



# Holiday Gift Shopping Guide

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# Vintage holiday gifts found at Becca's

**By Faith Bemiss**

fbemiss@sedaliademocrat.com

If one is looking for a new approach to holiday gift buying, checking out vintage items will put a new twist on an old idea.

Becca's Framing and Antiques, owned by Becca La Strada, in downtown Sedalia, has a wide assortment of vintage and antique items.

"I think people are having more home gatherings now and they are buying vintage dishes to use for special occasions or the holidays," La Strada said.

She has a collection of emerald depression glass that is popular, plus sandwich glass, which used to be given away in the 1950s in round oatmeal boxes.

"Then I have some Haviland France china, that is vintage but it's plain and it would still go with a contemporary motif," she said. "I also have some white milk glass made by Fenton and they're no longer in business. They

were in business for a long time and women would always want a piece of it for like Mother's Day or special occasions."

She added cobalt blue glass is often "sought after" and she does have some on hand.

"I have a large collection of vintage jewelry that appeals to all ages," La Strada said.

The shop's vintage jewelry takes in brands such as Sarah Coventry, Eisenberg and Emmons and prices range from \$2 to \$100.

La Strada also carries vintage linens, which can be used to decorate a table setting or given as a gift.

"People can use those for layering on tablecloths or placemats," she explained. "A lot of people are pretty creative with linens. Some people frame them and some people use them."

"I have framed people's pillowcases from their relatives," she continued. "And they hang them in their bedrooms and they have turned out very nice."

And it's a good way to preserve some of your family's memorabilia."

La Strada, who has been doing custom framing for over 30 years, also offers a wide assortment of framing possibilities. She added she's framed doilies, quilt blocks and needlepoint samplers.

"Some people like to have family pictures framed for Christmas," she noted. "Some people like to have new artwork on their walls before Thanksgiving because they'll be having a family gathering. So I usually have a rush before Thanksgiving and Christmas."

Becca's also carries framed artwork in the store along with old masters art prints which can be custom framed, plus Asian artwork on rice paper.

Becca's Framing and Antiques, 308 S. Ohio Ave., is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Friday and from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday.

Faith Bemiss can be reached at 660-530-0289 or on Twitter @flbemiss.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF BECCA'S FRAMING

Becca's Framing and Antiques in downtown Sedalia offers a wide assortment of vintage gift ideas for Christmas. Owner Becca La Strada said a popular item is emerald green depression glass.



A wide assortment of vintage jewelry can be found at Becca's Framing and Antiques in downtown Sedalia. Owner Becca La Strada said she carries jewelry by Sarah Coventry, Eisenberg and Emmons.

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# Tips

## for a safe holiday gathering

By Hope Lecchi

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The COVID-19 pandemic has led the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to issue a number of guidelines and warnings concerning holiday gatherings.

The CDC recommends limiting gathering to only those in your immediate household. As much as there is a desire to be with relatives including the elderly, grown children and grandchildren, with the rise in cases of COVID-19 throughout the area and much of the United States, the CDC recommends gatherings of no more than 10 people.

Those gatherings are best if hosted in well-ventilated areas where windows can be open. If possible an outdoor setting is also recommended.

Currently, there is no evidence to suggest that handling food or eating is associated with directly

spreading COVID-19, according to the CDC website.

"It is possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object, including food, food packaging, or utensils that have the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes," the guidelines state. "However, this is not thought to be the main way that the virus is spread. Remember, it is always important to follow good hygiene to reduce the risk of illness from common foodborne germs."

Those suggestions from the CDC include:

- Make sure everyone washes their hands with soap and water for 20 seconds before and after preparing, serving, and eating food. Use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.

- Instead of potluck-style gatherings, encourage guests to bring food and drinks for members of their

own household only.

- Limit people going in and out of the areas where food is being prepared or handled.

- Wear a mask while preparing or serving food to others who don't live in your household.

- Consider having one person serve all the food so multiple people are not handling the serving utensils.

- Use single-use options or identify one person to serve sharable items, like salad dressings, food containers, plates and utensils, and condiments.

- Avoid self-serve food or drink options, such as buffets or buffet-style potlucks, salad bars, and condiment or drink stations. Use grab-and-go meal options, if available.

- If you choose to use any items that are reusable (e.g., seating covers, tablecloths, linen napkins), wash and disinfect them after the event.

- Look for healthy food and beverage options, such as fruits and vegetables, lean proteins, whole grains, and low or no-calorie beverages, to help maintain good health.

Londa Nwadike, a Consumer Food Safety Specialist for the University of Mis-

souri Extension, has offered food safety preparation tips for any holiday meal.

"Don't stress over preparing a Thanksgiving meal," Nwadike said in a press release. "But be sure to use safe practices and plan ahead so that no one gets foodborne illness at your holiday gathering."

Nwadike suggests buying 1 pound of whole turkey per person to ensure leftovers, or 3/4 pound of turkey per person if you don't want leftovers or if you're cooking a turkey breast.

"Frozen turkey must be thawed in the refrigerator or in cold water, not on the kitchen counter," she said. "The safest way to defrost a turkey is in the refrigerator. Allow one day of thawing for every 5 pounds of turkey."

To thaw in cold water, completely submerge the wrapped turkey, changing the water every 30 minutes so the outer layer of turkey won't get warm enough to support microbial growth. This method requires about 30 minutes of thawing for every pound of turkey. Be sure to clean and sanitize the sink after removing the turkey.

Don't rinse turkey and other meats before cooking.

"That will only spread those germs around the sink, which can cross-contaminate other foods," she said. "Any bacteria that might be rinsed off would be easily killed by cooking in the oven."

