# Season

# How to make Christmas Eve special for kids

Christmas Eve is viewed differently by different peo- Bake fresh cookies ple, even those who live under the same Santa-ready roof. Adults may see Christmas Eve as crunch time when they must prepare food for the next day or set up presents for their children to open in the morning. Children, on the other hand, are focused on Santa's visit and little else.

Parents naturally want to make Christmastime as special as possible for their children, and that may involve ensuring that Christmas Eve is just as memorable as Christmas Day. The following are some ways to impart more magic into Christmas Eve celebrations.

#### Attend Mass at midnight

Practicing Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ on Christmas. On Christmas Eve, churches often hold celebrations that may include late-evening or midnight masses that celebrate the birth of Christ when the calendar switches over to December 25. While it does make for a late night, it can be thought-provoking for kids and a unique experience unlike any other.

Children like to leave out a plate of cookies and a glass of milk for Santa. That makes Christmas Eve a perfect time to whip up a fresh batch of cookies. Explore different recipes to come up with a unique offering each year.

#### Read a Christmas story

Watching television or looking at a tablet or mobile phone before bed can be too stimulating when it's time for children to wind down for bed. Choose a holiday tale or tales that can be read as a Christmas Eve bedtime story. Reciting the poem "A Visit from St. Nicholas ('Twas the Night Before Christmas)" is a great way to set the Christmas Eve mood.

#### Make a batch of 'reindeer dust'

Why should Santa's reindeer be left out when it comes to receiving treats? Reindeer dust, made from a combination of oatmeal, rice cereal, dried fruits, and glitter (if desired), is purported to attract Santa's reindeer and provide them a nibble at the same time. Plus, it's generally safe for other animals in the yard to eat.



#### Go caroling

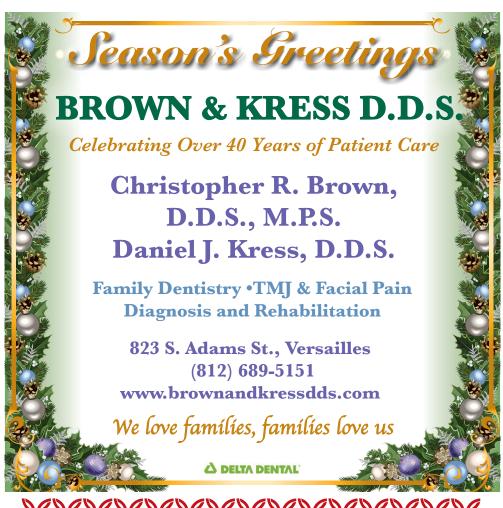
Caroling may not be the norm, but some families may want to revive it. Close-knit communities can organize family-centric caroling opportunities and roam the cul-de-sacs and other pedestrian-friendly areas singing popular songs.

Christmas Eve is a great time to embrace various traditions that help to make the season even more special. HL22A358

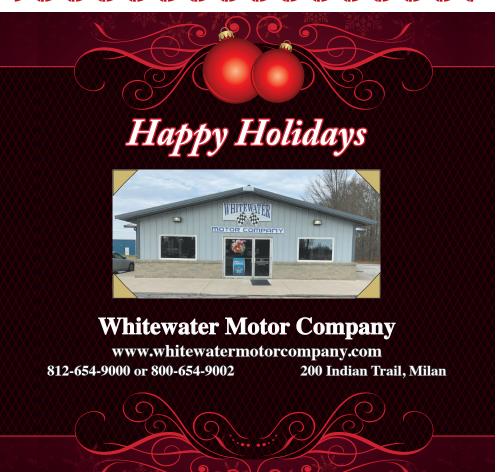


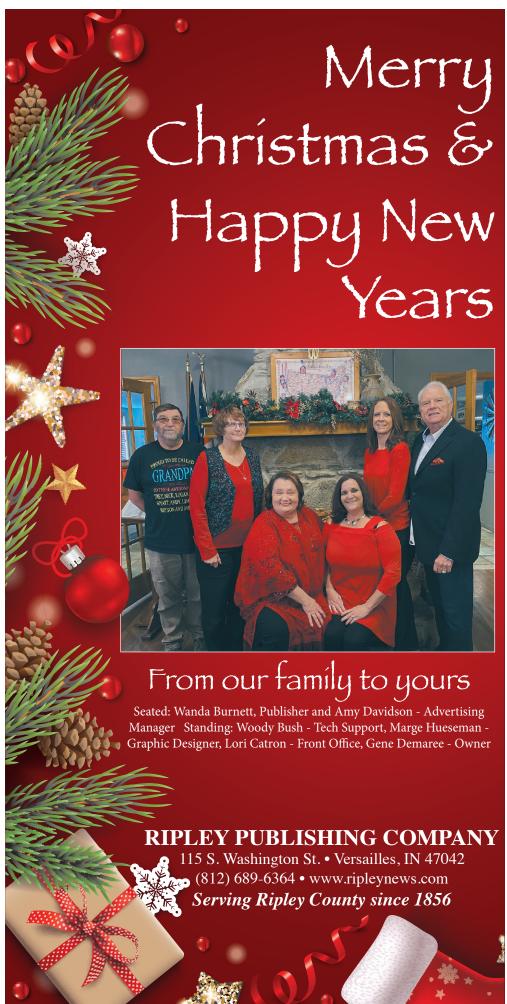














## Christmas Time Is Here

"Christmas Time Is Here" is a song written for the 1965 television special "A Charlie Brown Christmas," which was one of the first animated specials produced for network television in the United States. Along with singing carols and baking cookies, watching classic Christmas specials is part of many families' holiday traditions. Two versions of the song appeared on the album that was released in conjunction with the TV special: an instrumental version by the Vince Guaraldi Trio as well as a vocal version sung by choristers from St. Paul's Episcopal Church in San Rafael, Calif.

