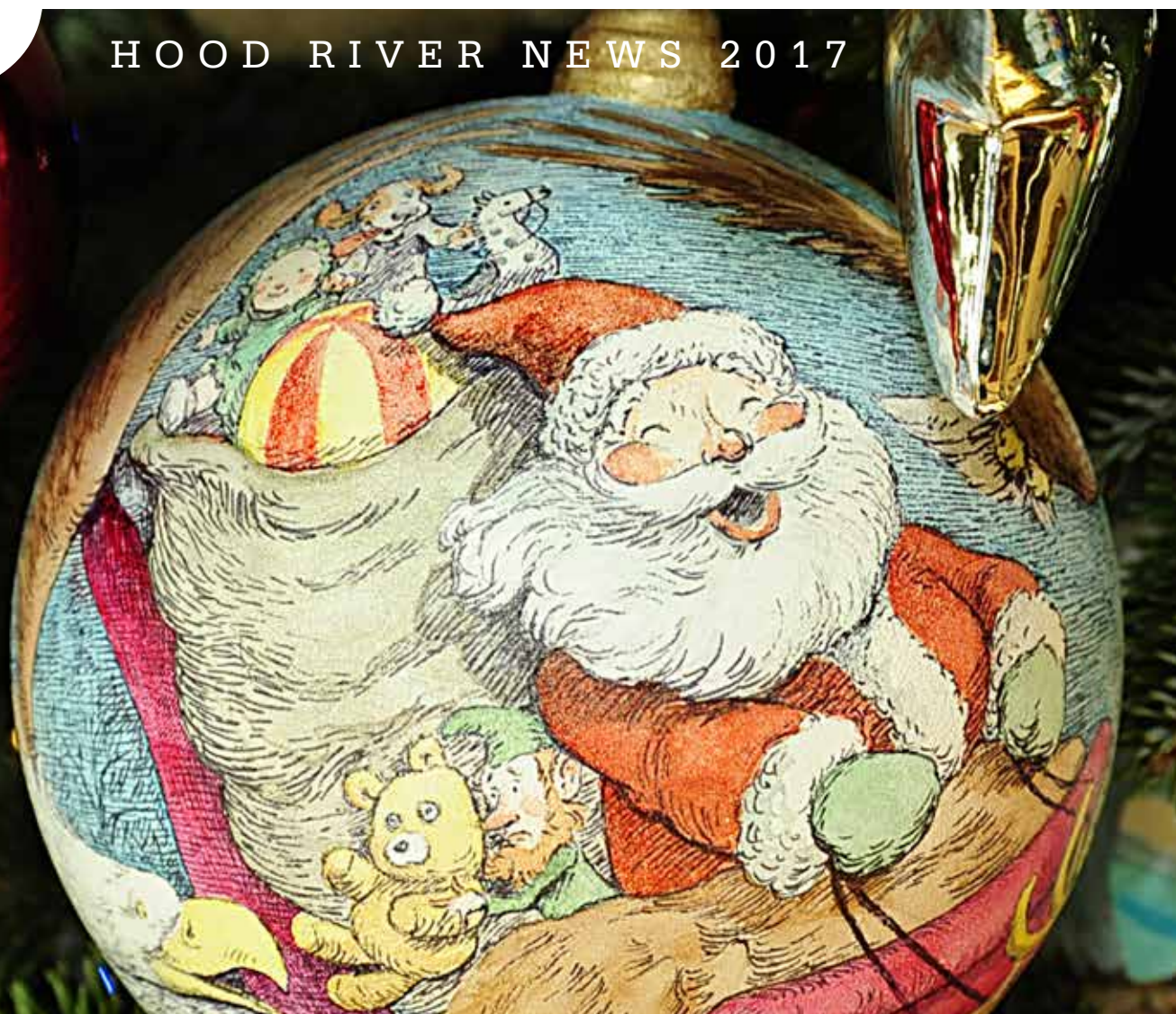


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HOOD RIVER NEWS 2017



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PETER MARBACH

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OREGON 2018 CALENDAR

PETER MARBACH



Peter Marbach is an acclaimed landscape photographer proud to call the Columbia River Gorge home. He has produced several regional books and has numerous national publication credits. He is currently documenting the entire 1,250 mile Columbia River for a lecture series and book about the potential return of the once great salmon runs into Canada.

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HOOD RIVER COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE INVITES YOU TO SHOP LOCAL 2017!

NOV. 25
SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY

DEC. 1
PARADE AND TREE LIGHTING
Hood River Holidays Shopping: 4-6pm, Holiday Parade: 6pm, Tree Lighting: 7pm

DEC. 11 - 25
FREE CUSTOMER PARKING





Books by Local Authors

PATRICK MULVIHILL
News staff writer

Bunkering down with a good book is one of winter's joys. And why not pick locally authored tales that draw their inspiration from life in the Gorge?

You can find selections at Waucoma Books, 212 Oak St.; Artifacts, 202 Cascade Ave.; and Klindt's at 315 E. Second St., The Dalles. With some guidance from Waucoma's staff, here's a sampling of recently published books by local authors:

"Search and Rescue: A Wilderness Doctor's Life-And-Death Tales of Risk and Reward"

by Christopher Van Tilburg, M.D.
A collection of harrowing first-hand accounts of search and rescue operations on Mount Hood and elsewhere, by wilderness physician and Hood River Crag Rat Dr. Christopher Van Tilburg. The tales in this 2017 release offer an inside look at how SAR teams work, as well as the importance of taking risks and how to mitigate outdoor accidents.

"All She Left Behind" by Jane Kirkpatrick
Based on true events, Kirkpatrick relays an account of Jennie Pickett, a young woman who dreams of practicing medicine in 1870s Oregon. "As Pickett struggles to keep her dream alive, she finds that the road to fulfillment winds past love, heartache, and plenty of surprises along the way," a synopsis said.

"Six Years in the Hanoi Hilton"

by Amy Shively Hawk
The book follows the author's father, Capt. James Shively, a Vietnam prisoner of war who survived six years in captivity. After being shot down over North Vietnam, U.S. Air Force fighter pilot Shively endured brutal treatment in Hanoi prison camps. Includes a foreword by Sen. John McCain.

"Death on Tap"

by Ellie Alexander
A murder mystery set in Leavenworth, Wash., following an aspiring brewer in a German-themed little town. Fans of the style will also enjoy Kate Dyer Seeley's cozy Pacific Northwest Mystery Series. Try "Slayed on the Slopes," which takes place on Mount Hood.

"Elissa Blue: Book One of The Winged"

by T.K. Perry
A young adult fantasy and romance novel in which the heroine, Elissa, gets her wings and sets off on an adventure to find a husband. The coming of age tale explores love and courtship in a human-butterfly society.

"Dishing Up the Dirt"

by Andrea Bemis
An eye-catching, simple, seasonally driven cookbook, featuring more than 100 inventive and delicious whole-foods recipes and dozens of color photographs.

Visionary Landscapes: Japanese Garden Design in North America

by Kendall H. Brown
photography by David Cobb
An elegant display of five contemporary architects, featuring photos by Cobb, who lives in Mosier. The gardens explore an experience of personal and social well-being.

"Curious Gorge" (fourth edition)

by Scott Cook
An expanded version of Cook's popular Gorge hiking guide, with plenty of obscure explorations that will appeal to locals.



Comfort Gifts

PATRICK MULVIHILL

News staff writer

Hair raising travels and hair freezing temperatures are best offset with gifts of a soothing nature. The act of shopping for comfort items can also be a Zen experience, as options are plentiful and costs flexible depending on your budget. From little candles to hot tubs, the idea is how much relaxation the gift can provide relative to cost and convenience.

Scents

Soap and lotion: Toiletries don't scream "excitement," but they give an extra touch of warmth and joy to little routine moments. Cooking and cleaning are more pleasant when you have Italian-inspired Lemon Verbena scented hand wash — and you can get it at Bealls, 1801 12th St., if you don't have time for an international flight to the boot-shaped aroma land.

