

Gorge Gift Guide

2021



A special publication of Columbia Gorge News

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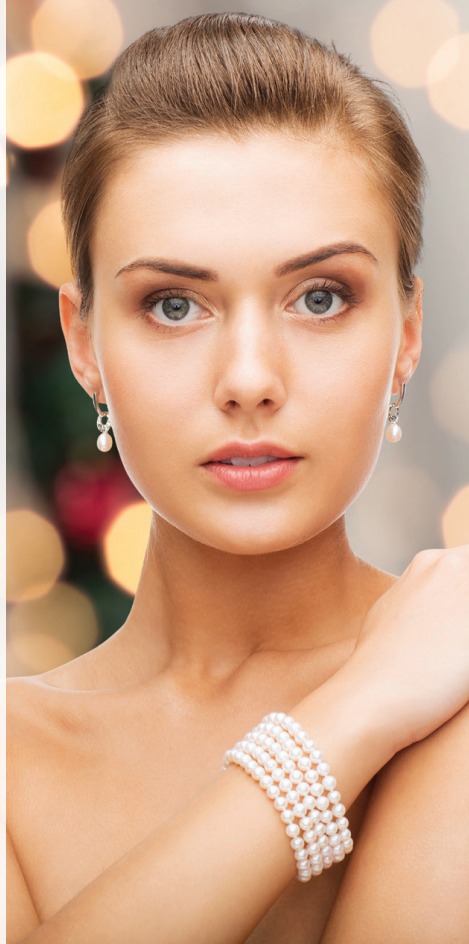
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Why Shop Local

Small local businesses are the largest employers nationally and create two out of every three new jobs.

When dollars are spent locally, they can in turn be re-spent locally, raising the overall level of economic activity, paying more salaries, and building the local tax base.

Locally owned businesses contribute more to local charities and fundraisers than do their national counterparts.

Spending money with local retailers helps keep the local community alive. The places where we eat, shop, and have fun all have the potential to make a community feel like home. "One-of-a-kind" businesses are a fundamental part of the distinctive character and of a community.

A marketplace of hundreds of small businesses is the best way to ensure innovation and low prices over the long term.

Reducing the amount of materials and products that are bought from national retail chains helps reduce your ecological footprint.

There is power in shopping at locally owned businesses. The dollars spent at a local retailer often have a greater impact on product options and service than when these dollars are spent at chains or on-line retailers.

Local economic growth will attract new talent and professionals, who may, in turn, create businesses of their own, enhancing a local economy.

Source — Michigan State University



2021 Gorge Gift Guide



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Camping

NOAH NOTEBOOK

Columbia Gorge News

Camping and enjoying nature became a popular outlet for many during the COVID-19 pandemic. Fresh air offered a sense of optimism after it seemed like we would never escape of lock down. Campgrounds and recreation sites were one of the first attractions to open up to the public. Outdoor enthusiasts already had their gear packed when the campgrounds opened, but others had no idea where to start. This holiday season is a better time than any to give the gift of camping gear.

There are different kinds of camping. You can go tent camping, set up camp in the back of a van or truck, and if you are lucky you can go

long-haul trailer camping. For now, we are going to focus mostly on tent camping, as it is typically the cheapest and most traditional form of outdoor living.

A good foundation would be finding a tent that suits your situation. Are you taller than most? Then you may want to look for a tent with more standing room. Do you have a family or are you flying solo? Tents come in all shapes and sizes. The Golden Bear Colter Bay tent checks all the boxes and is a perfect starter tent. The six person sleeper pictured above is considerably priced as well, at \$130 at your local Big 5 Sporting Goods. The Colter Bay model stands 6-feet tall at its peak, and offers the luxury of a screened porch where you can take your muddy shoes off and keep the pesky bugs on the out-

side.

If the screen porch doesn't work, try lighting a citronella lantern. The Coleman citronella dual candle and lantern repels mosquitoes and burns for upwards of 70 hours. A perfect product to keep around the table or fire pit when the sun sets and the bugs come out. Not only does it light the night, but it protects you from mosquito bites. A win-win situation for anyone camping. The candle-lantern fits any budget too. A \$6 price tag makes this product a no-brainer when outside.

Making meals on the go can be a hassle, but if you have the appropriate utensils, life can be that much easier. Starting with the basics, campers should invest in reusable plates and bowls, cups, spoons, forks and knives. Available

at Shortt Supply in downtown Hood River and Big 5 Sporting Goods in The Dalles, plastic and metal utensils can be a bit on the expensive side but the planet will thank you in the future. Ranging from \$5 for a set of single metal forks, spoons and knives to \$35 for a 24-piece tableware set that includes utensils, plates, bowls and cups.

Camping in the Pacific Northwest and keeping things dry is a lot harder than it sounds. It is almost impossible to escape the rain when out tent camping. Dry bags can help mitigate putting your electronics in rice or taking them in for an expensive repair. These bags come in different shapes and size. Categorized in number of liters, Shortt Supply carries dry bags sized four to 20 liters. The bags are priced \$15 for the smallest to \$29 for larger packs.



Reusable plates and bowls, cups, spoons, forks and knives, pictured above left, can be found at Shortt Supply in downtown Hood River and Big 5 Sporting Goods in The Dalles range from \$5 for a set of single metal forks, spoons and knives to \$35 for a 24-piece tableware set that includes utensils, plates, bowls and cups. Dry bags, above center, can help mitigate putting your electronics in rice or taking them in for an expensive repair. These bags come in different shapes and size. Categorized in number of liters, Shortt Supply carries dry bags sized four to 20 liters. The bags are priced \$15 for the smallest to \$29 for larger packs. Above left, the Coleman citronella dual candle and lantern repels mosquitoes and burns for upwards of 70 hours.



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At left, "Five Little Radishes," an acrylic painting by Kristi Heck can be found at Art on Oak in Hood River. Top right, a set of sterling silver earrings and matching necklance, made by Sarah Morton-Erasmus from downtown White Salmon's artistic collective Arrowleaf Workshop. Bottom right, a finished piece of metalwork made by Art on Oak's Doug Burke.

Jacob Bertram photos



Made in the Gorge

JAKE BERTRAM
Columbia Gorge News

There are few things greater than receiving a hand-crafted gift — love, joy, and appreciation among them — but what is great about such a gift is that it often brings those expressions to people through the act of giving and receiving.

The Columbia Gorge is renowned for its vibrant community of artisans, craftspeople, and designers who can do some very magnificent things with raw materials.

At Arrowleaf Workshop in downtown White Salmon, a variety of works from 10 local artists are displayed. Each artist has something unique to their craft; featured in the store are a selection of metalworks, stoneworks, paintings, knitted ornaments, and more.

On Nov. 20, the shop will be hosting an open house, inviting the public in to visit with many of the featured artists at the co-op store, located at 150 E Jewett Blvd. in White Salmon.

Searching for that perfect

item for a loved one? Stop by Arrowleaf in White Salmon, hours of operation 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Wednesday through Saturday.

Some featured items from Arrowleaf Workshop include:

- Hand-cut opals by Steve Andruss. Price vary on these various-colored stones.
- Sterling silver earrings by Sarah Morton-Erasmus. \$385 for a set of these local hand-crafted jewelry-wear.
- 'October' by Kristine Pollard. \$550 for this 53" by 22" fiber art piece.

Across the river, Art on Oak features 29 local artists from the Columbia River Gorge. Walk in the storefront, located at 210 Oak Street in downtown Hood River. Find paintings, metal-crafts, jewelry, stone works, and much more here at Art on Oak.

Once inside, you can meet with one of the local artists who can tell you all about their craft, of which there is a vast variety featured in the gallery.

Doug Burke was tending the shop one day in early

November, and he was happy to share the behind-the-scenes of his craft.

Burke, a metal artist, spends much of his time outside the shop searching for metal scrap at the nearby junkyards and elsewhere he can score some material for his artwork. Burke will take any kind of metal, whether it be polished and clean or rusty and old, and turn into something refreshing and beautiful.

One example is a nearly four-foot tall flower piece, made out of scrap metal, that

would fit excellently in a flower garden. \$85 at Art on Oak. Acrylic work from Kristi Heck would fit great on your wall and brighten up your living space. "Five Little Radishes" by Kristi Heck for \$350, featured handmade and local acrylic art.

At the gallery you will find plenty to scratch that itch and dress up your home, office space, or gift a loved one a sentimental piece of jewelry with a wide variety of artwork for any occasion. Art on Oak is open daily, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.



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Left to right:**Black Bird & Ivory**

Black KanCan Taylor women's cropped Puffer Jacket, \$99.

Blossomly Boutique

Black LA Coalition Women's Puffer Coat from Blossomly Boutique for \$49.99.
Pink and. Collection Women's Plus size Puffer Coat from Blossomly Boutique for \$39.99.

Doug's Hood River

Men's Yellow and Black Venture 2 North Face Jacket from Doug's Hood River for \$99.
Men's Fall Rock Grey Broken Nose Quicksilver Jacket from Doug's Hood River for \$85.