Clean any surfaces that the raw turkey may have touched. As always, wash your hands thoroughly before and after preparing food.

To cook the turkey, set the oven for 325 degrees. An 8- to 12-pound unstuffed turkey will take about 2 3/4 to three hours to cook. A stuffed turkey of the same size will take three to 3 1/2 hours, Nwadike said.

Use a food thermometer to determine if the turkey is safely cooked. Make sure the innermost parts of the thigh and wing and the thickest part of the breast have reached a minimum temperature of 165 degrees Fahrenheit. Be sure the thermometer is not touching bone, as the bone heats up faster than the meat.

"Many people love to eat stuffing," Nwadike commented. "Unfortunately, so do microorganisms."

"The safest way to cook stuffing is outside the bird," she continued. "If you do choose to stuff your

turkey, stuff it loosely just before cooking, making sure the stuffing is moist. Like the turkey, stuffing should be cooked to at least 165 degrees."

- Raw produce: Don't chop foods that will be eaten raw on the same cutting boards you use for raw meats without washing the boards thoroughly between uses. If produce is not pre-rinsed, rinse carefully and scrub off any visible soil with a produce brush.

- Dessert: Pumpkin pie, cheesecake and other baked goods with fillings made of eggs and milk need to reach an internal temperature of at least 160 degrees when baking. Refrigerate after baking or purchasing.

- Leftovers: Refrigerate the turkey (with meat removed from the carcass) and stuffing separately in shallow containers within two hours of cooking. Leftover turkey will keep in the fridge for three to four days, but gravy and stuffing will only keep for one or two days. You can safely freeze leftovers, but use them within two to six months for best quality. Reheat leftovers to 165 degrees.

Hope Lecchi can be reached at 660-826-1000 ext. 1484.

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# Jewelry trends for the holidays are varied

By Faith Bemiss

fbemiss@sedliademocrat.com

Several trends are emerging this holiday season in the jewelry world with white gold and diamonds still being popular along with sapphires, stackable bracelets and a comeback of Ethiopian opals.

"The trend during the holidays is always bridal as well," jeweler Ryan S. Reed, with Reed & Sons Jewelers, said. "We get a lot of people who pop the question."

"White gold is still overwhelmingly the most popular," he continued. "The most popular diamond shapes are oval and pear-shaped."

He added sapphires are trending along with stackable bracelets.

"The trend is the thinner bangle type bracelet that you can wear with more than one and sometimes mixing colors of metal," he noted. "Then, layering necklaces have been really trending."

"When they are looking for a necklace, it's important that it's adjustable so they can wear an 18-inch necklace with a 20-inch

necklace," he continued. "That's been really popular."

Reed noted that opals, especially Ethiopian opals, are becoming popular too.

"An Ethiopian opal is a crystal opal," he explained. "So, it's very see-through, it's very translucent. And its play of color is different than a white opal."

"You'll get hues of color that comes out of this crystal orb," he added. "They have been really

popular in rose gold. We've got some of those in the store as well."

Reed said Morganite is still somewhat in demand, but not as much as in the past.

"Morganite is still a popular item for both fashion and bridal," he noted. "Morganite is a beryl, which is the same family as aquamarine and emerald, except it's a light, light pink stone. And it was named

after J.P. Morgan."

Reed is finding different colored sapphires are also trending.

"Blue and blue-green sapphires have been asked for frequently," he noted. "Those have been incredibly hard to find because the demand is national. Sapphires come in every color of the rainbow."

He added teal sapphires are also in demand.

"A lot of green-blue

sapphires come from Montana," Reed said. "A lot of sapphires come from Tanzania and Myanmar, but Montana has a lot of the blue-green sapphires and some of them are really beautiful."

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the store is predicting silver jewelry will be popular this season since the price of gold is hovering around \$2,000 an ounce.

Reed added lab-grown diamonds are increasing in popularity and usually sell for half the price of earth-mined diamonds.

"They are 100% a diamond," he explained laughing. "The only difference is where it came from. One was dug out of the earth and is probably 300 billion years old or older and the other one is about a month old."

Reed said for those wishing to buy gold jewelry, they should do it before the first of the year. After December, gold prices will increase.

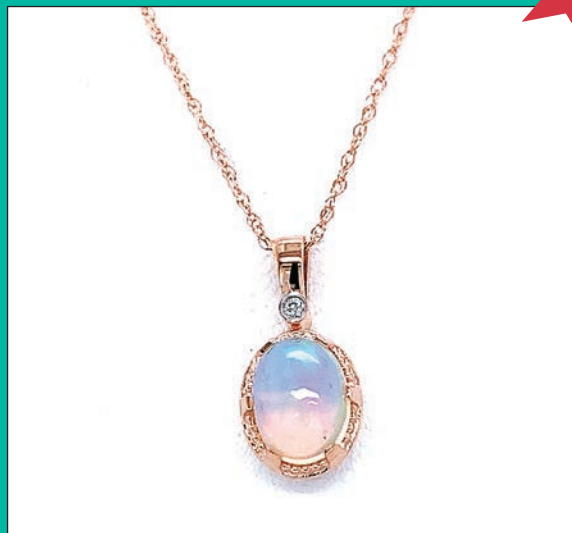
"We try to help customers out with a bridal line that was priced at \$1,300 (an ounce) for gold," he noted. "So we are trying to get people in here now to buy an engagement ring before the first of the year because it will go up ... You'll save a lot of money if they do it now."

Reed & Sons Jewelers, 825 Thompson Blvd., is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Friday and from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday.

Faith Bemiss can be reached at 660-530-0289 or on Twitter @flbemiss.



