per household. Keep in mind that a Forest Service permit is valid only on Forest Service lands, so tree hunters must be certain that the selected tree is not on private land. If unsure, it is a good idea to have a Forest Service map that clearly shows forest boundaries. Trees selected for cutting must be at least 200 feet from state highways, picnic areas, campgrounds, or other developed sites. Trees within 300 feet of streams and lakes are also off limits.

Other guidelines include selecting a tree that is no more than 12 feet tall; trees taller than 12 feet require a special permit. The tree to be cut must also be within 15 feet of another tree; so, if the tree is standing alone in an open space, find another tree. Complete copies of Christmas tree hunting guidelines and regulations can be obtained online and wherever tree permits are sold.

Finally, be sure that your Christmas tree hunt is a safe one and be properly equipped. Remember to bring a hand saw or axe, along

with winter clothing and safety equipment. Tire chains and a shovel are recommended, as are extra food, drinking water, blankets, a flashlight, first-aid kit and survival gear. Tree cutting and travel can take longer than anticipated, so notify friends or family of your destination and return time. Be sure to leave the woods well before dark.

Also, keep in mind that children have a tendency to wander off, so keep a close eye on children while in the woods. If you travel any significant distance from your vehicle, you should be prepared for outdoor winter travel; and remember that winter weather conditions can change rapidly.

Nelson-Dean hopes that people will take advantage of the opportunity to enjoy the local National Forests.

"We hope everyone, whether it is with family or friends, has a fun day recreating on the National Forest, picking out a special tree, and bringing home some holiday cheer this year," she said. Merry Christmas from

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## Gypsy Wind Clothing

Gypsy Wind Clothing offers something of great value to anyone looking to put check marks on their Christmas list — mistake-proof gift-giving.

At Gypsy Wind, Janet Kronemeyer offers one-size fits all, easy shopping with unique items that have real personality and flair: handbags, scarves, jackets and Kronemeyer's original-design shawl. This is fun, unique and affordable clothing that looks great, feels great and fits into any budget.

Nothing in the store is over \$100, and much can be found in the \$35-\$55 range. Clothing fits size small to 3x. Accessories, including unique ribbon necklaces created by a Maine artist, abound.

If you or someone on your list is escaping the Sisters Country winter and heading somewhere warm this winter Gypsy Wind has a specialty in resort and travel wear that Kronemeyer describes as "easy-wear comfort clothing" great for travel. She's creating a whole back room devoted to resort and travel wear this winter.

## Fika Sisters Coffeehouse

Come enjoy your Fika surrounded by traditional holiday décor! Curated and delicious holiday drinks. Customers will find a weekly story about a shop girl in a small town and how she finds love at Christmas. The character's fate will be determined by the shop's most popular holiday drink.

Come celebrate St. Lucia Day, Monday, December 13. Traditional saffron buns made with a Fika twist will be served on this important Swedish holiday.

The Gingerbread Swedish Dala Horses decorating boxes with cookies, toppings and frosting will be available daily for you to decorate in shop or at home.

Their first Circle of Giving fundraiser is set up like a giving tree, supporting local non-profits such as Circle of Friends, FAN, Sisters Cold Weather Shelter, and Furry Friends.

Fika wishes everyone "God Jul this season. We love serving you Fika in the cozy winter months of December."