HOLDAY GIFT GUDA Rocal Edition





to wrap up

your shopping

list!

November 2019 Special supplement to



Michael's Mens Wear in Talladega has 'something for everybody' this Christmas



Michael's Mens Wear in Talladega has been dressing local residents for more than half a century. It has more than 1,000 suits in its inventory and a host of other items that will make excellent holiday gifts. Suits start at \$69.95, and alterations are free.

By JIMMY CREED Special to The Daily Home Photos by BOB CRISP

If you're looking for the perfect

visit Michael's Mens Wear on the square in Talladega, where they have 50 years of giftgiving expertise to assist you.

In business since 1969, Michael's offers a wide range of gift ideas, including more

racks daily, dress shoes, casual shirts and jeans and accessories of all types, such as ties, handkerchiefs and pocket squares.

"We've got something for everybody," owner Michael Gee said.

Michael's also carries a unique line of



The Daily Home

CHRISTMAS GIFT GUIDE



Among the most popular merchandise at Michael's are the high-quality Alabama and Auburn jackets. They have been quick to sell out in past holiday seasons.

Alabama Crimson Tide and Auburn Tigers jackets for the men who truly want to support their teams.

"I've had people tell me they've never seen these jackets in Birmingham, Montgomery or even Tuscaloosa or Auburn before," Gee said. "They make great gifts for guys who already have just about everything you can think of to show their school spirit."

At Michael's, you'll find approximately 45 styles of dress shoes in stock, a large selection of socks in basic, regular and fancy styles and Steve Harvey suits. The store also offers great prices, even during the holiday season, and free alterations.

"We have suits starting at \$69.95," Gee said. "We have name brand shirts in 12 or 13 different colors starting at \$17.95. We have Savane pants that regularly sell for \$72 for \$32. And nobody else that I know of offers free alterations anymore, but we do here at Michael's, just like we have for 50 years."

Gee's father, John, opened the store in 1969 and continues to work there at times today even though he is 92 years old. Gee's daughter, Jessica Turley, has worked at the store for nearly 20 years as well. So Michael's Mens Wear is family focused, and you'll feel that as soon as you walk through the door.

"If you come in here, we're going to treat you like family," Gee said. "We're going to say 'hello and ask 'how can we help you?' That's what we've always done, and that's what we'll always continue to do." If you have that special person who is really difficult to buy for, Michael's offers gift certificates so they can make the choice for themselves. They will also ship to almost anywhere in the United States, including free shipping on some orders, and those can be placed by calling 256-362-2631 or visiting their Michael's Mens Wear page on Facebook. "I encourage everyone to run by here and look in the windows or browse through the store," Gee said. "If you'll come look, I feel certain you're going to find exactly what you're looking for to make someone very happy this holiday season."



Store hours are Mondays-Thursdays 9 a.m.-6 p.m. and Fridays and Saturdays 9 a.m.-8 p.m.

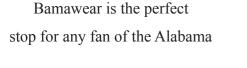
Your Local Source For Quality Diamonds...



Tide fans can celebrate with variety of memorabilia from Bamawear in Childersburg, Pell City

By LACI BRASWELL Home staff writer Photos by BOB CRISP

"They may not find anything for themselves, but we still have everything that the stores in Birmingham and Tuscaloosa would have if you're looking for a gift for





A variety of gameday shirts and hats is available for Crimson Tide fans at the Childersburg and Pell City stores.





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Crimson Tide or those looking for something special for a loved one who bleeds crimson.

The store, owned and operated by Greg Bates, has all things Alabama football, such as apparel, hats, jewelry, accessories, tailgating items and much more.

The business carries multiple apparel brands including Tuskwear, Gameday Couture, Flying Colors Apparel and more.

Unfortunately for Auburn or other fanbases, Bamawear only sells Crimson Tide memorabilia, specifically its football team, Bates said. someone else. We take pride in our selection."

According to Bates, short sleeve gameday shirts are popular year-round.

"As the weather gets colder, polos and jackets are the items first to sell out," Bates said. "It's a good idea to purchase those early."

Bates added that women's clothing makes up some of the store's best sellers near the holidays.

"We have a big selection of women's clothes and accessories," Bates said.

Hats are also popular gift items.

"We carry several different

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Gameday gear for women in a variety of styles in available at Bamawear. "We have a big selection of women's clothing and accessories," said owner Greg Bates.



