

Special Wine Guide inside

Holiday
Gift
GUIDE
2016

A Special Publication of the Hood River News

HAPPY HOLIDAYS



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holiday services



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For the love of Coffee

TRISHA WALKER
News staff writer

I love coffee. Is there a word stronger than “love” that I could apply here? Because that’s how I feel about those magic beans. I love them. I love my first cup of coffee in the morning, and I am equally fond of my fourth cup in the afternoon.

The warmth, the smell, the flavor.

So it probably comes as no surprise that I think coffee — and the tools needed to brew it — would make an excellent holiday gift. Coffee for everyone!

Dog River Coffee Co., 411 Oak St., has all kinds of coffeemaking devices in various shapes and sizes, from French presses to pour over cones and Chemex slow drip systems, but perhaps the most popular is the Aeropress, said Barista Athena Keeler, because of its pack-and-go ability. “You can take it with you when you go camping or travel,” Keeler said. “Just toss it in a backpack.” For those not familiar with the Aeropress, simply slide in a filter, add coffee and water, and press the concoction into a waiting cup. “It’s pretty fast,” she added, making it the perfect gift for anyone who enjoys a good, but quick, cup. Dog River carries Stumptown coffee — don’t forget to pick up a bag of beans!

Hood River Coffee Roasters, 1310 Tucker Road, also sells Aeropress coffee makers and filters, as well as Melitta coffee cones (in black and red) and filters — and their seasonal coffee blends are available now through the holidays (available at the store, Rosauers, or online). For a quick fix sans device, try a package of their chocolate covered espresso beans.

Bealls Department Store, 1801 12th St. (Hood River Shopping Center), carries the ever-popular Keurig brewing systems that allow you to brew a cup of coffee, tea or hot chocolate using a K-Cup. Bealls has both the Keurig Hot 1 cup and Keurig K-Cup Mini Plus, as well as the Keurig 2.0 — which can make up to a carafe.

Over at **10 Speed Coffee Bar, 1412 13th St.,** a variety of coffeemakers await: French presses, Chemex makers (those beautiful, beaker-like pour over systems), Hario pour over cones and paper filters, and stainless steel kettles. Their small batch coffee beans are a must, too.

Kickstand Coffee & Kitchen, 1235 State St., also sells Chemex systems and French presses — and trucker hats and mugs. I’d like to take a minute to recognize their daily batch of doughnuts as well. When you think about it, that’s just the perfect coffee accessory.

Doppio, 310 Oak St., doesn’t have coffee-making appliances, but you can get logo mugs, Hydroflasks and hoodies

— as well as their special house coffees, roasted at sister store **Ground, down the road at 12 Oak St.** Ground has their own blend of house coffees, Hydro Flasks and locally made mugs, as well as tea from Good Medicine Lounge.

Which reminds me ...

A nod to tea drinkers

If you have a tea drinker on your list, you’ll want to visit The Good Medicine Lounge, 1029 May St. They’ve got tea pots, mugs and filters — both “sturdy on the go for everyday use, to sitting down to a nice tea ritual stuff,” said Randy Goetz, who owns the business with wife Nicole. They have their own herbal line that is direct trade and organic, mostly loose leaf, but they do have some individual tea bags made from compostable materials. They also sell some of their own green and black teas.

Special for the holidays are a seasonal line of loose leaf teas, with names like Chai Divine, Caramel Brule and Chocolate Trufflemint. But get them fast — they’ll be gone by the first of the year.

(Good Medicine also sells hot and iced teas, gluten free and some vegan goodies, kombucha and kefir — One Breath kombucha is even brewed in the building.)

May Street Elementary holds coffee fundraiser

May Street Elementary is again holding its annual coffee and tea fundraiser, with money going towards teacher grants, class field trips and assemblies, now through Dec. 8.

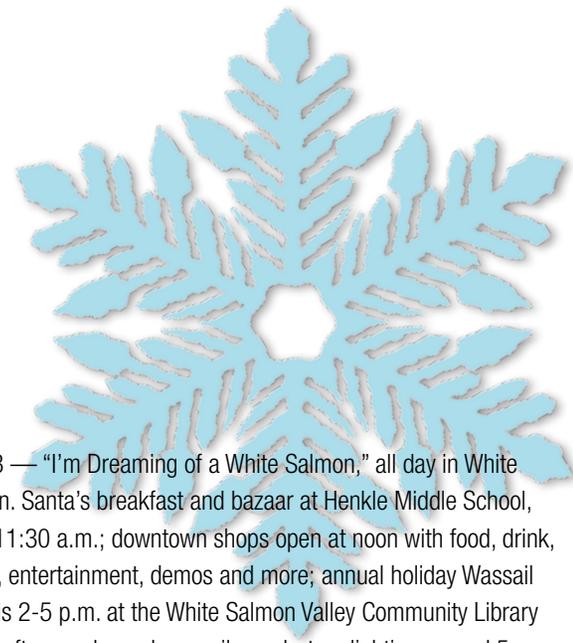
One pound bags of Pacific Rim “Holiday Blend” whole or ground coffee — regular or decaf — sell for \$15 per bag. Canisters of Good Medicine “Warm Hugs” tea, in containers of 20 tea bags, are also \$15. Both businesses are owned by May Street parents who donate 100 percent of the proceeds to the school.

May Street students will be selling coffee and tea until Dec. 6, and it will also be available each day in the school office from 7:15-7:45 a.m. (before school) and 2:15-2:45 p.m. (after school) until Dec. 8. Individuals may also order online at www.maystreetpto.com.

Orders will be ready for delivery on Dec. 2 and Dec. 9.



Holiday Happenings



Your guide to events around the gorge

NOW THROUGH DEC. 5 — Giving Tree at Cascade Locks City Hall. Community members are invited to put the names of children in need on the giving tree (Cascade Locks children only), or take a name to purchase a gift from a child's wish list. Bring the unwrapped present back to city hall for employees to wrap and deliver.

NOV. 24 — Turkey Trot, 10-1 p.m. at Mark Hatfield West Visitor Center Historic Columbia Gorge Highway Trail. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.; kids fun run 9:50 a.m. Admission is \$15 preregistration and \$20 day-of; children under age 18 are \$5. Those who walk, run or bike to event get \$5 off. More at 831-682-6812.

NOV. 24 — Free Community Thanksgiving Dinner, noon-4 p.m. at Riverside Community Church. Traditional meal; vegan meals also available.

NOV. 25 — Small Works Holiday Show Exhibition Open House, 11-8 p.m. at Columbia Center for the Arts, Hood River. Holiday art sale and show; fine crafts created by Gorge artists. More at 541-387-8877.

NOV. 25- DEC. 19 — Shop Local for the Holidays in Stevenson, Wash. Save your receipts! Spend \$50 or more at any Stevenson business between the dates listed and turn them in at the Skamania County Chamber to be entered to win \$200 in Stevenson Bucks. More at 509-427-8911.

DEC. 2 — Advent Concert, noon at Riverside Community Church, Fourth and State, Hood River. Free. Performances by area musicians. Check Happenings in the Hood River News or online for details.

DEC. 2 — Hood River Holidays Kickoff in downtown Hood River. Sponsored by HR Chamber of Commerce. HRVHS students will collect food and monetary donations for FISH. Streets close to traffic 5-7 p.m.; stores remain open. Parade, 6 p.m. on Oak between Seventh and Ninth streets; tree lighting, 7 p.m. at Second and State; 7:15 p.m., caroling.

DEC. 2 — Festival of Trees, 6-10 p.m. at The Dalles Civic Auditorium, 323 E. Fourth St., The Dalles. Silent auction, 6 p.m., live auction, 7 p.m. \$10. Benefits Mid-Columbia Health Foundation. More at 541-296-7275.

DEC. 2-3 — Happy Hands Christmas Craft and Bake Sale, 10-3 p.m. at Spirit of Grace Church (Methodist and Lutheran Partnership), 1140 Tucker, Hood River. Handcrafted gift items including scrubbers, pillowcases, tea towels, baked items.