For ale enthusiasts, don't forget the beer-scented soap at Pacifica Gifts. No better way to kick off a morning shower than the scent of hops.

Candles: An instant mood setter. The Yankee Candles line, available at Gorge department stores, include crowd pleasers for the family setting like "Caramel Apple Cake" and "Berrylicious." If those make you too hungry, go with "Winter Glow" or "Sparkling Snow."

Essential oil: The "essential" refers to the sanity-restoring rest period the holidays are supposed to afford. The Airome brand has relaxing eucalyptus blends. Or try the locally supplied Hood River Lavender oil you can find at the Gorge Gift House, 204 Oak St., downtown.

Softies

Bealls has great options and deals in this category, including baby blue Hannah jammies.

Blankets: Sherpa throw blankets are made to swaddle. The Great Hotels brand are 100 percent polyester and "microlight." I have no idea what that technically means, but they feel great to hug. Price: \$19.99 on sale.

Pillow neck massagers, pink and "for her," according to their boxes at Bealls. They will work for women of all ages ... and the sort of man who's willing to trade a bit of his dignity for the product's "#sorelaxing" promise. Paint it black or camo if the rosy hue bothers you.

Spa

Convert your worries to steam, and lose stress in the suds. Hot tubs are a fairly high-end luxury, but we can dream, right?

True Gorge Spas and Stoves, 1414 12th St., has a line-up of classy tubs, some equipped with gadgets smarter than your average human — we're talking multi-colored LED mood lighting, waterfall and jets galore. I witnessed joy in the painted eyes of a penguin floating around in a "Resort Series" tub, which costs a little under \$14,000.

Another top-class option with fewer gizmos, the Northwest Series hot tub, goes for \$8,295. The store has other hot gifts for cold times, namely stoves and fireplaces, evoking a Mr. Rogers Christmas special feel. Of course these appliances will also work post-holidays. That's good, because our Gorge winters are known to drag on until we get a feeble sprig of spring that snaps and gives way to summer.



For the cooks you know, and love ...

They are busy this time of year as they bake cookies, cook holiday meals and make treats for gifts.

It may be time to look for a gift that fits with what they do best.

Downtown has a couple of places to stop and pick something up for your cook: Arome on Oak and Mystic Mud (inside the Enchanted Alpaca).

Arome on Oak offers a variety of teas, spices, olive oils and balsamic vinegars. Arome also offers high-quality kitchenware.

Olive Oils: Arome has extra virgin olive oil that meet very strict standards by its maker and distributor. The olives are pressed within four hours of being picked. The freshness of the olive oil and the standards in place mean that customers will get an olive oil that has better taste and offers all the health benefits associated with olive oil. Arome's olive oils go beyond the typical olive oil. They offer infused oils. Some of the flavors include rosemary, blood orange, and Persian lime. Price: \$11 to \$32.

Balsamic Vinegar: Cooks can always find ways to use balsamic vinegar. There are meats to marinate and salads to dress and even a few desserts. It may be time to treat your cook to traditionally barrel aged vinegar. Arome's balsamic vinegar comes in the traditional to the infused — dark chocolate balsamic vinegar. Price: \$11 to \$32.

Gift Sets: If you aren't sure which vinegar or which oil to get, Arome offers sampler packs. The packs allow customers to customize the sampler with four or six of vinegars and oils. Price: Four pack — \$30; Six pack — \$44

Spices and Salts: Arome is the source for spices. The shop offers nutmeg, chili pepper and rosemary but it also offers harder to find spices. Cooks will find the Mediterranean spice Za'atar, sumac and Aleppo Chili. Arome also offers salts like black truffle sea salt and Oregon pure flake finishing salt. Price: Varies on spice.

Mystic Mud is the place to go if you want to get your cook something they can cook in or put their culinary creations on. The potter offers functional yet beautiful casseroles and platters. Mystic Mud creations can go from oven to the table. The handcrafted casseroles are designed to go in ovens as hot as 500 degrees.

Mystic Mud moved from its home at 104 Oak Street and is now found at Sophie's Enchanted Alpaca, 314 Oak.



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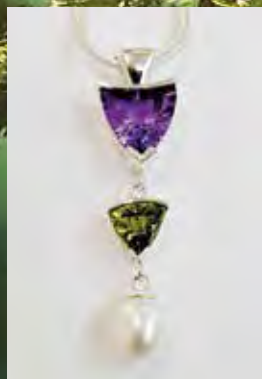
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Ciders and Distilleries



KIRBY NEUMANN-REA
News staff writer

WHEN it comes to cider, local bottle shops and grocery stores are an increasingly popular source for local Hood River and Gorge products. Taprooms at on-site cideries Slopeswell Cider and Ovino on the Heights and FoxTail in Odell, deliver a wide range of dry, sweet and tangy ciders all made from local fruit, and offer their wares in bottles or growlers (\$8 to \$25). The largest selection of local and regional ciders is found in a well-stocked cooler at Crush Cider Café, which also brews three of its own ciders at a separate location; glasses and growler fills are available on tap. The café features several varieties each of Gorge-made Slopeswell, Rivercider, Jester and Judge (Stevenson) and Runcible (Mosier) along with growler fills of its own ciders Mutt and Scruff and now Stray — shown in the glass at center — newly brewed from Newton and Hanner apples from Hood River. (You could say owners Sam and Guntram are dog-ged in their pursuit of good local cider.)

Crush Cider — 1020 Wasco St.

FoxTail — Highway 35 at Ehrck Hill Dr.

Slopeswell — 1021 12th St.

Ovino — 1209 13th St.



Speaking of growler fills, local cider can also be tapped at the following locations:

- Gorge White House, farm-produced cider in an expanded and updated tasting room, Highway 35 in Pine Grove
- Rack and Cloth, tasting room in downtown Mosier
- Mtn. View Orchards, pouring Golden Row, orchard-in-a-glass from the Parkdale-area farm on Trout Creek Ridge Road (check website for availability)
- Draper Girls, Highway 35 in Mt. Hood, starting again in spring 2018, but look for it at Crush all winter

FOXTAIL of Odell has expanded its bottled availability to Sir Isaac (its first, shown), Fuzzy Haven and Pear Affair, all in 22-oz., available at the Highway 35 café and in area groceries or bottle shops.

OVINO (aka Gorge Cider House) was among the first to produce cider commercially in Hood River. Stefan Gumperlein offers growler fills of his classic aged Newtown-Pippin cider; look for his cider infused with honey from Dee beekeeper Billy Edwards — in another year or so.

DRY CIDER from Double Mountain Brewery, a taproom favorite for the last three years, is now available in bottles at Double Mountain, 8 Fourth St. “For our first Dry Cider, we kept it simple and local,” notes grower and brewer Matt Swihart, who uses a blend of freshly harvested local heirloom apples from Double Mountain Orchards near Odell and local Hood River Newtowns, Braeburns, Hanners and other apples for old world complexity. Find it in bottle shops as available, and on tap and in bottles at the brewery.

BOOKS and other ferment-related items are on the shelves at Waucoma Bookstore; shown are just a few titles, and a Drink Tac Toe game, all in the \$20 range.

CAMP 1805 plans a Nov. 21 release of 100 Lashes bourbon (label not ready at press time), joining its stable of Mt. Hood vodka, Backbone rum, Surveyors Bourbon Barrel rum, Endurance white whiskey, and Downstream aged whiskey (375 ml, \$14 to \$26, and 750 ml, \$24 to \$48). 100 Lashes will be the first bourbon distilled commercially in Hood River. The 100 Lashes name continues the "tie-in to the Lewis and Clark theme," said Chris Taylor of Camp 1805, at 501 Portway. (\$35, 375 ml only.)

HRD — Hood River Distillers' — downtown tap room and retail space, 304 Oak St., next to Doppio, provides a trove of distilled spirits, including brandy, grappa, gin, liqueurs, and flavored spirits (\$5.35 to \$49.95). HRD is best known for McCarthy single malt whiskey (\$54.95 for 750 ml) and pear brandy with the whole fruit in the bottle (\$79.95) made from Hood River fruit and distilled currently in Portland.