Jackets, headgear and accessories for Alabama football fans of all ages can be found at Bamawear. The store offers extended holiday hours between Black Friday and Christmas.





Whether you're looking for gameday gear to wear or decorate your vehicles, Bamawear is sure to have what you're looking for -- unless it's celebrating Auburn or any other college football team, according to Bates.

brands, so there's a fit or style for everybody."

Car decals and accessories are popular as stocking stuffers.

Bates added that he and his family started selling Tide merchandise back in 1993 at games held in Legion Field.

"We are all Alabama fans and love that we have developed a loyal customer base and staff," he said. "We also have a location in Pell City."

Bamawear is at 33320 US Highway 280 in Childersburg, and 2044 Martin St S in Pell City.

Bates said the stores will be open from noon until 5 p.m. on Sundays beginning the week of Black Friday until the week of Christmas.

Regular hours of operation are Mondays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m.

For more information, visit www.bamawear.com or call 256-346-3280 (Childersburg) or 205-338-1625 (Pell City).



Give the gift of Griffins Jewelers this Christmas

By AMANDA E.H. PRITCHARD Special to The Daily Home Photos by BOB CRISP

Make sure those on your shopping list have a holly jolly Christmas this season with merry and bright gifts from Griffins Jewelers.

Helping make Christmas the most wonderful time of the year since 1950, Griffins Jewelers remains a true treasure in the Talladega and Pell City communities. The purveyor of fine and upscale gifts is all about making memories and helping shoppers find quality heirloom gifts that keep on giving year after year, even being passed down from generation to generation.

Griffins is an authorized independent dealer for LeVian Fine Jewelry, whose stylish, appealing designs and fine gemstones are always sought-after gifts.

"The LeVian family history dates back 700 years to artisans who provided sultans and royalty with beautiful jewelry," said Michael Abernathy, Griffins' vice president of marketing and sales. "LeVian only uses the top five percent of all diamonds and gemstones."

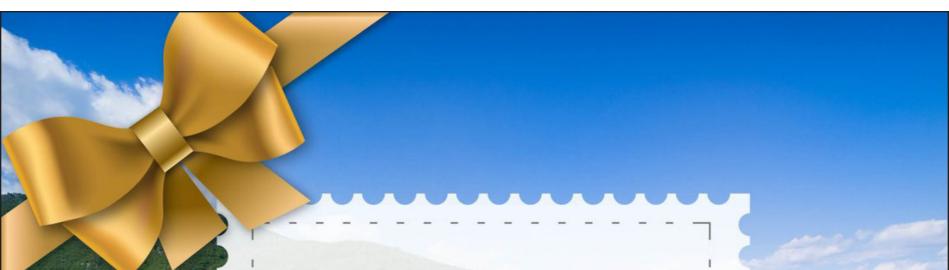
LeVian is famous for its decadent Chocolate Diamonds, which are sourced, cut and branded to LeVain's exacting standards. Customers purchasing these brilliant brown diamonds – selected for their color, clarity, size and cut – can be assured of the highest quality. LeVian believes its standards for finding and selecting rare, highquality gems set its jewelry apart for those seeking natural brown diamonds.

Griffins can also help shoppers have a happy holiday season by providing such gifts as fiery diamond solitaire earrings, diamond pendants and diamond fashion rings, including stackable rings. They are available in white, yellow and rose gold with diamonds or color gemstones and can be



Griffins Jewelers is an authorized independent dealer for LeVain Fire Jewelry, the internationally renowned fine jeweler with a storied past tied to the historical jewels of ancient royalty. Le Vian is known for its love of reinventing categories of fine jewelry through unique combinations of colors of diamonds, gems and gold to create various collections.





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CHRISTMAS GIFT GUIDE

individualized to suit each customer's style.

Quality gifts for the home from Beatriz Ball unique pieces perfect for entertaining at any festive to shop local and let us help you get exactly what gathering - are also available at Griffins.

Shoppers may visit Griffins at either or both of its two locations: 1903 Cogswell Avenue in Pell City and 704 East Battle Street in Talladega.

"Our friendly, knowledgeable staff is focused

on giving our customers a unique personal experience," said Abernathy. "We encourage you you want or imagine. We offer CAD (computeraided design) and a local state-of-the-art repair department."

