

Gifts: Consumers Are Being a Lot More Thoughtful About Their Gift Giving

Continued from Life 1



Santas & Winter Decor

Sweet Scents

Hats, scarves, soaps and lotions have been some of the biggest sellers at **Smith's Mercantile** in downtown Chehalis this year, said owners Tanda Evans and Cindy Hall.

One of the most festive choices is the Frasier Fir scent in their Thymes series (under \$10). This line, made in the United States, includes lotions, hand soaps and bubble baths in a variety of scents, but Frasier Fir is by far the most Christmas-like.

"It's really nice scents but not too strong so they're not offensive," Evans said of the Thymes line.

Also check out:

- Switch flops, sets of flip flops that allow fashionistas to change the style of their footwear by switching out the straps (about \$50 for shoes and under \$20 for extra straps);
- Jim Shore's decorative sculptures, which are always a special piece to give and receive and this time of year. You can find a variety of Santas and winter-themed items (under \$40);
- fun themed to add a little fun and bling to that special someone's cell phone (\$10-\$5);
- a variety of jewelry including necklaces, earrings and rings to suit a variety of budgets and tastes (starting under \$10).



Festive Scents

OUR FEATURED STORES

- **HUBBUB** – 505 N. Tower Ave., Centralia. 736-1517. hubbubshop.com
- **Heymann Winery** – 212 N. Tower Ave., Centralia. 623-1107. www.heymanwinery.com
- **re:Design** – 425 N. Market Blvd., Chehalis. 740-5400. www.facebook.com/pages/reDesign/236718639710396
- **Smith's Mercantile** – 465 N. Market Blvd., Chehalis. 748-7901
- **Book 'n' Brush** – 518 N. Market Blvd., Chehalis. 748-6221
- **Athlete's Corner** – 1710 South Gold Street, Centralia. 736-1782. www.athletescorner.com
- **Joe's Outdoor Sport Shop** – 177 N.E. Hampe Way, Chehalis. 262-6911. www.joesoutdoorsportshop.com



Lego Architecture Sets

Photos by Pete Caster / pcaster@chronline.com

Books and More

While most consumers may be cutting back on spending elsewhere, one place **Book 'n' Brush's** David Hartz has noticed an increase in demand has been in well-made kids toys.

"It's the year of the kid," Hartz said. "People are spending money on kids."

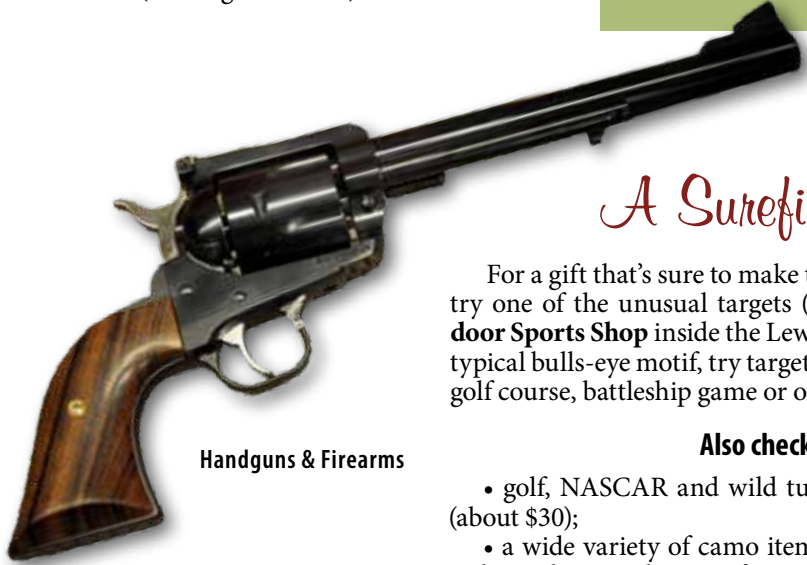
In response to shopper demand, Book 'n' Brush recently added a large line of wooden toys including train sets (about \$40), blocks, puzzles and lacing cards. The Melissa and Doug game "Suspend" is a toy that has the potential to enthrall kids of many ages. A simple wire stand challenges players to balance different lengths of wire sticks to create the most gravity-defying sculptures (under \$20).

Also check out:

- handmade wooden bowls made by former Chehalis Police Chief Glenn Schaffer (\$40-\$75);
- Lego architecture sets, including the Space Needle and Empire State Building, will please both the young and young at heart (about \$30);
- Chehalis mints, a tasty treat for anyone but an especially fun taste of a local flavor to send to friends and relations in other areas (\$3-\$10);
- the Nature Explore line of wooden toys, books and puppets that feature a Native American art motif (about \$13-\$30).



Melissa and Doug's "Suspend" Game



Handguns & Firearms

A Surefire Hit

For a gift that's sure to make the hunter in your life smile, try one of the unusual targets (about \$10) at **Joe's Outdoor Sports Shop** inside the Lewis County Mall. Besides the typical bulls-eye motif, try targets that look like a dart board, golf course, battleship game or old time gunslinger town.

Also check out:

- golf, NASCAR and wild turkey themed -opoly games (about \$30);
- a wide variety of camo items including T-shirts, pants, jackets, gloves and even infant receiving blankets and layette sets (\$8-\$80);
- a variety of handguns and firearms (starting around \$300) — although with waiting periods of up to five days, you'll need to hurry if you'd like them under the tree Christmas morning.



Unusual Targets



Pink Lady Handgun

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