DEC. 2-4 — Christmas in the Gorge, Stevenson, Wash. Annual Starlight parade, arts and crafts bazaar, holiday sing-along, cookie fair, breakfast with Santa and more. Details on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ChristmasInTheGorge, or call 509-427-8911.

DEC. 2-4 — 13th Annual Dallesport-Murdock Christmas Bazaar, 9-4 p.m. at Eiland's Log Cabin, Hwy. 197, Dallesport (Columbia Hills RV Park). Hand-crafted gifts including jewelry, quilts, ceramics, toys, baked goods and more. Hot dogs, homemade chili and soup, soda and coffee also available. More at 541-980-5572.

DEC. 3 — Christmas in the Backwoods, Backwoods Brewing Company Production Facility, Stevenson, Wash. Details on Facebook at www.facebook.com/backwoodsbrewingcompany.

DEC. 3 — "I'm Dreaming of a White Salmon," all day in White Salmon. Santa's breakfast and bazaar at Henkle Middle School, 7:30-11:30 a.m.; downtown shops open at noon with food, drink, artists, entertainment, demos and more; annual holiday Wassail event is 2-5 p.m. at the White Salmon Valley Community Library with crafts, snacks and wassail punch; tree lighting around 5 p.m.; and outdoor fire pits will be lit around the holiday tree 4-6 p.m., outside Riverview Bank.

DEC. 3 — Festival of Trees, 9-noon at The Dalles Civic Auditorium, 323 E. Fourth St., The Dalles. Community Day, free admission. Photos with Santa benefit Kiwanis Children's Literacy Program. More at 541-296-7275.

Dec. 3, 9-10 and 16-17 — Owen Meany's Christmas Pageant, 7:30 p.m. at Riverside Community Church. Matinee performance Dec. 11 at 2 p.m. Presented by Plays for Non-Profits; directed by Kathleen Morrow. Tickets \$15 adults, \$12 students and seniors; available at www.showtix4u.com, Waucoma Bookstore, and at the door. Recommended ages 10 and up due to language.



DEC. 3 — St. Mark's Holiday Bazaar, 9-3 p.m. at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 11th and Eugene, Hood River. Gifts for men, women and children; hand-crafted, one-of-a-kind items. Holiday decorations, baked goods.

DEC. 3 — Hope for the Holidays Bazaar, 9-4 p.m. at the Hood River County Fairgrounds. Benefits the American Cancer Society. Food, baked goods, crafts, wreaths, jewelry, Lula Rue and more.

DEC. 4 — Festival of Lights, 3-5 p.m. at Cascade Locks City Hall gym, Cascade Locks. Annual tree lighting event; Santa, arts and crafts, cookies and cocoa. All invited.

DEC. 4 — Cookies with Santa, 10-4 p.m. at the Mt. Hood Town Hall. Free cookies and decorating for kids; photos with Santa by DeHarts. Holiday vendors, coloring contest, Christmas tree sale.

DEC. 4 — Seventh Annual Aaron Meyer Holiday Concert, 3:30-5:30 p.m. at the Best Western Plus Hood River Inn Gorge Room. Benefit for United Way. With guests The Brown Sisters. General admission, \$20, or \$55 for a preparty with Meyer at 2:30 p.m. and preferred seating. Tickets at Waucoma Bookstore or the door.

DEC. 6 — Light Up a Life Tree Lighting Ceremony, 6:30 p.m. at The Riverenza, The Dalles. Sponsored by Providence Health & Services. Pick up a contribution envelope at the hospital gift shop to donate in memory of a loved one; names will be written on heart-shaped ornaments for the tree, and read out loud during the official tree lighting. Fundraiser for hospice patients.

DEC. 8 — Gingerbread Festival & Christmas Open House, 5:30-7:30 p.m. at The Springs at Mill Creek, 1201 W. 10th St., The Dalles. Silent auction, appetizers and Santa! To enter a gingerbread house or for more info, contact Tina Skeele at 541-296-1303 or tskeele@thespringsliving.com. Charity event.

DEC. 8 — Light Up a Life Tree Lighting Ceremony, 6 p.m. at Anderson's Tribute Center, Hood River. Sponsored by Providence Health & Services. Pick up a contribution envelope at the hospital gift shop to donate in memory of a loved one; names will be written on heart-shaped ornaments for the tree, and read out loud during the official tree lighting. Fundraiser for hospice patients.

DEC. 8 — CAST Holiday Performance Spectacular, 7-8:30 p.m. at Columbia Center for the Arts, Hood River. All ages; tickets, more at columbiaarts.org.

Dec. 8-10 and 16-17 — The Twist & The Trees, 7 p.m. at Columbia Center for the Arts, Hood River. Matinee Dec. 18, 2 p.m. Holiday theater performance, written and directed by Sullivan Mackintosh. Family-friendly. All ages; more at columbiaarts.org.

DEC. 9 — Advent Concert, noon at Riverside Community Church, Fourth and State, Hood River. Free. Performances by area musicians. Check Happenings in the Hood River News or online for details.

Dec.9-10 — Rural Craft Revival, noon-6 p.m. at Springhouse Cellar. Handmade goods from a curated collection of the best makers — jewelry, stationary, clothing and accessories, leather goods, art prints, housewares and more.

DEC. 10 — Second Annual Holiday Bazaar at Wahtonka Community School, 10-4 p.m. For more info, contact Libby Robinson at 971-254-5014.

DEC. 10-11 — Last Chance Holiday Bazaar, 10-5 p.m. at the Hood River County Fairgrounds. Last chance to find one-of-a-kind gifts. Arts & crafts, holiday items, clothing, home décor, gourmet foods; free admission and parking.

DEC. 10-11 — Scenes from the Nutcracker at the Hood River Middle School Auditorium. Shows Dec. 10 at 1 p.m. and 4 p.m., and Dec. 11 at 2 p.m. Presented by the students of the Columbia Gorge Dance Academy ballet department. Admission \$5, 3 and under welcome to sit on laps. Tickets Waucoma Bookstore, cash or check only to Nutcracker Fund. Doors open half-hour before start.

DEC. 12 — Hood River Holidays Window Decorating Contest Judging. Sponsored by HR Chamber of Commerce. Businesses decorate windows for the holidays.

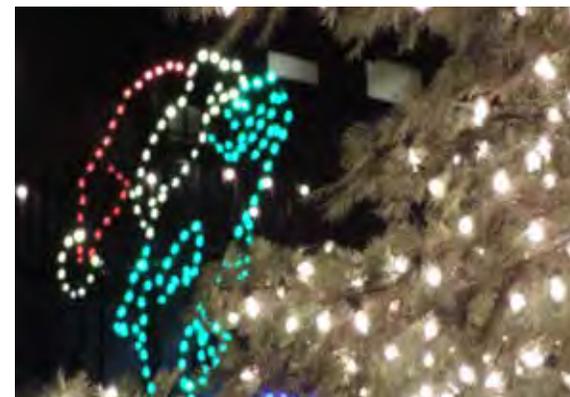
DEC. 16 — Advent Concert, noon at Riverside Community Church, Fourth and State, Hood River. Free. Performances by area musicians. Check Happenings in the Hood River News or online for details.

DEC. 16-17 — CAST Holiday Performance Spectacular, 7-8:30 p.m. at Columbia Center for the Arts, Hood River. All ages; tickets, more at columbiaarts.org.

DEC. 18 — CAST Holiday Performance Spectacular, 2 p.m. at Columbia Center for the Arts, Hood River. All ages; tickets, more at columbiaarts.org.

DEC. 21-22 — Holiday Treats by Fresh Start Culinary Program in conjunction with Columbia Center for the Arts. Fresh Start will showcase a variety of pastries, confections and cakes that can be purchased at the art center; each dessert will be in a gift-worth box with a gift card attached.