HRD staff can suggest a variety of options for cocktail DIY, ranging from mixing syrups and other Oregon-made ingredients to glass and metal ware. Prices range widely, starting with traditional stocking stuffer mini bottles.

LUCID: Get a little adventurous and get that sophisticated someone a kit comprising French-made Lucid absinthe (\$32.75 for 350 ml), spoon and dripping device known as balancier (add \$20 for hardware).

A VISIT to HRD on Oak Street is not complete without the one-room museum of HRD, and Hood River distilling itself. Located inside what had been the vault in the former First National Bank building, the room includes a well-lit timeline and artifact case and looping series of videos dating to the early 20th century.

NEWLY DISTILLED: Odell-area distillers FoxTail and Wanderback began distributing bottled spirits this year, joining existing distillers HRD and Camp 1805.

FoxTail vodkas (Peach, Blueberry, Raspberry and flagship Orchard vodka) all are made with juice from local fruit and are available at the Highway 35 café, joining the cidery's wide array of house ciders. Samples are available. In Spring 2018: brandy, from owner Bob Fox and brewer/distiller Justin Cardwell. Wanderback whiskey, made in Seattle (for now) and aged in a restored Odell-area barn by owner Phil Downer, is available at Oregon liquor stores, including Hood River, and at Whiskey Tango on Oak Street if you want a taste. Downer has plans to move distilling to Hood River County, but his aged whisky starts with barley he grows on his property.

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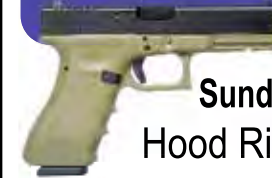
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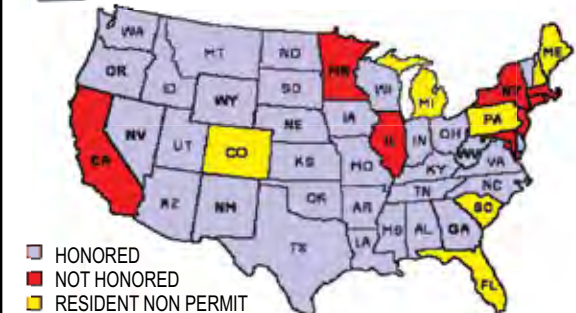
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Gifts for getting OUTDOORS

RJ CHAVEZ, News staff writer



Doug's Sorels - \$140

A tall boot that's ideal for those chilly winter days. This boot not only has some serious tread, but it also has major protection and a new sportier design. Stomp through the snow and slush without feeling a drip with the boot's water proof suede and textile upper and waterproof breathable membrane construction. The Sorels are a perfect boot to keep warm in the cold days with its 100g insulation and a soft, cozy micro fleece lining.

Volcom Jacket (Gortex) - \$280

Whether you're riding up on the mountain or taking a walk outside, the Volcom Jacket with GORE-TEX guarantees to keep you dry, as well as comfortable. The

GORE-TEX is a 2-layer laminate

shell for ultimate waterproofing, with a C-Science breathable lining system to keep the moisture off you. Although it's a heavy-duty jacket, this is just as much as a standard fit than a jacket for the mountain. This jacket allows for easy layering on those extra chilly days and if things get to warm there are zippered vents that gives excess heat a way to escape. GORE-TEX keeps you dry in the harshest conditions, sheds moisture for maximum comfort and keeps a focus on comfort and mobility.

Also shown: Hat 20, pants 180, and Snowboard (Burton) 279

Skis – Salomon \$70-150

For those ready to hit the slopes, considering your dived into your mountain experience with a pair of Salomon skis. A smooth All-Terrain Rocker in the tip, will help deflect snow with ease as you cruise your way down the mountain. The Salomon skis give you the best chance to tackle any snow that may be up on the mountain, so if you're ready to ride, grab a pair of these.

Also shown: Ski boots (Dalbello) \$350-750

HR Bikes

Fender Mucky Nutz – 15\$

With mud covering the ground of Hood River in the winter, it may be annoying when riding your bike around town that your bike spits up mud all over your pants. Well with the Fender Mucky Nutz from the Hood River Bicycle shop, say goodbye to the mud and hello to clean pants! This gift is the perfect



Brisker gloves and Dalbello ski boots

accessory for a bike in the winter time, as it's placed near the top of the front tire and on the body of the bike to deflect mud from splattering upwards.

Brisker Gloves – \$30

These gloves will do anyone good in the cold weather. With a single-layer Clarino palm for comfort and a lightly insulated soft-shell top hand that creates a barrier against colder temps this glove is perfect for keeping your hands warm and dry in the winter. Also, a silicone printed palm graphics on this glove increases grip in damp conditions and a moisture-wicking microfiber interior provides the perfect level of insulation. These gloves are the perfect gift for anyone's stocking.

Hood River Bicycle hoodie and other clothing items – \$10 – 35

The Organic/Eco Hoody is a light dry-fit jacket designed by the Hood River Bicycle staff that does a great job in the winter season of helping you keep dry and deflect the rain off your body. The hoody is **\$35** and can be combined with other items in the story, Hood River Bicycle shop designed, like hats, shorts, shirt and athletic gear. There's much more to this story then just bikes and if you've got a bike enthusiast in your household, this store screams their name.

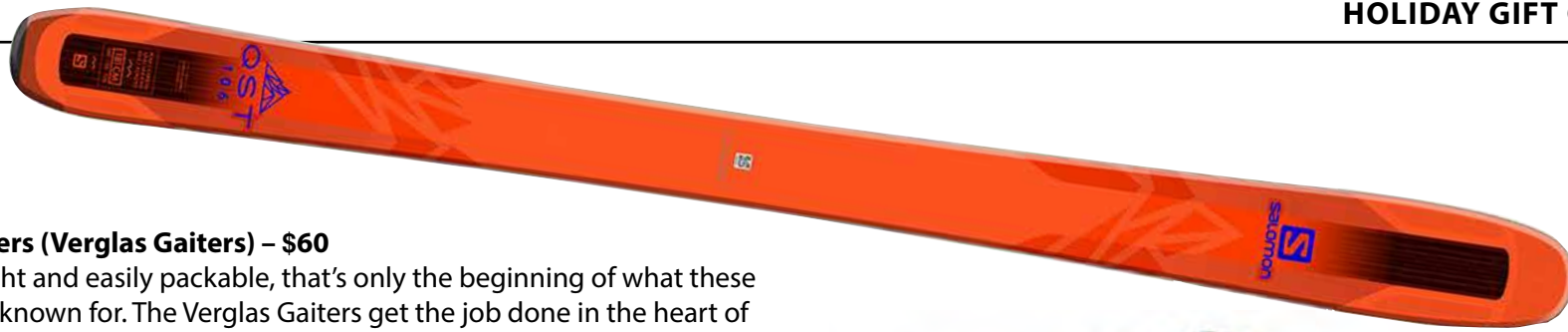
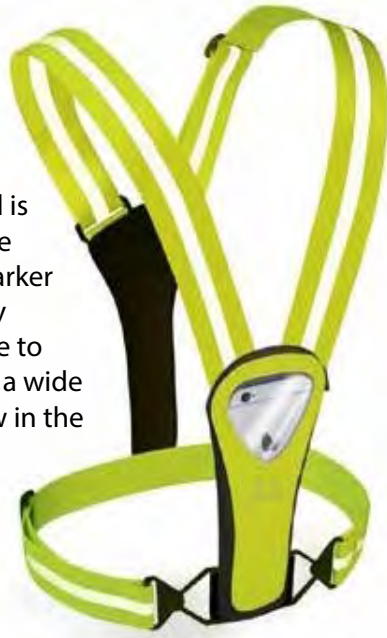


Boot Covers (Verglas Gaiters) – \$60

Lightweight and easily packable, that's only the beginning of what these boots are known for. The Verglas Gaiters get the job done in the heart of the winter as they're built with Cordura and Pertex Shield waterproof and breathable fabric. A Pertex shield represents a fusion of technically advanced fabrics that combines wind and water protection with ultimate comfort, by reducing condensation build-up within the garment. Sizes range from women's 5-11 and men's 4-13.