Emma's Bowtique

Printed Oaki Children's Rain Coat from Emma's Bowtique and Consignment for \$55.99.
Gently used 6m red absorba coat with mittens from Emma's Bowtique and Consignment for \$12.50.

Immersion Research

Blue lightweight Polartec Hoodie from Immersion Research for \$99.



COZY CARDIGANS

KELSIE COWART

Columbia Gorge News

What's a better holiday gift than the gift of being cozy? Keep your friends and family warm (and fashionable!) this year with a comfy coat or cozy cardigan this winter season. With a range of light and trendy, soft and warm, or durable and functional, these shops will help you find something for everyone this holiday season.

**Terra Cotta Gorge Company Boutique
111 E. Second St., The Dalles**

Terra Cotta specializes in modern boho fashions, accessories, décor, and gifts. Open

Tuesdays 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Wednesday through Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturdays 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., you can reach them at 541-769-0550, on their Instagram @terraccottagorgeco, Facebook page, or shop on their website at terraccottagorgeco.com.

**Blossomly Boutique
802 W. Six St., Suite 100, The Dalles**

Blossomly Boutique specializes in trendy and affordable women's clothing and shoes, carrying sizes small to 3x. Open Wednesday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., you can find them on Instagram at @blossomlyboutique or on their Facebook page.

**Emma's Bowtique and Consignment
305 E. Second St., The Dalles**

Emma's Bowtique specializes in the buying, selling, and trading of gently used baby and young children's clothing, toys, furniture, and more! Open Tuesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., you can reach them by phone at 541-980-6993, by email at emmas.bowtique@gmail.com, or on Facebook.

**Doug's Hood River
101 Oak St, Hood River**

Along with being Hood River's only complete full-service ski and snowboard shop, Doug's Hood River sells a variety of men and women's fashion, outdoor apparel, gear, accessories, luggage, tools and more! Open daily from

9 a.m. to 6 p.m., they can be reached by phone at 541-386-5787, or shop their website at dougs-hoodriver.com.

**Lucky Littles Boutique
201 Oak St., Hood River**

Lucky Littles is a boutique that sells fashion, accessories, products, and toys for newborns through kids size 10/11, as well as essentials for expecting mothers. Open daily 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., they can be reached at 541-436-3514, by email at luckylittlesllc@gmail.com, on their Instagram @luckylittlesboutique or their Facebook page. You can also shop their website shopluckylittles.com.

**Left to right:****Immersion Research**

Mens Black Highwater Hoodie from Immersion Research for \$79.

Lucky Littles

Mustard yellow Buttoned Cardigan, 9-12 months old from Lucky Littles for \$34.95.
Dino patterned Snow Bunting, 6 - 9 months old from Lucky Littles for \$49.95.

Parts + Labour

Women's Window Pane Plaid Black and White Sanctuary Midi Shacket from Parts + Labour for \$119.

Women's Camel Tailored Emerson Fry Coat from Parts + Labour for \$348.

Black Bird & Ivory

Free People women's moss-colored Light Quilted Bomber Jacket from Black Bird & Ivory for \$99.

Terra Cotta Gorge Co.

Blue hem & thread Cardigan from Terra Cotta Gorge Co. for \$69.

Cream Colored blu pepper cropped button-up cardigan from Terra Cotta Gorge Co. for \$59.

Ruddy Duck

Women's Black Plaid RD Style Woven Coat from The Ruddy Duck for \$97.

Men's Wasabi Romeo Style Noize Jacket from The Ruddy Duck for \$159.

Parts + Labour**311 Oak St., Hood River**

Parts + Labour is a boutique that specializes in women's clothes, jewelry, perfumes, and accessories from brands such as Free People, Frame Denim, Rails, Spell and The Gypsy, Jungmaven, and Emerson Fry. They are open Monday to Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. You can reach them at 541-387-2787, by email at info@parts-labour.com, and their socials: @partslabour on Instagram and their Facebook page. You can also shop their website, www.parts-labour.com.

Ruddy Duck**504 Oak St., Hood River**

Ruddy Duck is a store that carries a variety of clothing, shoes, accessories, gifts, textiles and home décor for women, men and kids. They are open Sunday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. You can reach them at 541-386-5050, info@shoptheruddyduck.com, on Instagram @theruddyduck, and their Facebook page. You can also view their website, ruddyduckhoodriver.com.

Black Bird & Ivory**115 N. Main St., Suite 199, White Salmon**

Black Bird & Ivory is a boutique specializing in women's apparel, shoes, jewelry and decor. They are currently open Fridays and Saturdays from 1-6 p.m. You can reach them at 206-850-3367, by email at blackbirdandivory@gmail.com, on Instagram @blackbird_and_ivory, and on their Facebook page.

Immersion Research**Currently at 85 N.E. Estes, White Salmon**

New Location: 105 Fourth St., Hood River
Immersion Research is an outdoor sport, gear, supply and apparel store and repair shop that specializes in kayaking. Expert kayakers will assist you to find the gear and apparel that

will work best for you, and their full-time repair staff will help you adjust any gear, so it fits you just right. Catch them at their current location in White Salmon through the end of the year, after which they will be moving to their new Hood River location.

They are open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and can be reached at 814-395-9191, or by email at info@immersionresearch.com, or on Facebook.



Birdwatching a lifetime gift

MARK GIBSON

Columbia Gorge News

The Columbia River Gorge, long recognized for its scenic attributes, is also one of the Pacific Northwest's most diverse regions for those dedicated to — or simply intrigued by — bird watching. As the Columbia turns in its long run from Canada and breaches the Cascade Range between Mount Hood in Oregon and Mount Adams in Washington, the Gorge provides access to a wide range of habitats, each with its own mix of resident and migrant birds.

GORGE HABITATS

Traveling upriver from the west end of the Gorge, explorers will find rich, low elevation wetlands with their host of herons, waterfowl and wetland songbirds — resident and migratory — mixing gradually with the woodland and stream species found in the foothills and higher elevations of the Cascade mountains. East of Cascade Locks, Hood River sits as the gateway to still higher elevations to be explored, west through the upper Hood River Valley to the timberline on Mount Hood. Traveling east of Hood River, the Gorge begins to dry out, and an entirely new series of habitat — and bird watching opportunities — begin. On the Oregon shore, this change is first evident in Mosier, and the Highway 30 loop between Mosier and Rowena will introduce the traveler to the oak, deer brush and pine habitats that skirts the eastern slopes of Cascade

Mountains. Lewis woodpeckers, identified by the Lewis and Clark expedition, are just one of the new species joining the Stellars jay, common west of the mountains.

East of Rowena, the landscape of the Gorge becomes still drier, especially on the Washington shore. Grasslands appear, colored in spring by washes of purple and yellow wildflowers. Just east of The Dalles the long-tailed, black and white magpies begin to fly up from the roadsides, a sure sign that the birds of the inland sage lands, with their sweeps of rabbit and bitterbrush, are ahead. These lands are home to a great number of hawks, larks and other grassland species.

A LIFETIME GIFT

Regardless of where you celebrate Christmas in the Gorge, there are birds. And where there are birds, there are bird watchers — and soon-to-be birdwatchers — easily inspired to look anew at the world outside their windows.

A gift as simple as a field guide to birds that covers the recipients "home territory" can inspire a life-long interest in birds — and the healthy outdoor activity that comes with bird watching. A good field guide will have illustrations rather than photographs for better identification of the "field marks" used to identify a bird. One popular guidebook is the "Stokes Field Guide To Birds, Western Region." This guide is of moderate size and covers the birds found in Oregon and Washington.

Focusing more narrowly on just the birds

of Oregon and Washington are the Lone Pine guides by Roger Burrows and Jeff Gilligan. Each book focuses on a single state. These local guide books are especially useful to new and young birders, as there are fewer species to differentiate between because of the limited geographic area covered.

Kids will also appreciate the book, "Bird watching for Kids" by George N. Harrison. This book introduces young readers to the skills of bird watching, and includes information on attracting birds to your home.

Popular guides covering all of North America are also available, those by Sibley and Peterson being two popular examples. These guides are larger and more difficult to use in the field than those mentioned above.

OPTICS

There are two kinds of optics commonly used by birders: Binoculars and spotting scopes. Binoculars are the most important. Most birders find a pair of moderate strength most useful: At higher magnification, binoculars are hard to hold steady and birds can be hard to locate. Many find 5x to 8x most useful. The larger the front lenses, the brighter the binoculars.

Spotting scopes are popular when birds are at a distance. These are telescopes mounted on a tripod, and have a single eyepiece. Again, styles vary widely. Many have offer a range magnifications and can be used to admire the night sky when the birds have gone to roost.

ATTRACTING BIRDS TO THE HOME

With a field guide and a pair of binoculars, the bird watcher is well equipped — but that doesn't mean they won't enjoy a host of bird-related gifts.

Feeders will be especially welcome, as they bring birds to the watcher.