"Christmas Time is Here"

Christmas time is here Happiness and cheer Fun for all that children call Their favorite time of the year.

Snowflakes in the air Carols everywhere Olden times and ancient rhymes Of love and dreams to share.

Sleigh bells in the air Beauty everywhere Yuletide by the fireside And joyful memories there.

Christmas time is here We'll be drawing near Oh, that we could always see Such spirit through the year Oh, that we could always see Such spirit through the year.

Written by Vince Guaraldi and Lee Mendelson Lyrics courtesy of Lyricsforchristmas.com HL21A305

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LORI CATRON PHOTO

People drive from a distance to get a look at the more than 500 inflatables that are on the Stephen and Charla McEvoy property this time of year. They are located at 2026 N. Old Michigan Rd., Osgood. There is a large variety of any type of inflatable you can imagine with twinkling lights to complete the ensemble.

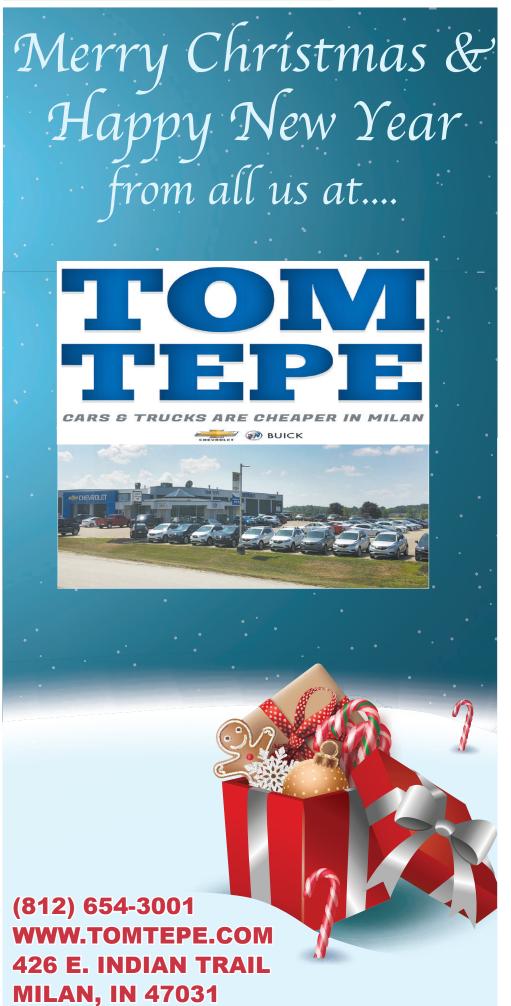


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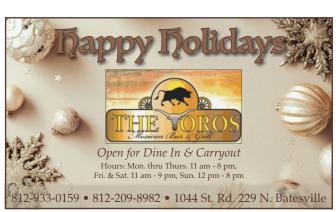




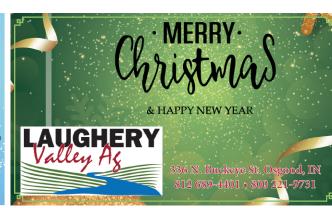
















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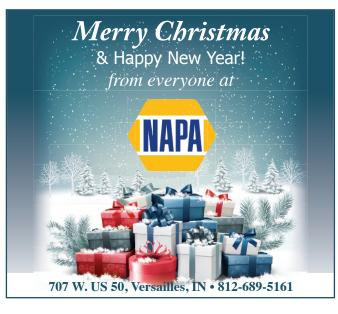










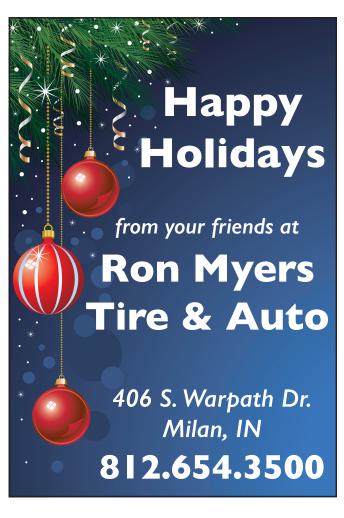


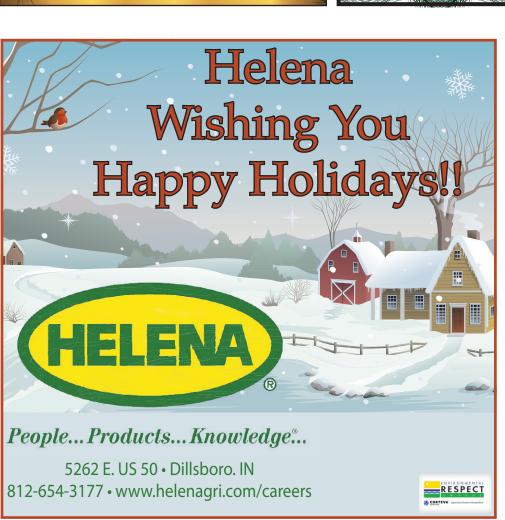






























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