



Gary Hanner/The Daily Home

The Pink Daisy Boutique is all ready for the Christmas shopping season. Pictured are owner Teresa Springfield, right, and part time helper Anna Claire Jones, left, helping customer Wendy Nordquist. The business is located in Cropwell Commons.

The Pink Daisy Boutique

‘It’s the perfect time to purchase those special gifts for those special people in your life’



By GARY HANNER
Home staff writer

Teresa Springfield, owner of Pink Daisy Boutique in Pell City, said now is the perfect time to purchase those special Christmas presents for the special people in your life. Four years ago, Springfield opened Doodle Bugs, a gift shop on Cogswell Avenue in downtown Pell City. Two years ago she changed the name and changed locations. Today she is located at 2401 Stemley Bridge Road, Suite 13A in Cropwell Commons. “The business has

definitely picked up since I changed locations, and changed what we carry,” she said. One of the newer additions to the inventory is Jess & Jane, a new misses/ladies line of clothing sold exclusively at The Pink Daisy. “This boutique is mainly for women and young girls,” Springfield said. “We used to carry children’s items, but not anymore.” They also sell Artwear jewelry from a local artist in the Talladega and Chelsea area; a new line called Grace Girl beads, which is also a home-based business from Huntsville; and a new

line called KLD Design. The Pink Daisy is also the exclusive retailer for Saved Life T-shirts, from a local business in Moody. Springfield said the above mentioned items would absolutely be very nice Christmas presents. “We also have a lot of jewelry, Whispering Prayer bracelets and Good Works candles,” she said. “Gift wrapping is free with any purchase. One of the nicest

things right now is getting 15 percent off your entire purchase by texting PDAISY to 51660. Regular hours are Monday-Wednesday from 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Thursday-Friday from 11 a.m.-6 p.m.; and Saturday from 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. They are closed on Sundays. “During Christmas, we will stay open until 6 or 7 p.m. or until the last customer has finished shopping,” Springfield

said. “If a customer calls me on the phone and tells me they are stuck in traffic and trying to get here, I will wait on them.” Springfield said while some of the Christmas rush has started, her business will definitely pick up after Thanksgiving and the first couple of weeks

in December. She will be open on Black Friday. Springfield said it amazes her how many people God sends into her boutique on a daily basis. “This is just a great community to live in and have a business in,” she said.

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Mosey on over to the Corral to get all your holiday Western gear

Staff Report

Holiday shoppers looking for gifts with a Western theme can find the items on their lists at the Oak Grove Corral.

Opened in March as an addition to Oak Grove Feed & Tack at 39925 Highway 280, the specialty boutique offers clothing and gifts for men, women and children. According to manager Amy Cockrell, "our best sellers are probably our boots, belts and wallets."

Among the boot brands available at the Corral are Ariat, Justin,

Double H, Rocky, Nocana and Durango. The selection includes work and Western boots.

Nocona men's and women's designer belts are proving popular this season, Cockrell said, as are various styles of leather wallets and money clips. Choices include long and bifold wallets in camouflage, Western and religious designs.

Store hours are 8 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays and 8 a.m.-noon Saturdays. Holiday hours will be 8 a.m.-7 p.m. beginning December 1.



Buddy Roberts/The Daily Home

Oak Grove Corral opened in March as an addition to Oak Grove Feed & Tack at 39925 Highway 280. The specialty boutique offers clothing and gifts for men, women and children.



How to give holiday gifts that won't be forgotten

If your holiday shopping list is focused on all the latest trends, remember, the hottest items are not always the most cherished. Sometimes it's the warmest gifts that are the most unforgettable.

"The holidays are times of nostalgia and remembrance, from stories of when we were children to the smell of cookies baking in the oven," says Christopher Warnack, vice president of marketing and visual at Things Remembered, a leading personalized gift retailer. "Likewise, the gifts you give are not just objects to enjoy now; they should create a joyful memory that can be cherished for years."

To this end, Warnack recommends giving gifts with a loved one's name, a monogram, a shared memory, a thoughtful message or an inside joke. "Something that makes it just for them, and only from you," he says.

For a seasonal gift to mark the passing years, consider a personalized ornament or snow globe. Your gift recipient can look back on the ornaments



received each year and be reminded of those holiday memories.

Above all, remember to take into consideration the style, hobbies and favorite colors of your gift recipient. You can customize a gift for anyone on your list.

Scarves or jewelry personalized just for her can be enjoyed for years.

For him, consider mugs, apparel and other gear that commemorates his favorite sports team, and are sure to become part of his game-day traditions and

celebrations. Personalized toys, stuffed animals and other snuggly gifts are great for kids.

Seek out gifts at retailers that specialize in customized items which can create one-of-a-kind gifts in an about an hour (and a little longer for embroidery and other specialized techniques).

"Everyone remembers the best gift they ever received," says Warnack.

Make someone's season by giving gifts that create new and happy memories

with the people you care about the most.

(StatePointMedia.)

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Tucker Webb/The Daily Home

Matt's Christmas trees are priced from \$25 to \$50 dollars apiece. "We have so many people comment on how affordable they are," owner Lyn Embry said.

Munford farm wants everyone to have an affordable Christmas tree

By Kelli Tipton
Home Staff Writer

At just 12 years old, dark haired, dark-eyed Matt Embry started working at a Christmas tree farm in Eastaboga. Every holiday season, he learned more about the operations of the farm, and he enjoyed interacting with hundreds of customers. He loved seeing the excitement in children's eyes when families came together to choose a tree. He graduated from Munford High School in 1996 and the University of Montevallo in 2001. He accepted a job at Honda, but he dreamed of owning

a fun, family-friendly tree farm where children could help their parents pick the perfect Christmas tree, chop it down and take it home. In 2006, he began planting one group of trees at a time on the land across from his parents' home on McElderry Road in Munford. He tended to them as they matured, and he looked forward to opening his farm to customers in December of 2011. Matt died in a car accident in March of 2011. He was 33 years old. "He was kind, generous, loving, hard-working, and productive," said his mother, Lyn Embry. "It was the hardest thing we ever had to do, but

we opened the farm that Christmas. We opened it in his memory." Lyn and her husband, Harry, are keeping Matt's dream alive year after year. "We didn't know anything about Christmas tree farming, but we wanted to continue Matt's project. We had to learn everything about it. Harry does most of the hard work. The trees have to be pruned twice a year, mulched twice a month, sprayed for bugs, and weeded. It's hard work for us, but it's a labor of love. It is well worth the aches and pains," Lyn said. Now in its sixth season, Matt's Christmas Tree Farm is thriving with row after row of Virginia Pine and

Leland Cypress trees. "We have 2,000 beautiful trees for our customers to choose from this year," Lyn said. The Embrys established the Matthew Russell Embry Memorial Scholarship at Montevallo, and they fund it entirely with proceeds from Christmas tree sales. The scholarship is awarded to students with exceptional character who need financial help. "We wanted to do something to carry on who Matt was. He was a giver and a helper. We knew he would approve if we gave the money to education," Lyn said. The Embrys have awarded four \$8,000 scholarships so far. Three of

