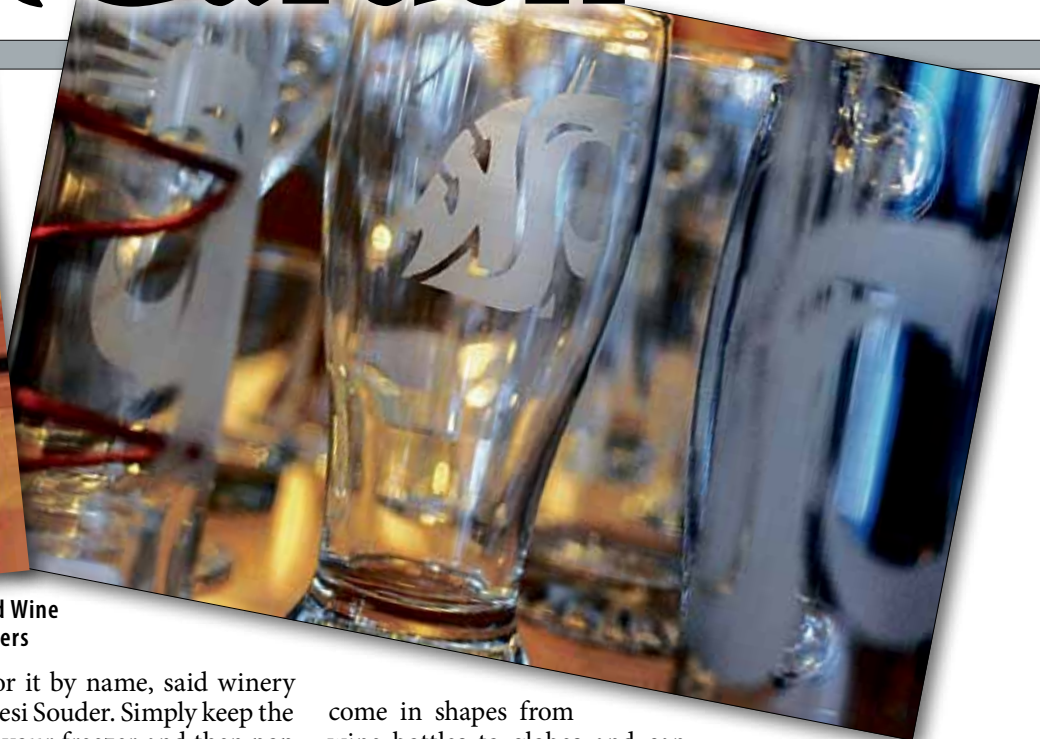


Life: Home & Garden

Photos by Pete Caster / pcaster@chronline.com



Local Wines, Etched Wine Glasses & Tumblers

Fruit of the Vine

If you still have a few names to cross off on your Christmas shopping list, here are a few unique local finds to check out:

The wine lover in your life is sure to get some use out of the VinOice wine pourer and chiller (under \$30) at Heymann Winery. The contraption, which features a gravity lid and a chill rod, has already generated a great deal of interest among shoppers, some of whom have come

in asking for it by name, said winery employee Desi Souder. Simply keep the chill rod in your freezer and then pop the entire piece into your open bottle of wine for instantly chilled vino.

"So if you have company coming over you don't have to stick all your wine into the fridge," Souder said.

Also check out:

- the plug-in Rapid Beverage Chiller, which chills cans to ice-cold in one minute and a wine bottle to perfectly chilled in six minutes (\$75);
- wire cork holder sculptures that

come in shapes from wine bottles to globes and can allow the wine lover in your life to save their corks in style (about \$30);

- wine glasses, beer steins and tumblers etched with Husky, Cougar and Seahawk logos, which are sure to please the sports lover in your life (under \$20);
- Heymann's house-made wines to match a variety of tastes, though Souder said if you don't know what someone's tastes in wine she would suggest either their Riesling or Happy Ending, a sweet syrah (about \$20).



VinOice Wine Chiller

Last-Minute Local Gift Ideas

Store Owners Say Shoppers Want Local, Unique and Affordable

By Carrina Stanton
For The Chronicle

Cautious optimism. That's the trend in holiday spending expected by the National Retail Federation this year. The NRF projected at the beginning of the 2012 Christmas shopping season a bump in sales of just a few percentage points from last year. And in the last few days of Christmas shopping, local retailers said that's just what they're seeing in their stores: practicality and frugality.

"We used to have that rush at the end where people would just buy anything," said Beverly Hartz, who owns Book 'n' Brush in downtown Chehalis with her husband, David. "They're not doing that anymore. There's a lot more thought involved before buying."