DEC. 31 — Gorge Rocket Club Building Class, 10:30 a.m. at Hood River Hobbies. For all ages and levels; supervision for children required. Fee \$10, includes rocket kit, engine and materials; plus \$10 Gorge Rocket Club membership (per person, or \$15 per family). Launch will take place at Westside at 1 p.m. For more info or to enroll, contact info@hoodriverhobbies.com, Community Ed or Gorgerocketclub.com.





Gifts for outdoor/ winterfun

BEN MITCHELL
News staff writer

Meteorologists are calling for another snowy winter this season in the Pacific Northwest, so now is a great time to shop for those on your list who like to get outside and enjoy a powder day (or you can just shop for yourself).

SKI LESSONS AND SEASON PASSES

For someone extra nice on your list who likes to cruise the slopes, consider one of the many options for passes that Mt. Hood Meadows Ski Resort offers. Meadows has passes for those who have all kinds of schedules: unlimited passes, night passes, five- and 10-time passes, and progression passes. New this year is the value pass, which allows midweek riding throughout the majority of the season as well as some weekend riding outside of peak days.

For those who are skiing or snowboarding neophytes, or those looking to learn some new skills, Meadows also has numerous lesson packages to choose from ranging from two-hour single lessons to three-time packages, which include gear rentals (prices vary).

Mt. Hood Meadows Ski Resort, 14040 Hwy 35, Mt. Hood
503-337-2222 Skihood.com

Looking for something a little on the tamer side? Or maybe more of a cardio workout? Get them a season pass to the 12-miles of groomed cross country ski trails at Teacup Lake Nordic Club (\$75 for adults). Or for that really special someone — a person who plans on being in the Gorge for a while — get them a lifetime pass for \$1,200.

Teacup Nordic, Teacupnordic.org



FAT BIKES

Love the snow, but also love mountain biking? Who says you have to choose? Enter the fat bike. Just like it sounds, the fat bike is, well, fat, sporting some beefy, wide tires that are perfect for riding over the snow or other challenging terrain such as sand or deep mud. Mountain View Cycles in downtown Hood River has a large selection of new fat bikes, starting with the 2017 Specialized Fatboy SE at \$1,400, according to the store's website. Discover Bicycles (or Disco, if you're so inclined) also has fat bikes for sale, including the Norco Bigfoot, which retails for \$1,785 on the store's website.

Discover Bicycles, 210 State Street
541-386-4820, Discoverbicycles.com

Mountain View Cycles, 205 Oak Street
541-386-2453

GO GRAB YOUR SNOW GEAR

Get your friend or loved one decked out with latest gear at Doug's Sports or find some used gear at 2nd Wind Sports, both in downtown Hood River. Alpine skis, Nordic skis, snowboards, boots, poles, goggles, bindings, tuning gear, snow apparel — you name it, they've got it and they have the staff on hand to explain all the technical information about each item.

While you're there, don't forget to pick up a Sno-Park pass (\$25 for the annual pass, \$9 for a three-day pass, \$4 for a day pass), which is required if you're going to go up to Mt. Hood Meadows, Timberline, or any of the Gorge Nordic trails on the Oregon side. Remember, there is no reciprocity with Washington anymore (although you can use your Oregon pass in Idaho and California), so you'll have to pick up a separate Washington pass if you want to hit up the cross country skiing trails in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest.

Maybe not sure if winter sports are their thing or don't want to make a big upfront investment in a bunch of gear and season passes? Both stores offer single-day gear rentals for some equipment — contact the stores for details.

2nd Wind Sports, 202 State Street
541-386-4464, 2ndwind-sports.com

Doug's Sports, 101 Oak Street
541-386-5787, Dougshoodriver.com

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- Total \$ _____**
- I'll sponsor a child for \$40.00/month. Start my monthly sponsorship today.

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Child Beyond International is a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation. All gifts are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.



Lifting Children to Life



Gifts for any budget

TRISHA WALKER
News staff writer

Whether you have a buck to spend or a thousand of them, you can find gifts for every budget right here at home. From decorations and stuffed animals to Traegers and new skis, I humbly submit the following list of ideas:

\$1 This one might be a little too obvious. On the Heights is The Dollar Tree, 1799 12th St. — in the Hood River Shopping Center — and inside are a variety of holiday items priced at \$1: Wrapping paper, ribbon and bows, decorations, stockings, garland, wreath making supplies and hooks, holiday glasses and jars, and decorative tins. There's also kitchen towels and pot holders in holiday themes.

\$5 Head to Apple Valley Country Store, 2363 Tucker Road, for a variety of items in the \$5-\$10 range. Who wouldn't want a jar of Cherry Pie Jam, sugar-free Marionberry Syrup or Pumpkin Pecan Butter? How about a jar of local honey or Apple Valley's barbecue sauce? All items are made in small batches in-house with local ingredients. In November and December, the store will be on winter hours — Wednesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Shameless plug alert: You can also get Hood River New's Editor Kirby Neumann-Rea's "12 Columns of Christmas," featuring 12 holiday editorials, for \$5 each, or 10 for \$40. All proceeds go to Hood River Shelter Service's warming shelter.

\$10 Tammy's Floral, 1215 12th St., has a number of gift ideas, from Jellycat London stuffed animals (a line that has proved very popular) from \$15-\$35, to succulents ranging from \$10-\$40, depending on the number and the container. Tammy also has Christmas arrangements and gourmet food baskets that can be sent anywhere; call for more details at 541-386-3393.

\$25 Janet Planet, owner of Sparkling Creations, 409 Oak Street, has beading, knotting and wire classes in the \$20-\$25 range — beginner beading classes are free — that include supplies needed to learn a new craft. Wire classes are particularly popular, as evidenced by the four they offer. It's a fun way to make a new piece of personalized jewelry; Planet says gift certificates for classes can be purchased at the store.



For those looking to up their bottled beverage game, Twigg's, 305 Oak Street, has S'well bottles in 9 ounce, 17 ounce and 25 ounce sizes in a variety of colors and patterns, said Manager Katie Ellsworth. "These insulated bottles keep things hot for 12 hours and cold for 24 hours," she says. "Our customers can't get enough of these bottles." Prices range from \$25-\$45.

\$50 Brooke Pauly, owner of Foundation 45, 215 Oak Street, says pajamas are a particularly popular holiday gift for husbands to give to wives and mothers to give to daughters. She carries separates from P.J. Salvage — tops and bottoms — as well as robes in the \$45-\$75 range. Anything from "shimmies" to flannel can be found within the shop's walls (not to mention underwear and bras).

For the gardener on your list, check out the "Rain Chains" at Good News Gardening, 1086 Tucker Road. They're a decorative alternative to a rain spout, and run in the \$40 to \$50 range. Besides being an eco-friendly product, they're appropriate for all seasons and can be made longer or shorter.



\$100 Hood River Jewelers, 415 Oak Street, has saltwater and freshwater pearls in a variety of colors, sizes and designs starting at around \$120 and ranging up to around \$475. Owner Chris Strader has earrings, bracelets and strands, as well as black and golden pearls — and some pieces that mix pearls and diamonds.

Dave Henne, owner of Paul Henne's TV and Stereo, 1116 12th St., has televisions and stereos, as the name implies, but also has cell phone accessories, headphones and batteries. He says that police scanners are popular gift items during the holidays, although he sells a lot of them throughout the year. They run from \$100-\$120. Another is the indoor/outdoor thermometer, and he has several to choose from, starting at about \$40.

\$200 True Gorge Artisans, 1414 12th St., has one item that has proved to be a surprise hit, says Office Administrator Tiffany Vivaston: Axes. Of course, these are beautiful Helko Werk axes — German made since 1844 — that run in the \$100-\$200 range. Handles feature wood from the USA. (The shop also carries a vast array of Yankee Candles, both individually in a variety of sizes, and in gift sets, perfect for setting a holiday mood.)

For those looking for a family gift, the Hood River Aquatic Center, 1601 May St., has three-month family passes for those in the Hood River County School District for \$244 — for up to six individuals. Yearly



passes can also be purchased for \$780. It's a gift and an outing — and a way to encourage exercise during the cold winter months. Purchase at the pool or on its website at hoodriverparksandrec.org/rates.