Don't forget the batteries

If you want to avoid one of the biggest holiday season jumbles, remember the batteries when giving gifts to kids and tech lovers. Ninety percent of Americans have forgotten batteries for a holiday gift in the past, according to a survey by Energizer in 2016. And 44 percent of consumers take batteries out of their other devices to power a holiday gift if they forgot to purchase batteries at the store. So don't let the phrase "Batteries Not Included" crush holiday cheer or require an anti-climactic run to the store. Parents will want to be especially mindful of ensuring gifts are ready to use, as kids can be extra eager to play with their new toys once opened. But whether it's a remote-controlled car, video game controller or robotic pet, recipients of all ages will want to enjoy their gifts right away, so don't forget to read the labels on holiday items and be prepared. Remember, batteries make for great stocking stuffers. And this year, you can get prepped for holidays present and future, as Energizer MAX AA batteries allow them to hold power for up to 10 years while in storage. They also offer long-lasting power and are designed to prevent damaging leaks, so gifts stay fun longer. More information can be found at energizer.com. Even the best holiday gifts can lose their luster without batteries to operate them. Ensure the holidays end on a high note by remembering the batteries with your gifts this year. (StatePointMedia.)

Christmas Gift Guide

1a
14K Diamond Earrings
3/4 ctw, **\$1,999** Reg \$3,000

1b
14K Diamond Pendant
1/3 ctw, **\$999**
Reg \$1,500

1c
14K Diamond Ring
1/4 ctw, **\$599** Reg \$900
1/2 ctw, **\$999** Reg \$1,500
3/4 ctw, **\$1,699** Reg \$2,550
1 ctw, **\$1,999** Reg \$3,000
1 1/2 ctw, **\$3,999** Reg \$6,000
2 ctw, **\$5,999** Reg \$9,000

1d
14K Diamond Pendant,
1/4 ctw, **\$599** Reg \$900
1/2 ctw, **\$999** Reg \$1,500
3/4 ctw, **\$1,699** Reg \$2,550
1 ctw, **\$1,999** Reg \$3,000

1e
14K Diamond Earrings
1/2 ctw, **\$1,199** Reg \$1,800
3/4 ctw, **\$1,799** Reg \$2,700
1 ctw, **\$2,199** Reg \$3,300

1f
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Diamond Ring
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1g
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the recipients have graduated, and the fourth is a junior this year. "It is important to us that they graduate. The student receives a gift every year, for four years, so we continue to help them until they graduate," she said.

"People are going to buy Christmas trees anyway, but when they buy one from us, they are contributing to something much bigger. It's a ripple effect. When you help somebody, they can help somebody, and so on. This is Matt's legacy. He touched so many lives in different ways, and we want to honor that. That's why we give every dime we make from his farm to the scholarship."

They are thankful for their customers and the volunteers who return each year to the farm. None of it would be possible without them. "We have the best customers. Most of them are repeat customers, and we have become friends with them. Some of them knew Matt, and some of them have heard what we are doing and they want to contribute," Lyn said. "It is definitely a family effort to get the trees sold. Nieces, nephews, sisters and brothers-in-law volunteer every year to carry on Matt's legacy of giving back. We could not do this without them."

The Embrys enjoy serving their community and surrounding areas. They make special arrangements for kindergarten classes to come through and choose a tree for their class. They also welcome classes from Alabama School for the Deaf. Harry gives students a hayride around the farm and lets them watch him feed the cows in the adjoining pasture. "They love the experience, and it's educational for them," Lyn said.

The Christmas trees are priced from \$25 to \$50 dollars apiece. "Matt wanted anyone who wanted a tree to be able to afford one. We have so many people comment on how affordable they are," she said. "We have customers who come from Anniston, Pell City, and even out of state from Georgia and Tennessee. The furthest tree went to Louisiana with a family who came to visit Cheaha Mountain. They were riding by and saw the sign. They stayed, and the kids ran and played. They left with a tree strapped to the top of their vehicle."

Matt's Christmas Tree Farm is open seven days a week from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. through December 21. For more information, visit Matt's Christmas Tree Farm on Facebook or call 256-375-2015.



Tucker Webb/The Daily Home

The Embrys established the Matthew Russell Embry Memorial Scholarship at Montevallo, and they fund it entirely with proceeds from Christmas tree sales. The scholarship is awarded to students with exceptional character who need financial help.

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Tucker Webb/The Daily Home

Shear Studios offers monogrammed and embroidered gifts, just in time for the holidays. Popular items this season include scarves, Sherpa brand pull-overs and personalized giving plates.

Shear Studios in Talladega offers personalized holiday gifts that will never go out of style



By LACI BRASWELL
Home staff writer

Located in the heart of town on the historic square, Shear Studios offers personalized monogrammed or embroidered gifts, just in time for the holidays.

"We sell a variety of items including clothing and things for the home," owner Amy Bishop said.

The local business hosted its grand opening on August 25 and continues to grow.

"Word of mouth has really helped us," she said. "People are slowly finding out where we are and can place us once we say we are next door to Cafe Royale."

According to Bishop, the personalizing of items is something unique to the South.

"Monogramming and embroidering is something that's very popular down here," she said. "It's not as popular or as available up north. I guess it's just something we take pride in."

The business owner said that personalized gifts have really peaked within the last five years.

"Personalized gifts have always been popular," Bishop said. "I've really seen it grow in the last five years, and it's not going anywhere or will ever go out of style."

She also noted that she is thankful to be able to offer personalized gifts to her community.

"Most of the time people have to either order online or drive to a different county to find personalized gifts," she said.

Popular items this season include scarves, Sherpa brand pull-overs and personalized giving plates.

"The giving plate is the perfect gift for the person who has everything," Bishop said. "I design all of the plates, and do all of the artwork." The plates are meant to be passed on to person-to-person and from house-to-house. "It's perfect to send leftovers or to serve special occasion dishes on."

Bishop noted that future plans include the addition of a salon and adding to her inventory.

"I'm a licensed cosmetologist and previously owned my own salon in the area, and it's also where the name of the business comes from," she said.

Bishop said that everything sold in store can be personalized, and staff members will also monogram customers' personal items.

"If we don't sell a specific item, I can usually find what a customer is looking for," Bishop said.

Shear Studios is also offering a special holiday promotion.

"Customers who spend \$125 or more will receive a free holiday t-shirt," Bishop said. The holiday promotion will be offered until Dec. 15.

Shear Studios is open from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays and 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturdays.



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David Atchison/The Daily Home

Michael Abernathy, vice president of marketing and sales for Griffin's Jewelers, can help customers find the perfect Christmas gift.