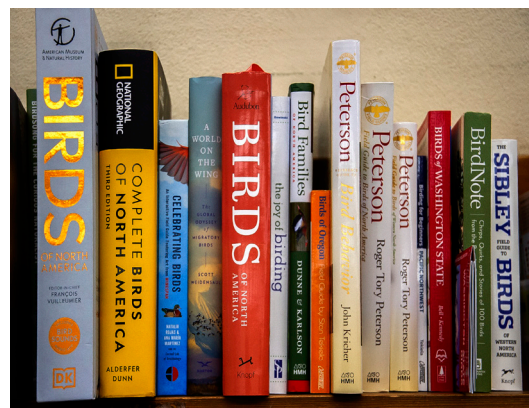
There are many types and styles of feeders, but all fall under a handful of categories: Hanging seed feeders will attract most seed-eating songbirds, especially the smaller ones. A shelf or platform style feeder will bring in larger species like jays and doves, and those that prefer to feed on the ground, like many of the sparrows. Black sunflower is the best seed. A thistle seed feeder will attract species not attracted by sunflower seeds, like goldfinch and pine siskin. A suet or fat feeder will attract insect-eating species like the flicker. And of course, a hummingbird feeder will bring in the hummingbirds.

On the east side especially, water features like bird baths and fountains will attract wildlife of all sorts.

And if your bird watcher already "has it all," there are plenty of household items and knick knacks, from lamps to puzzles, to bring the joy of birds right into the home.



A bird design lamp (\$74.95), above, brings the outdoors in, and a lawn decor figure (\$16.95), above right, brings the indoors out. Both can be found at Sigman's Flowers in The Dalles. Bird guides are abundant and can be found at Waucoma's Books in Hood River and Klindt's Booksellers in The Dalles. The metal country style wild bird feeder is made by Perky-Pet and available at Tum A Lum Lumber. Stores are located at Hood River (408 Highway 35) and The Dalles (240 Terminal Ave.) It is priced at \$41.99.



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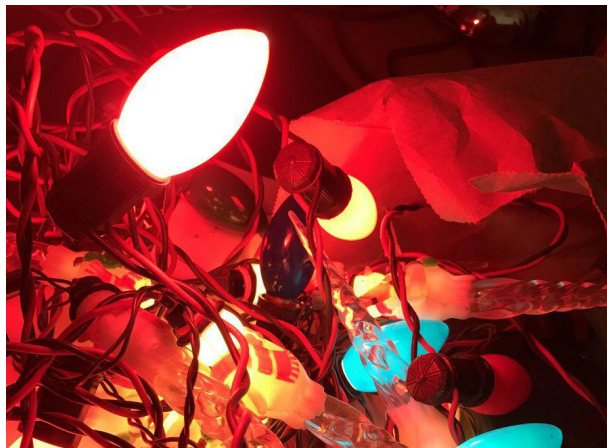
Thanks for shopping locally! Come to the cafe, pizza truck, or order online. Order by Dec 19th to mail in time for Christmas.

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Holiday Happenings

Nov. 18 — Thanksgiving Lunch, noon at Hood River Valley Adult Center. Must wear mask, use hand sanitizer and scan for temperature; please do not come if you feel at all unwell. RSVP required at 541-386-2060; limited seating.

Nov. 18-Dec. 5 — Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center/ Museum Online Auction. Bids open 8 a.m. Nov. 18 and close Dec. 5 at 5 p.m. Proceeds support the Skamania Historical Society and Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center. More than 150 items available that make great gifts; visit www.32auctions.com/gorgemuseum. Museum open to public at 990 S.W. Rock Creek Drive, Stevenson. Sponsored in part by City of Stevenson.

Nov. 19-20 — St. Peter Altar Society 42nd Annual Holiday Bazaar, noon to 7 p.m. Nov. 19 and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 20 at the Parish Center, 1111 Cherry Heights Road, The Dalles. Free admission. Old favorites and new vendors daily.

Nov. 20 — Mid-Columbia Senior Center Holiday Bazaar, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 1112 W. Ninth, The Dalles.

More than 25 local artists with handcrafted goods and gifts. Vendor list at midcolumbia-seniorcenter.com.

Nov. 25 — Salvation Army Community Thanksgiving Dinner, hosted by St. Mary's Academy. Volunteers needed Thanksgiving Day as follows: Set up and kitchen crew, 8 a.m. to noon; serving and delivery, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; clean-up, 2-4 p.m. Call to verify time slots and need, 541-296-6417. To place an order to pickup or have a meal delivered to the same number, or wait outside the drive-thru line at St. Mary's Academy, 1112 Cherry Heights Road, from noon to 3 p.m. Donations can be mailed to Salvation Army, P.O. Box 1970 The Dalles, OR 97058.

Nov. 25 — Turkey Trot Benefit Run, 8-10:30 a.m., at Columbia Gorge Toyota and Honda (sponsor) to benefit Sorosis Park Revitalization. 5K Run/Walk and Family Fun Run Mile. Costume contest with prizes for first, second and third places. Fees/admission \$20 for 16 years and older, 15 and under free. For more info, call Melissa Diss, 541-965-2031.

Nov. 25 — Twin Tunnels Turkey Trot, 9:30 a.m. kids race, 10 a.m. 5K and 12K start. Day of registration 8:45-9:45 a.m.; online at www.eventbrite.com/e/turkey-trot-run-tickets-202201408857. All proceeds support Mosier Community School. State Park pass required to park at visitor's center (\$5 day pass; carpooling recommended).

Nov. 26 — Downtown Country Festival, 1-4 p.m. behind Route 30, The Dalles. Mrs. Claus, animals, games, vendors, crafts and food; sponsored by JD Smith Jewelers and The Dalles Main Street. Please follow COVID guidelines.

Nov. 26 — 32nd Annual Starlight Parade and Community Tree Lighting, 6 p.m. beginning at W. Sixth and Webber, then through downtown; ends at The Dalles Chamber of Commerce. Tree lighting follows parade. More at events@thedalleschamber.com.

Thru Nov. 27 — Hood River County Christmas Project Registration. Eligible families need to meet State of Oregon low-income eligibility (SNAP,

WIC, Oregon Health Plan). Family size is based on the adults/children currently living in the home. All 2021 family registrations will be done online via the bilingual registration page at www.hoodrivercountychristmasproject.com. Registering families will choose a food gift card from one of two local grocery stores and a toy gift card for each child (0-18 years old) from a local store.

Nov. 27 — Small Business Saturday.

Nov. 28 — Cascade Singers Christmas Concert, 2 p.m. at Zion Lutheran, 10th and Union, The Dalles. Free and open to the public; families are encouraged to attend. Donations accepted for the church's music program. Ends in a sing-along.

Thru Nov. 30 — Signups for the Lyle Lions Christmas Baskets. For area served by Lyle School District; pickup Dec. 18 by appointment only. Call 509-365-2872 and leave your name, phone number, where you live, and number of adults and children in the family.

Dec. 1-7 — Festival of Trees; view online at www.facebook.com/MidColumbiaHealthFoundation or www.mcmc.net/foundation or at area locations. Donations instead of auction; will support the Celilo Cancer Center Fund and the purchase of a new linear accelerator for radiation therapy.

Dec. 1-12 — 12 Days of Dogs and Cats Holiday Auction; benefits Home At Last. More at homeatlasths.org.

Dec. 2-4 — High Prairie Christmas Bazaar, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at 701 Struck Road, Lyle (Community Center). Proceeds to HPCF firefighters and the center; local vendors; hot dogs, chips, soda and dessert available for purchase.

Dec. 3 — Hood River Holidays: Downtown Festival and Tree Lighting and Static Parade, 5-8 p.m. in downtown Hood River.

Dec. 3-4 — Twin Bridges Museum Christmas Bazaar, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the museum in Lyle.

Dec. 3-5 — Christmas in the Gorge, Stevenson.

Dec. 3, Tree Lighting on the courthouse lawn and parade; caroling begins at 6:30 p.m. and parade at 7 p.m., with free cookies, hot chocolate and apple cider. Dec. 4-5 events include craft fairs, nativity displays and business open houses. For more information, visit facebook.com/ChristmasInTheGorge.

Dec. 3-5 — 19th Annual Nativities in the Gorge Community Nativity Display, noon to 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 1-4 p.m. Sunday at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Stevenson. Free admission and refreshments, hands-on children's area and musical performances by local artists.

Dec. 3-Jan. 7 — Holiday Market at Columbia Center for the Arts, 215 Cascade Ave., Hood River. Opening reception Dec. 3, 5-7 p.m. Small works by local and regional artists (cards, jewelry, paintings, ceramics, wearable items, more). More at www.columbiaarts.org.

**Photos, page 12**

The annual Fire Departments Christmas Lighted Truck Parade through Hood River County happens Dec. 13-16.

Trisha Walker file photo

Holiday events are planned throughout the Gorge this year. Check What's Happening in Columbia Gorge News for updates/information. Kirby Neumann-Rea file photo

Hanukkah begins at sundown on Sunday, Nov. 28; the lighting of the White Salmon holiday tree and menorah happens Dec. 4 around 5 p.m. at the White Salmon Community Library. Kirby Neumann-Rea file photo

Photos, page 13

You better watch out — Santa will be in the Gorge throughout December at a variety of locations.