Griffins Jewelers is an active member of the American Gem Society, Jewelers of America,

Preferred Jewelers International and Continental Buying Group. For more information and giftgiving ideas, visit www.Griffinsjewelers.org and @ GriffinsJewelers on Facebook.

"Every piece of jewelry has a story," Abernathy said. "Griffins Jewelers wants your story to begin with us."



Longtime Griffins staff member Gloria Nix displays a fine piece of metalware from the Beatriz Ball Collection. Each piece is entirely handmade, resulting in gifts for the home that convey a depth of character, warmth and personality that communicates in a way that only handmade pieces can.



Griffins Jewelers in Talladega and Pell City has been a purveyor of elegant, stylish and sophsiticated heirloom gifts for more than six decades..

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L'acosta Restaurant serving hungry customers and holiday shoppers for more than 20 years



L'acosta has been a fixture on Sylacauga's North Broadway Avenue for more than two decades, serving up hearty fare that's sure to satisfy hungry holiday shoppers.

By LACI BRASWELL Home staff writer Photo by TUCKER WEBB

Situated in the heart of downtown Sylacauga, L'acosta Mexican Restaurant is a perfect spot to start off the shopping day for lunch or to refuel before doing some late evening deal hunting.

The business has been feeding hungry customers for more than 20 years and is owned by Everardo (Lalo) Vazquez.

"Our fajitas are one of our most popular menu items." he said. "It comes with your choice of steak, chicken or shrimp."

The owner added that other popular menu items include chimichangas, enchiladas, fish tacos, steak ranchero and salsa ranchera.

"We also have daily specials, but everything is very affordable," Vazquez said.

L'acosta also has a bar. It is open each day and on Sunday serves alcohol beginning at 1 p.m. The restaurant offers a lunch buffet from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

L'acosta is at 215 North Broadway Avenue. Its telephone number is 256-249-3360.





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Hattie Lee's Boutique offers the gift of fashion this holiday season



These reversible vests, available at Hattie Lee's Boutique in Pell City, offer two looks for the price of one. The versatile garments provide are both houndstooth and solid black.

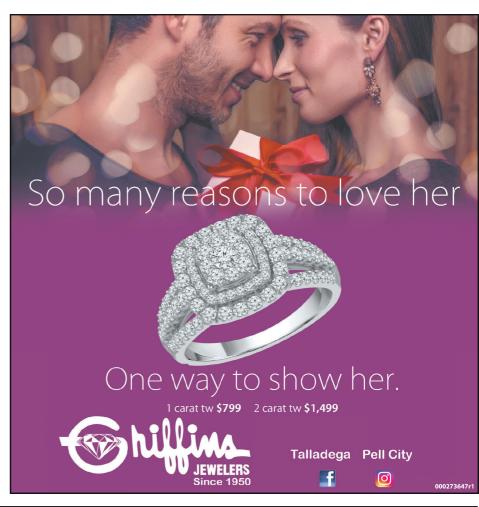
By KELLI TIPTON Special to The Daily Home Photos by BOB CRISP

The holiday season is a time for family get-togethers, company functions, social festivities and merrymaking with friends. It's also a great time to indulge your inner fashionista.

Whether your style is easy, elegant, festive or funky, Hattie Lee's Boutique in Pell City has clothing, shoes, boots and accessories for every fun-filled moment and photo-op the season brings.

Boutique owner JoAnn Bain carefully selects merchandise from popular designers and brands and buys a limited quantity to ensure her customers stand out in a crowd.

"I want my customers to feel special and unique in the clothing they buy here. And they won't if they are sitting or standing next to someone with the same outfit. I rarely re-order anything, and I don't



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CHRISTMAS GIFT GUIDE



Hattie Lee's stocks a variety of merchandise -- such as the Western-themed ensemble and trendy animal print shoes at above left and the stylish blouses and beautiful holiday decor items at above right -- sure to fit every shopper's budget. "We want you to be the envy of all your friends," says owner JoAnn Bain. "We order a limited amount of each item so you and all your friends can be trendy but different."

buy a lot of the same item. To me, that's the purpose of shopping at a boutique" she said.

Her selections for Fall and Winter 2019 reflect current trends and fashion runways across the country.