Amphipod (Reflective Vest) – \$40

There's always going to be someone who enjoys running outside than inside, no matter the conditions, and this gift is the perfect one for that person. The Amphipod is a reflective running vest with a comfortable and lightweight feel to it. With it getting darker earlier in the winter, this is a gift that is very important for those doing activities outside to keep safe. The vest has a pocket that holds a wide range of smartphones, with a clear window in the pocket to allow the use of a smartphone's light or video. It's size adjustable, so once you find the right fit it'll continue to feel brand new. The Amphipod is a visibility solution.



Ice and snow traction aids (duenorth) – \$20

Tungsten carbon spikes at the bottom of these ice and snow traction aids last longer and hold an ice piercing edge better than steel. It's simple, this traction aid is a soccer that essentially goes right over your shoes to provide a better grip on ice and snow. The traction aids have a tread design with ice diamond spikes to provide better comfort. The aids also have a unique rubber compound that holds strong in subzero conditions. With the new toe-box design, the aids enhance fit and function for most shoe types.

Neon Bands (Fuel Belt) – \$8

Adding this item to the Amphipod reflective vest will make you look like a giant glow stick. These neon bands are for ultimate visibility around your ankles and wrists. The bands fit all ankles and wrists with their snap-on design. The safety film is reflective from dusk to dawn and in wet or dry conditions.



HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS



Nov. 23 — Twin Tunnels Turkey Trot, 10 a.m. to noon at Mark Hatfield West Visitor Center Historic Columbia River Highway State Trail, Hood River. Annual benefit for Mosier Community School's after-school clubs and extracurricular activities. Run or walk a 3K, 5K, or 12K course on the historic highway trail from Hood River towards Mosier. Edible prizes for the top finishers in each race and for the best turkey costume. Carpooling recommended as parking is limited. Adults \$15 pre-registered, \$20 day of; children under 18, \$5.

Nov. 23 — Free Community Thanksgiving, noon-3 p.m. at Riverside Community Church. Meal will additionally be served at the Port Pavilion in Cascade Locks from noon-2 p.m. Meal delivery to HR, Parkdale, Odell, Mosier and Cascade Locks. Volunteers needed; contact Debby Chenoweth at 541-399-2384 or chenowethd@gmail.com.

Nov. 24 — Starlight Parade and Community Tree Lighting, 4-10 p.m. in The Dalles. Kick-off to the holiday season.

Nov. 24 — Oregon State Parks invites you to play for free on Nov. 24 in celebration of "Green Friday." The agency will waive day-use parking fees in 26 Oregon State Parks the day after Thanksgiving. For details see oregonstateparks.org

Nov. 25 — Wamic Community Holiday Bazaar, 9-4 p.m. at the Community Center, Market Road, Wamic. Gifts, decorations, handcrafted specialty items.

Nov. 25-26 — Hutson Museum Craft Fair, Parkdale. Ring in the holiday season with regional artisans including crafts, pottery, jewelry, home décor, lavender products, paintings and more. Hot cider, cookies available ... and maybe a surprise

visit from Santa; \$1 admission to benefit museum.

Nov. 27 to Dec. 8 — Wreath Contest, Parkhurst Place (judging and wreath purchase on Dec. 9) create a wreath, proceeds go to low-income families and seniors. Individuals or groups may enter; for details call 541-387-4600 or visit: hoodrivercounty-christmasproject.com

Dec. 1 — Hood River Holidays Kick-off, 4-7 p.m. downtown Hood River. Parade begins at 6 p.m. Tree lighting to follow at 7 p.m.

Dec. 1 — Advent Concert Series, noon at Riverside Community Church. Free, performers to be announced.

Dec. 1-2 — Festival of Trees, The Dalles Civic Auditorium, The Dalles. Community Day Dec. 2, 9-noon; free admission.

Dec. 1-2 — Happy Hands Craft and Bake Sale, 10-3 p.m. daily at Spirit of Grace Church, 1140 Tucker. Saturday cookie walk; bake sale, cream puffs, novelty gift items, scrubbers, tea towels and more.

Dec. 1-3 — Dallesport-Murdock Christmas Bazaar, 11-6 p.m. Friday and 9-5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Handcrafted gifts, jewelry, quilts, ceramics, toys and food items.

Dec. 2-3 — "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens, opens at Wy'east Middle School Performing Arts Center, 7:30 p.m., Lynda Dallman directs the Plays for Non-Profits Production; \$20 adults, \$15 students/seniors; www.showtix4u.com.

Dec. 2-3 — "Cascade Singers' holiday concert, Mozart's "Missa Brevis in F Major and Martin Luther Christmas Music". The Mozart Mass is a short work based on the traditional Roman Catholic liturgy.

The Luther pieces honor the 500th anniversary of the Reformation and reflect the reformer's project of bringing congregational singing back into the church's worship. Other music by Mozart and J.S. Bach will also be featured. Zion Lutheran Church, 10th and Union Streets, The Dalles. Saturday's concert begins at 7 p.m. and the Sunday concert starts at 3 p.m. Admission is by donation at the door.

Dec. 2 — Holiday Bazaar, 9-3p.m. at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 11th and Eugene. Gifts for all ages including children, men and pets. Handcrafted items, baked goods, holiday décor, jewelry, artwork.

Dec. 2 — Habitat for Humanity Christmas Bazaar, 10-2 p.m. at United Church of Christ, 111 E Fifth St., The Dalles. Crafts, baked goods; homemade soup lunch with rolls, beverages and slice of pie, \$5.

Dec. 2 — Christmas in the Gorge, 10-3 p.m. at Skamania County Fairgrounds, 650 Rock Creek Road, Stevenson. Handcrafted items; free admission.

Dec. 2-3 — Shaniko Bazaar, 10-3 p.m. at Shaniko Schoolhouse, Shaniko.

Dec. 2-3 — Mosier County Christmas Fair, 10-4 p.m. at Mosier Community School. Photos with Santa, 11-3 p.m. both days. More than 65 vendor booths featuring artisans, crafts, food and more.

Dec. 3 — Goldendale Christmas Bazaar, 9-4 p.m. at 318 W Brooks Street, Goldendale. Home-made craft items, food items and unique gifts.

Dec. 3 — Festival of Lights, 3-5 p.m. at Cascade Locks City Hall. Pictures with Santa, music, refreshments and crafts for the kids.

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS



Dec. 3 — Holiday Benefit Concert with Aaron Meyer, 3:30 p.m. in the Gorge Room, Best Western Plus Hood River Inn. Benefit for United Way. Tickets \$60 preferred seating, includes glass of wine/beer and appetizers and a pre-concert party with Meyer. General admission \$20, kids 12 and under \$15 at Waucoma, at the door, unitedway@gorge.net or 541-386-6100.

Dec. 5-7 — Rural Craft Revival, 5-8 p.m. at Springhouse Cellars. Art and pottery, books, candles, jewelry, kids, prints and cards, and more. More at ruralcraftrevival.com.

Dec. 7-8 — Holiday Market at MCMC, 9-3 p.m. at Mid-Columbia Medical Center, 801 E 19th St., The Dalles. Handmade crafts, jewelry, bags, pottery, gourmet food and more.

Dec. 8 — Advent Concert Series, noon at Riverside Community Church. "Threeform" (Tim Mayer and company); free.

Dec. 8-9 — "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens, opens at Wy'east Middle School Performing Arts Center, 7:30 p.m., Lynda Dallman directs the Plays for Non-Profits Production; \$20 adults, \$15 students/seniors; www.showtix4u.com.

Dec. 9 — Holiday Breakfast, 8-9:30 a.m. at Mid-Columbia Senior Center, 1112 W Ninth, The Dalles. All you can eat pancakes, scrambled eggs, bacon, fruit and beverage. \$6 person, \$3 children 12 and under. Supports Mid-Columbia Senior Center.