Sapphires are also popular this holiday season and, contrary to what many believe, come in a rainbow of colors, such as the stones in these earrings.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF REED & SONS JEWELERS  
Ryan Reed with Reed & Sons Jewelers said a popular gemstone this season is the translucent Ethiopian opal, which usually set in rose gold.

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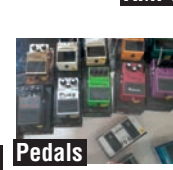






PHOTO BY FAITH BEMISS | DEMOCRAT

Michael Shedd, the owner of Southern Appetite LLC, stands with his Easter-themed goodies in March.

# Southern Appetite

## offers holiday baking advice

By Faith Bemiss

fbemiss@sedaliademocrat.com

When it comes to baking for the holidays, Michael Shedd, owner of Southern Appetite LLC, has it down pat and he wants to share that advice with others this season.

Last year Shedd, who has always loved cooking and who had the opportunity to be on a cooking show, opened Southern Appetite bakery. He's learned several helpful and time-saving baking tips since opening the business.

"One of my best kitchen hacks that I tell everybody about is when you're doing a cake for like Christmas or any type of event, you can

bake that cake completely in advance," he noted.

He suggested baking ahead, allowing the cake to cool, wrapping it in plastic wrap and then freezing it.

"You can pull it out the day before you want to serve it and then you can ice it frozen," he explained. "I normally decorate all my cakes while the cake is still frozen.

"Because the icing sets up a little more and you don't have the shifting of the cake," he continued. "So, if I decorate that cake when it's frozen it's more structurally sound."

Frozen cakes defrost fast. Shedd said a three-layer cake usually defrosts within 30 minutes.

"Technically when you're (icing)

your cake it's already defrosting," he noted. "It makes your butter cold so therefore it holds everything into place."

He added he believes cake tastes better after it sets.

"All of my cakes, I freeze," Shedd noted. "I find it's just easier to decorate them. If you make the entire cake, you can actually put it in the refrigerator two days before you're going to eat it and it will be just fine ..."

For baking in general, Shedd said he always allows cold items to reach room temperature before mixing ingredients. Although one should never leave eggs out for more than two hours.

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“When I go to bake, everything is room temperature,” he said. “That includes my milk, my butter, I have my eggs at room temperature. Anything that’s cold, sour cream — everything gets added to the mixer when it’s room temperature.”

He added when ingredients are used at room temperature they incorporate together better.

“The eggs incorporate better into the batter,” Shedd explained. “The butter is able to be whipped with your sugars.”

“Most of the time, you take your sugar and butter and you whip them together and you process it until that butter has absorbed all that sugar,” he continued. “If that butter is cold it’s going to take you 20 or 30 minutes. And it’s just not going to bake right.”

When he bakes he always uses unsalted butter so he can control the amount of saltiness in the recipe.

“Usually if I’m baking cookies or even pie dough a lot of times I let it rest before I bake it,” Shedd added.



**Southern Appetite’s cinnamon rolls are a popular item for the holidays. Michael Shedd said a time-saving holiday baking tip is to prepare all ingredients ahead of time and place them in small bowls or plastic bags.**

“I’ll put in the fridge for like 30 minutes to just let it hang out.

“It gives the butter time to come back and get more solidified from being whipped,” he continued.

“And it gives you a more consistent cookie. That really ensures that your

baked goods come out perfect each and every time.”

Shedd noted another good baking tip for the holidays is to purchase an oven thermometer to make sure the oven isn’t running too hot or too cold.

“My (oven) runs hot, so I actually bake everything about 20 degrees less,” he said. “All of my cakes I don’t do at 350 (degrees). Most of my cakes get baked at 325.”

Another time-saving holiday tip is to prepare all baking ingredients ahead of time.

“During the holidays I pre-measure a lot of my baking ingredients into plastic bags and bowls,” Shedd said. “So, when I do go to bake, all I have to do is basically dump my dry ingredients.

That saves a lot of time.”

For more information, visit the Southern Appetite Facebook page or call 660-281-0029.

Faith Bemiss can be reached at 660-530-0289 or on Twitter @flbemiss.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF SOUTHERN APPETITE LLC

**A Peppermint White Chocolate Cake is one type of baked good that will make a tasty Christmas-themed dessert. Southern Appetite LLC owner Michael Shedd suggests allowing all ingredients to come to room temperature before mixing.**

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# Charlotte's Country Ruffle offers unique gifts for the holiday season



PHOTOS BY EMILY WALTON | DEMOCRAT

Charlotte Edwards stands with one of her handmade, one-of-a-kind wreaths. The wreaths each take four or more hours to make and Edwards never makes two wreaths alike.



A personalizable ornament showing a person wearing a mask is available at Charlotte's Country Ruffle in Sedalia. "Coronavirus ornaments" have been a popular item this year, according to owner Charlotte Edwards.

**By Emily Walton**

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Finding a unique gift for the people in your life can be difficult these days, but a local store has several one-of-a-kind and personalized items to choose from this holiday season.

Charlotte's County Ruffle has been a holiday shopping destination for many in the area since its opening 32 years ago. With handmade, one-of-a-kind wreaths, personalized ornaments and

other goodies, Charlotte's continues to provide new and unique gifts for the community.

Owner Charlotte Edwards has been getting ready for this holiday season since March when the COVID-19 pandemic hit. Charlotte used the extra time to start hand-making wreaths for her store. Edwards said they began to sell as soon as she began posting them on Facebook.

"I'm self taught," Edwards said. "I've had the store since 1988, for 32



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years and I've just always piddled with making wreaths. Now I've really gotten all into it lately. I would probably guess I've made 50 since the pandemic hit."