Griffin's Jewelers in Pell City can meet all your jewelry needs for Christmas



The Pell City jeweler has a wide variety of timepieces, including the Citizen Eco Drive and Luminox watches.

Griffin's Jewelers offers the Enchanted Disney Fine Jewelry collection.

By DAVID ATCHISON
Home staff writer

Griffin's Jewelers in Pell City can meet all your jewelry needs for Christmas, offering a wide range of jewelry, watches and special gifts for that special someone, while also offering special financing this holiday season.

"We have all kinds of cool stuff," said Michael Abernathy, vice president of marketing and sales. "We also have special financing through IDD Financing."

He said with approved credit, financing is available for up to 60 months.

"Between now and Valentine's Day is a special season for engagement rings," Abernathy said. "That's where the special financing comes in."

Griffin's Jewelers offer the two-stone Together jewelry in rings, pendants and necklaces.

"It represents your best friend who is also your true love," Abernathy said. "One plus one equals us."

The Together fine jewelry collection has a wide-range of prices, starting out as low at \$600 up to more than \$2,000, depending on the size of diamonds for each piece.

"It's a great gift for the wife or girlfriend," he said.

One of the most popular items Griffin's is offering this Christmas season is the Enchanted Disney Fine Jewelry collection.

"The jewelry is designed towards princesses," Abernathy said. "One of

the most popular is the Cinderella carriage necklace."

The Disney collection includes the diamond and gold Belle, Elsa and Snow White collection designs.

Prices start under \$200 for the Disney collection design.

"It's a fine jewelry collection for women and girls of all ages," Abernathy said.

Another eye-popping collection is the Griffin's Jewelers LeVian Chocolate Diamond collection. The beautiful pieces include rings and necklaces for the special person.

Griffin's Jewelers also offers Endless Jewelry bracelets. The bracelets are customized with individual charms.

"They start at \$30 with one bracelet and charm," Abernathy said.

Griffin's Jewelry also carries the Endless Jewelry rings and earrings.

The local jewelry store, which has been in business for 66 years, almost 40 in Pell City, has a wide variety of men's and women's watches.

Especially for the men, Griffin's offers men's watches from the Citizen Satellite Wave watch, which sets the time by GPS satellites to the rugged outdoors Luminox watches.

The Citizen Satellite Wave watch is automatically set by satellite and has a 7-year power reserve. The watch starts at \$799.

"It's a hot item for men," Abernathy said.

He said the Luminox watch is the approved watch for Navy Seals. The watch is water and shock proof, and costs \$300 and up. The face of the

watch glows in the dark.

Griffin's Jewelers also offers men's jewelry and fine leather billfolds, and customers need to check out the solar powered round world globes, a unique gift for the man who has everything.

Griffin's Jewelers also carries specialty items for the Alabama and Auburn fans.

The Pell City store, at 1903 Cogswell Avenue, has a wide range

of rings, necklaces, earrings, watches and large assortment of gifts items for everyone. Griffin's also has convenient locations at 740 East Battle Street, Talladega, and at 123 North Broadway Street, Sylacauga.

Starting after Thanksgiving, the Pell City store is open from 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Mondays-Fridays and 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturdays.

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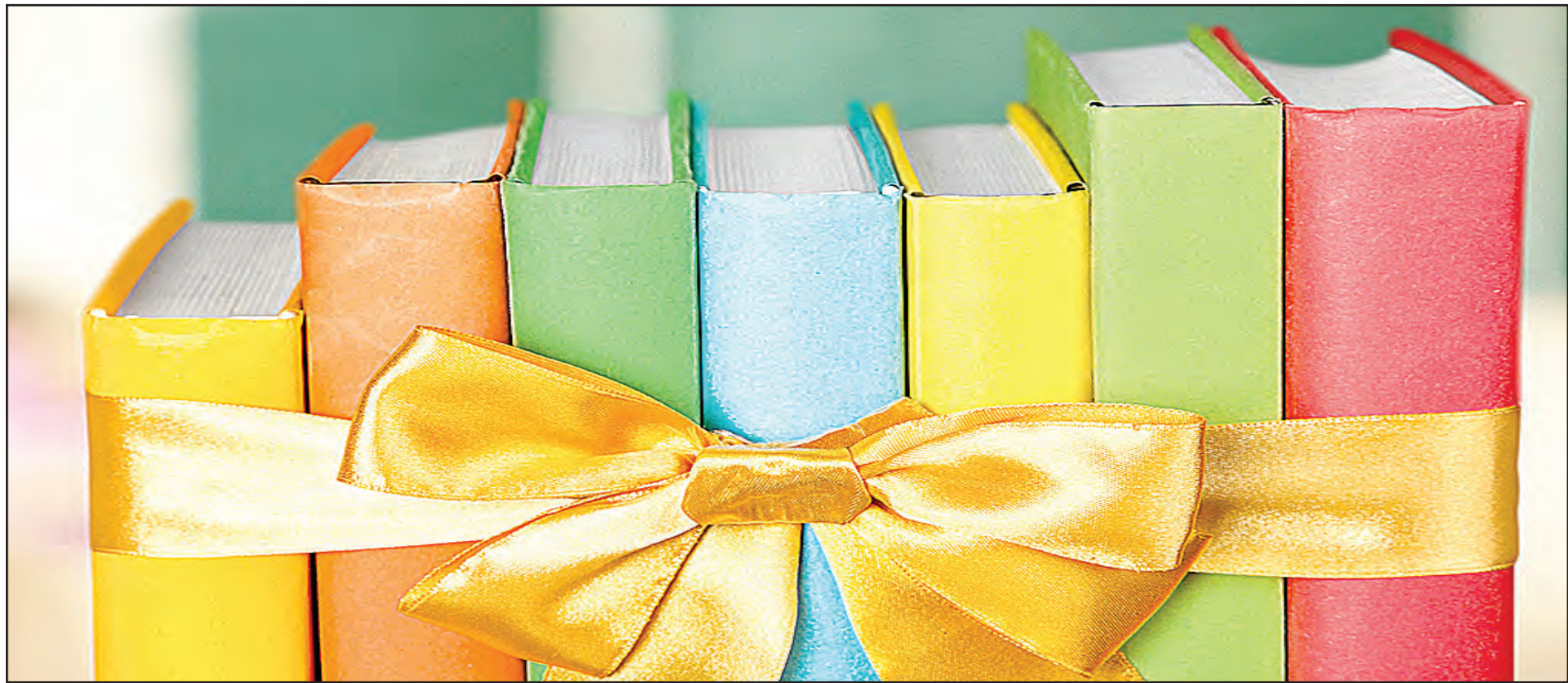
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Books for everyone on your list this holiday season

No matter who is on your list this holiday season, great books make for great gifts.

