

Shop serves up Christmas treasures

By Ceili Cornelius
Correspondent

Miles west along a forest highway is a treasure trove that has become a holiday season destination for many people in Sisters.

Patrick Dibala and Nancy Wood are the founders and owners of Christmas Treasures, located in Blue River alongside the McKenzie Highway — surrounded by the forest and the western Cascades. Christmas Treasures has been in business since November of 1993 and had an online presence since 1997.

Dibala had always done crafts in his hometown of Reedsport, and enjoyed finding unique hand-made items. He traveled to Florida and the surrounding area where he met his partner, Nancy Wood. Wood and Dibala loved to travel and attend gift shows and antique craft shows. During their time traveling, they would go to Christmas shops because of their own passion for crafts and hand-made Christmas gifts.

“We wanted to get out of Florida and have a change of scenery, with four seasons, so we thought a gift shop in Oregon would be fun,” said Dibala.

Once Dibala and Wood moved to the Oregon Coast, they would travel over the mountains to ski at Mt. Bachelor and raft the McKenzie River. They then decided to permanently move to the McKenzie River and open up the shop there because they loved the area and were passionate about collecting.

“We got a lot of advice from people we knew who had stores on the East Coast that we had visited about how to have the store,” he said.

Christmas Treasures has been in business for 27 years and has seen a consistent stream of curious customers.

“A lot of our customer base are curious people on the drive from the valley to Central Oregon coming in



PHOTO PROVIDED

Christmas Treasures, located between Sisters and Eugene, is a destination for hand-made holiday decorations.

and checking out the store,” he said.

They primarily sell to parents and grandparents trying to make Christmas great for their kids and families. Despite being out of the way of major traffic, they get a lot of business even in the summer months from their client base getting ahead on the holiday madness, and those who are curious and pop in.

“A lot of customers come in to get an annual ornament each year or get decorations for their recently cut-down tree that they got in the woods just by us,” he said. “A lot of the reason we do so well here is that competition from other Christmas shops has gone down, and we are lucky to have a good customer base that make it a tradition to come in.”

They see a lot of business even when the economy is down.

“Christmas isn’t going anywhere, and nobody wants to have a poor Christmas, and we provide the decoration and spirit needed for a good one from a local business,” said Dibala.

One reason Dibala and Wood enjoy having a shop is because they are able to collect and sell handmade items from artists. Dibala and Wood attend gift shows around the

country throughout the year finding items for the shop. They also meet artists along the way who make hand-crafted items including artists from Eugene and Alaska who create hand-carved Santas for them consistently. They also source some of their products internationally, including their traditional German nutcrackers and Italian nativity scenes. The two of them travel in their RV when not in the store searching for gifts and items for the store.

Christmas Treasures is a place to find unique hand-crafted Santas and figurines, nativity scenes, ornaments, village scenes and more. They sell not only Christmas decorations, but paintings, Halloween decorations and things for Thanksgiving.

Dibala and Wood look forward to another season of customers popping into the store to explore all of the scenes and handmade Christmas items they have in the store.

“We really love the location of living near our store and the customers we get to meet,” said Dibala.

Christmas Treasures is located at 52959 McKenzie Hwy. in Blue River.

Items can also be purchased online at www.christmas-treasures.com.

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