Edwards said she gets her inspiration from the wreaths she sees at gift markets. It also depends on what supplies she has on hand.

"There's just a lot of trial and error," she said. "Holding things up until you feel comfortable about what you put together. I think the creative part of me really enjoys making these wreaths. It just gives me an outlet. I really don't like to repeat..."

"(They take) four hours," she added. "I think the reason is, if I was a person that made them repetitively but the thing is they're all one of a kind. I don't make any two alike and I just go back there and dig through my years of hoarding parts and just start putting them together to see what I can come up with. From beginning to end it usually takes me a good four hours. I would guess even some are a little bit longer."

Edwards said she loves making them but often does not have a lot of time during the holiday season. While all the ones she made during the lockdown have sold out, she said she may try to make a few more this year in between customers. With 75% of her business done during the holiday season, this does not leave a lot of time for wreath making.

Charlotte's "claim to fame" and where it "really shines" for the holiday season is personalized ornaments. Edwards said she probably sells more than 3,000 during the season. Every year she replaces the best sellers from the last year



PHOTOS BY EMILY WALTON | DEMOCRAT

Two of the wreaths handmade by Edwards.

and then buys new styles. The personalizable ornament styles range from hunting, baby, driver's licenses and permits, family and more.

"My phone has been ringing off the hook with people wanting coronavirus ones..." Edwards said. "We've got the toilet paper one and then we have one with the little mask on... Sadly our very best seller is a memorial one. They tend to want to give one to like the dad, mother, aunt, cousin, so maybe they want to get 12 of them. One for everyone in the family."

Edwards uses a special permanent

marker to write names on the ornaments and said she will probably be up until 2 or 3 in the morning working on ornaments for the foreseeable future.

Charlotte's offers other holiday items like seasonal clothing, decorations, and food items, as well as doing gift baskets. Edwards, who said she decorated every inch of her own house, said she loves what she does.

"I got the nicest compliment I think I've ever gotten..." Edwards said. "Somebody went, 'Well when we come into your shop at Christmas we feel like we're in a Hallmark movie.' I said 'OK

"I don't make any two alike and I just go back there and dig through my years of hoarding parts and just start putting them together to see what I can come up with."

-Charlotte Edwards

you're going to make me cry.' They're always touching, they end happy. I think people come in here and they feel happy after they've been here. At least we want them to feel happy when they come in."

Edwards said it means a lot that she has customers who come back and see her every year. Many of her customers have become her friends.

"It's almost like a homecoming when they come in every year," she said.

"They're kind of excited to continue their tradition and they bring their grandkids in with them and let them pick out their ornaments. Kind of just a little fun thing that they look forward to doing every year. It's fun now that I've seen some of them grow up and bring their own children back in here. After 32 years we're seeing new generations come in."

Charlotte's, 200 W. Third St., can be contacted at 660-826-9997 or at [www.facebook.com/charlottescountryruffle](http://www.facebook.com/charlottescountryruffle).

Emily Walton can be contacted at 660-530-0146.

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# Shopping locally supports the community when they need it most

**By Dustin Steinhoff**

dustins@phillipsmedia.com

With businesses continuing to feel the effects of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, 2020 serves as the perfect opportunity for community members to support small businesses when they need it most by shopping locally for the holidays.

With many businesses operating on little to no income throughout the year due to COVID-19, Warrensburg Main Street Executive Director Jill Purvis said this year is especially important to

support small businesses.

"We've been hearing it for so many months, 'We are stronger together,' and I truly believe that," Warrensburg Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Suzanne Taylor said. "I would encourage consumers and business owners to think local first."

Taylor and Purvis both said shopping locally is also the best way someone can support their community.

"I believe that small businesses are the backbone of every community, especially our community," Purvis said. "They're our

friends and our neighbors that are running these businesses. They put a lot of effort, thought and heart into making their businesses successful and we want to support them in every way that we can. Shopping locally is just one of the ways we can do that."

Both Purvis and Taylor added that the sales tax accumulated when shopping locally helps fund the county by providing funds to the local fire departments, police departments and road work.

"The revenue generated from shopping locally

goes right back into our economy and right back into funds that our city and county can use," Purvis said.

Purvis said small businesses also help fund community events such as school, sporting and charity events.

"They are constantly giving back to our community and the people running these businesses are living in our community," Purvis said. "It's important that we support these businesses and support these people because they do so much throughout the year to support us."

Purvis said a number of downtown stores carry items for holiday gifts, such as clothing boutiques, shoe stores, and shirt shops as well as shops that sell specialized gifts with engravings, baby items and homemade desserts.

Taylor recommended shops such as Brown's Shoe Fit, Shoe Sensation, The Trendy Bluebird, Awesome Blossoms and Meyer's Market.

Purvis and Taylor also said a number of downtown businesses and restaurants offer gift certificates.

Purvis encouraged

those who have not visited downtown Warrensburg in a while to do so and said a list of the downtown businesses can be found on Warrensburg Main Street's website, [warrensburg-mainstreet.org/directory](http://warrensburg-mainstreet.org/directory).

Both Taylor and Purvis said local businesses can also carry unique items that aren't sold at larger chain stores.

Purvis and Taylor added that Small Business Saturday is taking place Nov. 28 this year.