Kirby Neumann-Rea file photo

Anderson's Tribute Center hosts its annual Tree of Remembrance service Dec. 7 in The Dalles and Dec. 9 in Hood River; the event will also be live-streamed on Anderson's Facebook page in partnership with Providence. Attendees have the opportunity to honor loved ones who have passed by hanging an ornament on the tree. Pictured is Vicki Kelsey at the 2019 event.

Trisha Walker file photo

Dec. 4 — I'm Dreaming of a White Salmon Holi-Day Event. Santa's Breakfast and Bazaar, 7:30-11:30 a.m. at Henkle Middle School (pancakes, sausage and beverages for \$5/person or \$15/family of five, \$3 for seniors and K-8 students, \$2 for preschoolers. Photos with Santa 8 a.m. to noon, package prices); noon, White Salmon shops open with food, drink, artists, entertainment, demos, gift ideas and warm spaces; 2-5 p.m. White Salmon Community Library Wassail Event (demos, crafts for kids, music, seasonal snacks, wassail punch; family friendly and all ages); 4-6 p.m., outdoor fire pits around White Salmon Holiday Tree at Riverview Bank (Santa, Christmas music, caroling, holiday booths, hot chocolate, s'mores); around 5 p.m., lighting of the White Salmon holiday tree and menorah.

Dec. 4 — Cascade Singers Christmas Concert, 2 p.m. at United Church of Christ Congregational, Fifth and Court, The Dalles. Free and open to the public; families are encouraged to attend. Donations accepted Ends in a sing-along.

Dec. 4-5 — U-Pick, We Cut Tree Sales, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Mt. Hood Town Hall. All trees \$25, proceeds to restoration fund.

Dec. 4-31 — The Dalles Art Center Holiday Show, Tuesday thru Saturday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the gallery, 220 E. Fourth St., The Dalles. Treasures from local artists. More at www.thedallesartcenter.org.

Dec. 5 — Handmade Holiday Market, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Mt. Hood Town Hall. Locally crafted goods. Santa will make an appearance from noon to 2 p.m.

Dec. 5 — The Dalles Organ Crawl starting at 2 p.m. at St. Peter's Landmark, downtown The Dalles, then traveling to Zion Lutheran, United Church of Christ Congregational, Christian Science Society and ending at St. Paul's Episcopal. Each performer will present 20-25 minutes of music with a special holiday theme. Free, open to public; families encouraged to attend.

Dec. 7 — Tree of Remembrance / Light Up A Life Services, 5:30 p.m. at Anderson's Tribute Center Celilo Chapel, The Dalles. In person event; will also be live-streamed on Anderson's Facebook page. In partnership with Providence.

Dec. 9 — Tree of Remembrance / Light Up A Life Services, 5:30 p.m. at Anderson's Tribute Center, Hood River. In person event; will also be live-streamed on Anderson's Facebook page. In partnership with Providence.

Dec. 10 & Dec. 12 — Christmas Through the Ages and Around the World, 7 p.m. Dec. 10 and 2 p.m. Dec. 12; venues TBA. Columbia Gorge Orchestra Association's Voci Choir; concert of inspired music for the season. Tickets and additional info at www.gorgeorchestra.org.

Dec. 11 — Downtown Santa, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at JD Smith Jewelers, 315 Federal St., The Dalles. Pictures, games and fun. For the community.

Dec. 11 — Christmas Bazaar, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Route 30 Burgers, Bottles & Brews, 317 E. Second St., The Dalles.

Dec. 11-12 — Last Chance Holiday Craft Show, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Hood River County Fairgrounds in Odell. Parking and admission are free.

Dec. 11-12 — Maupin Winter Bazaar, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Maupin Legion Hall. Handmade crafts, clothing exchange and bake sale to raise money for local women in need.

Dec. 12 — Cascade Singers Christmas Concert, 2 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal, 1805 Minnesota St., The Dalles. Free and open to the public; families are encouraged to attend. Donations accepted for the church's music program. Ends in a sing-along.

Dec. 13-16 — Fire Departments Christmas Lighted Truck Parade, 6-9 p.m. through Hood River County as follows: Dec. 13, Odell and Pine Grove; Dec. 14, Parkdale and Dee; Dec. 15, West Side and Hood River;

and Dec. 16, Cascade Locks. A route schedule will appear in *Columbia Gorge News*.

Dec. 13-25 — Free Downtown Parking in Hood River. Thru Dec. 14 — Tree of Joy Donations Accepted. Donor shopping lists available. Gifts should be wrapped and clearly indicate the family and children numbers assigned. Deliver to Bingen Food Bank; families will start picking up gifts on Dec. 16. Organizations sought to help with the effort coordinated by Washington Gorge Action Programs (WAGAP) Food Bank. Contact patty@wagap.org or call 509-493-2662 ext. 207.

Dec. 17-18 — The Groove Project Grooves Christmas, 7:30 p.m. at Columbia Center for the Arts, Hood River. Featuring Tim Mayer, Joanna Grammon, Dave Henehan, Jon Green and Mike Grodner. Tickets \$25 at the door or columbiaarts.org; those 12 and older must present proof of full vaccination and all must wear a mask.

Dec. 18 — Downtown Santa, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at JD Smith Jewelers, 315 Federal St., The Dalles. Pictures, games and fun. For the community.

Dec. 18 — Cascade Singers Christmas Concert, 7 p.m. at St. Peter's Landmark, downtown The Dalles. Free and open to the public; families are encouraged to attend. Donations accepted for the church's music program. Ends in a sing-along.

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See columbiagorgenews.com for more events and updates submitted after publication deadline; updated holiday events will also be featured in the What's Happening listing in each weekly edition of *Columbia Gorge News*.



Gifts for Kids

ALANA LACKNER
Columbia Gorge News

The holidays can be a great time for everyone, but especially the kiddos. It always seems like kids are the fastest to get into the holiday spirit and find

the magic of the season, so it makes sense to try to make it extra special for them. Here's a list of gifts that might make your little one's year, whether they're a tot or a teen.

If you're shopping for a baby, it can be great

to get clothes that keep them and their parents in mind — especially if that's you! Emma's Boutique in The Dalles carries organic onesies for infants of lots of ages, with a zip that goes all the way down to the tip of their toe, to

make it easier to get baby in and out.

In a similar vein, Emma's also has knotted baby gowns by Three Little Tots for \$28.99. These are basically onesies with an open end that can be tied in a knot, making it easy to get

to your infant's diaper.

Moving up in age a bit, there's loads of cute clothes and toys available around the Gorge for toddlers. If you're looking for something cute and local for outfits, Lucky Littles in Hood River has a

bunch of local brands they showcase, including Gus + Steel, which is a Hood River brand.

One of their fun little t-shirts is \$28, though prices range depending on the item of clothing and the size.

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Sleepers

A variety of snugglers. Each comes with a book that helps kids learn skills for emotional regulation, available at Lucky Littles.

Puzzles

A wall of assorted puzzles at G. Willikers.

Blues-Clues

Blue's Clues & You take along house, available at Emma's Boutique.

Lucky-Clothes

A rack of clothes at Lucky Littles.

Ritzy Jingle

Ritzy Jingle teething toys for babies, Emma's Boutique.

Alana Lackner photos

Lucky Littles also has locally-made slippers for \$38.

In Hood River, G. Willikers Toy Shoppe has a huge range of toys and games, not just for kids, but for the whole family.

For toddlers, you can find large "Squishable" stuffies for \$24. There are also a range of

fun puppets and other cute stuffed animals starting from \$10 and going up depending on size and brand. Emma's has a variety of imaginative play toys as well.

Besides "Squishmallows," a brand of stuffed animals that has taken off in the last few

years for their cute, simple designs and incredibly soft filling, they also have things like the coffee-making and fruit-cutting sets to simulate tasks they may watch their adults do!

Both G. Willikers and Emma's have things to help boost

kids' creativity, no matter their age. Emma's sells coloring sets where kids can color just using water, perfect for little ones prone to mess-making.

G. Willikers has a variety of art supplies, with things ranging from twist-up oil pastels to erasable markers.

G. Willikers also has a selection of board games for the family, as well as toys for more mechanically-inclined kids, like building or engineering sets.

If money's a concern, G. Willikers has a clearance section, and Emma's has a

consignment shop in the back, making a great holiday for your kids possible for any budget!