Animal prints ruled the fashion jungle this fall and dominated the runways of premier designers Gucci, Saint Laurent and Paco Rabonne.

"Animal print is really popular right now. Snakeskin, leopard and cheetah prints, zebra stripes and even cowhide are popular choices," Bain said.

Mixing or layering prints is a new way to wear them.

Hattie Lee's Boutique has animal print pants, shoes, shirts, accessories and even a raincoat to make layering fun and easy. Or, a single pair of snakeskin earrings would make a graphic tee and denim jacket current.

Earrings by Art Wear and bracelets by Erimish make great gifts and are an easy way to incorporate animal prints into any wardrobe.

Jogging pants are another on-trend item, and this season they sparkle and shine.

"Joggers with bling down the side of the legs are popular right now. You can wear them with a graphic tee, or dress them up a little with a gift for a low-key lady, and would be a comfortable outfit to wear while running holiday errands or shopping for Christmas presents.

Hattie Lee's has an assortment of graphic tees in stock, including holiday tees. Bain purchases tees and other blouses, tunics and sweaters from Tribal, a leading North American women's sportswear brand.

Tribal's designs are versatile and range from casual to polished. Their style is ageless, and both women and teens can wear these clothes with confidence.

"I also carry the Aratta brand, and everything they do is just overthe-top different," she said.

Colorful and feminine, Aratta is known for its use of mixed-fabrics, embellishments and unique themes. This inspiring line is full of flowy silhouettes, soft plaids, printed silks and embroidered details. "They are very Boho chic," she said.

And boots are the hottest footwear this holiday season for stepping out in style. Chunky heels are still en vogue, but cutouts in the front, back, or both, are the coolest thing going or coming. Rear-laces are another right-now style.

Hattie Lee's carries a great selection of Bed Stu boots. Bed Stu uses time-honored techniques, such as hand cutting, hand weaving, hand stitching, washing, tumbling and hand finishing. The boots are dyed using organic vegetable oils, and each pair is unique.

metallic jersey-like shirt," Bain said.

A pair of blinged-out joggers and a t-shirt would make a perfect



The Daily Home



The boutique is at 2635 Martin Street S. in Pell City, where holiday shoppers can find the latest styles in footwear that are sure to be popular gift items.

"I also carry leather keychains that would make a great gift, and I'm excited to get a shipment of Myra purses in a few days. They are super cuteleather and canvas and cowhide- and they are affordable. They will make excellent gifts," she said.

Hattie Lee's Boutique carries clothing in sizes from extra small to 3X, and shoes from size six to 11, and a few styles are available in size 12.

The store offers a layaway plan and free gift wrapping all year long.

It is beautifully decorated for the holidays, and items in the store's decor are also for sale.

For more information, visit Hattie Lee's Boutique on Facebook or Instagram.

HUK





BLACK FRIDAY WEEKEND OUTDOOR DEALS





Childersburg, AL

CHRISTMAS GIFT GUIDE

The Pickle Patch Market has 'little bit of everything' for holiday shoppers



Vendors at the Pickle Patch Market in Sylacauga include purveyors of boutique clothing and accessories.



By LACI BRASWELL Home staff writer Photos by BOB CRISP

The Pickle Patch Market is more than just an antique mall.

The 13,000-square-foot space has more than 70 vendors who sell everything from antiques to boutique clothing to jewelry to patio furniture and much more.

Owner Scott Williams said the market is the perfect, one-stop shop for purchasing Christmas gifts.

"We really do have a little bit of everything," Williams said. "There's something for everyone here."

Williams said the market doesn't have any specific popular items because it has such a wide variety of vendors and merchandise.

The Pickle Patch offers an array of Christmas ornaments and seasonal items, just in time to decorate for the holidays.

"We have all types of ornaments and decorations, chances are if you are looking for something specific we will probably have it."

In addition to an ideal place to find the perfect gift or stocking stuffer, the Pickle Patch also sells its own gourmet desserts baked by Dana Grimmett of Tony Renee's Bakery,

The market is stocked with gourmet sweets, such as pies and pound cakes.

Grimmett accepts custom orders, ideal for holiday gatherings and potlucks, Williams said.

"If interested, customers should give the market a call or stop by," Williams said.

The Pickle Patch owner said the market brings in customers and vendors from several neighboring cities.