*Dustin Steinhoff can be reached by emailing [dustins@phillipsmedia.com](mailto:dustins@phillipsmedia.com) or by calling 660-747-8123.*

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# Song Book

**Bring old-fashioned Christmas caroling to your neighborhood!**

Christmas carols help set the mood for the holiday season. Such songs are played in stores to create festive atmospheres for shoppers, and many families play seasonal music as they decorate their homes for the holidays. Carols were first sung in Europe thousands of years ago during Winter Solstice celebrations. When Christian holidays replaced many of the pagan celebrations, Christian holiday carols replaced the earlier songs. Before Christmas carols were sung by the general public, they were enjoyed during church services, when they sometimes were performed by official carol singers. However, new carols became popular during the Victorian era, when many ordinary people took to the streets to share holiday joy with others through the gift of song. Wassail, a thick, hot and spiced beverage, often kept carolers warm, and soon wassailing and caroling became intertwined. Although carols and other songs are still popular forms of entertainment at school concerts and some religious group events, the classic tradition of carolers going door-to-door has largely fallen by the wayside. But those who want to bring back this once beloved tradition can take the following steps to do just that.

- **Find** a caroling group leader. It helps to have someone who has a sense of musicality and pitch to lead the caroling. Carols are usually sung a capella, so you'll need a strong singer to guide others and keep them in tune. Recruit a theater or music student or even a member of your church choir. Fill out the rest of the carolers with volunteers who have moderate to strong singing abilities. Of course, you can accept anyone, as it's more about sharing the joy rather than having a pitch-perfect group.
- **Choose** a neighborhood to visit. Select an established neighborhood where there are likely to be many families and even seniors who will be most receptive to carolers. Place fliers in the mailboxes alerting residents of your caroling plans for those who want to be home to enjoy the free show.
- **Promote** your plans if you want a larger crowd. If you want to make the caroling a big event, promote your plans in the local newspaper or in a community bulletin. This way everyone in the community can take in the caroling show. Make sure to adhere to social distancing and stay safe!
- **Choose** a handful of well-known songs to sing. Your audience will appreciate easily recognizable songs they can sing along with if they choose.
- **Print** lyric sheets. Although the lyrics to popular songs are widely known, it helps to have them handy if carolers forget verses. Keep extra copies on hand in case others want to join the caroling group.
- **Get** a sponsor. If you live in a rural area and caroling door-to-door is impractical, see if a local retailer will let you carol outside of his or her store or business. Doing so can set the holiday mood and may generate free advertising and increased business for sponsors.
- **Involve** youth groups. Kids love the holiday, so including them in your caroling efforts can bring smiles to many faces. Speak with local youth groups to determine if their members may want to join in your efforts to spread holiday cheer.

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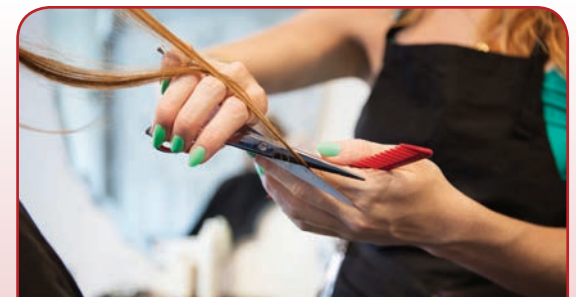
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## O Come All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful,  
Joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.  
Come and behold Him,  
Born the King of Angels!  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord.  
Sing, alleluia,  
All ye choirs of angels;  
O sing, all ye blissful ones of heav'n above.  
Glory to God  
In the highest glory!  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord.  
Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,  
Born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to Thee be the glory giv'n;  
Word of the Father,  
Now in the flesh appearing,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord.

O come, O come, Emmanuel  
And ransom captive Israel  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel  
O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free  
Thine own from Satan's tyranny  
From depths of Hell Thy people save  
And give them victory o'er the grave  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

## Away in a Manger

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep in the hay.  
The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.  
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky  
And stay by my cradle until morning is nigh.  
Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay  
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,  
And take us to heaven, to live with Thee there.

## Silent Night

Silent night, holy night!  
All is calm, all is bright.  
Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child,  
Holy infant so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace,  
Sleep in heavenly peace,  
Silent night, holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight.  
Glories stream from heaven afar  
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia,  
Christ the Savior is born!  
Christ the Savior is born  
Silent night, holy night!  
Son of God love's pure light.  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face  
With dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth  
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth

## O Come O Come Emmanuel

O come, Thou Day-Spring, come and cheer  
Our spirits by Thine advent here  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night  
And death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.  
O come, Thou Key of David, come,  
And open wide our heavenly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high,  
And close the path to misery.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

## Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King!"  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled,  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies;  
With th' angelic host proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem."  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King!"  
Christ, by highest heav'n adored:  
Christ, the everlasting Lord;  
Late in time behold him come,  
Offspring of the favored one.  
Veil'd in flesh, the Godhead see;  
Hail, th' incarnate Deity:  
Pleased, as man, with men to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel!  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King!"  
Hail! the heav'n born Prince of peace!  
Hail! the Son of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
Risen with healing in his wings  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
Born that man no more may die:  
Born to raise the sons of earth,  
Born to give them second birth.  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King!"

O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,  
Who to Thy tribes, on Sinai's height,  
In ancient times did'st give the Law,  
In cloud, and majesty and awe.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.



