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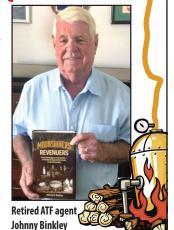


Moonshiners and Revenuers is the true story of ATF Agent Johnny Binkley and his 25 years with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, from 1969-1994. Follow Agent Binkley's career as the ATF transitioned its

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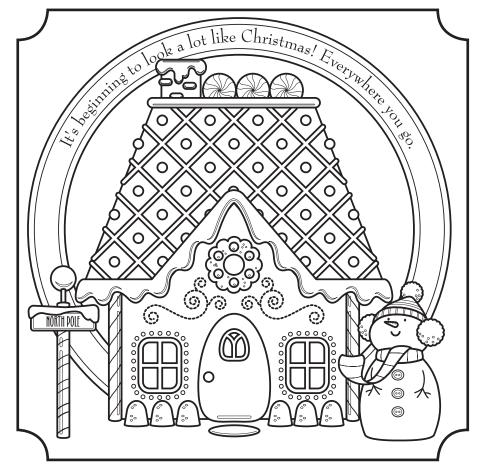
The Franklin Times



#### Ages 4-5 Color "Stocking"

| Name            | Age |
|-----------------|-----|
| Parent/Guardian |     |
| Address         |     |

**Davtime Phone Number** 



#### Ages 6-8 Color "Gingerbread House"

| Name                 | Age |
|----------------------|-----|
| Parent/Guardian      |     |
| Address              |     |
| Daytime Phone Number |     |

# Santa's Christmas

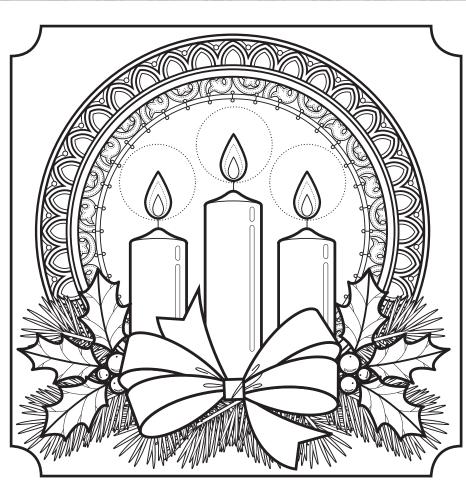
Kids, use your creativity and color me a masterpiece!

Don't forget to color the picture in your age group. NO GLITTER PLEASE. Then, just drop your artwork off or mail it to:

A filled Christmas Stocking will be awarded to the first place winner in each of the following age groups: Ages 4-5, 6-8, 9-12. The **deadline** for entries will be Dec. 9. The winning entries will be published in our Dec. 18 edition.

**The Franklin Times** PO Box 119, 109 S. Bickett Blvd. Louisburg, NC 27549

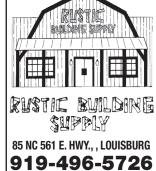




#### Ages 9-12 Color "Candles"

| Name                 | Age |
|----------------------|-----|
| Parent/Guardian      |     |
| Address              |     |
| Daytime Phone Number |     |

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### **All Entries Must Be Received By** Noon on Tuesday, Dec. 9

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## For a stress-free Thanksgiving, here are a few tips

The Franklin Times

Thanksgiving is a time for celebrating, gathering, and -of course -- enjoying a table full of delicious dishes.

But behind every memorable Thanksgiving meal is a well-prepared kitchen and safe food handling prac-

Before the holiday rush begins, take time to ensure you have the right tools, a smart prep plan and safe temperatures in mind.

Here's how to set yourself up for a smooth and safe Thanksgiving feast.

#### **Gather the Essential Equipment**

Before the cooking starts, double-check that you have all the equipment needed to prepare food safely and ef-

• Digital Food Thermometer -- A must for ensuring your turkey and other dishes reach safe internal tempera-

tures. Refrigerator Thermom-

Your refrigerator should

Dominque Simon NC Cooperative Extension Family & Consumer Science Agent

stay at 41°F or lower. This is especially important when storing ingredients, cooling prepared dishes, and thaw-

ing the turkey. • Multiple Cutting Boards

Use separate boards for raw meats, produce, and ready-to-eat foods to prevent cross-contamination.

