UHS Chenango Memorial Hospital.

2024 Chobani Parade of Lights Awards

Group Awards:

First Place, Donna Frech School of Dance; Second Place, Galena Growlers Composite Mountain Bike Team; Third Place, CNY BMX.

Non-Profit Awards:

First Place, DCMO BOCES; Second Place, UHS; Third Place, Chenango County Youth FFA.

Big Rig Awards:

First Place, Don Snow Trucking Inc.; Second Place, Charles J. Husted Inc.; Third Place, G & B Logging.

Firetrucks Awards:

First Place, SNB #313; Second Place, Bainbridge; Third Place, Coventry. Floats: First Place, Blueox; Second Place, Matthew's; Third Place, C & B Landscaping.

Bus or Transportation:

First Place, Sherburne Earlville Bus; Second Place, Unadilla Valley and South Otselic.

Special awards recognized creativity and community engagement:

Most Interactive: Monroe & Shaver Contracting LLC. Most Creative: Rentals To Go. Most Decorated Vehicle: TJ's Lawn Service and Buckley's Excavating. Crowd Favorite: Progressive Dental and Preferred Mutual. Overall Winner: Norwich Pharmaceuticals - Alvo-gen Company



'Twas The Night Before Christmas

'Twas the night before Christmas, When all through the house, Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse.

The stockings were hung by the chimney with care, In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there.

The children were nestled all snug in their beds, While visions of sugarplums

danced in their heads. And Mamma in her kerchief, and I in my cap, Had just settled down for a long winter's nap.

When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter, I sprang from my bed to see what was the matter.

Away to the window I flew like a flash, Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash.

The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow, Gave a luster of midday to objects below,

When, what to my wondering eyes should appear, But a miniature sleigh, and eight tiny reindeer, With a little old driver, so lively and quick, I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick.

More rapid than eagles his coursers they came, And he whistled, and shouted, and called them by name:;

"Now, Dasher! Now, Dancer! Now, Prancer and Vixen! On, Comet! On Cupid! On, Donner and Blitzen! To the top of the porch! To the top of the wall! Now, dash away! Dash away! Dash away all!

As dry leaves that before the wild hurricane fly, When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky, So up to the housetop the coursers they flew, With the sleigh full of toys, and St. Nicholas, too.

And then in a twinkling, I heard on the roof The prancing and pawing of

each little hoof. As I drew in my head, and was turning around, Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound.

He was dressed all in fur, from his head to his foot, And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot. A bundle of toys he had flung on his back, As he looked like a peddler just opening his pack.

His eyes how they twinkled! His dimples how merry! His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry.

His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow,

And the beard on his chin was as white as the snow. The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth, And the smoke, it encircled his head like a wreath. He had a broad face and a little round belly, that shook, when he laughed, like a bowl full of jelly.

He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf, And I laughed when I saw him, in spite of myself. A wink of his eye and a twist of his head, Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread.

He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work, And filled all the stockings, then turned with a jerk, And laying his finger aside of his nose, And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose.

He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle, And away they all flew like the down of a thistle.

But I heard him exclaim as he drove out of sight, "Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good night."



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Chenango Memorial Hospital Auxiliary launches holiday "Be The Light" campaign

NORWICH - This holiday season, the UHS Chenango Memorial Hospital Auxiliary is hosting a "Be the Light," a special initiative to illuminate Newton House in honor of the many lives touched by the hospital's commitment to excellence.

UHS Chenango Memorial Hospital Auxiliary hosted a kickoff event for "Be The Light" initiative on December 3.