\$500 Hood River Supply, 1945 12th St., has a couple of new product lines that employees are excited about: Yeti ice chests, hoppers and accessories, and Traeger grills. Yeti products are known for their durability and ice retention, and were specifically “over-engineered” for outdoor use. Hood River Supply carries a variety of styles and sizes in the \$250-\$500 range.

Traeger wood-fire grills “turn hardwood fuel into wood-fired creations and ordinary meals into extraordinary opportunities to gather,” according to its website. Hood River Supply carries models that range from \$500 to \$800 — and wood pellets, too.

\$1000 plus Over at 2nd Wind Sports, 202 State St., owners Erica and Pepe Gerald suggest a special ski package for outdoor enthusiasts, all in the \$1000 range: The Ultimate Back-Country Package, which includes basic safety gear (BCA Tracker Transceiver, Black Diamond 190 Tour Probe and Black Diamond Lynx Shovel), G3 Via 2-Pc Adjustable Poles, G3 Alpinist Skins and Atomic Backland 102 Skis (\$1050.50 for all); or the Splitboard Package, which includes the basic safety gear listed above, plus G3 Alpinist Splitboard Skins and Arbor Bryan Iguchi



Splitboard (\$1213.51 for all).

And if you're looking for add-ons — or just individual items — 2nd Wind also carries helmets, bindings, boots, handwarmers, jackets, pants, gloves, hats, socks, emergency blankets, rope, crampons, snowshoes ... well, the list goes on, and store employees are happy to help customers find just what they're looking for, so don't be afraid to ask.



Hats

for the holidays

PATRICK MULVIHILL
News staff writer

Whether it's for fashion or sheltering your poor head from the vicious elements, hats deserve their place as a holiday staple.

First rule: no jingly, jangly elf hats. Get a hat that'll work for winter and year-round. It can be holly and jolly, just make sure it still preserves what shred of suave your giftee has been hanging onto.

Second rule: spend some time researching your options, given the gravity of your choice. Keep in mind this is going on someone's head, a highly prominent and visible body part.

If variety's your priority, hit up the more spacious outlets in west Hood River — like Top to Bottom on Cascade Avenue for teens and Walmart at Wasco Street for just about anybody, not to mention on a holiday budget — or on the Heights, Bealls on 13th Street has a broad selection of women's hats.

Great hats also await customers downtown, where a quick stroll can take you to some of the town's most promising options — everything from elegant luxury wear to an easy-going beanie. The pickings are more ample for women, but men also have a couple dapper choices, especially in the realm of winter apparel.

Knot Another Hat, 11 Third St, #103

Why not learn to knit a hat for your friend or loved one? The shop offers lessons to newbies, and they accept even the clumsiest. Everybody can try their hand at yarny-artisanship. A highlight will be the Holiday Knit Night and Party at the store at 5 p.m., Wednesday, Dec 14.

Hat makers can find paradise at this cheery locale, which gives all the tools you need to knit your own masterpieces. From yarns and needles to books with custom patterns, the shop has supplies for all manner of knitting and crocheting projects.

But if you'd rather just swing by and buy a hat on the spot, the shop also has you covered with handmade choices knitted by staff members. Most of the designs are cheery and colorful, but some surprises await — like a black skull and cross bones beanie. Get it for that punk rocker you know.



Sophie's Enchanted Alpaca, 314 Oak St.

This "farm-to-fashion" boutique offers an array of snazzy women's hats, intersecting the lines of rural and urban wear. They make great accessories to a full-fledged outfit.

The shop features alpaca clothing and plenty of natural fiber clothes. The fleecy fur of the adorable camelids makes for comfortable apparel — cozy stuff for a holiday gift, and made by the able hands of multiple local artists the store partners with.

Some standout hats: a red hat with black ribbon tied up like roses, and a beige hat with pristine, white feathers. For younger wearers, try out fun winter hats with animal designs, such as a friendly, purple monster. Your little one can be warm and goofy at once.

Melika, 316 Oak St.

A lively women's apparel and swimwear shop, Melika brings the energy vibe to active wear, all of which is manufactured in Oregon.

Their Trucker hats artist series rocks the casual wear theme with a pinch of grandeur, starring wilderness and scenic outdoor designs inspired by the fantastic Columbia River Gorge and the Cascade Mountain Range. The hats appeal to rugged and fashionable adventurers.

Hood River-based Pistil hats, a local favorite garment maker, are also available here. Pistil's designs are known for their rich colors and breezy spirit.

Doug's Sports, 101 Oak St.

For men's hats, Doug's Sports brings solid material that'll guard the wearer from winter's chill — picture a mountain hike or a daring walk to grandma's house mid-storm.

The store is a hit with skiing and snowboarding enthusiasts. The lifestyle brands work for hiking and beachwear as well. As the business declares on its website, "Outdoor recreation is a way of life for all of us at Doug's."

Beanies, for instance, cap the head nicely on a Mount Hood outing. A gamut of hats with Hood River logos bring on the hometown pride and keep you warm.



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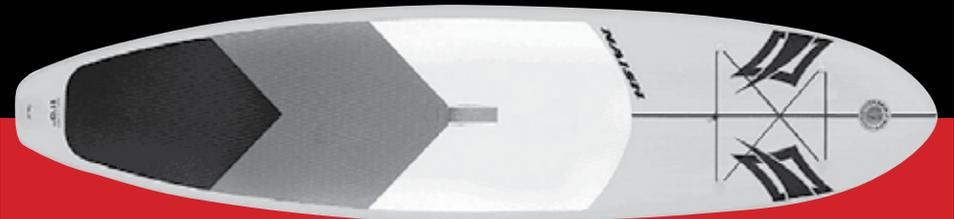
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Twelve Disaster Days of Christmas



KIRBY NEUMANN-REA
News staff writer

Welcome to your sing-able Christmas gift list. What follows is an emergency rendition of “12 Days of Christmas”—for outfitting your home or car in case of snow storm, earthquake, flood or other emergency.

Read it as a simple list, or sing it to the tune of “12 Days” – you know, as in “... and a partridge in a pear tree...”

Not to make light of it, but the song is a familiar framework for a set of gift ideas that you could consider gathering together, even if the recipient already owns items such as a bunch of coats, tire chains and flashlights. Stores throughout the Gorge are stocked up on all these items. Buying all 12 days might be prohibitive, but here are three ideas for checking any of the dozen off your list (notations follow, 1-12.) The gift items needed to stay warm, dry and safe are also coded to suggest items in your abode (A) in your car (C) or both (B).

- 12 Gallons of Water (A)
- 11 Family meals (B)
- 10 Cans of propane (A)
- 9 Hygiene bags (B)
- 8 Packs of batteries (A)
- 7 Spare coats (B)
- 6 Bright red flares (C)
- 5 Cozy blankets (B)
- 4 Tire chains (C)
- 3 Flashlights (B)
- 2 cell phone chargers (B) ...
- And a crush-proof first aid kit (B)

12 Disaster Days, in Song!

Hear Parkdale Elementary kids turn “six geese a-laying” into “six bright red flares” and other storm-worthy Christmas gift ideas, in the Hood River News’ twist on the familiar song “12 Days of Christmas.” Our thanks to principal Gus Hedberg, teacher Shannon Monroe, and music teacher David Church.

www.hoodrivernews.com/Media

Price ranges? Here’s a few quotes for days Three, Two, Four and Nine:

- A family gift of flashlights (three will run \$15-30, Hood River Supply, Tum-A-Lum)
- Cell phone chargers (two will run \$30-60)
- Tire chains (basic set, \$30, Les Schwab, returnable if unused for the winter)
- Family meals (\$100 or so should cover the basics for 3-4 reasonably well-fed days)

The home kit should be kept in a handy place near an exit, and remember that water needs to be replenished every few months.

If you have a solid first aid kit already, switch out the gift suggestion with say, “and-a-sto-o-u-t- tub-for it-all ...”