• Kitchen Cleaner and Sanitizer

A clean workspace is a safe workspace. Keep sanitizer handy throughout the cooking process to wipe down surfaces between tasks.

#### **Prepare Dishes** the Right Way Thanksgiving meals often

involve prepping dishes in advance. Keep food safe during that process with proper cooling and storage methods:

Cool Foods Quickly tainers and stir as needed to riods. help it cool rapidly.

Avoid placing hot food directly into the refrigerator in the dish it was cooked in the container will stay hot too long, slowing cooling and increasing food-safety

Wrap and Store Safely

Once food has cooled, tightly wrap each container to prevent contamination and store it in the refrigerator promptly.

#### **Avoid Leaving Food Out**

at Room Temperature Time management is key on Thanksgiving Day. To keep everything safe:

Plan Your Cooking Sched-

Think ahead about:

• What needs the oven •What can be prepared on

•What can be made ahead and stored in the fridge Try to coordinate so dishes

After cooking, divide food finish around the same time into separate shallow con- and don't sit out for long pe-

> Keep Hot Foods Hot Hold hot foods at 135°F or above until serving time.

> Slow cookers and warming pans are great tools for maintaining safe temperatures during the holiday rush.

Keep Cold Foods Cold

Hold cold foods at 41°F or below until they're ready to

#### Cooking the **Turkey Safely**

The star of Thanksgiving dinner needs special attention. To make sure your turkey is both delicious and

•Cook to 165°F

A turkey is fully cooked when it reaches an internal temperature of 165°F.

• Check the Temperature in Three Critical Spots: •The thickest part of the

USE A THERMOMETER to make sure your turkey is fully cooked and safe. It is fully cooked at an internal temperature of 165 degrees. • The innermost part of the

• The innermost part of the

thigh Using a digital thermom-

eter will help ensure the turkey is cooked evenly and thoroughly.

#### Celebrate with Peace of Mind

With the right kitchen tools, smart planning, and proper temperature control, you can enjoy a Thanksgiving meal that's not only tasty but also safe for everyone at the table.

Preparing ahead and following food-safety best practices ensures a holiday filled with warmth, gratitude, and delicious memories.

For additional Family & Consumer Science information, contact the Franklin County Center office, 919-496-3344, Dominque Simon.

## A few ideas for creating new holiday traditions

of most holidays, but they're with family? Once you've particularly prominent during celebrations that fall at the end of the year. The customs people hold dear are among the many factors that set the holiday season apart. It's why we eat turkey when giving thanks or kiss under the mistletoe.

Just because a holiday is associated with various established traditions doesn't mean individuals and families cannot come up with new customs. Here are some pointers for people seeking to establish new holiday traditions.

Identify what you value Values establish the foundation for holiday traditions. Maybe you aspire to give back to your commu-

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Signature \_

Baby's Name

Date of Birth \_

Traditions are hallmarks to spend more quality time identified the values driving your motivation to start a new holiday tradition, you can then establish one that aligns with those values. For example, if you aspire to give back, then a day of service at a nearby soup kitchen can become a holiday tradition.

#### Expand on an existing tradition

New traditions do not have to be entirely unique; they could expand on things that families already do. If family baking sessions are an existing tradition, perhaps the efforts can be expanded to include more family members? Extra items can be packaged up and shared with elderly

#### Reflect on childhood traditions

Perhaps there is something adults did during game to pass it on to another

ger have a lot of family vis- their own childhoods that generation. iting or can't bake on their can be incorporated into modern traditions? An adult who has fond memories of playing a game in between courses of the holiday dinner can engage in that same



NEW TRADITIONS don't have to be unique. Try expanding on things your family already does -- or they might reflect childhood memories.