## We Wish You A Merry Christmas

We wish you a Merry Christmas,  
 We wish you a Merry Christmas,  
 We wish you a Merry Christmas,  
 And a Happy New Year.  
 Good tidings to you,  
 And all of your kin,  
 Good tidings for Christmas,  
 And a Happy New Year.  
 We all know that Santa's coming,  
 We all know that Santa's coming,  
 We all know that Santa's coming,  
 And soon will be here.  
 Good tidings to you,  
 And all of your kin,  
 Good tidings for Christmas,  
 And a Happy New Year.  
 We wish you a Merry Christmas,  
 We wish you a Merry Christmas,  
 We wish you a Merry Christmas,  
 And a Happy New Year

## Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer

You know Dasher, and Dancer,  
 and Prancer, and Vixen,  
 Comet, and Cupid, and  
 Donner and Blitzen  
 But do you recall  
 The most famous reindeer of all  
 Rudolph, the red-nosed reindeer  
 had a very shiny nose  
 and if you ever saw it  
 you would even say it glows.  
 All of the other reindeer  
 used to laugh and call him names

They never let poor Rudolph  
 play in any reindeer games.  
 Then one foggy Christmas eve  
 Santa came to say:  
 "Rudolph with your nose so bright,  
 won't you guide my sleigh tonight?"  
 Then all the reindeer loved him  
 as they shouted out with glee,  
 Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer,  
 you'll go down in history!

## Frosty the Snowman

Frosty the Snowman, was a jolly happy soul,  
 With a corn cob pipe and a button nose, and two eyes made of coal.  
 Frosty the Snowman, is a fairytale, they say.  
 He was made of snow, but the children know he came to life one day.  
 There must have been some magic in that old silk hat they found,  
 For when they placed it on his head, he began to dance around!  
 Oh, Frosty, the Snowman, was alive as he could be;  
 and the children say he could laugh and play,  
 just the same as you and me.  
 Thumpety thump, thump, thumpety thump, thump,  
 look at Frosty go.  
 Thumpety thump, thump, thumpety thump, thump,  
 over the hills of snow.  
 Frosty the Snowman, knew the sun was hot that day,  
 so he said, "Let's run, and we'll have some fun now, before I melt away."  
 Down to the village, with a broomstick in his hand,  
 Running here and there, all around the square,  
 sayin', "Catch me if you can."  
 He led them down the streets of town, right to the traffic cop;  
 and only paused a moment, when he heard him holler, "Stop!"  
 For Frosty, the Snowman, had to hurry on his way,  
 But he waved goodbye, sayin' "Don't you cry, I'll be back again some day."

## Santa Claus is Coming to Town

<p>You better watch out          You better not cry          Better not pout          I'm telling you why          Santa Claus is coming          to town          He's making a list          And checking it twice          Gonna find out          Who's naughty and nice          Santa Claus is coming to town</p>	<p>He sees you when you're sleeping          He knows when you're awake          He knows if you've been bad or good          So be good for goodness sake!          O! You better watch out!          You better not cry          Better not pout          I'm telling you why          Santa Claus is coming to town          Santa Claus is coming to town</p>
---	---

## Over the River and Through the Woods

Over the river and through the woods  
 To Grandmother's house we go.  
 The horse knows the way to carry the sleigh  
 Through white and drifted snow.  
 Over the river and through the woods,  
 Oh, how the wind does blow.  
 It stings the toes and bites the nose  
 As over the ground we go.

Over the river and through the woods  
 To have a full day of play.  
 Oh, hear the bells ringing ting-a-ling-ling,  
 For it is Christmas Day.  
 Over the river and through the woods,  
 Trot fast my dapple gray;  
 Spring o'er the ground just like a hound,  
 For this is Christmas Day.

Over the river and through the woods  
 And straight through the barnyard gate.  
 It seems that we go so dreadfully slow;  
 It is so hard to wait.  
 Over the river and through the woods,  
 Now Grandma's cap I spy.  
 Hurrah for fun; the pudding's done;  
 Hurrah for the pumpkin pie.



## It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas  
 Ev'rywhere you go;  
 Take a look in the five-and-ten, glistening once again  
 With candy canes and silver lanes aglow.  
 It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas,  
 Toys in ev'ry store,  
 But the prettiest sight to see is the holly that will be  
 On your own front door.  
 A pair of hopalong boots and a pistol that shoots  
 Is the wish of Barney and Ben;  
 Dolls that will talk and will go for a walk  
 Is the hope of Janice and Jen;  
 And Mom and Dad can hardly wait for school to start again.  
 It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas  
 Ev'rywhere you go;  
 There's a tree in the Grand Hotel, one in the park as well,  
 The sturdy kind that doesn't mind the snow.  
 It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas;  
 Soon the bells will start,  
 And the thing that will make them ring is the carol that you sing  
 Right within your heart.

## Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas

Have yourself a merry little Christmas  
 Let your heart be light  
 From now on  
 our troubles will be out of sight  
 Have yourself a merry little Christmas  
 Make the Yule-tide gay  
 From now on your troubles will be miles away  
 Here we are as in olden days  
 happy golden days of yore  
 Faithful friends who are dear to us  
 to gather near to us once more  
 Through the years we all will be together  
 If the Fates allow  
 Hang a shining star upon the highest bough  
 And have yourself a merry little Christmas now.