"Price ranges for gifts range anywhere from a \$1 to about \$400. It just depends on what you're looking for, but we take pride in having fair market prices," Williams said. "We look forward to helping customers find what they

An extensive variety of holiday ornaments and items for home decor are available from the market's vendors.

need this holiday season. If you haven't stopped in before, you are in for a treat."

Williams added the Pickle Patch also sells gift certificates, with no price limit.

Hours of operation are Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. and Sundays from 1-5 p.m.

The Pickle Patch is at 42490 U.S. Highway 280 in Sylacauga.

For more information, call 256-207-2420.



Handmade patio and outoors furniture are among the many potential Christmas gift options at the Pickle Patch Market.





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CHRISTMAS GIFT GUIDE

The Daily Home







Visit our Studio and give the gift of glam

Make your holiday special with arrangements and treats from Two Friends Florist



Festive and decorative seasonal arrangements suitable for decking the holiday halls can be ordered from Two Friends Florist. The Lincoln florist also offers a

By VALLEAN JACKSON

Special to The Daily Home Photos Submitted

The countdown to Christmas is officially on, and the race against time to find the perfect gifts for friends and family has begun. For many, the holidays are the time of year where decor has to be perfect, all the way down to the centerpiece.

Two Friends Florist is the go-to shop in Lincoln for custom floral arrangements to adorn tables to make the holiday bright, even if a candle isn't in sight. The business has been around for 15 years, making a difference in homes and bringing smiles to many.

"We have a variety of arrangements from live to silk," said Robin Irvin, owner. Orders can be placed online or in person, but Irvin prefers a little advance notification if possible because she likes to take her time and make the orders special.

"A really good arrangement starts at \$50 and up," said Irvin. Live floral arrangements

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variety of candy and fruit baskets.

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The Daily Home

do not take much time to complete, so she says it is best to place such orders around the first of December to allow for a good length of floral life through the holidays.

However, with silk floral arrangements, she expects about a week's completion turn around. "I want to make sure I have the right flowers and be able to take my time when I select them. It just takes me a little more time with silk arrangements," said Irvin.

Why are floral arrangements so popular at the holidays? "It is something that seems simple, but is beautiful and thoughtful," said Irvin.

Irvin is a people person who cares highly about the quality of the arrangements she produces, as well as the impact it makes on the individuals buying and receiving them.

Apart from the floral arrangements that are offered by the shop, Two Friends also offers a wide variety of candy and fruit baskets made fresh. There will be no dust to brush off of any arrangement or basket purchased in this shop.

"Candy and fruit baskets are \$55 and up to get a really nice one," said Irvin. Whether it is adding life into a room that could use some holiday cheer or providing a little sugar to a sweet tooth, Two Friends Florist can do that this season, as well as providing gifts that can be enjoyed any time of year.



Both live and silk flower arrangements suitable for holiday decorating can be ordered from Two Friends Florist in Lincoln.

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Talladega designer will brighten up your home for the holidays



If you're planning on hosting a feast from family and friends this holiday season, the table should be as memorable as the menu. TB Turner Interior Design can help ensure that your dining room -- and the rest of your home -- is appropriately festive.

By VALLEAN JACKSON Special to The Daily Home Photos Submitted

Christmas comes once a year, but the gifts received can make an impression that lasts throughout the year. However, as the ads spam the inbox and television commercials feature seasonal sales, figuring out what to get that special person in your life might come as a challenge. But here is a solution that will fit the fashionista and/or designer in your life.

TB Turner Designs in Talladega has a cozy but modern storefront at 113 Court





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Animal print jewelry is very much in style this season, and a variety of items can be found at Turner's store at 113 Court

Street N. filled with unique accessories for the home: clothing, blankets, furniture, jewelry and more, sure to make any outfit stand out



Throw pillows, such as this featuring a seasonal design, can add to the coziness of any room.



Merry Christmas!

Mum & Me Mercantile & Mum's Unique Consigment Boutique Both Stores Give You A Unique Shopping Experience!

It's A Great Holiday Adventure, Stop By and Visit Our Stores!



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mumandmeleeds@gmail.com

The Daily Home



"Leopard print is the trend for the season," Turner said. The variety of earrings, bracelets and necklaces available at her Talladega store are gifts sure to please any recipient this Christmas -and any gift giver's budget.

mix of materials,

necklaces, scarves, ear

warmers and even tech

savvy gloves that will

lays

Oven Baked

and home accessories that family members won't stop talking about.