Dec. 9 — Wreath Contest, 10-2 p.m. at Parkhurst Place. Annual event; make a wreath and donate to Parkhurst Place before 5 p.m. Nov. 27-Dec. 8. Entries will be judged and purchased by the public, with proceeds benefiting the Hood River County Christmas Project. Stop by Dec. 9 to judge and purchase a wreath. Live entertainment, snacks

and beverages.

Dec. 9 — "Merry Christmas, Strega Nona," family-friendly theater, at Columbia Center for the Arts, 2 and 7 p.m. (columbiaarts.org; \$20 adults, \$15 student/seniors and \$8 children under 10.)

Dec. 9 — A Hometown Christmas Bazaar, 9-3 p.m. at St. Alphonsus Hall, Corner of First and Church streets, Dufur. Featuring the Altar Society's famous bake sale and presented by the Dufur Valley Porcelain Artists.

Dec. 9 — Second Saturday at WAAAM Air and Auto Museum, 9-5 p.m. Activities 10-2 p.m., lunch 11-1 p.m. Free parking.

Dec. 9 — Goldendale Farmers' Market Holiday Bazaar, 9:30-3 p.m. at Goldendale Primary School, Goldendale. Gifts and food items.

Dec. 9 — Wahtonka Community School Holiday Bazaar, 10-4 p.m. at Wahtonka Community School, 3601 W 10th, The Dalles. Pictures with Santa and Mrs. Claus, Rudolph and an elf.

Dec. 9-10 — Last Chance Holiday Bazaar, 10-4 p.m. at the Hood River County Fairgrounds. Details at hoodriverfair.org/events.

Dec. 10 — "Merry Christmas, Strega Nona," family-friendly theater, at Columbia Center for the Arts, 2 and 7 p.m. (columbiaarts.org)

Dec. 10 — "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens, opens at Wy'east Middle School Performing Arts Center, 1:30 p.m. (www.showtix4u.com)

Dec. 14 — Tree of Remembrance Memorial, 5:30 p.m. at Anderson's Tribute Center, Hood River. Decorate an ornament in memory of a loved one; live music. Can be placed on Tree of Remembrance and taken home later, or taken home that night.

Dec. 14-15 — "Merry Christmas, Strega Nona," family-friendly theater, at Columbia Center

for the Arts, 7 p.m. (columbiaarts.org)

Dec. 15 — Advent Concert Series, noon at Riverside Community Church. Hood River Valley High School choir; free.

Dec. 15-16 — "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens, opens at Wy'east Middle School Performing Arts Center, 7:30 p.m. (www.showtix4u.com)

Dec. 15 and 17 — Voci Choir Presents Sacred Traditions at Hood River Middle School. Music from around the world. Times, tickets and details at www.gorgeorchestra.org.

Dec. 17 — "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens, opens at Wy'east Middle School Performing Arts Center, 1:30 p.m. (www.showtix4u.com)

Dec. 16 — "Merry Christmas, Strega Nona," family-friendly theater, at Columbia Center for the Arts, 2 and 7 p.m. (columbiaarts.org)

Dec. 17 — Handel's Messiah Community Concert, 7 p.m. at St. Peter's Landmark Church, The Dalles. Free community concert.

Through Dec. 24 — Columbia Center for the Arts Annual Holiday Art Show and Sale, 215 Cascade Ave., Hood River. This annual events people in the spirit for giving original arts and fine crafts created by artists living and working in the Columbia Gorge region.

Dec. 30 — Freeze Your Gizzard Blizzard 5K Fun Run, 10-noon at the Lewis and Clark Festival Park. Co-sponsored by the Colonel Wright Athletic Department; follows The Dalles Riverfront Trail. \$25 registration fee; free for all District 21 elementary students.

Drive-through Nativity at Church of the Nazarene will not take place in 2017.

Gifts made in, or at least for, the Gorge

are not hard to find. From calendars to jams, the range is pleasing to the eye and the palate (and wallet.)

KIRBY NEUMANN-REA
News staff writer

HATS, shirts and hoodies from The Gift House, 204 Oak St., range in price from \$20 to \$30 and come in a wide variety of messages and themes, from Sasquatch, beer and cannabis to skateboarding, fishing and kiting.

MUGS and t-shirts and trucker hat at Hood River Stationers run from \$19.95 to \$26; the t's come in kids and adult sizes. The hats and shirts are the only known item bearing Hood River's latitude-longitude coordinates, so the recipient can always find her or her way home.

AT HOOD RIVER STATIONERS, 213 Oak St., local products include Rag-A-Muffin original designs by the mother-daughter team of Anne Barstow and Marcia Spooner of The Dalles; designs and sizes vary, \$44 to \$50.

IN ODELL, check out Packer Farms' white honey, held by Leslie Cardenas (\$8 for 10 ounces, \$13 for 16 ounces and \$24 for 32 ounces) or a wide variety of jams (peach with peppers, anyone?) for \$8 for 10 ounces, or two for \$15). Packer Farms is located about a mile south of Odell on Highway 35.

AT HUCKLEBERRY's in Rosauers (a stocking-stuffer haven) find Stoked Stix, instant coffee packets in Dark Roast and Medium; eight packets for \$6.95, from Hood River's Stoked Roasters, located on Portway Avenue.

SCENIC wonders of the Gorge and Oregon fill two new 2018 calendars by Hood River photographer Peter Marbach. Printed in Hood River at Columbia Gorge Press, Marbach's calendars present high-quality images of the Gorge and Oregon in all seasons, including his visits to less-known and hard-to-reach locations. The Oregon calendar features Marbach's Aug. 21 solar eclipse image of Monkey Face in central Oregon. (\$12.95, Hood River News, Waucoma Bookstore, Klindt's Bookstore, other locations.)

ART COLLECTIVES

Art on Oak, 210 Oak St., features a wide variety of local arts and crafts, including Lynn Lewis' Crisp and Tart linens, with numerous vivid designs (\$17) and Big Herm's sea salts (\$7 for a tin or \$2.50 for a stocking stuffer-sized tube. Also shown, ReThink Crafts from Cynthia Caudill: notebooks, toys, hats, purses and even sandwich holders, ranging from \$5 to \$20. That and a few remaining Oregon treasures: coasters and trivets made from the famous former PDX carpeting.



Columbia Center for the Arts, 213 Cascade St. — art cards by local artists (\$9 to \$25, card numbers vary) are available, among other changing selection of art and related items, depending on the season and exhibits. These sets are by Rachel Harvey (top), Jan Muir, Cyndi Strid, and Bonnie White.

Columbia River Artists Collective — inside The Frame Gallery at Fourth and Oak streets, the collective set up space this summer with a dozen or so local artists displaying and selling prints, watercolors, sculpture, jewelry, photography and more. Examples Abigail Merickel's ceramic art tiles (six inches, \$17) and Sally Reichmuth's oils including "Bon Nuit Soleil" (\$300).