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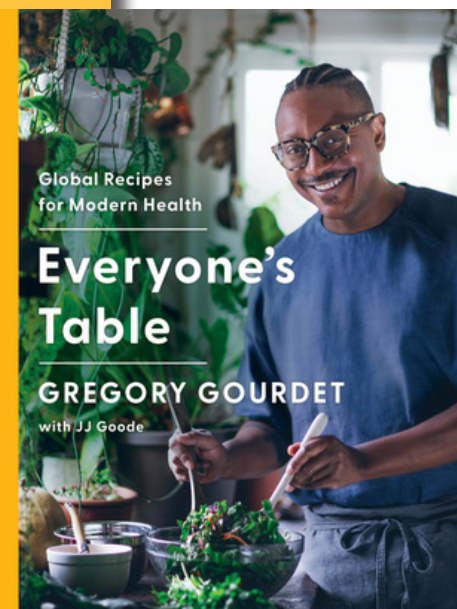
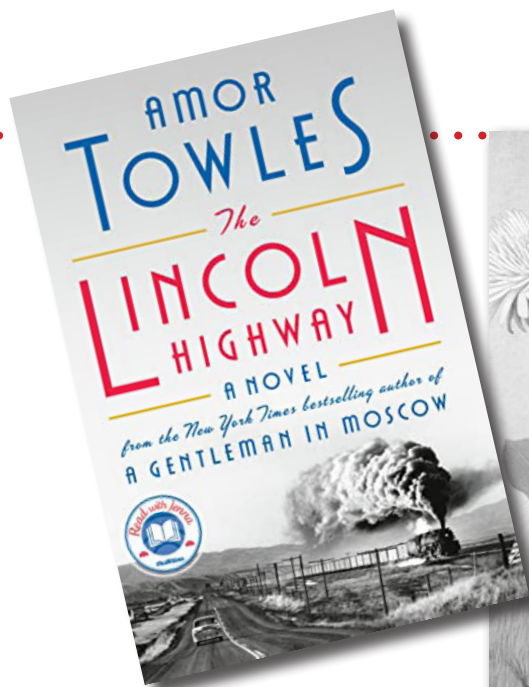
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The gift of books

TRISHA WALKER
Columbia Gorge News

I'll let you in on a little secret: When it comes to books, there's no such thing as "too many."

I'll let you in on another secret: If you have a booklover in your life, but don't know what to get them this holiday season, our Gorge-area local booksellers have you covered. Because if there's one thing a bookstore employee loves to talk about, it's books. And if you somehow still don't know, a bookstore gift certificate is always a welcome gift — because if there's one thing a booklover enjoys, it's roaming around a bookstore. (Trust me on

this one, I'm basically an expert.)

Keep in mind that, much like last year, businesses are dealing with unreliable supply chains and delayed shipping times due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and all recommend shopping early. Stores have been preparing for the holiday season by preordering, but stock may vary from day to day due to circumstances beyond their control. Also keep in mind that stores require patrons to be masked and maintain 6-feet of distance.

Below are a number of titles recommended by owners and staff at Waucoma Bookstore in Hood River and Klindts Booksellers in The Dalles, both of which sell new titles, and The Book Peddler in White Salmon, a second-hand bookstore specializing in "used but not abused" books.

Waucoma Bookstore, 212 Oak St., Hood River, is open Monday through Friday from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturdays and

Sundays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Curbside pick-up is available — place orders via telephone, 541-386-5353, email, books@waucomabookstore.com, or website, www.waucomabookstore.com. Masks are required (over both the nose and mouth) for the safety of unvaccinated children and immunocompromised customers and staff. Complimentary masks are available at the store.

Co-owner Jenny Cohen said they carry a number of books with local connections: "Ghosts of the Hindu Kush: Red Hand Adventures, Book 5" by Hood River author Joe O'Neill (ages 9-12) "This Is a Gift for You" by Portland author and illustrator Emily Winfield Martin (ages 3-7) "Crying in H Mart: A Memoir" by Michelle Zauner, who grew up in Oregon "All I Want from Santa" by Portland author Lisa Jackson "Grains for Every Season: Rethinking Our Way with Grains" by Portland author Joshua

McFadden, Martha Holmberg

"Gilded" by Taucoma-area author Marissa Meyer (12-18)

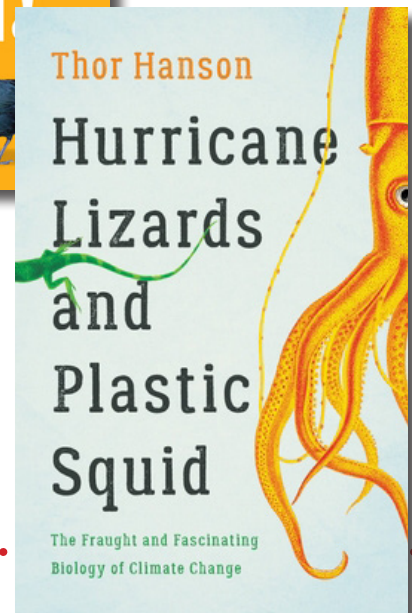
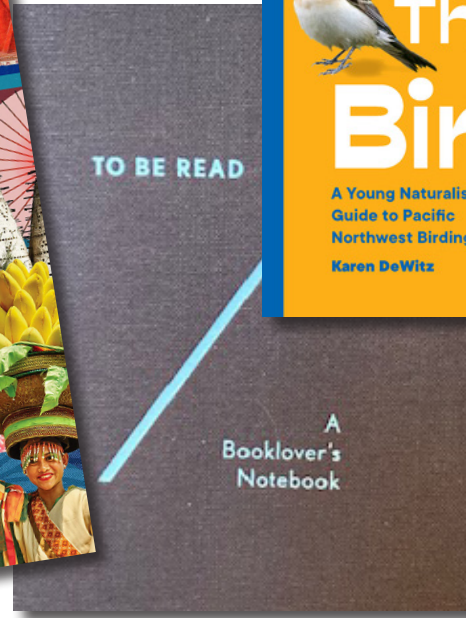
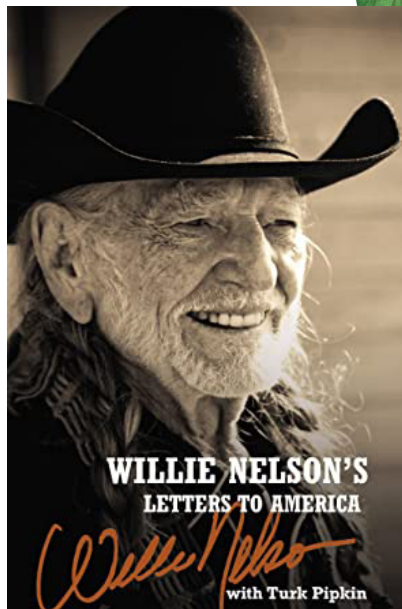
"Everyone's Table: Global Recipes for Modern Health" by Portland author Gregory Gourdet, JJ Goode, EDD

"The Healing of Natalie Curtis" by Redmond author Jane Kirkpatrick

Additionally, Cohen recommends "It Fell from the Sky" by Terry Fan and Eric Fan (ages 4-8), and employee Kimberly recommends

"Bewilderment: A Novel," by Richard Powers. (Waucoma has Staff Recommendation identification cards throughout the store for additional ideas.)

Waucoma has several titles by Sasquatch Books, a Seattle-based publisher that focuses on Pacific Northwest-themed books, such as "Northwest Know-How: Beer" by Jacob Uitti, Jake Stoumbos and "Look at That Bird!: A Young Naturalist's Guide to Pacific Northwest Birding" by Karen DeWitz (ages 8-12).



Photos courtesy of book publishers

Klindts Booksellers & Stationers, 315 E. Second St., The Dalles, is open Monday through Saturday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Klindts offers curbside assistance and, for The Dalles residents, also offers front porch delivery. Orders can be placed by phone at 541-296-3355 or online at www.klindtsbooks.com/shop.

Owner Joaquin Perez recommends the following books, now available:

"The Lincoln Highway" by Amor Towles
"Poet Warrior" by Joy Harjo
"Collective Wisdom" by Grace Bonney
"Letters to America" by Willie Nelson
"Gastro Obscura" by Cecily Wong and Dylan Thuras

"State of Terror" by Hillary Rodham Clinton and Louise Penny

"The Night Before Christmas Classic Edition," published by Simon & Schuster (children)

"Hurricane Lizards and Plastic Squid" by Thor Hanson

"Diary of a Wimpy Kid BIG SHOT" by Jeff Kinney (ages 9-12)

"A Curious Collection of Dangerous Creatures" by Sami Bayly (ages 8-14)

"Lore Olympus" by Rachel Smythe (graphic novel)

"The Snowy Cabin Cookbook" by Marnie Hanel and Jen Stevenson

"Dragons are the Worst" by Alex Willan (ages 4-8)

"You Stole My Name Too" by Dennis McGregor (ages 5-7)

The Book Peddler, Used But Not Abused Books, 154 E. Jewett, White Salmon, is open 10:30-ish a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Those looking for a specific used book may call the store at 509-493-4644 or fill out a form at www.bookpeddler.net/services. Questions can be emailed to owner Joyce Fitz-Simmons at jbfitz@gorge.net.

As the seller of "used but not abused" books,

FitzSimmons said that it is common to have only one copy of the wide variety of books she carries.

"There really is something for everyone at The Book Peddler and the best approach is to come browse and let book/s find you," she said.