Tena Turner, owner, suggests as a gift idea an Australian jar candle that will illuminate a room and have relaxing fragrances wafting throughout your house or office. The natural candle by Wavertree and London is \$25. The tassel-adorned jar, 60-hour burn time, different fragrances and soft pastel and floral box make this candle a gift sure to stand out as the wrapping paper is removed. Nevertheless, if the candle is not enough and you want more gifts to add under the tree for your loved one, friend or coworker, accessorizing is a sure go-to. Turner offers a line of animal print jewelry from turtle print to tortoise shell jewelry. "Leopard print is the trend for this season," she said. Variants of the trend include leopard earrings, stackable bracelets with a

\$12-\$18, which is also budget-friendly.

> Turner also is an interior designer,

are friendly for all

ages and between

keep away the fall and

These accessories

winter chills.

so if decorating the Christmas tree or getting the house Santa ready is not in your time frame, she also offers the services of decorating. Aside from the candles and unique jewelry, she offers

CHRISTMAS GIFT GUIDE

custom bedding from headboards to handpainted pillows.

The store is already filled with Christmas cheer. Do not leave your home out of the parade of lights people will

marvel at and gifts that are one of a kind. This year, give the ones you love and the gift of fashion, relaxation and custom furniture designs.

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By VALLEAN JACKSON Special to The Daily Home Photos Submitted

There is no way a Christmas present can come from a hardware store, a holiday shopper might think. Wrong!

Lincoln Hardware offers perfect presents to be wrapped up and placed under the tree for those creators and DIY enthusiasts in your life.

"For men, any type of power tool would be good," said Rueben Pruitt, store manager.

That may seem like an answer as expected, but it is a great gift suggestion with plenty of options that can serve plenty of purposes and last for quite some time.

"There is the 20-volt saw that is a great gift, if you ask me. That is what I would like to have, even though I already have saws," said Pruitt.

Do not think just because the man in your life already has a few tools laying around that there is not room for some new additions or upgrades.

Dewalt is a popular brand that carries an array of tools and is of good, durable quality.

"Dewalt is definitely a brand that offers tools that can endure everyday use," said Pruitt. They may not be the cheapest item on a Christmas list, as they range from \$125 to \$175, but Lincoln Hardware has its Dewalt cordless drills, skill saws and more at \$10 off until Christmas.

Although hardware stores may traditionally have provided gifts for men, there are some gifts in a hardware store for women.

"I do not think women like to get their hands dirty, but we do have things for women as well," said Pruitt. An option for a gift for women that is offered is Australian soap. Aside from the gender role assumptions, a tool set can also be gifted for handling small fixes around the house or automobile.

Though there are no age restrictions to go inside a hardware store, supervision is definitely advised when it comes to youths using tools.

"I think it is good more kids are being taught trades. It is needed more to teach them how to work with their hands," said Pruitt.

Apart from the suggestion of power tools and Australian soap, Pruitt says the most popular item sold around this time of year is pocket knives. Pocket knives can be used by anyone and they are convenient and can be used for an assortment of things.

"I use a pocket knife almost every day, even if it is just opening boxes," said Pruitt. A good pocket knife ranges from \$33.99 to \$100 at Lincoln Hardware, and the \$10 off until Christmas special applies.



DeWalt produces a full range of power tools, including drills, saws, nailers, sanders, routers, screw guns and impact drivers. They're all available at Lincoln Hardware.

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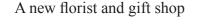
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The Lily offers array of holiday gifts

By LACI BRASWELL Home staff writer Photos by TUCKER WEBB is spreading holiday cheer to its customers and community. For those seeking a seasonal bouquet, arrangement or other holiday gift, look no further





The Lily can deck your halls with festive cheerful accents, beautiful floral arrangements and a sleigh full of other holiday-inspired items that will have your family in the Christmas spirit all season long.



The Lily is at 232 N. Broadway Avenue in Sylacauga. It is a full-service florist.



Celebrate the season in style with a selection of creative and inspired Christmas decorations and floral arrangements available at The Lily.



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Page 6C Wednesday, November 27, 2019



A variety of colorful and whimsical holiday decor items is available at The Lily. The new business is operated by owner and floral designer Hadyn Hughes.

than The Lily in downtown Sylacauga. The floral shop is

owned and operated by 21-year-old Haydn Hughes.