Here are five titles to consider giving knowledge-seekers to enjoy during the season, or as stocking stuffers:

Gem Lovers

Produced in association with the Smithsonian Institution, "Gem" is a visual guide to precious and semi-precious stones, organic gems, and precious metals, and features over 1,000 specially commissioned images. "Gem" reveals the science, natural history, mythology, and true stories behind the most celebrated gems and jewel-laden artifacts, including the Hope Diamond and Queen Elizabeth's pelican brooch.

Readers can learn about the exquisite jewelry of cultures around the world, find out what characteristics are needed for a record-breaking gem, and follow the history of the world's most famous jewelry houses and designers.

Star Gazers

Chart the wonders of the cosmos with "The Stars." Packed with three-dimensional artworks of each constellation and new imagery from the Hubble Space Telescope, ground-based observatories and more, this guide features fascinating objects like glittering star-birth nebulae and supermassive black holes.

The position, size and color of every night-sky object are revealed and a three-dimensional model of the celestial sphere that surrounds Earth charts all 88 constellations. From the Big Bang to the search for extraterrestrial life, astronomy and cosmology topics are covered in

an easy-to-digest visual format.

Automotive Enthusiasts

Classic car collectors and enthusiasts will enjoy "Classic Car," a visual guide created in association with the Smithsonian Institution. Featuring the most iconic classics of every decade from the 1940s to the 1980s from the Aston Martin DB5 to the Chevrolet Corvette, the book offers detailed profiles of trademark models, as well as the famous designers and manufacturers behind them, featuring more than 1,300 photographs and two prints suitable for framing.

Inventors

Readers can build and explore 28 kid-safe experiments, crafts and activities with "Maker Lab." Created in association with the Smithsonian Institution and supporting STEAM education initiatives, the book will get young inventors' wheels turning, making science fun.

Explaining science through photographs, facts and real-world examples, each activity is appropriate for kids ages 8-12 years old. Requiring only household materials, young makers can build an exploding volcano, make bath fizzies, construct a solar system and more.

Budding Builders

Encourage builders to look at their LEGO bricks in new, creative ways with "365 Things to do with LEGO Bricks," an interactive book featuring imaginative play and building ideas, from projects that take just a few minutes to those that keep one occupied for hours.

Activities include building a LEGO pet, challenging friends to

make the tallest tower while working against the clock, and organizing a LEGO bricks treasure hunt.

American Girl Fans

Offer American Girl fans a treasured bookshelf addition with "American Girl: Ultimate Visual Guide," which includes images of every BeForever and Girl of the Year doll, an expanded section on the TrulyMe dolls and a detailed timeline of the company. Readers can learn about favorite dolls, historical eras, outfits, pets, accessories and more.

This holiday season, give a gift that inspires endless wonder.

(StatePointMedia.)

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Toddlers can create a whole kingdom using the characters in Go! Go! Smart Friends playsets, which encourage youngsters to engage in imaginative play while building motor and language skills. The vehicles, animals and characters spark imaginations while keeping children engaged, promoting listening skills and encouraging their fine motor and cognitive development.

Submitted photo

Imaginative gift ideas for toddlers and preschoolers

Some of the best holiday gifts for toddlers and preschoolers are those that inspire imaginative play.

"Gift-giving for this age group should reflect the tremendous opportunity that play time offers for supporting early childhood development," says Dr. Lise Eliot, early brain development expert and member of the Expert Panel at VTech, a world leader in age-appropriate and developmental stage-based electronic learning products for children.

With that in mind, here are some fun gift ideas that will add value to children's play time.

Arts and Crafts
Inspire creativity and foster fine motor skills with gifts for budding young artists. Watercolor sets, finger paint, stencils and markers are great age-appropriate selections. Just be sure any art supplies are non-toxic and washable. A great gift set idea? A blank smock and fabric paint -- kids can design their own artist's smock, which will inspire them to do even more art projects in the future. Offer to hang or frame your children's favorite creations so they can proudly see them on display.

Thoughtful Toys
Choose toys that are safe, fun and engaging. For example, the Go! Go! Smart line of toys from VTech features its innovative technologies that bring the toys to life, letting children explore cause and effect relationships while teaching first words, letters and more.

Consider the Go! Go! Smart Wheels Treasure Mountain Train

Adventure, which allows kids to discover spatial play by building train tracks, and features its first motorized train that can climb hills on its own. When the train is placed over one of the nine "SmartPoint" locations on the playset, it will respond with lights, sounds and music.

Toddlers can create a whole kingdom featuring princesses, princes, fairies and unicorns with Go! Go! Smart Friends playsets, encouraging children to discover through imaginative play while building motor and language skills. Even more stimulating activity is encouraged with the turning telescope, swinging hammock, and secret trap door found in the Go! Go! Smart Animals Happy Paws Playland. For more

information, visit vtech-kids.com.
"The vehicles, animals and characters spark children's imaginations while keeping them engaged, promoting listening skills and encouraging their fine motor and cognitive development," says Dr. Eliot.

Learning Experiences
The big wide world offers plenty of opportunities for fun and learning, so consider gifting an experience. Whether it's a puppet show, a day of exploration at the zoo or aquarium, or hands-on learning workshop at a children's museum, the experience will not soon be forgotten!

For young children, make the holidays count. Great gifts can be both educational and fun.

(StatePointMedia.)

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How to save money on mobile devices this season

The holiday season is a great time to indulge loved ones or yourself with a mobile device upgrade. However, keep in mind that a high-quality device doesn't necessarily need to be brand new, particularly if you are on a budget.

These days, refurbished devices can provide an affordable, high-quality alternative to a new device that sells at a premium. While there is a myth that most refurbished devices were broken or had problems, this is a misconception. Many such mobile phones, tablets and accessories come from trade-in and upgrade programs, where owners sent in perfectly good devices so they can get newer models.

Whether traded-in or repaired, refurbished phones and devices from reputable sources can be trusted to be in full functional condition. For example, those from MyWit on eBay undergo an extensive 65-point inspection of cosmetic, functional and radio frequency (RF) performance to ensure 100 percent functionality. Tests verify that every possible function that a customer can use (camera, audio, SIM, WiFi, Bluetooth, etc.) is in excellent working order and RF tests ensure wireless devices deliver a consistent quality of connection and do not drop available signals.

This holiday season, consider a great cost-saving secret on mobile upgrades, replacements, and tech gifts. Being willing to forgo the newest models can stretch your holiday budget further without sacrificing on quality.

(StatePointMedia.)

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'Tis the season for auto accessories



Buddy Roberts/The Daily Home

Pate's Body Shop is recognized as a Diamond Dealer for Weather Tech, manufacturer of popular floor mats and bed and floor liners. Pate's also offers tool boxes, seat covers, lift kits, brush guards, bed covers, step rails, light bars and gift certificates which can be purchased for any amount and redeemed for any merchandise or repair, painting and detailing services the shop offers.



If they make it for a vehicle, Pate's can get it

Staff Report

Christmas is a good time to consider giving the gift of auto accessories, according to the owner of a local body shop.