Since its founding in 1912, UHS Chenango Memorial Hospital has steadfastly served Chenango County by providing quality healthcare close to home. Services include emergency medicine, primary care, general surgery, cardiology, women's health and obstetrics, diabetes



The "Be The Light" campaign contributes to the festive spirit of the season and raises funds to support the hospital's ability to provide healthcare services. Funds will benefit the Auxiliary's efforts to support patient services at CMH. More details are available at norwichny.wixsite.com/be-a-light. Lights are available for purchase until the end of this month, December 31. (Submitted photo)

care, and much more. With hundreds of lights representing the community members who benefit from this care, "Be the Light" will illuminate Newton

House, the building on Broad Street that has proudly stood in Norwich since 1905 and is home to CMH's administrative offices. The stately architec-

ture of Newton House is a part of Norwich's grand history, while the recently updated hospital building represents the community's bright and modern

future. "Be the Light" will add to the festive spirit of the season and raise funds to support the hospital's ability to provide healthcare

services. With a suggested donation of \$20, community members may "Be the Light" by purchasing a light that celebrates or memorializes a friend, colleague, or loved one. Names of honorees will be prominently displayed at CMH throughout the month of December.

Proceeds from "Be the Light" will benefit the Auxiliary's efforts to support patient services at CMH. More details are available at norwichny.wixsite.com/be-a-light.

- Information from UHS Auxiliary

Humans have been using specialized tools to crack open nuts for more than 2,300 years. Wooden nutcrackers carved to look like soldiers, elves or animals began to gain popularity in Europe during the 1400s and 1500s. Today, nutcrackers continue to be popular decorations and gifts enjoyed by millions of people around the world.

Tough Nut To Crack

Some of the largest nutcrackers in the world include a 10.1-m- (33 ft. 1 in.) tall nutcracker in Neuhausen, Germany, and the 12.5-m- (41 ft.) tall Herr Woody Winterguard nutcracker located in the state of Oregon.

Arnas Jurskis, of Lithuania, has one of the largest collections of nutcrackers in the world. His collection contains more than 10,000 nutcrackers.

"The Nutcracker" is the most frequently performed ballet in the world. The vast majority of the world's nutcrackers are made of wood, but nutcrackers have also been made of silver, brass, iron, ivory, bone and porcelain.

The term "nussknacker" first appeared in the dictionary of the Brothers Grimm in the 1830s.

This cartoon isn't all it's cracked up to be.

Get Crackin'

Iron nutcrackers resembling a pair of pliers were first used during the 1200s, and nutcrackers made of brass appeared about 100 years later.

Wilhelm Fuchtnr began mass-producing wooden nutcrackers in Germany during the 1870s. He is often referred to as the "father of the nutcracker."

What do you get when you cross a nutcracker with a rodent? A squirrel.

Why don't nuts tell jokes? They might crack up.

In the early to mid-1900s, nutcrackers gained worldwide popularity following the success of Pyotr Tchaikovsky's famous ballet "The Nutcracker."

In German folklore, nutcrackers are believed to protect households and bring good luck.

The wooden soldier is the most common nutcracker character. They were first made in the Sonneberg and Erzgebirge regions of Eastern Germany in the early 1800s.

What does a nut do when it sees a nutcracker? Split.

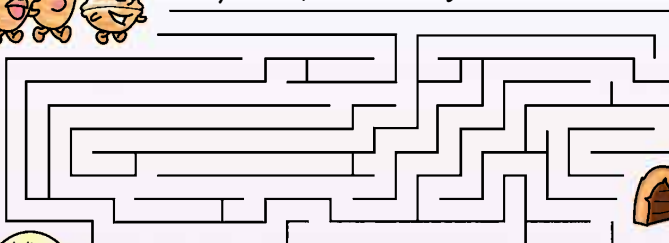
Shortcuts

by Jeff Harris

Cracking The Code Of Nutcrackers

Crack Of Dawn

Can you help these nuts get to work?



This edition of Shortcuts is sponsored by Shell Don Cooper.

I made a big bang when I fell out of the tree.

Where is a nutcracker's favorite restaurant? Cracker Barrel.

Word Search

Can you find the hidden words? Search carefully because some words are backward or diagonal.

- FOLKLORE IRON YOUR TOPIC HERE
- GERMANY LUCK NR POEL I PROARY
- WOODEN BONE UDOES IUSACORN
- SOLDIER IVORY TLUVNBDCCLSHA
- BALLET OPEN EAT FIGALKISSM
- SILVER TOOL ENOUGH BLOIAIR
- BRASS GIFT VANEDOOWLSREE
- CRACK BOB RAINFNVAEBOG
- CARVE NUT ANIMATEVENTON

Screw-type nutcrackers, invented during the 1600s, work like a tiny vise.