"We opened September 16, and so far the response from the community has been amazing," Hughes said.

Although it's a new business, she expects several items to be popular during the holidays.

"We will be getting poinsettias in very soon," Hughes said. "They are always a signature in Christmas decor. They are extremely sought after around Christmas."

Hughes said the Star of Bethlehem is also another popular flower this time of year.

"We will also have those in stock too," she said.

In addition to bouquets and arrangements, The Lily creates and sells custom wreaths and mailbox decor. "I love getting to be creative" Hughes said. "If someone wants a custom order, all they have to do is call the shop and, if possible, send or bring in a picture of what you want it to look like."

best sellers," Hughes said.

Additionally, the shop will soon have jewelry as part of its inventory.

"We are really excited about it," Hughes said. "Be sure to check back before Christmas. Jewelry is always a good idea for a gift for a loved one or friend."

The Lily is at 232 N Broadway Ave in Sylacauga.

Hours of operation are Mondays through Fridays from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. and Saturdays from 8 a.m. until noon.

For more information and pricing, call The Lily at 256-208-0250.







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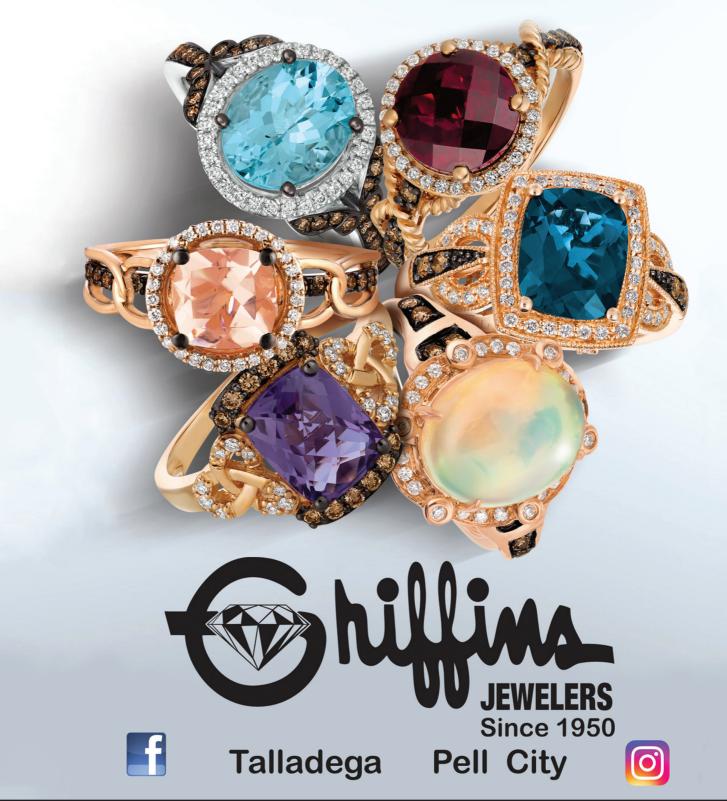
Hughes added she will also be accepting appointments for tree decorating.

"I've had several people ask me if I would come and decorate their tree at their house," she said. "It's something I'm going to try out this year, by appointment."

In addition to seasonal arrangements and decor, The Lily also sells a variety of boutique style items including candles and purses.

"The cabernet candles are one of our

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Pate's offers 'a lot more than just body work

By JIMMY CREED Special to The Daily Home Photos by BOB CRISP

If you're like a lot of folks, you might think that an auto body shop probably wouldn't have much to offer along the lines of holiday gift ideas, and like a lot of folks, you'd be mistaken.

"We have a lot more to offer than just body work," said Anthony Pate, owner of Pate's Body Shop in Talladega.

He then ticked off a long list of items he has available for those who like to keep their auto, truck, SUV, boat, etc. looking spiffy. Some of the most popular include WeatherTech floor mats and cargo liners, truck bed covers, mud flaps, and LED light bars.

"People really like the WeatherTech floor mats because they fit precisely to whatever auto, truck or SUV you have," Pate said. "Just tell me what year your vehicle is and chose your color from black, tan or gray, and we can fix you up."

mats runs \$125 and a set of rear mats runs \$100.