"We've already had one guy come in the first week of November and buy a tool box for Christmas," said Anthony Pate of Pate's Body Shop at 819 North Street East, its new location since earlier this year. "And a lot of the kids are going to want accessories for their vehicles for Christmas."

Besides tool boxes, Pate's offers seat covers, lift kits, brush guards, bed covers, step rails, light bars and gift certificates which can be purchased for any amount and redeemed for any merchandise or repair, painting and detailing services the shop offers.

"If they make it for a vehicle, we can get it," Pate said as he flipped through a two-inch thick accessories catalog on his desk.

The shop is recognized as a Diamond Dealer for Weather Tech, manufacturer of such accessories as floor mats and bed and floor liners, which Pate said are proving quite popular.

"Each liner is custom-made for your vehicle. They laser your floor plan and make the mold so that the liner is a perfect fit. You can spill a drink in your floor, and it stays inside the liner."

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Easy ideas for holiday gift-giving

Everyone has had to scurry around to find a last minute holiday gift at some point, whether you procrastinated, you were searching for the perfect gift or you forgot to add someone to your gift list, but don't let these scenarios cause you stress.

The discount experts at Dollar General are offering advice to help you find something for everyone this holiday season.

Those Who Have Everything...

For the family and friends who have everything, consider purchasing small decorative items for them to use around their homes. Blankets, candles, picture frames and even holiday decorations are great last-minute items recipients will enjoy. Food baskets with delicious snacks and holiday candy placed in a decorative canning jar are simple, affordable and useful items that are sure to make loved ones smile this season.

Great Go-To Gift Items

For recipients who are hard to shop for, gift cards and technology items are great go-to gifts. Consider headphones, DVD players and TracFones. Gift cards to favorite restaurants, retail stores and coffee shops are always a great choice, giving them freedom to choose exactly what they want.

Gifts for Mom and Dad

Don't forget about mom and dad this holiday season. For Dad, save on Emerson men's gifts like outdoor lanterns, portable tools for camping and winter clothing. You can also find sleepwear, scarves and handbags that are sure to make Mom happy this holiday.

Happy holidays and happy shopping!
(StatePointMedia.)



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Bob Crisp/The Daily Home

Classic Heaven Gift Shop offers a variety of items at the corner of U.S. 231 and Mt. Moriah Road, 2.7 miles north of I-20 in Pell City.



Bob Crisp/The Daily Home

Rebecca Bradford is the owner of the Classic Heaven Gift Shop.



Pell City gift shop 'is just something you have to see'

By DAVID ATCHISON
Home staff writer

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas at Classic Heaven Gift Shop, just north of Pell City on U.S. 231.

"We are 2.7 miles north of I-20," said Rebecca Bradford, who opened the store four years ago. The gift shop is where the old Elks Lodge was once located at 20901 U.S. 231 North.

Bradford said her husband Robert opened "Man Cave" next door to the gift shop after he retired as a general manager of Hardy Corp. in Birmingham. "He dabbled in classic cars," she said.

The "Man Cave" is filled with old cars, antique bikes and other manly things. The couple sometimes shows its vintage automobiles at antique car shows.

She noticed when men would come by to see some of the vintage automobiles and other antique collectibles, the women would just sit around waiting. That is when she got to idea to open up the gift store.

Bradford said now when women head to the gift store, the men are ushered to her husband's "Man Cave," to occupy their time while their wives or girlfriends visit the gift shop.

"I run the show, but he takes all the credit," said Bradford, who also sales safety equipment to businesses and industries. "No, really, he's a big help."

Bradford is originally from Tiffin, Ohio, while her husband grew up in Pinson.

She said her husband's grandfather, Robert, was the St. Clair County Sheriff back in the early 1900's.

"We send the men over there," said Sandy Carpenter, pointing to the "Man Cave."

Carpenter helps operate the Classic Heaven Gift Shop, greeting customers as they enter the shop. She proudly shows customers around the store, which is packed with a variety of gifts for under the Christmas tree.

"We have really cool stuff," Carpenter said. There is a small section inside the gift store with safety items.

"Safety is priceless but it doesn't have to be expensive," Carpenter said.

The safety section had bright colored safety vests, helmets, safety glasses and other safety items that could come in handy for any outdoor worker.

Anyone looking for the perfect Christmas gift for their significant other might just find what they need at the Classic Heaven Gift Shop.

"We have lots and lots of purses, unique purses," Carpenter said.

The gift shop also has bird houses and wind chimes, along with whimsical fairy garden items for the yard.

The store has a collection of hand painted wine glasses, beer containers and cocktail glasses.

"We have lots of candles, soaps and knick-knacks," she said.

The gift shop also has a children section that features baby items.

"We are pet friendly," Carpenter added.

But Carpenter can't help but show off some of

the items in the "Man Cave," like the 1934 Dodge Brothers Coupe with all steel body.

"This thing will scoot," she said. "It's my favorite."

The Man Cave also features a 2000 Indian motorcycle in mint condition, with only 8,300 miles.

There are antique typewriters, an old, old cash register, and much more in the Man Cave.

Carpenter said it is just something you have to see, and there is plenty to see at Classic Heaven on the corner of Mt. Moriah Road and U.S. 231.

The gift store is open Wednesdays-Saturdays from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

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Gary Hanner/The Daily Home

Elizabeth Jaimes Boutique & Salon opened in Pell City several weeks ago. At left is owner Johnna Keel helping a customer. The business is located across the road from Triple T's on U.S. 78

Elizabeth Jaimes Boutique & Salon

A new boutique in town offering a little something extra

By GARY HANNER
Home staff writer

There is a new boutique in Pell City, and it's called Elizabeth Jaimes Boutique & Salon. Johnna Keel is the owner, and she has been in operation for a little over a month. She chose a family name when naming the business. "Elizabeth is my middle name as well as my mom's middle name, and it's my daughter's middle name," Keel said. "My sister's middle name is Jaimes, while my dad's first name is James. Keel is 28, and this is the very first business she has owned. Gifts she has just in time for Christmas include jewelry and customized Christmas bags with monogramming (Keel said she can personalize just about anything). She makes decals for cars, cups, laptops and such. She also has such name brand items as

Jodifi, Everly, She & Sky and Pink Owl. "We have tops and dresses and are beginning to look into some designer jeans," she said. "On my consignment end, I carry the Miss Me jeans and the Seven For All Mankind. I also carry American Eagle, Gap and Old Navy name brand items. I make bows and carry things like that here in the store." What makes Keel's boutique special is there is a salon in the very back of the store. "It's for men and women," she said. "I cut and color hair, do nails, etc. I can do the funky stuff or normal stuff." Keel said her goal is to be able to provide a wide variety of options for her clientele. "I don't want to be stuck in one category," she said. "I want to provide clothing from small to large and plus-size up to 3X. I want to cater to the plus-size community because there are not a lot of boutiques with that sort of stuff. Also, my prices are comparable to and competitive with other shops

around here. I want to strive to be affordable while still providing quality clothing." Keel said she is working toward having kid's boutique clothing for girls and boys and then plans to work her way into things for teenagers. She also wants to be able to sell shoes one day. "I have big plans, and I really want to do a lot," she said. "I'm just now getting my feet wet in this business, and I am so excited about all the possibilities." The boutique-salon is at 5025 Cogswell Ave. across the highway from Tripe T's. Hours are Tuesdays through Fridays from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Saturdays 10 a.m.-3 p.m. The boutique is closed Sundays and Mondays, but on the salon side, the hours are by appointment if clients need something on a Monday or if it is after 5 p.m. Special appointments are upon request, and walk-ins are welcome.