## Little Drummer Boy

Come they told me  
 Pa rum pum pum pum  
 A new born King to see  
 Pa rum pum pum pum  
 Our finest gifts we bring  
 Pa rum pum pum pum  
 To lay before the King  
 Pa rum pum pum pum,  
 rum pum pum pum,  
 rum pum pum pum  
 So to honor Him  
 Pa rum pum pum pum  
 When we come  
 Little baby  
 Pa rum pum pum pum  
 I am a poor boy too  
 Pa rum pum pum pum  
 I have no gift to bring  
 Pa rum pum pum pum

That's fit to give our King  
 Pa rum pum pum pum,  
 rum pum pum pum,  
 rum pum pum pum  
 Shall I play for you  
 Pa rum pum pum pum  
 On my drum  
 Mary nodded  
 Pa rum pum pum pum  
 The ox and lamb kept time  
 Pa rum pum pum pum  
 I played my drum for Him  
 Pa rum pum pum pum  
 I played my best for Him  
 Pa rum pum pum pum,  
 rum pum pum pum,  
 rum pum pum pum  
 Then He smiled at me  
 Pa rum pum pum pum  
 Me and my drum

## White Christmas

I'm dreaming of a  
 White Christmas  
 Just like the ones I used to know  
 Where the treetops glisten  
 and children listen  
 To hear sleigh bells  
 in the snow.  
 I'm dreaming of a  
 white Christmas  
 With every Christmas card  
 I write  
 May your days be merry and bright  
 And may all your Christmases be white.  
 (repeat verse 1 time)

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# Choosing the right Christmas tree

By Hope Lecchi

hleccchi@sedaliademocrat.com

Like many things in life, it comes down to a matter of personal choice: choosing between an artificial or living Christmas tree.

For some, it may be as simple as, "that's what I grew up with in our family and that is the tradition we want to keep." For others, customs change as families marry and blend and the old may become new.

One thing is certain: according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Christmas tree production fell almost 30% from

2002 to 2017. Farmers harvested more than 21 million trees in 2002. Fifteen years later, the number had fallen to 15 million trees available for sale.

There are a number of reasons for the drop including climate factors from droughts and floods to fires, which have in some cases limited the availability of trees.

Some have chosen to use an artificial tree, citing the ease of putting up and taking down the tree, the fact they don't trigger allergies in some, they do not need constant watering and do not shed needles.

For those who do choose the more

traditional route and decorate with a real tree, there are factors to consider before purchasing a tree, according to Nathan Brandt, a horticulture specialist at the University of Missouri Extension.

Brandt wrote in an article, "Celebrating with Christmas Trees" when you are at the Christmas tree lot:

- Ask the manager how recently the trees have arrived.
- Drop the trunk base on the ground; only a very few needles should fall
- Look for fresh, sticky sap flow out of the tree base,
- Run the needles through your hand.

They should not feel dry or brittle.

Once you have decided upon a tree:

- Cut at least ½ inch off the base of the trunk a couple of hours before placing the tree in water. This removes the sap plug that formed after it was cut at the farm.
- Keep the tree wet. Check the water several times each day. If the level falls below the base a new plug will form and the tree will need to be recut.
- Keep the tree away from heat sources such as direct sun, heater vents and fireplaces.

Hope Lecchi can be reached at 660-826-1000 ext. 1484.

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# Tips to decorate a memory-filled Christmas tree



PHOTO COURTESY OF STATE FAIR COMMUNITY COLLEGE

A Christmas tree sits inside the Heckart Science and Allied Health Center on the campus of State Fair Community College. Grapes used a red, black, and white theme for the tree. She coordinates her wrappings to match the tree's decor.

## By Hope Lecchi

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Not many people in Sedalia can say thousands upon thousands of individuals have viewed their Christmas trees in full display. Polly Grapes can. For the last decade, Grapes has been responsible for transforming State Fair Community College into a winter wonderland as the college hosted Jingle on the Green.

Although the event has been canceled due to the pandemic, Grapes is still hard at work decorating a number of trees throughout the campus to help bring about glad tidings for faculty and students.

"I enjoy decorating for holidays and events; and Christmas is one of my favorites," Grapes told the Democrat via email. "I enjoy the planning and the creating as much as I do the actual decorating.

"I think it's important to use the colors, ornaments, and themes you love and that make you happy," she continued. "It's such a personal choice and I love to see everyone's creative ideas."

Grapes said when decorating her home for the holidays, she tries to keep minimal themes or colors per room so that it's not too overpowering. She wants the feel to be "comfy and cozy and set the tone for a wonderful time with family and friends."

While Grapes loves the holidays, there are some aspects she is not overly fond of. Prepping the tree by fluffing and adding lights are her absolute least favorite steps and are the most time-consuming. Grapes explained for a 9-foot tree this may take a couple of hours and frequently makes her a tad bit grumpy because she just doesn't find it fun.

"I typically take a break and come back with a better attitude," Grapes commented. "When I'm working on the college trees, I work mostly nights and weekends so I can be alone. I really enjoy the silence with no distractions. Some people do yoga, I spend quality time with trees and find peace and joy."

If Grapes is working on a new tree or a new theme, it may take her three or four hours to do the actual decorating. If it is a theme she has done before it takes less. She noted she probably spends an hour or two on themed trees at home.

"We do the family ornament tree together and it usually takes an hour just because we are sharing memories and laughing and aren't in a big hurry," Grapes explained. "We had the same tree for 20 plus years so it was devastat-

ing to me when the stand broke a few years ago and we had to get rid of it. I kept the tree top and have incorporated that into the new decor."

Here are some of the steps in a "Grapes' tree ritual."

- Decide your theme. Sometimes one single ornament inspires Grapes and she creates a theme around it. Grapes purchases most of her decorations after the holidays when they are on sale. "I'm always looking around for new color combos and I have a running list of ideas," she said. "You may want to choose complementary colors to your home décor so it creates a nice soothing feeling, or you may choose to use an accent color for that unexpected pop of color." Grapes said she has some of all three at her house.

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can find and choose the size and the silhouette that best fits your space and your budget. Fluffing each branch on the tree is one of the most important steps for an artificial tree. Grapes added while it can be a bit time-consuming, it makes such a difference.

- Add lights starting from the base and working your way up the tree and then back down. Grapes prefers white lights but it's a personal choice. Turn the lights on and see if you're satisfied with how they are spaced and if it's bright enough. Grapes mentioned she turns the lights off while she is decorating the tree.