"Once you put them in, you never have to vacuum the vehicle again if you don't want to," Pate said.

Cargo liners for pickups and SUVs are also very practical gifts that help extend the life of any vehicle.

"A lot of people put their groceries in the back of a pickup or SUV and they slide around or they spill something," Pate said.

"With the cargo liners you don't have to worry about anything sliding around, and if you do spill something, you just take the liner out and clean it, and it is as good as new."

Pate's Body Shop is a WeatherTech Diamond Dealer which means it receives additional discounts from WeatherTech which it then passes along to its customers.

Another popular gift is auto or truck detailing, and Pate's has several kinds to choose from. There is the regular detailing, which includes a complete vacuuming and wipe down of the vehicle's interior, cleaning the motor, cleaning under the wheel well and other services. Or you could choose the detailing with an additional ceramic coating, which includes adding a higher grade of wax that lasts for up to a year.

Regular detailing runs \$40 for autos and \$50 for trucks and SUVs. The ceramic coating detailing is \$150.

"The ceramic coating is some For most vehicles, a set of front new stuff that is out that is stronger and lasts longer," Pate said. "We had quite a few people who bought the ceramic coating detailing for their kids last year, and they really liked it."

> Pate's also offers step rails for any type of truck, vent visors for windows and K2 Coolers. He has also occasionally had customers order an all-over paint job as a gift, and he is glad to do that as well.

"If you're looking for a gift for someone who really loves their car or truck, we have just about



Pate's is a WeatherTech Diamond Dealer, offering a number of the manufacturer's products to customers at special discounted prices.

anything you want," Pate said. "Or I can order any kind of auto or truck accessories anyone may need."

For more information, visit the shop at 819 North St. East in Talladega, the Pate's Body Shop Facebook page or call 256-761-9100.

Hours are Mondays-Fridays 8 a.m.-5 p.m., and gift certificates are available.

awningsbyevans.com



Liven up the season with an evergreen from Christmas in Dixie Tree Farm

By LACI BRASWELL Home staff writer Photos by TUCKER WEBB

Located on 20-plus acres near Talladega National Forest, Christmas in Dixie Tree Farm has provided locals with their ideal Christmas tree for almost 40 years.

"We have many different types of trees on the farm," owner John Williams said. "We like to provide our customers with a variety."

Williams noted the most popular Christmas tree over the years has been the Leyland cypress.

"They tend to keep good and aren't prone to shed needles as much as the others."

Williams said the farm has several varieties of the Leyland cypress, including the Murray cypress, the Naylor's blue and more.

All varieties of the Leyland cypress are \$47 each.

"Virginia pines and cedars are also popular, Williams said. "We sell them for \$37 each."

In addition to a winter wonderland of trees, the farm also sells holiday handcrafted gifts.



The Christmas in Dixie Tree Farm officially opens this week and will offer a variety of Christmas tree options until about a week before the festive holiday.

"All of the woodwork is made by Eddie Price. His wooden reindeer are always popular, and he's very good at his trade."

Williams added the handmade pieces are sold at an affordable price.

Even though the holiday season lasts a matter of weeks for most, Williams is filled with Christmas spirit year-round.

"The farm is something we have starts receiving calls about the trees as early as the first week of November.

"I've already had a few calls this year from people planning to stop by and pick one out."

Williams noted the farm doesn't officially open until the day after Thanksgiving, but will be glad to set up appointments prior, if needed."

Trees will be available until

about a week before

Christmas, Williams

and assist you with picking out the perfect tree to take home."

Williams stressed the importance of caring for your Christmas tree once its home safe and sound.

"It's important to

fill your stand with fresh water every day, and never place it near a fireplace or vent," he said. "Many people unknowingly make these mistakes, and their tree doesn't last nearly as long."

Christmas in Dixie Tree Farm is at 5675 Bull Gap Road in Goodwater. For more information, call 256-249-8808.



"We have a lot of handmade decorations and ornaments for sell," Williams said.

to take care of every day," he said. "We cut the grass around the trees daily until about October. It's a lot of hard work and takes dedication."

said. "We don't have set hours, so it's best to

Williams said he

give us a call and we will be glad to have someone meet you



The tree farm has been providing local residents with their perfect Christmas trees for almost four decades. It is at 5675 Bull Gap Road in Goodwater.

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