

Wide variety of made in Oregon gifts available for holiday giving

With the wide variety of Oregon produce, Oregon foods make an ideal holiday gift for friends and relatives. If you have the time and the talents to create your special products when the produce is in season during the year, you can have some very cherished, tasty treats for friends and relatives to enjoy during the year.

If you choose to create your own products, do take the time to follow research-based processing procedures. Another important practice is to label your home-canned products with the recommendations you followed to inform the receiver of your procedures. Check your methods by obtaining the OSU Extension publications on

canning fruits, vegetable, salsa, meats and seafoods.

Creating a gift basket that is filled with a variety of foods is a simple way to present your gift. One idea is to include a favorite recipe from you for using your food gifts or organizing the ingredients for a quick meal or the makings for a special occasion, complete with fancy nap-

kins and a bottle of Oregon wine.

Oregon also has a nice selection of packaged and preserved foods manufactured by Oregon companies for those with no time for preparing gifts. Consider jams, sauces, nuts,

dried fruit and flavored vinegars.

If the opportunity to get fresh produce has passed by, holiday jams from frozen berries or fruit leather from canned fruit are other options for easily prepared, out of season items.

Fireplace can keep you cozy if you maintain safety

Now that cold weather is upon us, more and more Oregonians will be turning to their woodstoves or fireplaces to keep warm. Before lighting the first bundle of kindling, state and local fire safety professionals urge you to take the necessary precautions to ensure that a flue fire does not occur.

Every year, fire trucks respond to chimney and flue fires that could have been prevented had the homeowner taken the time to have his or her fireplace system inspected. The most important step is to clean the stovepipe or chimney before lighting the first fire of the winter. This can be done yourself, but fire officials recommend having a professional chimney sweep do it for you. The cleaning process involves special tools of the trade, such as a wire brush to clear away creosote, the sooty buildup that can ignite, causing the stovepipe or chimney to heat up to over 2000 degrees Fahrenheit, starting a flue fire.

Chimney maintenance is vital to safe woodstove and fireplace operation, and fire marshals recommend that your chimney be inspected annually to cut back on the chances of a chimney fire. These intense fires can cause much damage, igniting the house inside and out and creating enough smoke to be deadly to occupants indoors. If a chimney flue is not cleaned, a chimney fire will occur. It will begin when the creosote, which is made up of tiny unburned particles of wood fuel, heats up until it turns bright red. As air rushes in to oxygenate the fire, a loud, roaring sound will be heard inside the stovepipe. It may shake

loose sections of pipe, throwing burning particles and flames into the house. Should a flue fire start, shut off the air supply to the woodstove, get everyone out of the house and call 911.

Along with making sure your chimney is creosote-free, be sure to dispose of ashes properly, in a covered metal container, kept outdoors at least 3 feet from anything flammable. Also, keep combustible materials, such as furniture, drapes and decorations, away from the fireplace or woodstove itself. Using a fireplace screen can also help prevent sparks and ashes from leaping out of the fire and landing on surrounding furniture and carpet. As always, vacuum and test smoke alarms to be certain that they are working properly; it is recommended that the batteries be changed twice a year and alarms more than 10 years old be replaced.

Thousands of homes in Oregon rely on outdated woodstoves or fireplace inserts installed during the energy crisis of the late 1970's. Many of these may not have been installed or maintained properly. These stoves produce far more smoke and burn less efficiently than the modern certified woodstoves, pellet stoves or non-woodburning systems like natural gas. Check to see if your woodstove is a certified model by looking on the back of the stove for a certification sticker from the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) or the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). If there is no tag, it may be an uncertified, high-polluting stove.

Oregon law allows the use of woodstoves, uncertified or not. However, resale or rein-

stallation of an uncertified stove is prohibited. Homeowners who upgrade their woodstove should request that the installer recycle their old stove.

For information about chimney sweeping and a list of professional chimney sweeps, check out www.ocs.org. For more information on woodstoves and other fireplace products, call the Oregon Hearth Products Association at 503-585-8254 or check out the website at www.ohpa.org.

For information on wood smoke pollution, contact the Oregon DEQ at 503-229-5359 or www.deq.state.or.us.



GRANNY'S CRAFTS & GIFT ITEMS

Christmas Gifts & Decorations

Plenty of new items in stock
Prices Reduced on selected items.

Order your Personalized Christmas Sacks and have them hand-painted by Susan!

Hate to wrap gifts? We'll do it for you!

HOURS: Monday thru Friday 10-5, Sundays 12-4
In the Bridge Street Mall
902 Bridge St., Vernonia • (503) 704-6983

'Tis the Season...

to think about your Christmas letters.



You write it and you mail it — in between, we'll dress it up with professional typesetting in the style of your choice, on your choice of letterhead with a Christmas print or on bright, holiday red or green stationery with envelopes to match.

Six styles to choose from
Style 1 Style 2 Style 3
Style 4 Style 5 Style 6

Just 40¢ per set!

Optional:
Second page, add 15¢ per set.
Return address printed on envelope, 15¢ per envelope.

Christmas Special



Two 1-Hour Gift Certificates \$60

or

Four 1-Hour Gift Certificates...\$100

OFFER GOOD IN DECEMBER, 2000, ONLY

Summer Country Massage Clinic

In the Bridge Street Mall

902 Bridge Street, Vernonia • 503-429-5800

The INDEPENDENT

725 Bridge Street, Vernonia, OR 97064

503-429-9410