Half the store is dedicated to children's books; just before Thanksgiving, she brings in holiday books, "which are mostly children's, but there are a few treasures to be found for older readers," she said. But there are a number of titles that she tries to keep in stock and usually has multiple copies — all in good condition. These titles include:

"The Elements: A Visual Exploration of Every Known Atom in the Universe" by Theodore Gray

"Molecules: The Elements and the Architecture of Everything" by Theodore Gray

"The Four Agreements: A Toltec Wisdom Book" by Don Miguel Ruiz

"Hiking the Trails of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest" by Kent Meyer

"Plants of the Pacific Northwest Coast" by Pojar and Mackinnon

"Melodic Whistles in the Columbia River Gorge" by Keith McCoy

"Rowdy River: The Wild and Scenic White Salmon" by Keith McCoy

"What Do You Do With a Problem?" by Kobi Yamada

"Rosie Revere, Engineer" by Andrea Beaty
"You are My I Love You" by Maryann Cusimano

"To Be Read: A Booklover's Notebook"
"The River Why" by David James Duncan

"Curious Gorge: An Exploring, Adventuring and Hiking Guide"



Gift ideas for every price range

COLUMBIA GORGE NEWS STAFF

Looking for more gift ideas? Columbia Gorge News staff have compiled the following list of items that work for any price range, from smaller gifts suitable for hostess gifts or stockings to larger items sure to please even the pickiest person on your list.

\$1-\$10

Found at the Outpost (2917 E. Second St.) in The Dalles: A variety of simple 3D Pixel Puzzles include a flamingo, tractor and scull and rose (\$2.50), as well as Santas ready to ring in the season with bells and Christmas trees (also \$2.50). Or how about this cuddly, easy to grab lamb, pictured above, that and appears ready for a little friend (\$3.99)? Mark B. Gibson photo.

Continuing with the Outpost, colorful mugs are only \$5 apiece (pictured above); Mark B. Gibson photo. Or maybe you're looking for an inexpensive hat ready to provide shade or shed rain as needed (\$5.99). For kids 8 and up, the

"blast off Shuttle" kit mixes science and fun, one of several STEM kits priced at \$9.99.

Bookjigs Bookmarks are available at both Klindts Booksellers in The Dalles and Waucoma Bookstore in Hood River and come in a variety of patterns and colors. It clips to your book — or journal, or notebook — so you can always find your spot. And since they slide on and off, they can be reused (\$7).

\$11-\$25

You will feel thoroughly rustic "lighting up" an Old Red lantern despite its modern LED light source, priced at \$19.99 at the Old Mill Bargain Center, 2917 E. Second St., in The Dalles.

Terra Cotta Gorge Co. Boutique, 111 E. Second St., The Dalles, has knitted hats in rich browns and yellows that make it appear as warm as it is, priced at \$24.

And from Black Bird and Ivory, 115 N. Main Ave. Suite 119, White Salmon: Little Barn Candle Company Evergreen Candle, also \$24, pictured above. Evergreen is perfect for setting a festive holiday mood or creating the right ambiance for a quiet winter evening by the fire. Top notes of balsam fir, lemon peel, evergreen and cedar wood. Contributed photo.

Herbal Revival Apothecary, 402 E. Second St., The Dalles, has all natural alcohol infusion kits "to help you craft a better cocktail come happy hour (or any hour)," according to the label, for \$25 (pictured at right). You add alcohol, wait three days and you're ready to enjoy. Flavor options include At the Orchard (mulled honeycrisp apple), the Navel Gazer (spiced orange), and Bundled Up, (persimmon and chai). Each flavor includes the recommended spirits to infuse with. And refills are available! Kelsie Coward photo.

\$26-\$50

Your never too young to look nice, and cute baby shoes are just the thing; \$29 at Terra Cotta Gorge Co. Boutique.

The Constitution appears ready to set sail from its home at the Old Mill Bargain Center. Launch it on a voyage to your Christmas celebration for \$34.95; pictured at above. Mark B. Gibson photo.

Mood candles with an attitude run between \$19 for the smallest candles to \$35 for the largest at Terra Cotta Gorge Co. Boutique. A box of matches, also with attitude, is \$8.

Simple style and rich color make this brimmed hat an attractive year-round; pictured at right and priced at \$47 at Terra Cotta Gorge Co. Boutique. Mark B. Gibson photo.

A window display at Enchanted! Natural Fiber Clothing on E. Jewett Blvd. in White Salmon features a hand-made necklace priced at \$60. Jewelry prices range as low as \$35.



From Black Bird and Ivory, also in White Salmon: Good Works Bracelet, \$42. Bracelets in different shades of blue, grey, and a creamy brown. The center piece of these bracelets are a metal loop with a positive affirmation inscribed in it. Some include “thankful blessed” “I can I will” and “You are beautiful.” These stay on with a strong metal clasp in-scribed with the logo of the company “Good Works;: 25% of their net profits are donated to help someone in need. Pictured at left; contributed photo.

\$51-\$150

From Black Bird and Ivory, White Salmon: Peace All Around Bangle, \$70. Named after the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: Everyone, as a member of society, has the right to social security and is entitled to realization,



through national effort and international co-operation and in accordance with the organization and resources of each State, of the economic, social and cultural rights indispensable for his dignity and the free development of his personality.

Or choose the Virtuous Full Circle Necklace by Article 22, \$110. This universal symbol is also ARTICLE22's model: Your purchase contributes to MAG (Mines Advisory Group) to safely clear some of the 80 million unexploded bombs contaminating land in Laos.

One more from Black Bird and Ivory: Laos Dome Earrings, as worn by Emma Watson, \$100. “What a beautiful idea to turn something so negative into something positive” — Emma



Watson. These earrings are up-cycled from shrapnel and debris, and made by fair trade Laotian artisans who developed this craft technique in the 1970s.

A selection of homemade knives, priced at \$75 apiece, are available at the Old Mill Bargain Center in The Dalles.

\$151-\$500

Quietly elegant, a manikin shows off a beaded necklace, light weight sweater top and ivory cardigan sweater over a floral ruffle midi skirt at Terra Cotta Gorge Co. Boutique (111 E. Second St.) in The Dalles. The full outfit, pictured above, is priced at \$175. Mark B. Gibson photo.




Beatlemania is alive and well at Yesterday and Today Music (414 E. Second. St.) in The Dalles, pictured above, where this recently released 5-LP boxed set from the Beatles “Let It Be” sessions are available for \$200. Mark B. Gibson photo.

\$500 and up

Ruger hunting rifles in the \$500 to \$650 range are ready for the adventurous at the Old Mill Bargain Center.

Hampton Furniture and Mattress Gallery, 306 E. Second St., The Dalles, is just the place for furnishings that are sure to make this holiday season more comfortable. Prices vary.

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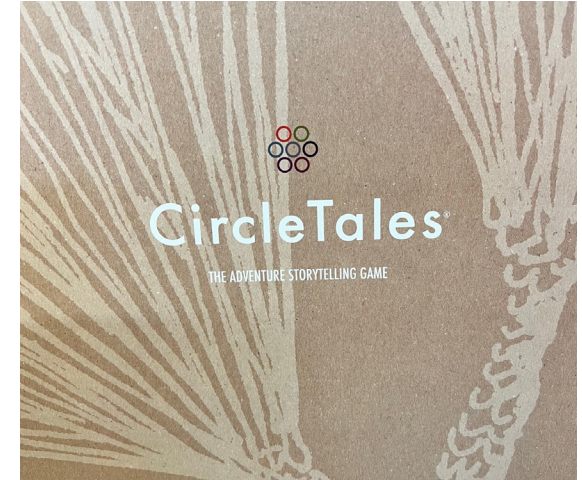
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Game Night

JAKE BERTRAM
Columbia Gorge News

The Gorge is well-known for its outdoor recreation opportunities, but some may not know that certain local businesses also cater to an eclectic crowd of gamers, hobbyists, and those looking for a board or video game to enjoy during family game night.

This holiday season, treat your inner child to an assortment of board games, remote-controlled (R/C) vehicles, video games, retro game consoles, and much more to revel in a youthful spirit.

Take your new, individually curated R/C car out for a spin, and afterwards, turn on some family-friendly movies and bring out a brand-new board game for family and friends of all ages to enjoy. These local shops feature fun gifts that can turn the cold winter warm through the creation of fond

memories.

Walk into Hood River Hobbies, located at 110 Fourth St., downtown Hood River, and you'll be greeted by experts in the latest gaming trends and R/C technology. The first thing you'll see will be shelves stacked with the latest and ground-breaking board games, catered to a diverse group of gamers. Behind the counter will often be the newest card collections from world-renowned brands, such as Pokémon and Magic: The Gathering.

Walk just a little further and you'll spot the model section. Remember that truck your dad drove? Chances are, Hood River Hobbies has a model of it. Even if not, the staff are happy to help you find what you are looking for.

Some fun family-friendly board games to consider this shopping season:

- **Codenames:** Recommended for ages 14 and up and suited best for groups of 4-8 players, this game divides players into two teams — Red

and Blue — with each team's leader giving their side clues to guess the names of 25 secret agents, of which the remaining team players know only their codenames. Teams compete to see who can make contact with each of their agents first.