Holiday gifts that can reduce stress

On top of the everyday stress of life, the holiday season can be one of the most hectic times of year. Unfortunately, all this additional stress can take its toll on the body, mind and soul. For those you love, make the holidays and beyond brighter with these gift ideas that help promote rest and relaxation, while alleviating tension, stress and anxiety. **Yoga Class** Yoga is associated with a wealth of health benefits, including stress reduction. For seasoned yogis, consider assisting loved ones with their practice. Great yoga accessories and gear, or a gift certificate to a favorite studio would be much appreciated. For newbies, you might want to start smaller with a pass to one or two classes. **Any Time Massage** "The medical community increasingly views massage as a necessary tool for achieving optimal health, not just as an extravagance," says Randi N. West, a licensed massage therapist. "And everyone — from desk workers to active individuals to moms who often report back pain from lifting children — can benefit from massage therapy in terms of injury prevention and improved exercise performance." Research suggests the benefits of massage

include reduced muscle tension, stress and pain; and an increase in serotonin and dopamine. But regular massage therapy can be expensive and time-consuming. Give a gift that keeps on giving with an at-home massage cushion that can

be used daily as a self-care tool. For a stylish option that won't get buried in the closet and forgotten, check out M Cushion, which looks like a stylish designer pillow, but actually offers four shiat-su massage nodes, soothing heat and comforting memory foam. "I use it to relieve my body aches after a busy day providing massage services to my clients," says West. More information can be found at mcushion.com. **Meal-Kit Service** Busy work weeks can mean scrambling around in the evening to put dinner on the table. Your gift recipients may find themselves resorting to pizza delivery more often than they like. To help take the stress out of healthy weekday dinners, consider gifting a meal-kit plan to someone you love. This holiday season, look to healthy gifts that can help reduce stress in the lives of people you care about. (StatePointMedia.)

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Fun and practical holiday gifts for gardeners of all levels

The holiday season is a great opportunity to give those with green thumbs the tools they need to support their hobby.

Here are a few thoughtful gift ideas to make the holidays brighter for the gardeners you love.

Handy Items

Every gardener needs top-notch tools to make regular tasks more comfortable and convenient. For example, pruning is no fun with shears that are rusted or hard to handle. To upgrade your gift recipient's gardening tool box, look for a rust-resistant stainless steel blade and

a no-slip rubber grip. For safety, the shears should be able to lock into place when not in use.

Gifts that Keep on Giving

When there's a chill in the air, consider focusing your attention on gardening gifts that can be used indoors. One unique gift for a gardener of any level is an indoor garden kit, such as those from the Miracle-Gro AeroGarden line of gardens.

Hydroponic gardens like the AeroGarden grow fresh herbs, vegetables, and flowers in water, not soil. And they actually grow five times faster than

soil gardens. Automated LED lights and reminders to add water make growing fun for seasoned gardeners and easy for even those with no gardening experience.

Well-suited for a kitchen countertop -- this is a safe, healthy and easy way to grow fresh herbs and vegetables year-round. To learn more visit AeroGarden.com.

Enjoy the Results

Half the fun of gardening is reaping the benefits of one's labor. Help gardeners turn their harvest into something delicious. An herb chopper makes a

great stocking stuffer. To speed up herb preparation and help gardeners avoid bruising the leaves they worked so hard to grow, look for one with multiple rounded blades.

Another great gift for herb and vegetable gardeners is a salad dressing maker that has pre-marked settings for oil, vinegar and herbs, which can take the guesswork out of meal preparation during busy week nights.

With a few creative ideas, it's easy to make a gardener smile this holiday season.

(StatePointMedia)



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Shopping for a professional or a weekend

By **KELLI TIPTON**
Home Staff Writer

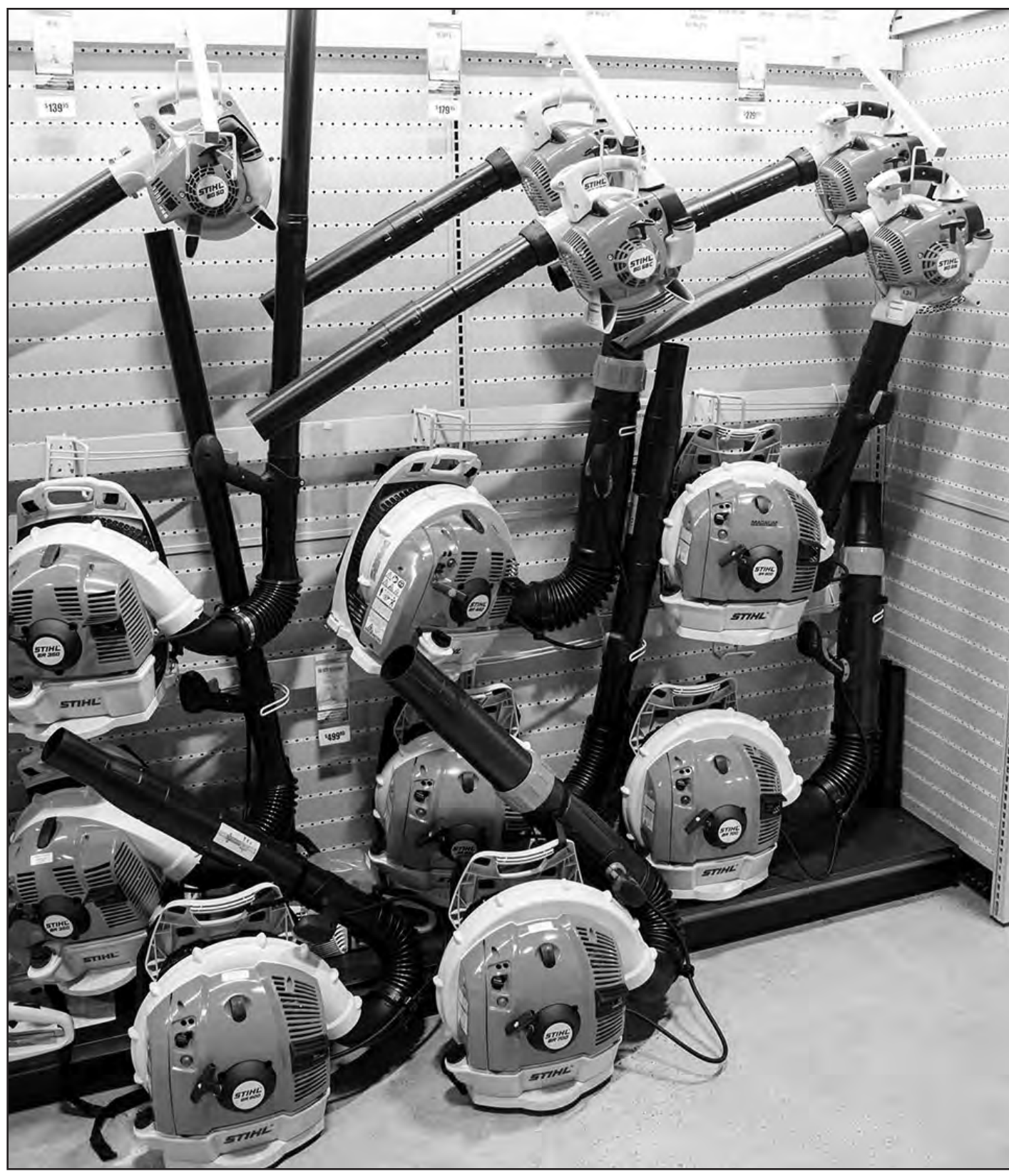
Big boys want big toys, and Talladega Tractor has a huge selection of Kubota tractors, RTVs and other top-brand outdoor equipment to make their Christmas wishes come true. The new showroom on Highway 21 North is a wonderland of Stihl equipment and attachments for commercial and residential lawn care, construction and farming.