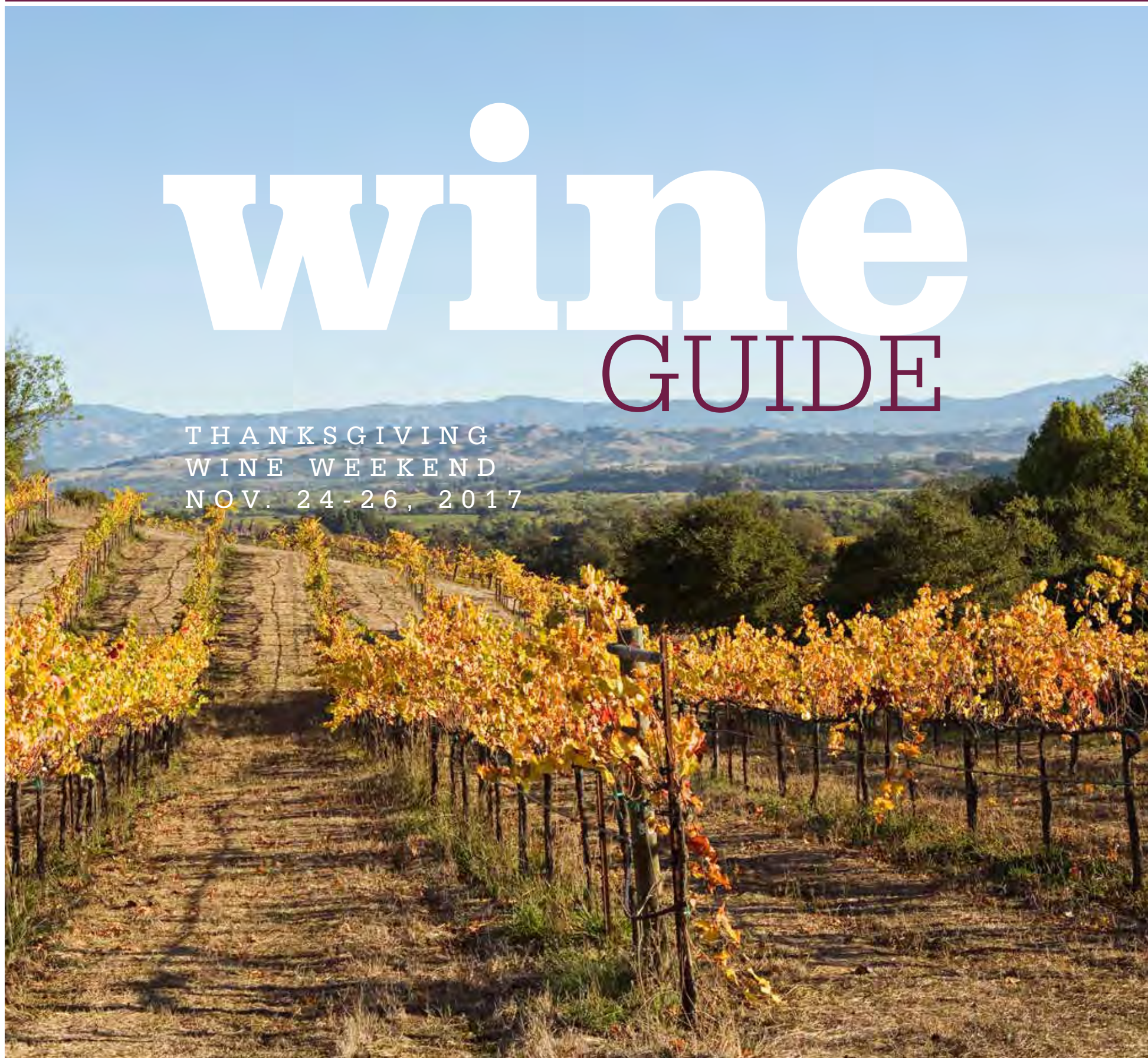
Made in the Gorge, 108 Oak St., has been a mainstay for almost 17 years. Current artists range from Linda Steider's nature photography on metal print (8 by 10, \$120) to glass by Charlene Fort (\$52-\$80). Also showing are Katey Ellen Price (oils), Kevin Bligh (metalworks), Terina Sorensen (jewelry), and potter Steve Daniel, one of the cooperative's original artist.



WINERIES OF THE COLUMBIA RIVER GORGE

wine GUIDE

THANKSGIVING
WINE WEEKEND
NOV. 24-26, 2017





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Marble Maze: Noralie Rice, 3, of Parkdale, drops a marble into the expandable from Q-Ba-Maze, from MindWare, starting at \$28.

Waucoma Bookstore in Downtown Hood River has a variety of kids presents for the gift-giving season, from puppets to chapter books.

No matter their age, kids love reading books on their favorite topics. Waucoma has several 5-Minute Stories for the less advanced readers, in addition to revamped versions of literary classics for older children. Jane Eyre, The Romantic Poets, and several others are available at Waucoma with beautiful, vibrant new covers and pictures; even if they never get read, they sure do look pretty just sitting on the book shelf.

Although the youngest of gift-receivers may not be as excited for the holidays, they can still sport the cutest of book merchandise. Clifford is just one of the many titles Waucoma has available in children clothes, so stop by their Downtown Hood River location if you're shopping for your little one.

Dressing up in captivating costumes is a classic kid favorite, and several sets are available at Waucoma. Whether your child prefers princesses or ninjas, Melissa & Doug has you covered with creative ensembles for your extravagant child. If you don't, however, find the costume you're looking for, more types are also sold www.melissaanddoug.com.

Puppets are widely loved by children of various ages, and Waucoma has an impressive selection. From elephants to monkeys, they're sure to carry the animal you're seeking. The puppets in stock are cuddly, plush, and perfect for a child's Christmas gift.

If the child you're shopping for is an avid Harry Potter fan, a corresponding puzzle or activity could be a great present. The puzzles available are of ranging piece amounts, and are appropriate for a variety of ages. Metal Earth also stocks kits that your child can construct on their own, and are smaller gifts that offer serious entertainment.

Melissa & Doug also makes various inexpensive gifts that are perfect for the most curious kids. Rescue, work site, and safari rugs are great for your adventurous child. The package comes with the rug itself and several cars or animals, all offering hours of fun. Water-reveal and glitter pads are available in a few themes, and require very little creativity to create a beautiful image. If you're seeking stocking stuffers that won't break the bank, stop into Waucoma Bookstore or visit www.melissaanddoug.com for extensive options.

FOR KIDS

Other stores, such as Apple Green on the Heights or the Hood River Hobbies are also great spots that can surely help you shop for your child.
Mad Mattr-

This irresistible stretchy moldable non-drying matter by the makers of kinetic sand is a favorite of all the kids and their parents that come visit Hood River Hobbies. The Ultimate Brick Maker set takes it a step further and makes Mad Mattr into a lego building set. Come by and get your hands on some and enjoy the tactile sensation. (Under \$25)

Trading Card Games, either Pokemon or Magic the Gathering, make a great gift. Start with a deck for new players or a binder and some booster packs. Add some dice for spice! Hood River Hobbies has supervised clubs just for kids to learn to play, learn strategy, and socialize face to face with other kids that share their interests. Pokemon club is every Wednesday and Magic the Gathering for Kids is on Sunday afternoons. Come by for more info or check our website www.hoodriverhobbies.com (Under \$20 or supplies, class is only \$5 per time drop in)

Drone - Dromida Vista

Take to the skies and master radio-controlled drone flight. The Dromida Vista is a crash-tough tried and true model that can do flips and rolls. Buy it from Hood River Hobbies and we will help you fix it after a crash or troubleshoot settings — they provide free service after sales! Enroll in their indoor flying class in the school gym and get instruction and practice. This inexpensive and fun class through Hood River Community Education will start Jan. 6 on Saturday evenings. Come by for more info or check our website www.hoodriverhobbies.com (Drone under \$50, class is only \$5 per time)



GET tactile with these updates on traditional toys, but some new twists (literally) at G. Williker's

SQUISHIES:

Kiibru "You squish them, that is all," said Megan Gauthier of G. Williker's. "Some of them smell. I have watched 10-year-old girls walk in here, and grab these up." They range in price from \$5 to \$18, and come in animals, such as panda and lion, and food — some including strawberry are scented.

SILLY PUTTY:

Crazy Aarons, UV reactive thinking putty, aka "sophisticated putty," in Magnetism, Cosmics, Phantoms, Liquid Glass and other themes; \$15 for a 3.2 ounce container; smaller sizes cost \$6 and \$3.50. Go larger with a Mixed By Me kit, either "Glow in the Dark" and "Holographic," \$20; comes with five tins of clear putty, three color concentrates for special effects, six colored pencils, six customizable tin labels, and one mixing mat "with ideas for color formulas."

Board Games: ENTER the Labyrinth, in two modes — either the board game for spatial reasoning (Brio, \$45) — or the kinetic marble-and-holes Labyrinth by Ravensburger, one of the first hand-held games (\$34).

Balls: Switch Pitch, by Hoberman (\$8) an expandable six-inch ball you flip and spin to let centripetal force open it up and change colors. The technology is based on that used the design of pop-up emergency shelters

VINYL STICK ONS

Colorforms, interchangeable vinyl pieces have been around since 1951, and are now repackaged for a new generation, but the same appeal: attach these shapes and figures to any glossy surface and create simple figures to elaborate designs. For \$35, you get a spiral-bound activity book, 350 colored Colorforms, and a play board.