- **CircleTales:** A unique collaborative storytelling adventure game, recommended for ages 9 and up and allows for play between 2-5 players. CircleTales uses question and prompt cards to generate individual creative responses that are woven into a shared story. Roll the included dice to introduce more words into play, creating unexpected twists and surprises.

- **Cards Against Humanity,** family-friendly version: A spinoff of the award-winning Cards Against Humanity, this party game is "written for kids and adults to play together." Each round, one player asks a question from a black card, and everyone else answers with their funniest white card.

- **Hood River v. Portland Chess Set:** This game uses fa-

mous buildings and architectural landmarks from the two cities in their rendition of the classic strategy board game. A great gift to remind someone of home.

Once you've finished looking with awe at the models displayed from the store's ceiling and shelves, continue down the aisle and you'll be in Mike Snedecor's field-of-play. Mike is the hobby shop's R/C Technician, who knows the ins-and-outs of all things remote-controlled. Here, the shop offers a selection of the R/C vehicles — from cars and trucks to boats and even aircraft — to fulfill the desires of beginners and enthusiasts alike.

Mike recommends people interested in beginning their R/C journey to come to the store and talk with him about what they're looking for in an R/C vehicle. Are you planning to buy one for you or for your kid to learn the ropes? Are you more experienced and looking for a vehicle to customize and soup up to show-off your car's

speed and versatility? Are you planning to go rock-crawling in your backyard or to play around in your garage or driveway? No matter your preference in playstyle, Mike's got you covered.

A few recommendations from the expert himself:

- **ECX Ruckus Smaller Brawler monster truck:** From Horizon Hobbies, this beginner-level platform comes included with a charger, battery, and remote. Great for beginners who wish to drive this toy around in smaller spaces and learn how to control their machine. 1/18 model scale. \$119.99 with everything included.

- **AMP monster truck kit:** Another Horizon Hobbies model, this entry-level platform is a kit, ready for the person who enjoys the hands-on experience of building their own machine and learn how it's all made. A great project that takes between 5-10 hours to build, this kit has everything included to make the vehicle run. \$159.99 for this 1/10

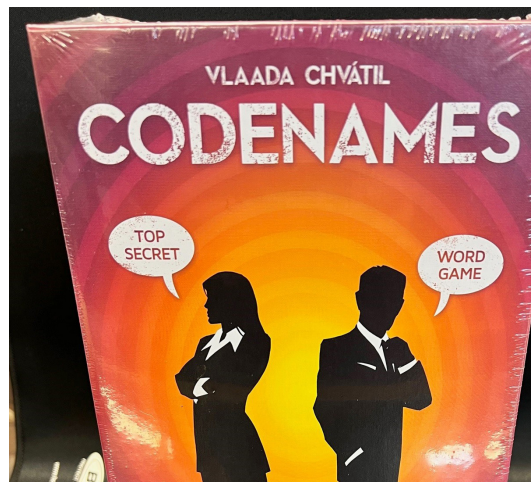
model scale truck.

- **Traxxas Slash truck:** Recommended for racers with experience, this award-winning short-course race truck puts you in the driver's seat for intense fender-to-fender, high-flying off-road action. Plenty of after-market options for this platform. \$359.99 for vehicle, additional \$109.99 for charger and battery. Hood River Hobbies is open 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Saturday; 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday.

•••

During last year's lockdown, vast amounts of people found a new hobby or rediscovered old favorites.

At Gameopoly in The Dalles, this business serves the video game player and electronics enthusiast by offering a vast selection of games, DVDs, retro video game consoles, and other miscellaneous items. Mel Mendez, owner of Gameopoly, said he opened his first location more than 20 years ago. His kids are avid gamers, and when they were



At left, Hood River v. Portland chess set from Hood River Hobbies, a case full of video game consoles at Gameopoly in The Dalles, CircleTales at Hood River Hobbies, A display of Game Boy Color games at Gameopoly, Codenames and a Traxxas Slash R/C truck from Hood River Hobbies. Jake Bertram and Chelsea Marr photos

little, he found the starting prices for new video games too extreme. Noticing a lack of businesses in the Columbia Gorge region catered to collectors of used video games, he started Gameopoly, and since then, found its current location downtown at 314 E. Second St., The Dalles.

Walking into Gameopoly for

the first time might have you in a trance while surveying the rows of video game cases organized neatly behind the counter and along the many shelves lining the walls of the store.

You might even be thrown into a state of nostalgia at the sight of an original Nintendo Entertainment System,

complete with controllers and cables. Inside the video game console case, the store also offers a selection of original Xbox and PlayStation systems from the PS1 to the PS4. Looking to scratch the itch of playing a certain game from your childhood days? More often than not, Gameopoly will have you covered. They have

everything, from the original Tony Hawk's Pro Skater for Game Boy Color to some of the newest current-gen software, including the 2017 classic for Nintendo Switch, The Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild and various PS4 and Xbox One games.

Prices will vary, but odds are, you'll find a better price

for the classics and the newer used games than anyone else around.

The store also offers a unique collection of DVDs, records, and other neat finds. Not only do they sell games, but they will trade games for store credit or cash. Look up at the whiteboard to the right of the big banner inside, and

you'll find the "Wanted" list for games and consoles the store is seeking a trade on.

Next time you're searching for video games at a cheaper price than the online and big-box stores, try Gameopoly downtown The Dalles. Hours of operation from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Saturday.

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stocking stuffers

ALANA LACKNER
Columbia Gorge News

With your big gifts covered, there's still the question of what to do for your metaphorical appetizer: The stockings. Luckily, we've got some ideas to stuff those stockings to the brim, whether it's for you, the kids, or the whole family!

For kids, there's all sorts of playthings you can fit in a stocking, even for the littlest ones! Emma's Boutique in The Dalles has a variety of cute and colorful Itzy Ritzy brand teething toys that would be perfect for a tiny tot's Christmas stocking. They carry Cutie Coolers, which are soft and filled with water, as well as Chew Crew, which are firmer

and come in cute shapes. They also have Ritzy Rattles, which are also by Itzy Ritzy.

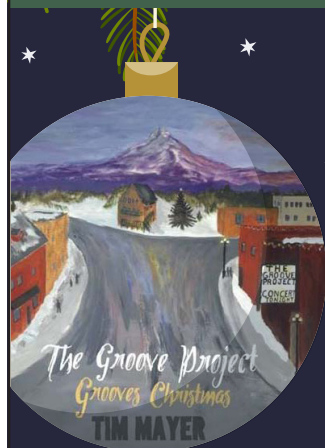
If you're looking for something that will be a hit across the board, fidget toys are a great bet. They're cheap, simple toys that can help kids calm down and de-stress, but can also just provide entertainment. One of the biggest types of fidget toys right now are poppers, silicon shapes with bubbles that pop back and forth. Emma's has poppers in a variety of colors and in shapes such as dinosaurs and flowers. G. Willikers in Hood River also has some fidget-type toys that will be a hit with the kiddos, with Rubbaby: Rubber balls in a variety of shapes with plush velvet exteriors.

Socks are also a go-to for stocking stuffers, but parents may worry they're too boring. Worry no longer! Lucky Littles in Hood River carries Zoo Socks, socks with adorable animals ranging from sharks to hippos.

If you want something that can go in anyone's stocking and be fun for the whole family, Hood River Hobbies has a lot that would work. From the Christmas card game "Santa Cookies Elf Candy Snowman" to the Waboba Wingman, a frisbee-type disc you can fold and fit in your pocket. G. Willikers also has a selection of Mad Libs, which can be fun to do as a family while sitting around the Christmas tree.



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Sweet Kendamas Sweets Kendamas, available at Hood River Hobbies

BUGS An edible scorpion by Lil Bugz You Can Eat, available at Hood River Hobbies

Rubbaby Rubbaby soft bouncy balls, available at G. Willikers

Wingman, Hood River Hobbies

Bath Bombs Unicorn and mermaid bath bombs, available at Emma's Bowtique

Socks Zoo Socks, available at Lucky Littles

Stickers Melissa & Doug stickers, available at Emma's Bowtique

Hood River Hobbies Christmas Card Game "Santa Cookies Elf Candy Snowman," a Christmas-themed card game available at Hood River Hobbies

Poppers Silicon "popper" fidget toys, available at Emma's Bowtique

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WINTER DRIVING

5 things to check before you go
Roads can be dangerous in the winter, especially in extreme weather. Stay safe by checking the five following things every time you get behind the wheel.

1. FUEL

Fill your gas tank as often as possible to prevent condensation from forming. While it's not an issue when the temperature is warm, condensation can freeze and create blockages in the fuel lines in the winter.

2. WINDSHIELD WASHER FLUID

Sloppy weather conditions may force you to use more washer fluid than usual to keep your windshield clear. To ensure you can always see the road ahead, check fluid levels often and keep an extra bottle in your trunk.

3. SNOW REMOVAL

Not removing snow from your car before getting behind the wheel puts you at risk of incurring a driving infraction. Besides, failing to do so is extremely dangerous. Snow can slide down your roof and obstruct your view, and chunks of ice may fly off your car and hit vehicles behind you, potentially causing a serious accident.

