

GIFTS

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thing you could possibly want from Oregon, such as salmon-in-a-box (\$31). This store is perfect for out-of-state parents who have always wanted to try Oregon cheese, or at least want to read riveting stories about it.

Stephanie, a clerk, said, "It's going to be another big Oregon Trail Christmas. I don't know why. ... They buy everything and anything."

Books, T-shirts, wines and much more, all strictly from the Beaver state, will make everyone smile.

For those looking to drop a lot of cash, try Radio Shack. For \$699, the Tandy PDA (Personal Digital Assistant) can be yours. This pocket-sized gadget is stuffed full of features, to name just a few: It can get E-mail, you can fax messages with it, it translates in 26 languages, it can get stock quotes and news and works as a personal organizer.

No holiday season is complete without including our little furry friends. There is nothing better than opening a box, shifting through the styrofoam squiggles and finding a cute, warm puppy at the bottom.

Where to find that special pet? Scamp's Pet Shop will serve all your animal needs. Ferrets are currently on sale for \$69.99. These cute, exotic creatures make great pets and will attract members of the oppo-

site sex, if they don't bite and kill them first. Stuff them into a stocking and laugh as they furiously leap out onto your uncle's face.

Rich Cantwell, a senior at the University, got his holiday shopping done at Eddie Bauer. "I'm buying a jacket for myself and lots of warm socks for my family," he said. Socks from Eddie Bauer? Why not a value pack of socks from Sears? "When it comes to socks, I only buy the best," Cantwell said.

Enough about clothes — let's talk about meat. Hickory Farms is the place for beef and turkey steaks, cheeseballs and cheese logs, all hot items, all excellent gifts.

Prewrapped meat gift packages are popular, including those you can order through a catalog. Imagine the surprise on your mother's face when she opens a package of Cheese 'N Beef! A seven-ounce Beef Stick Summer Sausage, a 10-ounce Country Cheddar Log rolled in almonds, a five-ounce Cheddar, three ounces of Sweet-Hot Mustard, and, for dessert, strawberry Bon Bons. Yum!

Of course, this is just a sampling of what Valley River Center offers. You know what you need — you don't need someone from the *Emerald* to tell you. The important thing is that you enjoy the holidays with friends and loved ones, and, even more importantly, buy lots of goods and services.

— Jeff Knaysi

PARENTS

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"Life's Little Instructions" attached to the title, and "The Great American Bathroom Book" (I and II).

Of course, there are other ways to entertain yourself without reading, hence the invention of the television set. Take your parents back to the classics with "Gone With the Wind" (\$69.99), or "Dr. Zhivago" (\$24.99). Disney is always a favorite, and "Aladdin" is now available on videocassette. All are available at Suncoast at Valley River Center.

If television isn't their thing, music may be. Phil Ross, manager of VRC's Camelot Music, said picks of the season include "Common Thread," a compilation of Eagles songs redone by current country artists, Billy Joel's "River of Dreams," Michael Bolton's "The One Thing," the soundtrack from "Sister Act II," Phil Collins' "Both Sides," Frank Sinatra's "Duets,"

Paul McCartney's "Paul Is Live," and k.d. lang's soundtrack to the Gus Van Sant flick, "Even Cowgirls Get the Blues."

If the blues of sight or sound don't appeal to your parents, perhaps the sense of smell does. Fragrances are always a good idea. Popular lines for men include Calvin Klein's Eternity, Joop and Dakkar, and for women Calvin Klein's Eternity, Obsession and Escape, and Amarige de Givenchy. Many of these products come in gift sets, but be forewarned that they can be spendy.

Unique gifts along the lines of tie-dye or pottery can be found at Saturday Market at the Lane County Fairgrounds on West 13th Avenue and Monroe Street. It's open Thanksgiving weekend, Saturdays and Sundays before Christmas from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and the last four days before Christmas from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday Market may have that off-the-wall item for unique parental units.

Another Eugene tradition is Fifth Street Public Market, 296 E. 5th Ave. With Knacks ranging from Nike to Unique Knacks, you're bound to find something, even if it's only a stocking stuffer.

Then, of course, there's the old standard: Hallmark. Its wide assortment of holiday ornaments, electrical and ones specifically for Mom, Dad, or both, are sure to brighten up the tree or fireplace mantel. Visit Mark's Hallmark at VRC, Kris' Hallmark at Gateway Shopping Center in Springfield, or Heidi's Hallmark and Flower Shop, 2846 Willamette St. and check out their selections.

If all else fails or if you have the world's pickiest parents, gift certificates might do the trick.

And if even that doesn't work, be sure to stock up on those art supplies and remember to tell them those three words that they always like to hear, "But I tried!"

— Jade Chan

WILLIAMS

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"The great part about the concert and album is that I get to make music with my friends," Williams said. "Friends become like compositional elements. When you write a piece, you think of an individual — about how they would play it."

The concert will be an example of exactly how Williams' friends choose to play. It is geared toward family and its inspirational sounds have always been a hit with the Eugene Symphony and several local artists.

This year especially Williams hopes to create an atmosphere in which local artists can strut their stuff.

"As time goes by I hope to include more artists from the community so that it becomes a platform for local artists to be seen," Williams said.

The youth concert will be playing again this year with their director, Sandra Williams. The performance will give the group a chance to perform in a professional setting.

"Kids are such a big element of Christmas and they're the ones you really have to service," Williams said. "A public performance different from what they usually do is fun for them."

Working with the kids has been a real challenge for Williams, who had to work with precisely 135 of them last year.

"It's important to think of all of the elements in a concert and in this case I had to figure out how to fit them in the program and keep their attention while I was working on it," Williams said. "This year's program will be a little different, but the kids are still a good portion of the concert."

The one night concert will take place on Dec. 4 at 8 p.m. and tickets can be purchased at the Hult Center Ticket Office for \$10 to \$24.

"Christmas is like a play," Williams said. "You bring it out each year and put on the performance and I am hoping everyone enjoys this one."

— Calley Anderson

CHRISTMAS

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takes care of all kinds of domestic problems. He gets rid of mice, mildew and ants, and he makes sure that wood panels don't rot and pipes don't rust. But if you forget to give him his porridge on Christmas Eve, he'll take a horrible revenge, and the whole house will inexplicably begin to fall apart.

After putting out the porridge for the "nisse", we would go into the living room, where the Christmas tree stood with all the presents underneath. In accordance with an old European tradition, we would grasp each others' hands and form a circle around the tree, and then we'd begin walking around the tree while singing Christmas carols.

It's a nice tradition, really, but when you're a child you hate it, because you can't wait for what comes next: the unwrapping of the Christmas presents.

Mrs. Dahle used to liken the walking around the Christmas tree to the dance around the golden calf, and in a way I suppose she's right. Norwegian Christmas traditions are no less materialistic than in the United States.

This will be the first year I'll be away from Norway for Christmas. It'll be a strange feeling. My family and I will celebrate Christmas in a country far, far away, where it's hot and sunny in December. We may not be able to obtain reindeer meat there, and we certainly won't be able to go sleigh riding through the snow.

But we'll do our very best to practice the other traditions. I believe my mother is right on that account: it's what keeps a family together.

— Marius Meland



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