Greg Anderson, owner of Anderson's True Value in Centralia, said for the first time in many years, he had no "it" item to suggest for Christmas gifts. In the store where customer service is stressed, he said shoppers are coming in looking for specific items based on the receiver's taste as well as what they need.

"Every year there's something and about a week before Christmas they come in looking for what they can't get anywhere else," Anderson said. "But it's just been the standard flashlights and tool sets this year."

But within that practicality, local store owners also say they have seen a silver lining. Rebecca Staebler, who owns HUBBUB in downtown Centralia, said belt tightening has made a lot more consumers more thoughtful about their gift giving. That, in turn, has pointed many of them to local shops over big box stores.

"I'm having a lot of people who who are focused on buying local or locally made but they want something that is interesting and unique," Staebler said.

Frank DeVaul, who has owned re:Design in downtown Chehalis with his wife, Judy, for about a year, said their focus this year has been on items that are at a wide range of price points but that are also interesting and useful.

"I think it's a combination of both being practical but trying to be special," DeVaul said. "The economy is coming back. It's not roaring back. People are being cautious and they want to make sure if they're going to part with their money they want to make sure they're going to enjoy what they buy."

For more great ideas please see **GIFTS**, page Life 2



Antique Golfer's Armoire

A Unique Mix

It's a bit of a splurge, but the antique golfer furniture set (about \$1,000 for armoire and \$1,300 for entire set) at re:Design could please both golfers and homebodies. The set featuring an entertainment armoire, side table with pull out drink platforms; and coffee table was hand-painted for a house on the Seattle Street of Dreams tour of homes. But what makes it really unique is the entertainment armoire has a built-in putting ball return built into it. Just putt a ball into the front cutout and it will come right back at you.

Also check out:

- bejeweled office supplies, which would make a practical but fun stocking stuffer (under \$20);
- single wine bottle holders shaped like stiletto heels to add whimsy to your wine collection (under \$30);
- or for a really unique conversation piece try the 16-bottle wine chandelier (under \$50);
- Junk Girls handmade, up-cycled cards, key chains, necklaces, bracelets and cheese markers (\$4.50-\$40);
- retro pedal cars will be a treasured keepsake for kids or grandkids for years to come (under \$400).



Garden Bon Bons

Fashion & Style

For the fashion-conscious lady on the go in your life, you can't go wrong with a pair of Ilse Jacobsen rain boots (under \$200) from HUBBUB. The Danish made knee-high boots feature a stylish lace up front and inside a cotton fleece lining and wool insole.

"Guaranteed to keep you dry even in the Northwest torrential downpour," Staebler said. "I just sold some yesterday to a lady who said she was tired of her feet being wet."

Also check out:

- The Retro A Go-Go line of business card holders and pill boxes, which feature fun retro photos (under \$25);
- simple, handmade glass photo holders which allow you to easily slip photos, postcards or recipes in and out (under \$15);
- Garden Bon Bons, which look like beautiful chocolates but are actually made out of compost, clay and seeds (under \$20).



Ilse Jacobsen Rain Boots

Sport Scene

For that sports lover in your life, Athletes Corner in Centralia's Fairway Center carries a variety of items emblazoned with every local high school team colors and logo.

From sweatshirts (\$30) and stadium blankets (\$29) to T-shirts (\$15) and hats and headbands (\$20 and under) and even drawstring backpacks (about \$10) and shorts (\$15), these gifts will be both unique and useful.

Also check out:

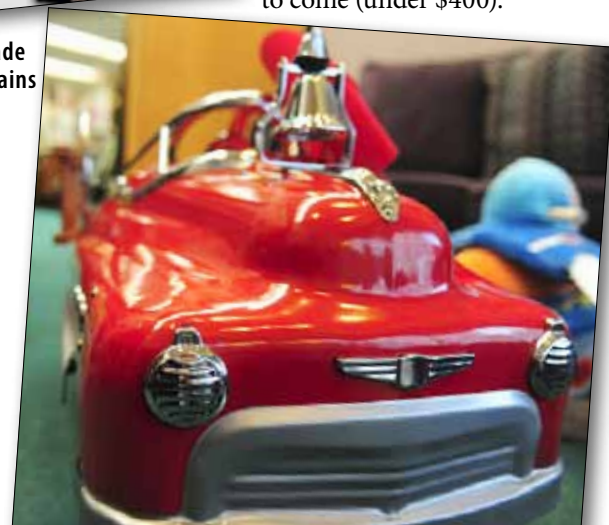
- folding stadium seats (under \$40) that come in a variety of colors and for an extra \$7 you can have them personalized;
- the ultra cushioned Nike Elite sports socks have been so popular with local athletes the shop has been working hard to stay up with demand (\$14).



Local High School Hats & Sweatshirts



Junk Girls Handmade Bracelets & Key Chains



Retro Pedal Car