Otherwise, it’s a case of assembling your home or car kits and making sure all members of the family know what the resources are and how to use them (ie flares and propane).

Emergency situations are at worst life-threatening, at best deeply uncomfortable if you and your family are left without power for an extended period, or traveling and find yourself in a situation where you need to wait out a storm, lengthy traffic delay, or other crisis.

Notes on the 12 gift ideas:

12 — Gallons of water: that’s one per person in a four-member family to last for three days, the recommended minimum to be prepared for utility outages.

11 — Easy-open packaged goods, energy bars, dried food and nuts are good things to include for nutrition. Think of what your family of four needs for three days to stay fortified and hydrated (see number 12). Can-opener also recommended

10 — If you have a propane camping stove, keep extra fuel handy.

9 — Hygiene bags: put packaged moistened towelettes, toilet paper, and plastic ties in large garbage bags (for personal sanitation)

Resource list courtesy of Hood River County Emergency Management, Barbara Ayers, manager/ 541-386-1213.

The county also reminds residents to Get a Kit, Make A Plan to connect your family if separated, and Stay Informed.

See www.co.hood-river.or.us to opt-in for citizen alerts.



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WINE GUIDE 2016

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NOVEMBER
25-27, 2016

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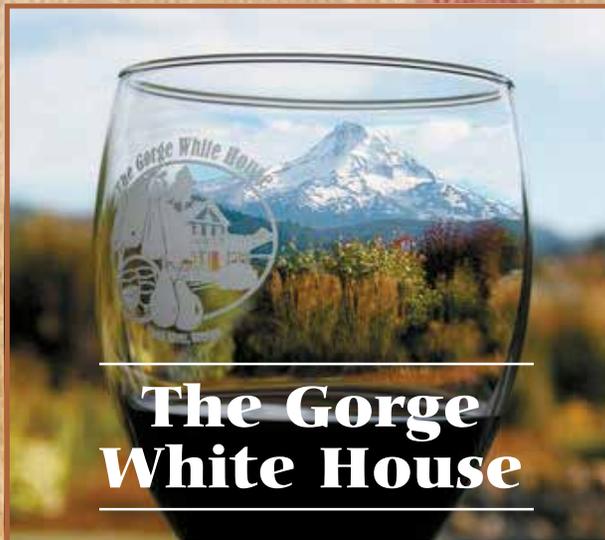
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WINEGUIDE 2016

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NOVEMBER 25-27, 2016



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WINEGUIDE 2016

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NOVEMBER 25-27, 2016



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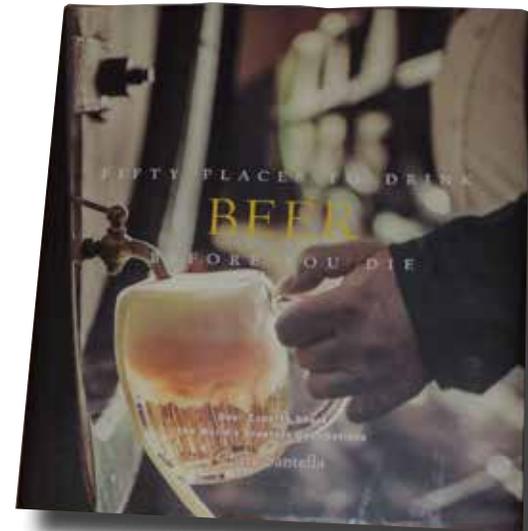
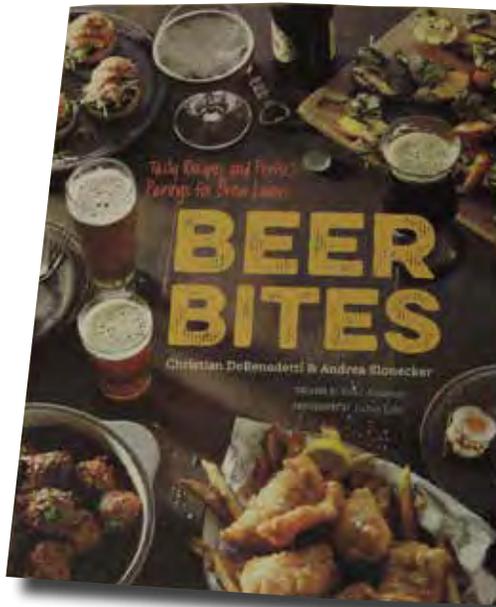
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BeerBooks

Beer books broaden the scope for homebrewers, or just plain drinkers

KIRBY NEUMANN-REA
News editor

The next best thing to drinking beer is making your own. And the next best thing to that is reading about it.

Hood River County and the Gorge have a growing list of breweries and cideries, all making outstanding products, providing extensive enjoyment for locals and helping draw thousands of people to the area, visiting for the beer. Then there is the quiet but dedicated population of home-brewers and cider makers. The local waters and local products lend themselves to the production of excellent beer and cider, be it commercial or homemade.

With that in mind, the shelves of Waucoma Bookstore contain a wealth of books that appeal to people who make beer and cider, as well as those of us who rely on others to keg or bottle our favorites but just like to read about it.

Well, one of these books is about cider, but Portland writer Jeff Alworth's deep yet homespun knowledge of the subject is borne out in "Cider Made Simple"

(2015, Chronicle Books, \$19.95). His "Beer Bible," also published in 2015 (Workman, \$19.95) has a worldwide focus but with detailed stops at Double Mountain and Logsdon Farmhouse Ales. The book offers a range of easy-reading articles on beer history, styles, production and consumption, and a chapter on glassware that will make you look skeptically at the classic "pub glass" shaker vessel used by so many places (they "noticeably diminish the experience"). Alworth also describes as criminal the practice of frosting a beer glass for anything other than mass-made lager.

Alworth's cider book, subtitled "All About Your New Favorite Drink," makes a clear statement about the variety of mass-produced commercial "ciders" on the market, as well as some smaller cideries that rely on pressed juice, albeit from whole apples: "Traditional cider is made largely or exclusively from cider apples, is typically fermented spontaneously, and never used flavor enhancers. Craft cideries especially those in the U.S., make cider only from whole fruit."

"Brew It Yourself: Make Your Own Beer, Wine, Hard Cider, and Other Concoctions," is an omnibus look at the art of fermenting, and makes for informative

reading for anyone interested in trying to make unusual beverages, or just learning that they exist at all, including Lambswool (think chunks of apples), pumpkin ale, oak leaf wine (wait a year!) and classics such as eggnog, Viking ale, and basic ale (2014, authors Nick Hoyle and Richard Hood, Cameron and Company, \$17.95).

"The Homebrewer's Almanac" takes a similar adventurous approach, and also makes entertaining reading for anyone with a broad interest in the brewing arts as well as botanical folklore (2013, The Countryman Press, \$22.99).

"Forget hops," it says at one point, providing detailed information on how to make ales from sumac, basil, gravevine, and more.

A more conventional approach is found in Dave Carpenter's "Illustrated Guide to Homebrewing," which blends technical details with practical advice and humor. (2016, Unfiltered Media, \$24.99)

Writes Carpenter, "Complex though it may seem, brewing beer is actually dead simple. If you can boil water, you can make beer. And not just any beer. Good beer."

Most of the how-to books connect even briefly with kitchen arts, but for the person in your life with a passion for both cooking and ale, look no farther than “Beer Bites: Tasty Recipes and Perfect Pairings For Brew Lovers,” a well-designed, accessible cookbook with gorgeous layout and photography, and diverse, intriguing recipes with recommended ale accompaniments. One that stands out, for Gorge residents, might be Flemish Apple-Bacon Tart, considering the rich local sources of both fruit and fine dark Belgian ales to go with it (Chronicle Books, \$24.95).

The book contains a “beer styles favor cheat sheet,” and “the five tastes and how they relate to beer and food” — sweet, sour, salty, bitter, and umami (the recently-identified “fifth sense,” well-explained here by Author Christian DeBenedetti)

DeBenedetti, who founded the wild fermentation brewery Wolves and People near Newberg two years ago, states, “This book is about combining the joys of the tap with those of the table, in ways that will seem both familiar and, we hope, surprising.”