We Wish You A Merry Christmas



Lively

Traditional English Folk Song

mf $\%$ **Ab** 4fr. **Db** **F7** **Bb**

We wish you a Mer-ry Christ-mas, We wish you a Mer-ry

mf

Eb **Eb7** **C** **Fm** **Ab** 4fr. **Db** **Bbm** **Eb7** **Ab** *Fine* 4fr.

Christ-mas, We wish you a Mer-ry Christ-mas and a Hap-py New Year!

mp **Ab** 4fr. **Eb** **Bb7** **Eb**

Good ti - dings to you wher - ev - er you are; Good

mp

Ab 4fr. **Db** **Eb7** **Ab** 4fr. *f* *D.S.al Fine*

ti - dings for Christ - mas and a Hap - py New Year! We

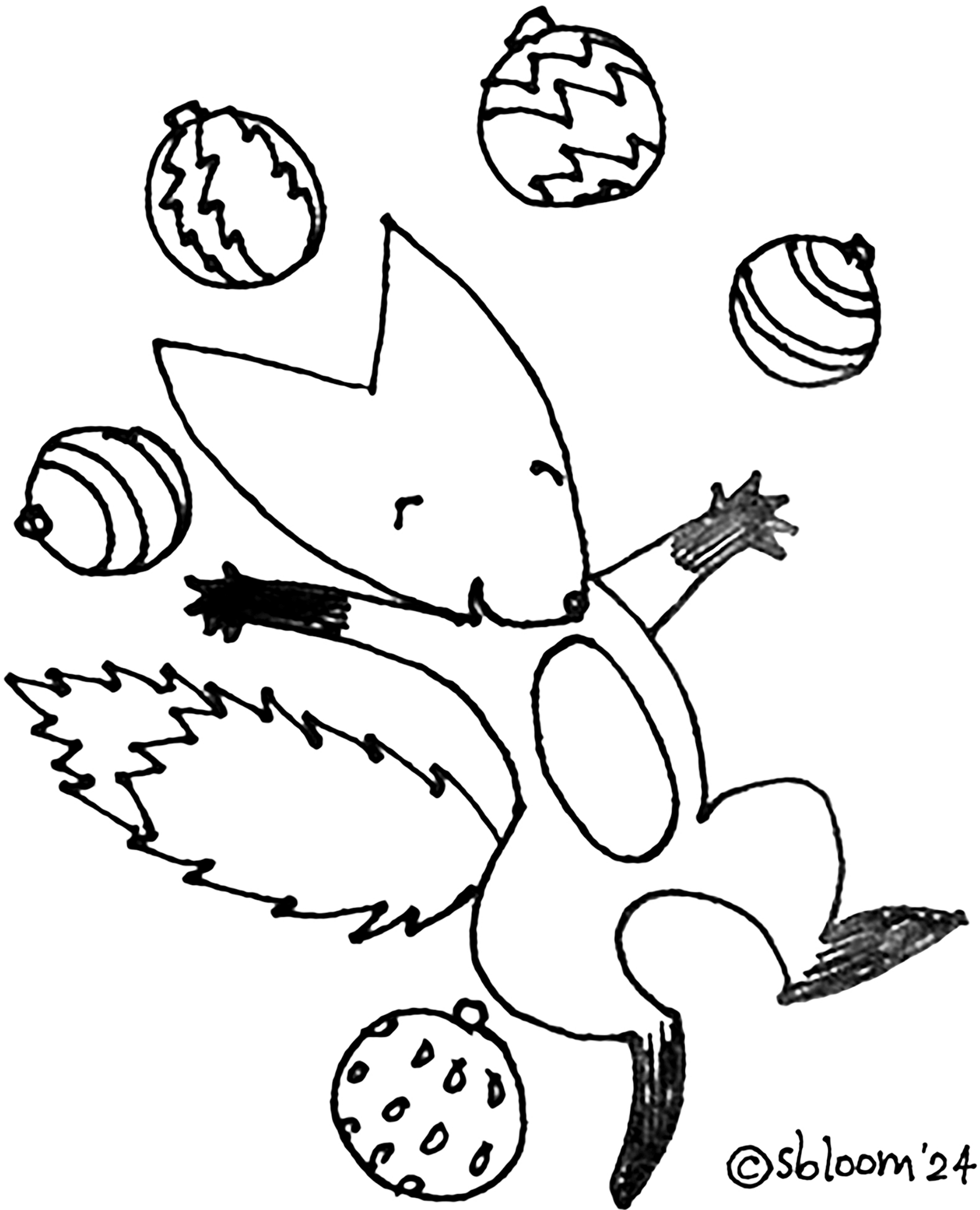
f *D.S.al Fine*

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6 On The Square holiday show features Meghan Cary

OXFORD - Singer/songwriter Meghan Cary will return to 6 On The Square in Oxford for a special holiday show at 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 22.

Cary didn't mean to be a musician — but when her fiancé unexpectedly died, she picked up his guitar, figured out how to play it and wrote her debut record, which earned Billboard Magazine's Critics Choice Award.

She continues to share the healing power of music with the community that has rallied around her message of hope and being heard. The title track of her album "Sing Louder" debuted on the US/International Folk DJ Radio chart at #2, with the album coming in at #6.

Cary released her first book, "Sing Louder: The Stories Behind the Songs," on International Women's Day 2019.

A frequent performer at such venerable festivals as Philadelphia Folk Festival, Spring Gulch, Huntington, DelMarVa Folk Festival and music venues around the country, Cary brings her message of unity and the power of raising our voices together to every show. Her smoky voice, emotional singing and vulnerable writing garner comparisons to Melissa Etheridge, Brandi Carlisle and Bruce Springsteen.

Raised in Hershey, Pa., Cary studied math and chemistry at Duke University, with plans of becoming a doctor. She