Zero-turn lawn mowers, lawn vacuums, leaf blowers and edgers will make tending the lawn less of a chore in any season. General Manager Mike McGlothlin said leaf blowers and weed eaters are popular Christmas gifts for men. "We have leaf blowers in a backpack model and a handheld model. We have a handheld blower for \$139. Weed eaters start at \$129," he said.

Sales associate Lane Chandler recommends a Rough Terrain Vehicle, commonly referred to as an RTV. "Ours are more of a worker brand, rather than one built for speed. You can load and transport hay, dirt or gravel with one. There's gas models and diesel models, and the gas models are the least expensive. The RTV 400 is a gas model, and it starts at \$8,200," he said.

Construction equipment makes a great gift for professionals and weekend warriors. "A lot of people don't know that Kubota makes construction equipment. We carry skid steers, track loaders, and mini excavators," Chandler said. "We have all kinds of construction attachments to go with those. We have buckets and pallet forks, and we usually have it on the lot."

And like the name says, Talladega Tractor is the best place to shop for tractors and other farming equipment. "We carry



Tucker Webb/The Daily Home

Talladega Tractor's showroom on Highway 21 North offers plenty of Stihl equipment and attachments for commercial and residential lawn care, construction and farming.

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Tucker Webb/The Daily Home

Talladega Tractor has a wide selection of Kubota tractors, RTVs and other top-brand outdoor equipment to make Christmas wishes come true for lawn care, farming and construction professionals as well as homeowners seeking to make residential lawn care easier.



tillers and plows and other typical farm equipment too," he said. "Our new tractors are only Kubota brand, but we carry used tractors too, and there are more top brand names that we are a dealer for, we just don't have them on the lot, but we can order them."

Talladega Tractor takes pride in its

service department. "Our mechanics are certified. We can service what we sell, and we can service other brands," McGlothlin said. "Our inventory is second to none, and financing is available."

For more information about products and services, call 256-362-6113 or visit www.talladegatractor.com.



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Serra Honda and Serra Nissan offer holiday sales events aimed at helping customers save money this season. The dealerships have plenty of models in stock to look at and choose from, whether customers are looking for a Honda or Nissan. Serra has been serving Sylacauga for more than 25 years at its locations on U.S. Highway 280 and James Payton Blvd.

Denise Sinclair/
The Daily Home

Happy holidays are waiting for you at Serra Honda & Nissan of Sylacauga

By DENISE SINCLAIR
Home staff writer

Looking for that very special gift for the holidays that will bring you joy all year long? Look no farther than Serra Honda and Nissan of Sylacauga. The dealerships offer holiday sales events that could save customers lots of money. They have plenty of models in stock to look at and choose from, whether you're looking for a Honda or Nissan. Serra Honda and Nissan serve not only Sylacauga but Birmingham, Hoover, Tuscaloosa and Montgomery with new vehicles, used cars, Honda/Nissan service and Honda/Nissan parts. Bob Fleming, general manager of the dealerships, said two of the hottest models now are the Honda Ridgeline and Nissan Rogue. "The Rogue is on fire," he said. "It has a great price and is a good family vehicle. Many customers are moving from the larger sports utility vehicles to the mid-size like the Rogue. Both the Ridgeline and Rogue get great gas mileage."

The Ridgeline is produced in Lincoln along with the Honda Pilot, which is also popular, he said. The Rogue is a redesigned crossover that brings an aggressive new look to consistent capability. Some of the accessories found in the new Rogue are a motion activated lift gate, intelligent cruise control and safety shield technology. The safety shield technology offers advanced systems that help keep an eye out, watch the flow of traffic and even think ahead with forward emergency braking, blind spot warning, rear cross traffic alert and moving object detection. The Ridgeline and Rogue get good mileage in the upper 20s range. "These vehicles are safe and well designed," Fleming said. He said when customers look at SUVs, they consider safety, room and mileage, and is it big enough for the family. He added that vehicles can be accessorized to your needs. The 2017 Ridgeline, according to Fleming, is a completely new vehicle that is produced at the Honda plant in Lincoln. "We can't get enough of these in," he said.

U.S. News and World reviewed the compact pickup truck, saying the redesigned 2017 Honda Ridgeline now ranks near the top of the class. The review said, "The previous model was discontinued in the 2014 model year, and after a few years' hiatus, the Ridgeline is back and as versatile as ever, our analysis of published reviews and data shows. "Critics rave about the Ridgeline's interior, saying that it's easily one of the nicest in the class. The front seats are comfortable, and both rows of seats offer plenty of room for adult passengers. There are a variety of high-tech, unique features on the Ridgeline, like its in-bed audio system, and it has a ride that's much smoother than you'd expect from a truck. When it comes to price, there is no comparison." Fleming expects both vehicles to be popular buys in 2017. He said it is hard to keep either on the car lot. Serra has been serving Sylacauga for more than 25 years. Serra Honda is at 40941 US 280 in Sylacauga. For information, call 256-245-5000. Serra Nissan is at 80 James Payton Blvd. For more information, call 256-369-0212.

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'Tis the season to save

It's easy to get the entire house ready for the holiday this season and celebrate one of the most wonderful times of the year without spending a fortune.