Traveling for beer leads to three more titles.

The nation, and world of beer, get treatment in several of these books, including one by Christian DeBenedetti, “The Great American Ale Trail” (Running Press, \$22), which takes the reader all over, but identifies Hood River this way: “Hood River has

become a real hub of craft brewing, with Full Sail and Logsdon breaking trail, followed by Double Mountain.” (Like many beer articles and books, this one neglects any mention of Big Horse, the smallest brewery in the county but the first, founded in 1986, a year ahead of Full Sail.)

All these books provide how-to insights, natural and historical lore, and some tantalizing suggestions about where to go and drink beer — both near and far. Among these suggested titles is one with an overwrought title, “50 Places to Drink Beer Before You Die,” but an engaging set of locales including Hood River, Bend and Portland (and scenes as diverse as San Diego, Hong Kong, Munich, Dublin, and Birmingham, Ala. It’s fun to read, imagine yourself in these places, and, who knows, start planning some beer tourism of your own? (2016 Abrams Images, \$25.99)

Read Maui Meyer’s take on Hood River and the Gorge as an international beer setting. Writes Meyer, Celilo restaurant co-founder, County Commissioner, realtor, and erstwhile competitive windsurfer:

“Our beer scene is getting ever more artisanal and intriguing. My tasting profile is becoming more wine-oriented, focused on flavor, aromatics, finish. Some of these beers are complex pieces of art.”

Fun facts abound in “The United States of Beer: A Freewheeling Story of the All-American Drink” (2015, William Murray, \$25.99). In it, Dane Hucklebridge

recounts the “Earthquake Beer” marketed by San Francisco’s Anchor Steam in 1989.

But the book is full of historical information and the long view ahead.

“Almost from the beginning, it seems, beer has rivaled water as the universal beverage,” Hucklebridge writes. “ And:

“The future of regional beer is harder to divine, but we can certainly speculate. Some in the industry have voiced concerns about market saturation, although small-scale independent brewing at a local level will likely continue to brow for the foreseeable future if recent trends are anything to go on. In 2013, Americans even managed to drink more craft beer than Budweiser – a feat unimaginable just a few years before. Inevitably, though, we still go back to what we already know, and certain proclivities lend themselves to rediscovering old favorites. As a country, we may be exploring new ways to drink our beer, but our regional roots run deep indeed.”

‘50 PLACES’ AUTHOR VISITS

Meet author Chris Santella on Nov. 29 from 5-7 p.m. at Double Mountain Brewery. “He’s an excellent writer and a really engaging guy,” Maui Meyer said of Santella.

Military Mail deadlines for mailing letters and parcels to military members overseas in order to ensure delivery by December 25th

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Socks

TRISHA WALKER
News staff writer

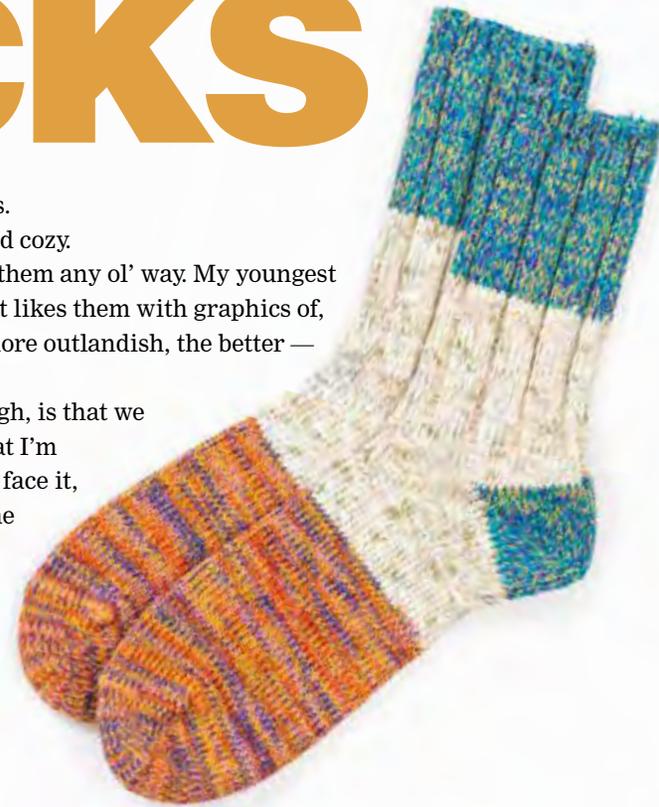
I am a practical person, and I like practical gifts.

Socks? Yes, please, and preferably well-made and cozy.

But my daughters, ages 17 and (almost) 12, like them any ol' way. My youngest doesn't believe that socks should match; my oldest likes them with graphics of, say, cheese or sayings, or outlandish colors. The more outlandish, the better — although softness is also a factor.

The good news about giving socks as gifts, though, is that we can all be happy. My pragmatic side is satisfied that I'm giving something that can be put to good use (let's face it, we all have holey socks we need to replace), and the girls — or anyone, really — can appreciate the boost to their collection.

Luckily for all of us, Hood River has numerous local options. No matter what kind of sock you're looking for, we have options right here at home.



Above, Footwise Manger Andrea Nagreen has a favorite sock: Fits Sock Co., which lives up to its name.

Far right, Stance "fashion novelty socks" can go from the workplace to the hiking trail.

Photos by Trisha Walker

HOOD RIVER COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE INVITES YOU TO

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Footwise, 413 Oak St., carries a variety of men's and women's socks for sport and casual wear, including Darn Tough, a good seller, said Manager Andrea Nagreen, because of their lifetime guarantee. They also carry Smartwool, Wigwam and Goodhew — but it's the Fits socks that are her personal favorite “because of the fit,” she said. “The shape of the sock holds your foot and stays in place.”

Down the block at Parts + Labour, 311 Oak St., are a line of Stance socks, which Manager Sandy Nunn describes as “fashion novelty.” The brand started as a skateboarding sock and has expanded into a fashion line. They're just as great for casualwear as they are for hiking, she said.

Over at Hood River Stationers, 213 Oak St., owner Jessie Page has a line of fun men's and women's novelty socks from Blue Q Socks that have proved quite the hit with all who enter the store. “People love them — they come in and laugh and say, ‘I can get this for my boss, my sister, my mom.’ They like to tell us who they're getting them for,” she says. The socks combine vivid colors with snappy phrases like, “Stop talking,” “I love bread,” “Do I look like a team player?” and “You're not the boss of me.” Bonus: Blue Q donates a percentage of all sales to Doctors Without Borders.

If you're looking for boot socks, Dream Street Boutique, 209 Oak St., has you covered — they carry a selection of embellished socks and cuffs (think buttons and lace), as well as dress socks, half-foot socks and tights and leggings.

Those looking for sports socks will want to stop in at Shortt Supply, 116 Oak St., for a variety of athletic socks for skiing, snowboarding, hiking, biking and running in men's, women's and children's sizes.

Up on the Heights, Bealls Department Store, 1801 12th St. (Hood River Shopping Center), has not only holiday socks, but socks for the entire family — no matter what they're looking for: Tights and leggings, athletic socks, boot toppers, athletic or casual. Sizes range from baby and children to men's and women's. (Is there anything cuter than a baby sock?)

One more thought:

Since you're out buying socks to keep your friends and family warm anyway, why not pick up an extra pair of something cozy to donate to Hood River Shelter Services? The Warming Shelter has opened again for its winter season, and guests commonly need items such as socks, gloves, hats — items that will keep them warm during the cold winter months. Visit hoodriverccares.org

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*Exclusions: Ace stores are independently owned and operated. This coupon is good only in-store at participating Ace Hardware locations. Limit one coupon per customer. Must present this ad to receive offer. Discount applies to regular priced, in-stock merchandise only. May not be combined with other promotional offers. If a minimum purchase is required, such minimum is calculated after Rewards redemption is applied and before tax. Not valid online or for sale or clearance priced merchandise, in-store services, Ace gift cards, grills, Weber® and Yeti® branded products, lumber and building materials, fuel, city stickers or previously purchased merchandise. Additional exclusions may apply. See store for details. Coupon void if copied, transferred and where prohibited. No cash value.