Singer/songwriter Meghan Cary will return to 6 On The Square in Oxford for a special holiday show at 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 22 joined by Peter Farrellon keyboard, mandolin and vocals. Tickets are \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door; purchase at 6onthesquare.org or call 607-843-OTS6 (6876) to make a reservation. Doors open one hour before the start of performances. The concert also will be streamed live online for \$10. (Submitted photo)

made an about-face at school, earning a degree in drama before going on to obtain her MFA in acting at FSU's Asolo

Conservatory for Acting. A professional actor and playwright with a career in theatre, television and radio, Cary has

written and performs a one-woman show, "On the Way to the Waterfall."

At the 6OTS show, she'll be joined by Peter Farrell (keyboard, mandolin and vocals).

Tickets are \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door; purchase at 6onthesquare.org or call 607-843-OTS6 (6876) to make a reservation. Doors open one hour before the start of performances. The concert also will be streamed live online for \$10; more information at 6onthesquare.org.

Coming up this winter/spring at 6OTS: Ellis Paul (Jan. 21), Cold Chocolate (March 28), Rupert Wates (April 5), Abby Posner (April 12), Joe Crookston (May 11) and our 18th Anniversary Show

with Vance Gilbert (June 21).

Sponsors for this fall's 6OTS concerts are Chenango County Tourism and Patocka's Restaurant in Greene. 6OTS also is funded in part by Earlville Opera House's Arts in the Community Grants Program, made possible by the New York State Senate with support of the Office of Gov. Kathy Hochul, and administered by the New York State Council on the Arts.

6 On The Square, Inc. is an intimate, not-for-profit, volunteer-based acoustic music listening room and arts venue located at 6 Lafayette Park in downtown Oxford.

- Information from 6OTS

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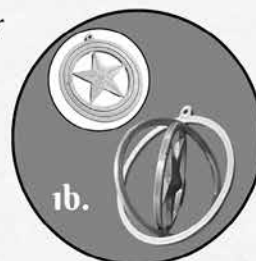
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*We wish you and yours every happiness
this holiday season and always.*

Warm Wishes and Merry Christmas!



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