From simple decorating ideas to affordable party planning inspiration, getting into the holiday spirit has never been so easy with these tips from the discount experts at Dollar General.

Holiday Decorating

Decorate in style, but affordably, by purchasing inexpensive holiday table runners, ornaments and holiday pillows. Local Dollar General stores have these items, as well as ornaments available for as low as \$1.

Consider repurposing existing household items into your holiday arrangements. For example, use cake stands and baskets to display decorations.

Add charm, versatility and holiday cheer to your home by incorporating new, trendy décor with vintage and traditional decorations from your childhood.

Holiday Recipe Essentials

Decorating is only half the fun. Bring family and friends together by filling the house with the smell of delicious holiday food. Stock up on fresh milk, eggs, bread, sugar, baking mixes, spices and other cooking essentials at a discount retailer.

Find simple and affordable holiday recipes like casseroles, cookies and holiday drinks online by checking out Dollar General Easy Meals.

Host a Potluck

Creating many dishes for a crowd is not only time-consuming, but it can be costly as well. Share the expense with friends and family by hosting a potluck. Each guest can bring their favorite holiday dish. Ask guests in advance what they plan to bring, so you don't end up with repeats.

Seasonal Shopping

Great deals are always on the table during the holiday season. Save even more by shopping at Dollar General, which offers everyday

low prices as well as digital coupons. Create a DG Digital Coupon account at dollargeneral.com/coupons, through the DG mobile app for Android and iPhone smartphones, or by texting "JOIN" to 34898.

Messaging rates may apply.

Enjoy the most wonderful time of the year without over-spending. Happy Holidays!

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Buddy Roberts/The Daily Home

"We have pretty much everything you can imagine – clothing, jewelry, gifts, antiques, new furniture and gently-used furniture," said Dragonflies owner Dawn Carroll.

Dragonflies Antiques & Marketplace

Offering shoppers a host of gift ideas

Staff Report

Shoppers searching for gifts for the home full of charm, character and the feel of a bygone era will want to stop by Dragonflies Antiques & Marketplace this Christmas season.

At 35491 Highway 280 in Sylacauga, the emporium offers items that are "rustic to elegant and everything in between," said owner Dawn Carroll. "We have pretty much everything you can imagine – clothing, jewelry, gifts, antiques, new furniture and

gently-used furniture."

Carroll operated a clothing boutique in Birmingham before opening Dragonflies almost four years ago, and amid the marketplace's hand-crafted holiday ornaments, table settings, old and repurposed furniture, and home décor items can be found a closet of new fashions.

"We also do a lot of upcycling," she said. "We can make custom tables and benches from old doors and wood. Sometimes customers will come in with a picture and ask us, 'Can you build this?' Sometimes we

can't, depending on exactly what they want, but usually we can. Nothing goes to waste around here."

Dragonflies maintains an inventory of vintage unfinished furniture, which is also popular with customers. "Some people don't want something that's already done and finished," Carroll said. "What they're looking for is an unfinished table, headboard or dresser to fix up themselves."

For more information, call 205-994-4149. Dragonflies' hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesdays-Saturdays.



Great holiday gifts for hunters and outdoors enthusiasts

Will you be shopping for any hunters or outdoor enthusiasts this holiday season? Thoughtful, useful gifts will be well-appreciated.

"When it comes to hunters, think lightweight and packable," says Louis Chalfant, director of product development at Smith's Consumer Products.

Here are a few ideas to consider.

Sharpen their Game
Those who hunt, fish and go on outdoor expeditions know just how important it is to keep tools sharp. You can hone gamesmanship with essential gear like a knife sharpener.

For instance, a versatile tool like the Jiffy-Pro Handheld Sharpener is quick, safe and easy to use whether one is in the field, back at camp, or at home. It functions both to set the edge on a dull or damaged blade and to achieve razor

sharpness. Plus, the scissors sharpening slot is large enough to accommodate game shears as well.

Lightweight enough to be a stocking stuffer, consider, the 4" Diamond Combination Bench Stone, which features coarse and fine grit sharpening surfaces. Its innovative design speeds sharpening by collecting and holding the metal filings which ordinarily build up during use. Each stone has a groove for fish hooks or pointed tools, and when one is finished sharpening, he or she can store the stones in the handle for safekeeping.

These tools are available at various sporting goods, outdoors and hardware retail stores. Get them Prepared

Those whose adventures take them off the beaten path need certain lightweight, compact tools to be

prepared for a variety of situations. A fire starter is a must-have for any avid outdoorsman, hunter or backpacker.

Other handy items to consider for gifts are a high-quality first aid kit with all the essentials, a multifunctional pocket knife or

even an IOU promising to cover the cost of this season's hunting and fishing licenses.

With some careful consideration, you can make the holidays special for the hunters and outdoor enthusiasts in your life.

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Denise Sinclair/The Daily Home

Sylacauga Marine and ATV offers boats and ATVs and much more.

Sylacauga Marine and ATV is a 'big boy store'



By DENISE SINCLAIR
Home staff writer

Lee Holmes, one of the owners of Sylacauga Marine and ATV, likes to call his business a "big boy store."

It can also be a girl's store, he said. This family-owned business has been in Sylacauga for 53 years, owned by Lee Holmes and his brothers Ray Holmes and Robb Peoples.

Sylacauga Marine and ATV has a large selection of watercraft products and ATVs, offering a full line of services ranging from tune-ups to complete rebuilds for Polaris, Mercury, Johnson, Evinrude, BassTracker, SunTracker, Tahoe, Nitro and Southern Star and all other major brands of outboards, ATVs, and watercraft.

The store has great gift ideas for children, men and women interested in fishing, getting out on the lake or off-road riding, Lee Holmes said.

"We are the largest Nitro Bass dealer and the fourth-largest Tracker dealer in the South. We have the new Hummingbird depth finders with Chirp technology. We have the Polaris ATV kid units — 110s and 90s. They are very popular starting at \$3,000 and up. The price depends on what you want," he said.

Then there are the kids' version of Razor, the Polaris ATV, and so much more. He said these items are very popular.

Sylacauga Marine and ATV has bass boats, pontoon boats, pleasure boats, side by side, trolling equipment, Nitro clothing and more. "Like I said, this is a big boy store of fun stuff to do," Holmes said.

Holmes said the store had the best selection of new models available in the area of popular brands.

The owner said the store sells more than 300 boats and 300 ATVs a year. He said the items are so popular in the area because of the lakes, the great bass fishing and woods for ATV use. Boat prices range from \$700 to \$70,000.

"We're the oldest marine dealer in the south" he said. "You can find something here that is suitable to your needs to add to your enjoyment. Just stop by and see us."

Sylacauga Marine and ATV hours are Mondays through Fridays from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. and Saturdays from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. The store is at 2670 Old Birmingham Highway. For more information, call 256-245-8970 or at 866-354-2628.

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