#### Get inspired

Although scouring social media can create feelings of inequality or even competition as everyone posts their holiday activities, such searching also can provide inspiration for innovative traditions. If something a friend is doing looks like it can be fun and rewarding, families can borrow the tradition and make it their

Communicate with others Engage the entire family

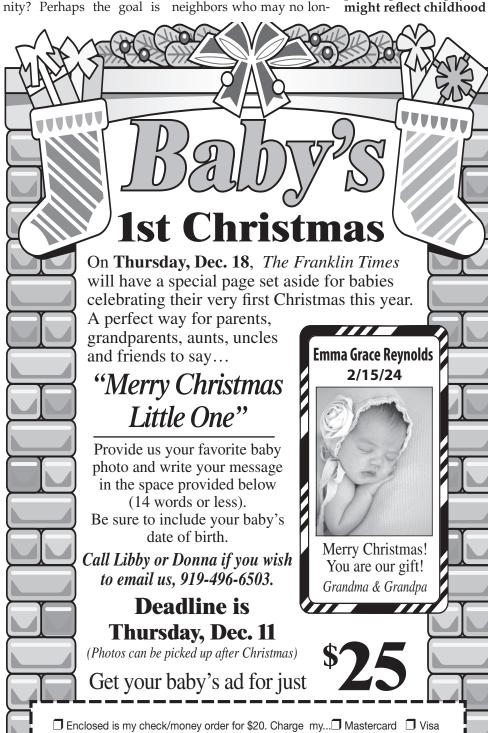
in discussions about traditions they may want to include in holiday celebrations as well as what ones they may not enjoy. For example, traditions that foster over-consumption or create unnecessary stress can be eliminated and replaced with customs that make everyone feel better.

#### *Involve others*

Part of the magic of the holidays is the chance to connect with others. Expand holiday traditions to include more people.

If a home is not large enough to handle a crowd, think about renting a room at a VFW center or firehouse, where a greater number of people can get together to create wreaths or even watch holiday movies. The more, the merrier this time of year.

Holiday traditions can make the season enjoyable, but they are not set in stone. Families can modify existing customs and create new traditions to make the season even more meaningful.



Expiration Date \_

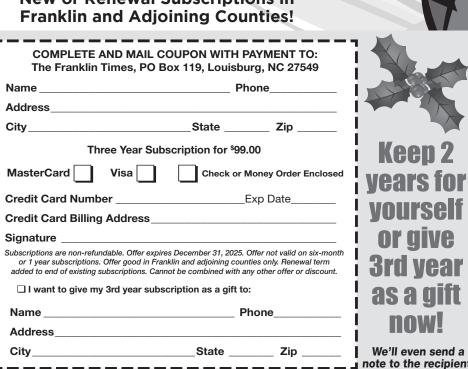
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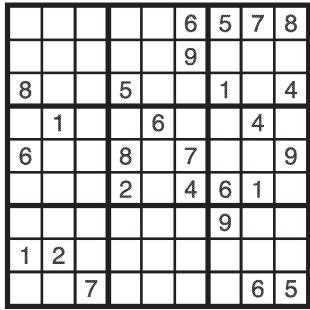
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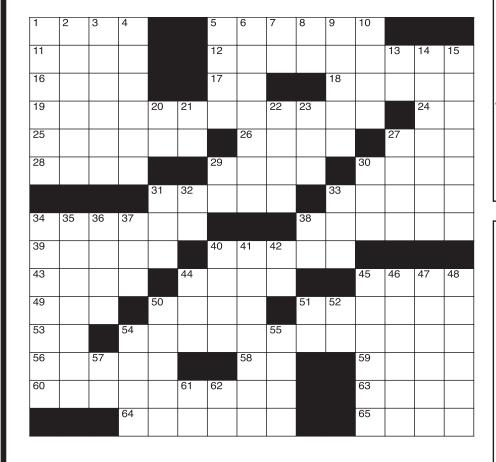
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#### **CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Popular wine \_\_ Spumante
- 5. Greatly impressed 11. \_\_ and that
- 12. Uttered with passion
- 16. Boats
- 17. Veteran actor Harris
- 18. Casserole with game
- 19. Reprehensible acts
- 24. They precede C
- 25. Says under one's breath
- 26. Taxis
- 27. It transfers genetic info
- 28. NFL great Randy
- 29. Where college students sleep
- 30. Major European river 31. Taco condiment