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Want to put “Coal” in your loved one’s stocking?

You can do so and still make them happy.

Try on a Coal hat for size; the Seattle company’s merchandise is U.S.-made. At Ruddy Duck find the stylish line of beanies, trucker, hank caps and more from \$25 to \$40.

Photos by Kirby Neumann-Rea



MEN’S STUFF, opposite page: top row, left to right – lined pants from The Wearhouse, shirts and hoodies at Novedades El Potrillo, and fleece jacket and sports shirts from Shortt Supply;. Bottom row, left to right – fleece lined shirt and colorful socks from Ruddy Duck, Carhartt and other gear in the cozy basement at The Wearhouse, Mt. Hood hoodies from The Wearhouse.

Photos by Kirby Neumann-Rea

Finding clothes for men

not such a heavy duty task

KIRBY NEUMANN-REA
news staff writer

There are two ways to look at the idea of clothing as a gift idea for men.

One: no, it is not glitzy.

Two: yes, it is easier to find quality men’s clothing in Hood River than you might think.

Let’s start with underwear. The starting place for boxers or briefs has got to be Walmart. For general men’s, women or kids’ clothing, the west Cascade retail giant stocks plenty of variety.

But if you want another kind of underwear for under the tree or in the stocking, look into Saxx underwear at a downtown men’s wear standby, Ruddy Duck. One pair of Saxx Performance briefs, temperature-regulating, anti odor, moisture wicking – will run you \$33.

“We have a lot of men who won’t spend \$33 on a t-shirt but they will for one of these pairs of underwear,” said Cecily Mack of Ruddy Duck.

Want something warmer? How about a Pendleton wool shirt, \$146, ultra fine Merino, or a lined and insulated coat by Kuhl, with water resistant waxed and soft quilted body insulation. It buttons up nice and snug around the neck. Kuhl also produces flannel lined pants from \$108, or \$86 non-lined, both with a wide waist band.

Thinking beyond winter, two casual shirts that stand out at Ruddy Duck: a Threads 4 Thought Chambray, lined, for \$68, and a French Connection with distinctive tight sleeves ala jogging pants. Says Mack, “How many different ways can you reinvent a men’s button up that’s going to work, that’s not too controversial? Throw in a detail like that. Some attempts to make things different I can’t really hang with but these I like.”

On the Heights at 12th and Wilson, Novedades El

Petrillo owner Humberto Calderon carries a wide range of casual and dressier shirts, jackets and pants, and fleece-lined vests from \$25 to \$100. The store features hoodies including ones with thick fleece for less than \$50, colorful Liquid short-sleeve shirts for \$20 (with distinctive clear buttons), jeans of all designs from \$35 to \$50, and a dressy black wool jacket with maroon lining for \$74, and more.

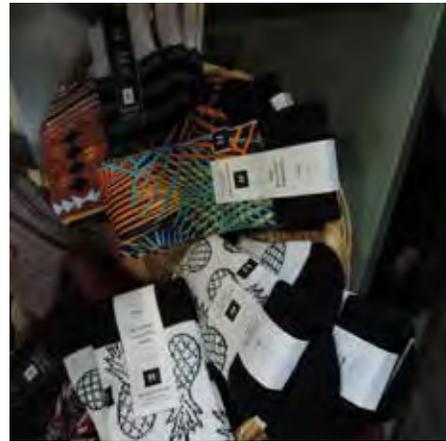
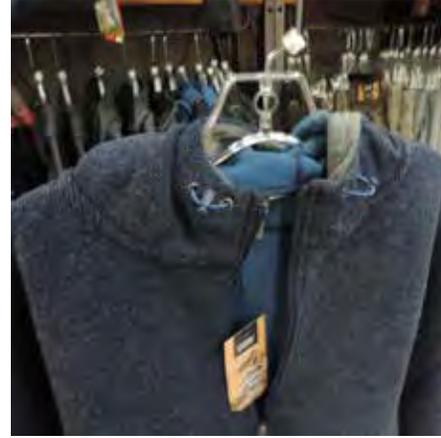
By late 2016 Calderon will have more floor space after moving his store two doors over, in the same building, to the former Marco Sports space (which moved south on Tucker Road between Isabel’s and Good News Gardening).

Shortt Supply, downtown on Oak, is best known for shoes, but it carries an extensive number of shirts, vests, hoodies, sweaters and pants, including the Mountain Life collection by Outdoor Research: jeans, \$79, all cotton shirts with check patterns, \$70; and fleece hoodies, \$99.

Warehouse, also downtown on Oak, is filled with Carhartt garments upstairs and down. There’s more to the store than that, with more and more Gorge-oriented gift items as well as belts, socks, sunglasses, hats and accessories. There’s also more to Carhartt than you might think; the line has moved beyond its hefty work duty vibe, according to owners Kelly and Garrick Fisher.

Don’t stop at the main floor; take the narrow stairs to the basement room, filled with gear and plenty of good deals: Carhartt gear from \$52 includes hoodies, hoodless denim jackets, and coats with corduroy lapels. You can get your blanket lined pants, bib overalls, and dungarees from \$64; also, fleece lined relaxed fit jeans (\$56) and a lined coat with front pockets, \$124. Warehouse also sells plain long-sleeve blue tee shirts for \$26, camo long-sleeve tees with a chest pocket, \$32; windbreakers for \$84; and heavy duty jeans for \$40 (various styles, colors, washes).

Work and everyday socks sell \$3 for \$18, and coming soon, watch for Carhartt underwear.



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Giving to a teen

What to buy? Ask them (and a few other tips)

GRACE WHITMORE

News intern

You might think that teenagers are difficult to shop for, but with a few tips from an expert like me, you'll get the hang of it in no time. Where, you might ask, are my credentials? The answer: I am a teenager myself, here to give you a guide for shopping for teenagers.

Every teen is different, but almost all have an activity that they enjoy doing. Some play a sport, some like to read, some love art. You can never go wrong with buying a teenager something that has to do with what they love.

For a teenager who loves books, head on down to Waucoma Bookstore for a new read. This shop also sells beautiful journals, perfect for the teen who wants to write. If they're in need of some new art supplies, Hood River Stationers is stocked with sketchbooks, paints, pens, and more.

For teenagers looking for some new winter gear for the upcoming season, head down to 2nd Wind Sports in town for a great supply of ski, snowboard, and mountaineering equipment. Find boots, skis, and snowboards on consignment and get a great deal!

And if you're shopping for a student who attends Hood River Valley High School, the school sells Eagle shirts and sweatshirts so kids can show their school spirit. These items also make a great memento for after high school.

Students who plan to attend college might already be thinking about what they'll need to purchase for their dorm rooms. The essentials, such as sheets, blankets, towels and pillows might make a great gift for a high school senior. Decorations, for a dorm or room at home, are also very popular. This can be anything really, including cute globe lights, posters, or new curtains.

A safe bet for any teen is a gift card, with bonus points if it's from a favorite shop in Hood River. Doug's, Maurice's, and Top-to-Bottom are popular spots for clothes, and for a coffee loving teen, Doppio, Dog River, Ten-Speed, Stoked, and Ground are some favorite gift card ideas to help them get through first period. And they're all

local! Another crowd pleaser is a gas card, to gift your teen a few more miles in their car. Valuable stuff.

Another safe bet for teens: sweets. Most of us never grown out our love of candy, especially during the holiday season. Candy canes, hot chocolate packets, and of course chocolate are favorites among most teenagers and make great stocking stuffers. Moonstruck chocolates, made in Portland, are my favorites.