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Offers are available only at Hood River Supply. Product selection/color, sale items, prices and quantities may vary by store. Some items may require assembly. Return and "rain check" policies vary by store; please see your Ace store for details. Product selection and prices at acehardware.com vary from those in this advertisement. Prices are valid through November 30, 2017, while supplies last. See store for details and additional exclusions.

*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® or 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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ADVENTURE IN THE COLUMBIA RIVER GORGE



GINGER SHEPPARD,
News staff writer

Adventure is a key part of life in the Columbia Gorge. It comes in different forms from leisurely bike tours of the gorge to groomed snow trails perfect for snowshoeing. Adventure is a great way to simply enjoy the region. It is also a great gift to give. So where to start?

Let's start with the leisurely adventure.



The Mt. Hood Meadows crew knows that adventure is more than just gear — it is experience. The ski resort hosts ski school to help people get the most out of their adventure. It starts with the instructors. At Mt. Hood Meadows, instructors aren't focusing on all the technical elements students are getting wrong. Instead, they work with the students to help them quickly move from the training area to the vista. Crews have shaped the terrain in the training area, so students get more sliding down hill experience. The goal is to get students to the vista on their first day. When they get to the vista, they will be treated to panoramic views of Central Oregon. Adventure, after all, comes with breathtaking memories.

The best way for you to gift a friend or love one this adventure is to purchase a \$100 gift card from Mt. Hood Meadows. This way they can book the day and time that works for them. The \$100 gift card will cover the cost of the lessons and rental (\$89 if they register online) and give them a little spending money for food or souvenirs.

And it doesn't just have to be grown-ups that are treated to lessons. Mt. Hood Meadows offers lessons for children. They plan to host three-day workshops during the holiday break. The ski resort hosts multi-week programs called Snoblasters and Trailblazers. Here children, get lessons and develop their skills. Each program is based on grade.

To learn more, visit Mt. Hood Meadows online at skihood.com.



ADVENTURE IN THE COLUMBIA RIVER GORGE

MountNBarrel combines wine tasting and bike tours. Owner Ali McLaughlin started MountNBarrel as way to combine two passions: biking and wine. It came to her one day as she rode through the area, tasting wine: the area was beautiful, and the wineries had so much to offer. She asked herself, how could she make it come together — and then MountNBarrel was born. Customers are treated to a tour through the area, sampling the fruit of the vine and picking seasonal fruit.

McLaughlin offers two tours or allows riders to create a custom tour. The first tour is called the OG — short for Oak Grove. The 6- to 7-mile ride takes riders through the Oak Grove area (the westside of Hood River) with stops at a u-pick farm and area wineries. This tour is \$149 per person and includes wine tastings and light lunch pairings. A second option is the Pine Grove tour. This 8-mile ride includes wine and cider tasting as well stops at u-pick farms for \$159 a person. Pine Grove riders are also treated to a farm-to-foodtruck lunch.

Oregon E-Bikes has a way for you to ride through town, enjoy the views but get a little help as you pedal. They offer the electric bike. It is a bicycle with an electric assist. The e-bike lets a user get the benefit of pedaling but gets a little help. The e-bike makes it a little easier. It good tool to cruise and even to commute to work. It is also popular with customers. Oregon E-Bikes has received mostly positive reviews. In fact, workers say they frequently hear customers giggle after the purchase and start riding their e-bike. E-bikes start at \$1,200. Purchasing isn't the only option, you. Oregon E-Bikes offers bike rentals. Packages start at \$20 per hour to \$99 for an overnight rental.

Discover Bicycle staffers know that a bike on a dusty trail is just an awesome way to see the Columbia Gorge. They say that biking offers an awesome experience and is a great way to see the gorge. The area has several trails such as Syncline, Seven Streams and Dog River that are perfect for a mountain bike adventure. Bikes can be rented from Discover Bicycle. For a 24-hour period, an individual can rent a mountain bike at \$75; \$150 for a couple.

Mountain biking isn't the only option. The views that people can take in by riding along the roads or other trails, like the Mosier Tunnels. For a similar rate to the mountain bike rental, a person can rent a bicycle to ride. Discover Bicycle also offers e-bikes for those riders that need a little assistance — or those that don't want to work as hard. Those bikes are rented for \$20 an hour.

2nd Wind is can help you find a gift for your friend or loved one that likes adventure in the cold, white tundra. Or they think they do. The downtown shop offers gear for Alpine skiers, Nordic skiers and snowboarders. But they know how important it is to try gear first. 2nd Wind rents ski equipment. It is a good way to try the gear and a good way to see if winter adventure is right for you. A classic cross-country ski package or the skate cross country ski package can run between \$25 (one day) to \$100 (five to seven days). For those interested in Alpine skiing, the company provides an Alpine Demo package starting at \$45 for one day to \$90 for two to three days. If skiing isn't the adventure you want to give as a gift, try snowshoeing. 2nd Wind rents snowshoes — it is \$10 for one day and \$40 for five to seven days.

Skamania Aerial Park and Zipline can help you give the gift of flight — well sort of. The zipline adventure lets you put on a harness, hook up to cable and slide through the forest canopy. The tour takes riders along seven different lines — one is 900 feet lines. No experience is necessary since Skamania Aerial Park and Zipline have experienced zipline tour guides to help you through the tour. Zipline tour is \$99 plus tax.

If your gift recipient is a little more agile, then give them the chance to test their skills on Skamania Aerial Park. The adventure features several platforms and 22 elements for individuals to navigate. Aerial park is about \$69.



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FOR TEENS



ROSIE DILLON,
News intern

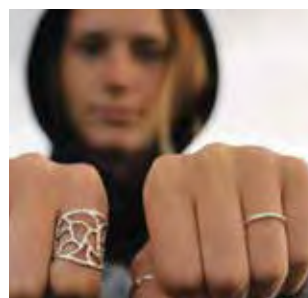
When the holidays come around, shopping for a teen can become overwhelming. If you're prepared, however, with some good ideas, the stressful season is proven to be a breeze. Take my advice in this department, as I am a teenager myself who's hoping for a few of the following presents under my tree this holiday season.

Winters can be treacherous here in the Columbia River Gorge, and many teens protect themselves from the cold in a **cozy down vest**. Avrie Van Tilburg, left, and Lauren Trumbull, right, pictured on the left are both sporting Patagonia vests, but several other brands, such as Columbia, Mountain Hardwear, and North Face are also popular. Gifting your teenager a sporty, comfortable vest for the wintertime is sure to be a great choice! They make a fashion statement, while also being extremely functional.

If your teen is soon graduating high school, and planning on moving onto college, **university gear** is a perfect holiday present! Makena Zorza, pictured above, is sporting her University of Idaho sweatshirt, where she will be attending this coming fall. Sweatshirts, jackets, water bottles, and lanyards are all perfect options for your soon-to-be college student!

Various water bottles are widely loved by teens, especially Hydro Flasks; both durable and sporty, they are a teen essential. Sally Evans, an HRVHS senior pictured right, shows off her Hydro full of stickers. Maddi Simonds, another Hood River Valley senior, loves her Hydro Flask for coffee and tea carrying (pictured above). Great stickers are an awesome addition to your teenager's Hydro Flasks, and www.redbubble.com has a great sticker supply. Downtown Hood River stores, such as Dougs or The Gift House, also have tons of selection.

Trucker hats are also extremely popular among teenagers. Whether it's reping a sports team, university, or a brand, your teenager would surely appreciate a fitting hat this gift giving season. Emilie Ellifritz, HRVHS junior (pictured above), wears her University of California Los Angeles hat often, and loves the current trend. They are also great for the winter time, offering a little extra warmth.



A gym membership is also an awesome gift for your teen. The Power Station, Hood River Sports Club, and Snap Fitness are all great places for your teenager to stay active. If you think they might prefer exercising outside of the gym, just ask them! Going on a hike or run with your child can also be a great gift, for you and them both.