**CLUES DOWN** 

- 33. -frutti
- 34. Polish city

- 38. Astronomy unit 39. Khoikhoin peoples
- 43. Scrambled, fried, boiled
- 44. Price indicators
- 49. When you hope to get somewhere
- 51. Choose carefully

- 58. Partner to Pa

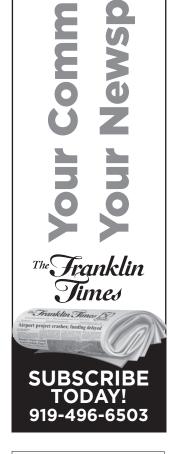
- 1. The central area in a building
- 2. Religion of Japan
- 3. Leggings
- 4. Officially distributes 5. Arabian Sea seaport
- 6. Spanish doctors
- 7. It cools your house 8. Currency of Poland
- 9. Slowly moves into 10. Days (Spanish)
- 13. Unit of volume
- 14. Emit 15. With two replaceable hydrogens
- 20. Title for a man 21. Equally
- 22. Scarlett's home 23. One-time tech titan
- 27. Subway dwellers 29. One-tenth of a liter
- 30. Central European river
- 31. Distress signal
- 32. Expression of sympathy
- 33. The bill in a restaurant

- 40. Bears QB Williams

- 45. One-time world power
- 50. Farm building
- 53. Magnum was one
- 54. One who combines
- 56. Nursemaids
- 59. Notable river
- 60. Officially honors
- 63. Colorless compound 64. A fancy chair
- 65. Email function

#### 34. Football equipment

- 35. Dance music
- 36. Russian river
- 37. Cosmetics giant Mary \_
- 38. Gym class 40. Automobiles
- 41. Roman honorific
- 42. Losses in sports 44. Skin tone in summer
- 45. Distant planet
- 46. Critical humor 47. Illegally obtained
- 48. Go back over 50. Home appliance brand
- 51. Unit of radioactivity
- 52. Home of the Flyers 54. Short official note
- 55. Emit coherent radiation 57. Anno Domini (in the year of Our
- Lord) 61. Most common noble gas (abbr.)
- 62. Toward





Solutions on page 7A





#### CIVITAN BLOOD **DRIVE SLATED**

Cypress Creek Civitan is partnering with The Blood Connection to sponsor a blood drive on Saturday, Dec. 13 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

The Blood Connection bus will be in the Pineridge Realty parking lot, 2196 Sledge Road, across from Lake Royale.

Each blood donation can save up to three lives! Holiday season is normally a critical time for blood donation.

To signup and reserve a spot, go to: https://donate.thebloodconnection.org/donor/schedules/drive\_schedule/222097.

Walk-ins also welcome! If you have any questions, contact Ken Smithwick at 252-303-Ĭ127 or (252)903-5334, or kensmithwick1940@gmail.com.

#### COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNER SLATED

A Thanksgiving Community Dinner is being planned for Thursday, Nov. 27, from noon to 3 p.m. at the Louisburg College dining hall.

For more information call 919-426-2656 or contact Raleighjustserve@gmail.com.

#### COATS FOR CHRISTMAS DRIVE UNDERWAY

The annual Coats for Christmas drive is currently underway. You may drop off your new or good used clean coats, gloves and scarves at the local Farm Bureau office,

496 Redwood Lane, Louisburg.
All sizes are needed especially for kids. Donated items will be taken to Safe Space, the Senior Center and other places in Franklin County as needed. The coat drive has

been going on for over 30 years. For more information, call Wayne Champion at Farm

#### Wreaths Across America, Franklinton

Bureau, 919-496-2051.

The Franklinton Woman's Club and The American Legion Post 52 are inviting the public to Franklinton Veterans Memorial Park on Main Street on Saturday, Dec. 13 at 12:30 p.m. for a wreath-laying ceremony. At the conclusion of the ceremony, wreaths will be placed on Veterans' graves at Fairview and Evergreen town cemeteries. This is a free event where children and adults of all ages are welcome.

