

Who's On Your List This Holiday

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normal monthly budget. So, with that in mind, *Vernonia's Voice* went out in Vernonia recently to see what kind of interesting gift ideas we could find locally. Here's what we found:

Out on a Limb and Buckleberry Cottage are holding their annual Winter Event, so if you are having any trouble getting in the holiday spirit, stop by just south of town next to Storage Too. They have everything you need for the holidays-- ornaments, decorations, holiday dishes, cookie jars, and great hostess gifts for those holiday parties. It's like a winter wonderland inside! The Winter Event only runs through December 18th, so you won't be doing any last minute shopping here-- just make sure to stop by early before the best stuff is all gone.



Camouflage Luggage at Double C Tack.

Double C Tack has everything a horse lover might need. They have a whole rack of reasonably priced gift-type items. They also have locally hand-made wallets for \$50, and a three-piece set of Camouflage luggage for \$129. Camarda Gardens, who shares space at Double C Tack, has some locally hand-made rings and earrings that are very reasonably priced as well. Don't forget-- Double C Tack has a 10% discount coupon in their ad in this month's *Vernonia Voice*, so you *Voice* readers can save yourself a few bucks by shopping there.

Grey Dawn Gallery has your higher end items-- beautiful art pieces that would really show someone how much they mean to you. Among some items that we really



A handmade Murray Carter Knife, available at Grey Dawn Gallery.

loved was a hand carved salmon wood sculpture by artist J.E. Tosoni for \$500, a handmade knife by local craftsman Murray Carter for \$1195, and "Sushi Fanatic," a bronze sculpture by Jacques and Mary Regant at the special price of \$1975. Heidi Brown of Grey Dawn Gallery noted that a number of the pieces they have in stock will be seeing a price increase at the beginning of the new year, so it may be a good time to buy a Christopher Burkett framed photo or a Regant sculpture before they go up.

Clever Cricket is your place to find items for the little ones on your list. They have all kinds of handmade and learning toys, games and other items. There are lots of items from Melissa and Doug, including handcrafted puzzles for between \$5-\$15, and Magician's Apprentice Kits-- there's a card, a coin and a rope trick kit-- each is \$39.99. I also found a beautiful handpainted child's table set with two chairs, painted by a local Vernonian, for \$150. There's much more-- stop by and take a look.



You'll find puzzles and other learning toys at The Clever Cricket.

Agalis Computers has a full selection of hands-free headsets for your cell phone, and since it becomes illegal in Oregon to drive and use your cell phone unless it's hands-free on January 1st, this might be a practical gift for someone on the run. Agalis also has a great selection of gift bags-- free wrapping paper with purchase!-- and a selection of batteries, especially button batteries of all sizes. For someone with a home office, or actually anyone for that matter, a surge protector is also a practical gift.

Gretchen's Saddlery has handcrafted leather wallets and belts. I own one of Gretchen's wallets, and just about the time a mass-produced wallet would be starting to fall apart, my wallet from Gretchen is just starting to break in. Same with the two handmade belts I own-- I expect

them all to last for years and years. It's quality craftsmanship made right here in Vernonia. They are priced around \$60 and worth every penny.

Cornerstone

Naturals is the place for antique jewelry, collectibles, and of course teas, spices and other natural and herbal remedies-- these might make some good stocking stuffers. They also have some beautiful tree ornaments for between \$2-\$10. They have a collection of vintage sock monkeys-- I'm not sure what you do with a sock monkey, but I'll bet it would be one of the more unusual gifts received this year! They also have a one-of-a-kind 1950's hand carved oriental themed chess set--it's amazing!-- for \$150.



Almost as fun as a basket of Sock Monkeys! At Cornerstone Naturals.

Creatures and Vernonia Florist are offering a 25% discount on everything (except dog and cat food). They have pet toys and supplies for your best friend on the Creatures side of their store, and a really beautiful gift shop with Christmas ornaments, decorations, stuffed animals and other gift ideas on the florist side. *Voice* readers, make sure to grab that coupon and get some really great savings!

True Value Hardware has a myriad of practical gift ideas for the the holidays. Just walk in and start looking around and you'll find ideas galore. A couple ideas I jotted down while walking through: Bogs waterproof shoes, \$55, and boots, \$70; a large hand-truck for someone who's always moving things for \$55; a Honda power washer for \$350; and for the kids, there's basketballs, footballs, volleyballs and kickballs.

So there there you have it-- some great ideas for ways you can find some practical and unusual gift ideas and support local businesses this holiday season. If you haven't crossed everyone off your list yet, you won't have far to go. Happy Shopping everyone, and a Happy Holiday Season to all!

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We Wish you A Merry Christmas!

**902 Bridge Street
Vernonia, Oregon
97064
503-429-0335
Open 10am to 6pm**

Antiques, Gifts & Collectibles



Photo: Claishanie Chiel



The longest 72 hours you'll ever spend at home. Are you prepared?

A winter storm hits and the power goes out. Rain swollen rivers flood the region. Icy conditions keep you stuck at home without heat. Even though our emergency teams in Columbia County are equipped for the unexpected, severe winter weather could leave your family stranded for days. Columbia 9-1-1 urges your family to prepare a 72-hour kit that will help you survive for up to three days.

Pack all of these items in a large waterproof tub or garbage can and store it in an easily accessible place. Go to www.redcross.org for more detailed ideas.

Water. Provide a gallon of drinking water per person per day.

Food. Store a generous supply of canned or dried foods; include a can opener. Remember your pets too.

Light. Have a flashlight at the top of the tub; extra batteries are a good idea.

Warmth. Your kit should have a blanket for everyone, plus warm clothes, hats, gloves and socks. Plan to layer up.

First aid. For starters, a kit should have bandages, gauze, tape, antiseptic, pain medication and scissors.

Communication. Keep fresh batteries in a portable radio and a fully charged cell phone on hand. Your family should also have a disaster plan. Discuss where to meet inside and outside your own home, what to do if you are separated and whom to call for help or to leave messages. Include phone numbers for utilities and our local public information call center. Also consider making plans with your neighbors.

Finally, when the weather is threatening, or there's a disaster of any kind, stay informed. Listen to the radio, or if you have power, rely on the internet for updates. Follow emergency instructions as best you can. Columbia 9-1-1 asks for your help in keeping the emergency phone lines clear--only call 9-1-1 for life-threatening emergencies. As always, we will be assisting emergency personnel around the clock to keep everyone in our communities safe.



**Columbia 9-1-1
Communications District.
Always there.**