If you're shopping for a teen girl, **jewelry** is a classic choice. Necklaces, rings, and bracelets are simple additions to a collection, but always prove to please. Paris Nunn, an HRVHS junior pictured right, sports her usual rings from local stores. Twiggs and Chemistry are great Hood River stores with plenty of options. Online stores, such as Etsy, also have extensive selection.

Pop Sockets, sold online at www.popsockets.com or on Amazon, are extremely popular with teenagers this season. They are handy for phone handling, propping up, and increased grip. Endless patterns and colors are available, so your teen's style is bound to be suited. They're also a great small gift, and reasonably affordable: usually priced around \$10.

Bluetooth speakers are a fan favorite among music-loving teenagers, and make an awesome present. Speakers in general are great options, but Bluetooth simply allows for more convenient transport and use. JBL, Bose, and Beats are respectable brands that have impressive quality.

Shoes are always a safe bet for a gift, and Vans are all the rage as of late. The Old Skool style shoes are pictured right, but the slip ons are also popular among teenagers. Various patterns are on trend, and they're all available at www.vans.com. Both boys and girls are sporting these shoes this season, so they're guaranteed to please, no matter the gender.

With just a little assistance, the gift giving season can become much less stressful. Always keep in mind that your teen doesn't expect all you think they do, and will appreciate the thought no matter what gift they receive.

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Gifts of Experiences

TRISHA WALKER
News staff writer

Gifts don't have to be physical objects — experiences are fun to give and receive for any occasion, from hostess gifts to something special for Mom. Here's a sampling of some of the many opportunities that abound in Hood River, perfect for any age.

Museum Membership

For the history buff, memberships are available at the History Museum of Hood River County at a variety of levels: \$35 for an individual, \$50 for a family (living in the same household), \$25 senior, \$20 student and \$250 museum supporter. All members receive free admission to the museum, periodic newsletters and a 10 percent discount on all gift shop purchases, as well as invitations to special events. For details, stop by the museum at 300 E. Port Marina Drive, or visit www.hoodriverhistorymuseum.org.

Music and Theater

Columbia Gorge Orchestra Association

Music, theater — Columbia Gorge Orchestra Association has events that feature both. The Voci Choir will present "Sacred: Choral Music from a World of Traditions and Faiths" Dec. 15 and Dec. 17, featuring music from Christian, Buddhist, Muslim, Native American and other faiths, plus the world premiere of a new work commissioned for Voci on the Machado text "Wanderer there is no



path." And on Jan. 13, the Jazz Collective and Mel Brown Septet will perform in concert together at 7 p.m. at the Wy'east Middle School Performing Arts Center — included will be an afternoon of workshops for local music students presented by Brown and his band. Those looking for theater will look forward to the musical "Passion" on special dates Feb. 8-17. Tickets for all performances can be purchased online on the CGOA website, www.gorgeorchestra.org.
Columbia Center for the Arts

Have a child you'd like to introduce to the theater? "Merry Christmas, Strega Nona," will run Dec. 9-10 and Dec. 14-16, with the family-friendly performances showing at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$15 for students and seniors over age 62, and \$8 for children under 10 years old. Tickets can be purchased at the gallery, Waucoma Bookstore, or online at www.columbiaarts.org/events.

CCA has a number of performances during the year — Portland Jazz Composers Ensemble featuring Edna Vazquez Feb. 17 at 7 p.m., and National Theater Live performances in January, February and March — and tickets can be purchased online or in the gallery. In addition, the arts center is offering a 2018 five-punch pass to any five events (\$80 for adults, \$60 for students and seniors), or a full year, all-events pass (\$1000 for one, or \$1500 for two). All passes are transferable and sharable between friends and family.

Movie Tickets

With the new Star Wars movie coming out Dec. 15 (oh, come on, you know you're going), movie tickets are a sure to be appreciated gift. Both Hood River Cinemas and Skylight Theater offer gift cards for any amount. Additionally, Skylight Theater's can be used at the theater, Andrew's Pizza, or Yum. For ticket prices, show times and upcoming releases, visit Hood River Cinema's website, hoodrivercinemas.com, or Skylight's, www.skylighttheater.com.



Sternwheeler Columbia Gorge

Why not give a gift of seeing the Gorge from a different vantage point? The Sternwheeler Columbia Gorge, which calls the Cascade Locks Marine Park home, is owned by the Portland Spirit and offers sightseeing cruises May through October (and November through April from Portland). Guests can enjoy a one- or two-hour, narrated excursion, weekend champagne brunch cruises, dinner cruises, and a variety of special event and holiday cruises. Both adult and children's tickets are available. Boarding and ticket information can be found at www.portland-spirit.com/sternwheeler.php.

'Train to Christmas Town'

Mt. Hood Railroad hosts "Train to Christmas Town" from now until Dec. 28, a themed excursion based on the book by the same name. Kids of all ages will enjoy meeting characters from the children's book, as well as Santa. Performances, snacks and songs round out the trip. Schedule information, as well as tickets, can be found at www.mthoodrr.com/train-to-christmas-town, or call 1-800-872-4661. Some dates and times have already been sold out, so if this is on your list, better not wait too long.

Wellness

Reflexology

Reflexology promotes well-being throughout the body, stimulates nerve pathways and breaks up chemicals collected at the nerve endings, and increases circulation so the body can return to its natural state of balance — and would make a relaxing counterpoint to all the hustle and bustle of the season. Diana Blackmon, Reflexology Hood River and a national board-certified Reflexologist, has single half-hour or hour sessions (\$30 and \$55, respectively), as well as a book of five hour-long sessions (\$225). Gift certificates are available, and sessions are by appointment only. For more information, contact Blackmon at 503-593-5848 or visit reflexologyhoodriver.com.

Acupuncture

Those looking to decompress during (or after) the busy holiday season will appreciate a gift certificate from Cascade Acupuncture for a "Happy Hour" treatment, which focuses on boosting energy, immune system, overall happiness and reducing stress, according to Carola Stepper, LAC. She also offers athletic acupuncture focus treatments to relax, refresh and rejuvenate. Gift certificates for treatments are one for \$25, or five for \$100. Appointments must be made in advance because these treatments are offered at specific times. And those receiving acupuncture for the first time will also receive a free 15-minute consultation. For more information or to purchase gift certificates, stop by the Hood River office, 104 Fifth St., or call 541-387-4325. For more information on Happy Hour and athletic focus treatments, visit www.cascadeacupuncture.org/happy-hour-treatments.

Coffee shops and restaurants

Hood River — both downtown and the Heights — have so many great restaurants and coffee shops that a gift certificate, or an invitation to a meal, is bound to be appreciated. I've been told by merchants that Hood River is pretty quiet after the holiday rush, making January a perfect time



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

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For more information, visit the U.S. Postal Service Web site at www.usps.com

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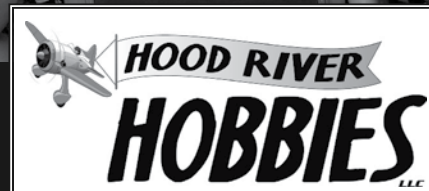
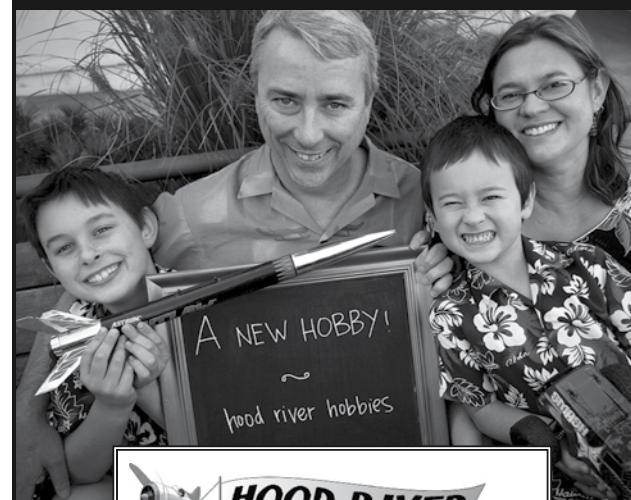
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