ADAPTING FORESTRY PLANS TO THE MARKET The Franklin County Cooperative Extension is planning a forestry presentation by an NCSU Forestry specialist on Tues-

day, Dec. 9. "Forest Management Strategies to Adjust Your Forestry Plan to Market Changes" will begin at 10 a.m., at Franklin County Cooperative Extension Center Annex; 103 South Bickett Blvd., Louisburg. Registration is required. Register online at go.ncsu. edu/adaptingforestryplansforchangingmarkets

For more information, contact the Franklin County Cooperative Extension office 919-496-3344, Extension Agent Matthew Place.

#### CREDIT COURSE FOR LANDSCAPERS

The Landscape Professionals December credit class will be held Tuesday, Dec. 9, beginning at 5:30 p.m., at Franklin County Agriculture Center Annex; 103 S. Bickett Blvd., Louisburg. Speakers will be Dr. Steve Frank, Professor of Entomology and Extension Specialist, Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology at NC State and Dr. Navdeep Godara, assistant profes-

sor, Turfgrass Weed Science. NCDA Pesticide Credits: 2 Credits for HLNDX, NC Land-

scape Contractor Credits: 2. The cost is \$10. Register online at *go.ncsu.edu/2025landscapep* rofessionalsdeccreditclass. For more information, contact Franklin County Cooperative Extension office, 919-496-3344 or visit, https://franklin.ces.ncsu.edu.

COUNTY'S HOLIDAY SCHEDULE All Franklin County government offices will be closed for Thanksgiving Day and most will be closed the Friday after. All libraries will also be closed Friday, Nov. 28 and Saturday,

The solid waste transfer station and the convenience centers will be open both Friday and Saturday of that week. The county airport will be open Wednesday, Nov.

#### 26, from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. and will be open on Friday.

GET THE BREAKDOWN ON COMPOST A composting class will be conducted Monday, Dec. 8, 9:30-11:30 a.m. at the Franklin County Cooperative Extension Annex, 103 S. Bickett Blvd., Louisburg. Learn about what composting is, why it's important, how to start and maintain a

compost pile and how to use the finished product. It will be free to attend with an option to make a take home bin for \$15. Register online at *go.ncsu.edu/decembercompostclass*. For more information, call the Franklin County Cooperative Extension office, 919-496-3344, Ag Agent Alejandra Martinez,

#### acmartinez1@ncat.edu.

SMALL GRAIN GROWERS ASSESSMENT VOTE The North Carolina Small Grain Growers 2025 Assessment Referendum will be conducted Thursday, Dec. 4, from 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m., at County Extension Centers or Extension

meetings held that same day. Small grain farmers will vote on continuation of the selfassessment program for six years. Any North Carolina farmer who is a grower of small grain (wheat, oats, rye, barley, grain sorghum and canola/rapeseed) over the age of 18 on Dec. 4, is eligible to vote.

North Carolina growers of small grain (wheat, rye, oats, barley, rape seed, canola and grain sorghum) continue to assess themselves an assessment of half of 1 percent on the gross dollar amount sales on all small grain produced on their farms for a six-year period with collection of these funds to be collected by the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and paid to the North Carolina Small Grain Growers Association for grower education, research, marketing, administration and enhancing small grain profitable for North Carolina Farmers.

If you have questions about the referendum, call the office of the North Carolina Small Grain Growers Association, 919-809-8657.

#### Taxes, records for Carolina producers

On Thursday, Dec. 11, "The Ag Money Gameplan: Taxes & Records for Carolina Producers" workshop will be conducted at the Franklin County Cooperative Extension Center in Louisburg. Two informative sessions will be taught by NCSU Ag Economics Tax Specialist Nicholas Brown and Laurel Clabaugh of CashKeep Bookkeeping. Resource recordkeeping materials will also be distributed to the participants (one per family).

Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. in the annex meeting room. Program starts at 9 a.m. Lunch will be served before the program concludes around 1:30 p.m. Cost to participate is \$20per participant. Deadline to pre-register is Dec. 10. Register at go.ncsu.edu/ag-money-game-plan-taxes-records-for-producers.