Some more ideas for popular stocking stuffers that might last more than a day are: stickers, rings or other jewelry, fun socks, water bottles, and watches. Electronic accessories are also popular and easy, like earbuds, phone cases, and pop sockets.

For a teen who wants to give back, consider picking up a pair of Toms shoes from Doug's. For every pair of shoes sold, the company donates another pair to a child in need. Plus, these shoes are quite popular and stylish!

It's always a special gift to make a donation in the name of the teenager in your life, and there are many organizations in town that accept donations, such as FISH Food Bank, Helping Hands Against Violence, and The Next Door. These groups are working hard for the community, and during the holiday season, it's easy to forget about those in need as we purchase gifts for those close to us. I can say that most teenagers I know would appreciate a donation in their name.

Some other larger scale options for donations are Heifer International, an organization that works to end hunger and poverty, and World Wildlife Fund, an organization that works to conserve endangered species. When you make a donation in the name of someone else, they'll send fun gifts as well.

For a final word of advice, ask the teenager in your life what they want. No, this is not at all considered cheating. I can tell you: we love when our parents purchase us that one item we've been wanting. Sometimes it's best to keep it simple and ask them!

Grace Whitmore is a junior at HRVHS and co-editor of The Talon. Photos by Grace Whitmore



Sarah Hall, right, models an Eagle sweatshirt while fellow HRVHS junior Audrey Becker wears the 2015 Homecoming t-shirt.

Bedding and towels are dorm-room essentials for college-bound, or similarly independent, high school students.



Gifts for FOODIES

BEN MITCHELL
News staff writer

You know the type: that insufferable person who makes their own chicken stock, uses terms like “deconstructed” and “reduction,” the one who outdoes everyone else at holiday potlucks and turns up their nose at anything outside of haute cuisine. A “foodie.”

For the gourmand in your life, there’s plenty of options in the Hood River Valley for gifts, from delicious ingredients and the tools to cook them with. Here are a few selections.

Goodies at Apple Valley Country Store

Apple Valley is known around the valley for their delicious, smoky barbecue that you can order at the restaurant up in Parkdale, but their country store near Tucker Bridge has plenty of goodies as well. You can attempt to recreate their barbecue at home by purchasing a 6 ounce package of their dry rub (\$5) or pick up a 14.3 ounce bottle of the sweet barbecue sauce, or spicy barbecues sauce (\$6).

The store also has a wide variety of jams and jellies for sale, including their spicy pepper jelly. Other items include mustards, pie fillings, syrups, scone and pancake mixes... even a modest selection of lip balms, body lotions, soaps, and parfaits. Probably don’t eat that last group of items.

You can order online, but that means you would miss out on sampling all the jams and mustards at the store, paired with the finest selection of Wheat Thins this side of Mount Hood. Also, grab yourself a freshly-made milkshake while you’re there.

*Apple Valley Country Storen 2363 Tucker Rd.
(541)386-1971 <http://www.applevalleystore.com/>*

CSA from Hood River Organic

Summer and early fall is one of the best times to get fresh ingredients for your recipes, whether it’s growing produce in your own urban garden or grabbing it from a local farmers market or orchard. But what do you do in the winter?

Consider buying your friend or loved one a membership to a CSA, which stands for “Community Supported Agriculture.” A CSA is essentially a big ol’ market basket filled with a cornucopia of local food and produce. Hood River Organic offers a year-round CSA that can be picked up weekly or bi-weekly at various pickup locations around the Gorge, or for a \$5 fee, get it delivered to you, provided the person on your wish list lives in Portland or the Gorge. Items vary by season, but include fruits, vegetables, eggs, bread, cheeses, and other items. Different sizes are also available depending on the size of your family... or the size of your appetite. Visit hoodriverorganic.com/ourcsa to get set up.

For more information about local CSAs, get in touch with Gorge Grown at communications@gorgegrown.com or 541-490-6420

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Phone: 541-354-2111 Email: csa@hoodriverorganic.com

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New kitchen appliances from Paddocks

If you feel like being extra nice to someone on your list and if that person needs a kitchen makeover, consider heading up to Paddocks on the Heights. The appliance and mattress store has a litany of cooktops, microwaves, ovens, ranges, and hoods — gas, electric, and induction. Get a French-door style refrigerator, a chest freezer to store your elk kill, a kegerator for the Super Bowl (or for a Tuesday night), or a wine chiller to store your favorite vintages that will pair excellently with your foie gras. They also have appliances to help with the cleanup, like dishwashers, trash compactors, and garbage disposals.

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Quirky Gifts

Tips for amusing that offbeat someone

PATRICK MULVIHILL
News staff writer

Great gifts celebrate — rather than puzzle at — your giftee's eccentricities.

Downtown Hood River offers some offbeat gift choices, especially if you devote a whole afternoon to digging about and you don't despair in your quest. Getting sidetracked should be your mission, instead of an obstacle, because some of the funniest and most poignant offerings can pop up where you least expect them.

Here are some businesses known for their sheer variety and fun-loving nature, where just browsing around is half the fun. Amid that backdrop, ply a bit of ingenuity and you'll find something worth a big smile.

The Gift House **204 Oak St.**

A mix of tourist destination and local-centric goodie stop. Fine wines and bottled jams star in the larger west portion of the store, while the east side is chock full of funny, colorful t-shirts. One of the most popular items is the Hood River hat, with its retro font and a groovy design that would make you the envy of a vintage arcade floor. Cooler than Pong or Donkey Kong!

Hip, if even hipster options abound on the shirts. Fresh gift ideas include: a shrewd, glasses-wearing owl (and alternatively a cute, round one for a more child friendly vibe), a "one night stand" pun shirt, and a "squatch out" shirt for young fans of the mythos (or proven science, depending on your out-

look). Check out the barrels full of lil' squatches, too, if you're pining for a cuddly version of the simian monstrosity. Less cuddly, but also for sale: bigfoot hunters' tags.

Second Thought Resale Shop **112 B Oak St.**

This one tugs at your curiosity. What's waiting below, down those creaky little steps off Oak Street? It turns out to be a cozy shop full of offbeat novelties, jewelry, and some fun clothing options.

Second Thought's offerings channel a sweet sense of zen. For a fantastical friend, try an incense holder, like the proud tree man who looks like he just emerged from a clearing in the Entwood from Lord of the Rings. Buddha statues and elephants make for cheery curios. You'll also find colorful handbags with animal patterns and other designs destined for the spacey minded.

For a goofier angle, you'll find glasses with birthday candle or beer pint designs, well suited for holiday parties. There's also an array of comedic stickers, which are a joy to apply to unsuspecting buddies. Keep a full armament on your person at all times.

Gorge Dog **412 Oak St.**

Rarely are pet owners ordinary. This shop embraces that idea, with plenty of silly, yet useful options for day-to-day dog care. Food and treats go to lavish levels so you can spoil Spot. They've got treats, collars, leashes, bowls, toys, books, coats, beds, picture frames, mugs, and more.

Doggy costumes are delightfully strange, from boots to prop mustaches. Rain jackets for canines, an underrated gift, make for more comfortable adventures in the Gorge, where winters are notoriously unfriendly — rainy and wet — to Rovers and owners alike.

When you come to the shop, bring your giftee and his or her dog, so the pair can bond over their options.

Artifacts Hood River **202 Cascade Ave.**

A contender for the strangest shop in the Columbia River Gorge, Artifacts carries every shade of intrigue that your heart can desire — and then some. Owner Tom Murray explained the shop only carries art that's unintentionally bad. They have to reject some submissions for being "too good," and those get relegated to a display of shame at the shop's entrance.

Everything from poorly painted mountains to demon clowns festoon the walls. Paperbacks cover the shelves below, where you'll find classic yarns and off color humor books.

The shop has surprises for your literary friends. What better treat for an H.P. Lovecraft devotee than Cthulhu mints? I just fervently hope they're not flavored like the cosmic beast. Little octopus tentacles — designed to wear on the fingers — make for a good joke costume if you're invited to a party and you want to subvert expectations, but you forgot to grow out your trendy goatee.



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