4. WEATHER FORECAST

While few of us are able to plan our comings and goings around the weather, checking the forecast before leaving will allow you to account for potential delays caused by bad weather. In difficult conditions, leave earlier to ensure you can drive at a safe speed and, if possible, stay home during severe storms.

5. ROADS AND TRAFFIC

Stay informed about local road conditions and try to avoid hazardous, icy and poorly plowed areas. Take a longer route if it allows you to avoid a dangerous commute. Finally, if your car is showing signs of deterioration or is performing poorly, be sure to visit a local mechanic as soon as possible.

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A few essential pieces of survival gear, as detailed below. Contributed photos

10 Essentials Survival Systems

Experienced woodsmen (and women) talk a lot about always carrying the 10 Essentials Survival Systems whenever you head out into the wilderness.

The 10 Essential systems are:

1. Navigation: Map, compass, altimeter, GPS device, personal locator beacon (PLB) or satellite messenger (relying on a cell phone is a proven recipe for disaster).

2. Headlamp, plus extra batteries (relying on a cell phone light is, again, a proven recipe for disaster).

3. Sun protection: Sunglasses, sun-protective clothes and sunscreen.

4. First aid, including foot care and insect repellent (as needed). The ability to stop life-threatening bleeding is also critical (i.e. tourniquet).

5. Knife plus a gear repair kit.

6. Fire matches, lighter, tinder and/or stove
7. Shelter carried at all times (can be a light emergency bivy).

8. Extra food and water, beyond the minimum expectation.

9. Signal whistles, mirrors, phones.

10. Extra clothes, beyond the minimum expectation.

Margie's Grab & Go Survival/First Aid Pack

This compact pack contains more than 110 essential survival items: A flashlight, fire starter, water purification tablets, repair tools, signal whistle, emergency blanket, poncho, useful medical supplies, and even a special Margie Good Luck Charm (because if you're pulling out this kit you probably need some good luck) all in a water resistant red molle pouch.

Perfect for the pack, car, or home. A great gift for anyone on your list. On sale for \$34.99.

Boker Magnum Elk Hunter

Nothing beats a good, full-tang, fixed blade hip knife. This beautiful outdoors tool features 440 stainless steel, a smooth-as-silk rosewood and root wood handle, and a brown leather belt sheath. On sale for \$54.95.

Storm Safety Whistle

It's true, this is the world's loudest safety whistle (Margie's includes a free set of earplugs with each one). It's so loud it can repel bears, and it even works underwater! Its unique design allows it to drain water while held in the teeth. This is the perfect stocking stuffer for the kayaker, windsurfer, boater, fisherman, or hiker on your list. Normally \$10, on sale for \$7.99.

Badass Headlamp

This powerful headlamp rocks up to 550 freakin' lumens and a super-wide 220 degree light arc. Reliable, waterproof construction and electronics by Duracell with 9 light modes. Includes a red tactical light and an energy-saver mode that lasts up to 8 hours. On sale for 17.99.

Osage River Drake Hydration Pack

This great little pack features a 2 liter, BPA-free hydration bladder and generous storage space. It's the little touches that really set it apart: A signal whistle built into the chest strap buckle, reflective safety tape accents, a bungee storage system, and more. A great gift for the outdoors person on your list. On sale for \$44.99.

— Contributed by James Szubski; items available at Margie's Outdoor Store, Bingen.



Health and fitness

NOAH NOTEBOOM
Columbia Gorge News

Subdued to our homes upon the arrival of COVID-19, many wondered how we were supposed to stay fit. If you are like me and many others, we took some time off from lifting weights or jogging around your community. Eventually, the time came where we grew restless and needed some kind of physical activity to entertain ourselves. YouTube became the new personal trainer and living rooms were remodeled to make space for the workouts. As athletic and recreation centers begin to open up, there are still plenty of opportunities to workout in the comfort of your own home.

A cheap yoga mat from Walmart will only set you back \$20 and give you an appropriate buffer between the floor and your gains. Yoga mats are essential for anyone who needs a relaxing, slow paced decompression session. Not to mention it is easy to sore in your backpack or gym bag for a sanitary stretch at the gym. Of course there isn't one mat that fits all, some mats are longer and wider, while some are more eco-friendly than others. Look for the mats made of rubber or Thermoplastic Elastomer (TPE) as those are biodegradable if you ever chose to move on from your old yoga mat.

After you wrap up your yoga session or workout, nutrition is the next step in becoming a better you. Believe it or not, blenders have become handheld and portable. At Walmart and Fred Meyers you can snag a mini blender for less than \$30. Equipped with a USB port, you can let this bad boy charge while you get a quick lift or run at the gym. Again perfect for a backpack and gym bag the mini-blender will make getting the proper nutrients even easier.

You may be fed up with working out in your home and need a change of scenery. If that is the case, the Gorge Athletic Clubs serves both Hood River and The Dalles residents. Memberships can range from \$60 to \$125 a month depending on your age and situation. If you and your partner are looking to grow together a couples membership is only \$99 a month, while singles are \$82 per month and families can get childcare included in their plan for \$125 monthly. Included in your membership is access to group fitness classes, cardio and weight rooms, the basketball courts and even a soak in the pool or spa.



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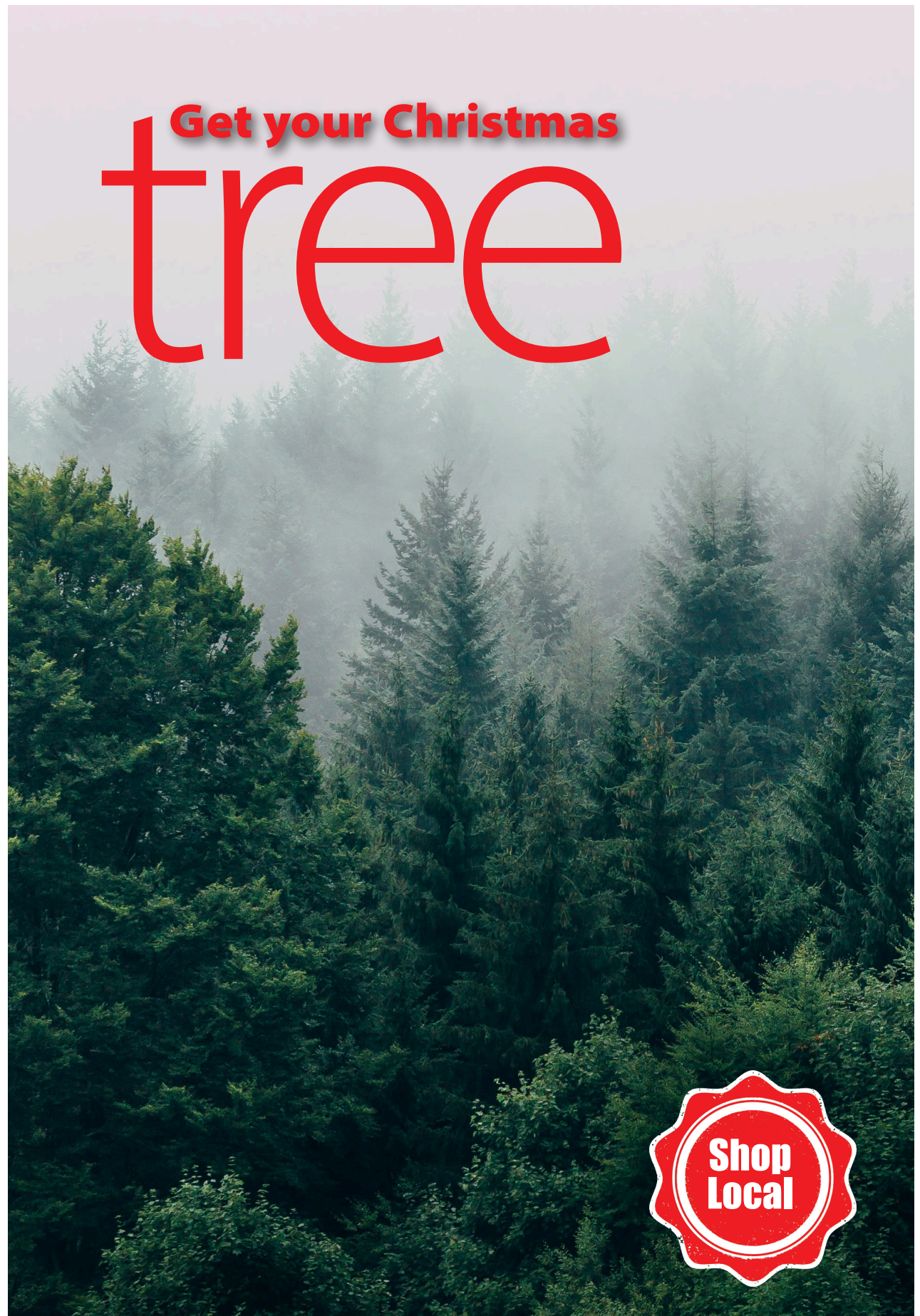
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