For additional information, call the Franklin County Cooperative Extension office, 919-496-3344, Martha Mobley Ag Agent, martha\_mobley@ncsu.edu.





by Wilson Casey

- 1. Is the book of Todah (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
- 2. Who wrote in Ephesians 5:20, "Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ"? Matthew, Peter, Paul, Jude
- 3. From Psalms 107:1 and 118:1, why should we give thanks to the Lord, because He is ...? Evermore, Good, Watching, Hopeful
- 4. Which book of the Bible mentions the word "thanksgiving" the most times at eight? Genesis, Nehemiah, Psalms, Isaiah
- 5. In 2 Timothy 3:1-2, what human qualities does Paul list as being signs of the last days? Adulterers, Sun worshipers, Renegades, Unthankful people
- 6. In Leviticus 22, a sacrifice of thanksgiving is most meaningful when it is ...? Sincere, Often, At your own will, Extravagant

#### **ANSWERS:**

5) Unthankful people, 6) At your own will 1) Neither (Hebrew for thank you), 2) Paul, 3) Good, 4) Psalms,

"Test Your Bible Knowledge," a book with 1,206 multiple-choice questions by columnist Wilson Casey, is available in stores and online. (c) 2025 King Features Synd., Inc.

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## For first-time holiday hosts, it's all about planning

The Franklin Times

the home for guests, there's no shortage of things to accomplish in a relatively brief amount of time. Seasoned holiday enthusiasts may be ready to put their game faces on and

The holiday season is a tackle tasks with ease. But for the pressure to curate picture- left for the morning of the day goods or pre-packaged muf- meal feels like climbing Mount busy time of year. From holi- first-time holiday hosts, the day shopping to readying prospect of crossing items off extra assistance.

According to Dr. Vanessa Kennedy, a clinical psychologist at Driftwood Recovery, holiday hosting can "lead to

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perfect moments, creating stress and anxiety." The folto-do lists may require a little lowing are pointers those new to holiday hosting can employ to simplify the process and enjoy the holidays a little more.

• Do as much prep work in advance as possible. Giving yourself extra time to get things done can help immensely. Grocery shop one day, prepare food the next, clean the house one day, and set the table or arrange decor on another. Minor task can be guests arrive.

 Cook and freeze items. Utilize recipes that enable you to cook in bulk and then store foods until you need them. Casseroles, baked pasta dishes, freezable soups, and readyto-bake cookie doughs made in advance will save a lot of time closer to the holidays.

• Stock the pantry. If holiday hosting involves overnight guests, be sure to keep easy items on hand so guests can help themselves. Dry

fins for breakfast, chips or pretzels for late-night snacks, granola bars, or store made croissants can fit the bill. Put everything in a dedicated basket so guests can grab items as needed. Stock the refrigerator with water, seltzer, iced teas, and sodas, and make a full pot of coffee in the morning so guests can pour their own.

• Avoid complicated cocktails. You don't want to be stuck mixing drinks all evening. Instead, make it simple for guests to help themselves. Wine, beer, pre-made punches, or even one specialty drink are

• Consider hiring a caterer. If the idea of a homecooked Everest, swap out some items for store-bought alternatives, or work with a favorite restaurant or caterer to secure foods that only need to be reheated and served.

• Free up closet and room space. Guests will be coming with a lot of stuff, particularly if you live in a cold climate. Make room in the entry closet for guests' coats and boots. Be sure you can accommodate suitcases or overnight bags. Set aside an area where guests can deposit their wrapped

Holiday hosting can be a whirlwind of activity, but novice hosts can quickly get into the swing of things.

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## Mouthwatering holiday recipes sure to please your guests

#### **Ginger Cookies**

Holiday baking sessions are a beloved tradition in many households. A family baking day during the holiday season is a great activity that appeals to loved ones of all ages, making a day spent in the kitchen an ideal way to bring multiple generations together under one roof.

There's no shortage of options when baking together as a family, but no treat embodies this season of baking more

than cookies. Whether you're baking cookies for Santa Claus, bringing them along to a holiday party or simply whipping them up for some extra energy when decorating the tree, these "Ginger Cookies" from Lines+Angles are sure to please this December.

#### **Ginger Cookies** Makes 48 cookies

1 cup packed brown sugar

- 3/4 cup shortening
- 1/4 cup molasses
- 1 large egg
- 2 1/4 cups unbleached all-purpose flour
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cloves
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon ginger
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- 1/4 teaspoon salt Granulated sugar, for rolling
- 1. Preheat oven to 375 F. Lightly grease baking sheet with non-stick cooking spray.
- 2. In a large bowl, using an electric mixer on medium speed, beat brown sugar, shortening, molasses, and egg together until light and fluffy. Stir in all remaining ingredients, except granulated sugar.
- 3. Shape dough by rounded teaspoonfuls into balls. Dip tops into granulated sugar and place balls, sugar side up, on prepared baking sheet, about 3 inches apart.
- 4. Bake 10 to 12 minutes or until just set. Remove from cookie sheet immediately to wire rack to cool. Serve.

Tip: Before measuring molasses, spray the measuring cup with cooking spray; the molasses won't stick to the sides of the cup.

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#### Simple stuffed shells

Holiday hosting is a fun way to welcome loved ones. Opportunities to host abound between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day, and savvy hosts know how useful an expansive culinary repertoire can be during a time of year when it's common to enjoy home cooked meals with loved

Simple but flavorful meals are a holiday host's best friend. Such meals, which include the following recipe for "Stuffed Shells With Spinach and Ricotta" from Lines+Angles, give hosts more time to mingle but still ensure a delicious dish makes its way to the table come din-

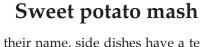
#### Stuffed Shells with Spinach and Ricotta Makes 6 to 8 servings

- Salt, to taste 32 jumbo pasta shells
- 10 cups frozen chopped spin-
- ach, thawed 2 cups ricotta, softened
- 1 cup Parmesan cheese, grated (divided), plus extra to serve
- 3 cloves of garlic, peeled and
- 2 eggs, lightly beaten
- Freshly ground black pepper, to taste
- 3 3/4 cups marinara or spaghetti sauce
- 1. Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. Add the pasta and cook per package directions until al dente. Rinse pasta in cold water to stop cooking process and drain well.
- 2. Squeeze spinach dry. Transfer spinach to large bowl. Add ricotta, 1/2 cup Parmesan, garlic, and beaten eggs to bowl. Season mixture with salt and pepper, and mix to
- 3. Preheat oven to 350 F.
- 4. Spoon 1/2 cup marinara sauce evenly over bottom of 9- x 13- x 2-inch baking dish. Fill each pasta shell with spinach mixture. Place shells, filling side up, in prepared baking dish. Sprinkle with remaining 1/2 cup Parmesan. Cover loosely with foil and bake until heated through and bubbly, about 30 minutes. Spoon remaining sauce over shells. Garnish with Parmesan cheese, if desired, and serve.

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Despite their name, side dishes have a tendency to take center stage come the holiday season. That's particularly true when hosting a potluck-style dinner for family and friends. Such an arrangement, which typically sees hosts prepare the main course and guests bring side dishes and desserts, can remove a lot of responsibility from hosts' shoulders and afford them more time to mingle with their loved ones.

Those tasked with crafting a delicious side this holiday season can build their offering around a popular and seasonal main ingredient like sweet potatoes. This recipe for "Sweet Potato Mash" from Lines+Angles fits that bill and is sure to please

everyone around the holiday dinner table this year.

#### **Sweet Potato Mash**

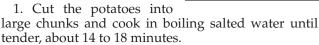
4 large sweet potatoes, peeled

Salt

4 tablespoons butter

1 sprig coriander, or pars-

Freshly ground pepper and salt



2. Drain thoroughly, then set the pan over a low heat and shake the pan to drive off any excess moisture.

3. Mash thoroughly with the butter until smooth, then season generously with salt and pepper and serve with a garnish of coriander.











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