- Next, are the ornaments and picks. "I start with the largest first and then work my way down," Grapes explained. "I put one type of ornament

or pick up at a time."

Grapes sorts and stores ornaments in large plastic baggies by type and color, checking to see how many ornaments she has and deciding how many can be on each side. Grapes starts from the bottom of the tree and work my way up in a zig-zag pattern. "I think the picks really make a difference in both the fullness of the tree and reinforces the color scheme or theme," she explained. "These are typically my 'special find' after Christmas and often are the inspiration for a new theme.

- The tree topper is usually a combination of some of the picks Grapes uses in the tree; a large, beautiful bow that my co-worker and friend Renee Weller makes for her, or perhaps a hat or sign or

something unusual

- "I choose wrapping paper that fits with the theme and colors and take time to carefully place them around the tree," Grapes explained as one of the finishing touches. "It makes me laugh at myself every year, but I take time to angle them and find the perfect location for each one — there are a few people on campus who enjoy moving them around to see if I notice. I do."

- The final step is turning the lights and standing back to see if the Christmas magic is there...or if some adjustments need to be made, Grapes commented. "It also helps me to take some pictures — I find it helps me see where some changes are needed."

*Hope Lecchi can be reached at 660-826-1000 ext. 1484.*



PHOTO COURTESY OF STATE FAIR COMMUNITY COLLEGE

A harpist plays in the background of a photo taken of a themed tree decorated by Polly Grapes outside the President's Office at State Fair Community College during a recent Jingle on the Green event.



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DEMOCRAT FILE PHOTO

Parks and Recreation maintenance employee Seth Bryan makes sure a reindeer display is secure as the Sedalia Parks and Recreation Department sets up for its Light Up Liberty display in Liberty Park in 2019.

# Enjoy holiday fun from the safety of your vehicle

By Emily Walton

emilyw@sedaliademocrat.com

While many holiday activities have been canceled or changed this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Sedalia Parks and Recreation Department will still host a holiday activity that will be fun and safe for the entire family.

The department brought back holiday lights and displays to Liberty Park last year through its Light Up Liberty event and will continue the tradition this year with nearly double the amount of lights.

"We are adding some arches at the entryway as you come into the park," explained Parks and Recreation Direc-

tor Amy Epple. "...This year you'll go all the way around Convention Hall and then down the little road between Liberty Stadium and Third Street. You'll go down there and finish that way... That's what our plan is. Next year we'll add more in Liberty Park and then the following year we'd like to start adding to the pool. Eventually, it will go to the Heckart Community Center."

The lights will have "a little bit of everything," including vehicles, gingerbread men lifting weights, a dog display, a snowman softball display, Santa fishing over the lagoon and more.

"We have Santa golfing in the park, which is a memorial for Greg Katzing,

who passed away this summer that worked for us," Recreation Supervisor Savannah Lynde said. "Then there's some cute park ones where there's a gingerbread man sliding down a slide, a gingerbread man jumping on a trampoline."

"Then we have all of the ones from last year as well, like the elves playing volleyball," she continued. "There's another new one this year with the reindeer. A lot of large, really neat displays will be added this year. It will be at that point something that you can drive through multiple times to enjoy it."

The department has bought some of the lights, but many are from businesses or individuals sponsoring



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a display. Eppl explained there is a one-time cost for sponsorship. Once a sponsor donates money for a display, it will continue to be theirs in the future. If they wish to provide money for an additional piece next year, they can.

Lynde said it was "kind of a relief" to have a program that staff would not have to tweak or cancel due to the pandemic. One unrelated change will be an employee handing out candy canes a few nights during the event with a donation jar if anyone wants to donate.

"All of that money will go directly to more lights for next year. That was something back in the day they used to do that and that kind of helps us be able to maintain and keep it up..." Lynde said.

DEMOCRAT FILE PHOTO

**Parks and Recreation employees Christie Curry, top, Savannah Lynde, left, and Troy Meier stand outside Convention Hall at Liberty Park and discuss the decorations for Light Up Liberty in 2019.**

"No one has to give, but if they'd like to give to help us provide more nights next year, then they're more than welcome to."

Eppl said the department has a 10-year plan to expand and complete Light Up Liberty, including adding lights to some trees on the lagoon island and lighting the rose garden.

Eppl said the community's reaction to the lights last year was "unbelievable."

"We just got so many people," Eppl said. "It was such a wide and diverse amount of ages just from seniors that were driving

through in the evenings to get out. They'd say they stopped at the drive-thru to get something to eat and then went through the park. Almost everyone we talked to, they went through multiple times just because the kids enjoyed it so much."

The lights will be lit from 5 p.m. to midnight Thanksgiving to New Year's. Liberty Park is located at 1500 W. 3rd St. For more information, contact Parks and Rec at 660-826-4930 or visit [www.facebook.com/sedaliaparks](http://www.facebook.com/sedaliaparks).

*Emily Walton can be contacted at 660-530-0146.*



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# Reader's World offers plenty of gift options

By Emily Walton

emilyw@sedaliademocrat.com

For those who don't want to visit the city to do their Christmas shopping, a local bookstore offers a variety of books and gifts to choose from.

Store Manager Tammy Goodwin said the staff tries to work with people who come in looking for gifts. With a wide variety of products, the gift usually depends on the person and their interests.

"It usually just depends on the people, like a lot of people will come in and are like 'I don't know what to get my dad,'" Goodwin said. "So we'll suggest like Clive Cussler, like a lot of men or westerns. We get a lot of older men that like to read



PHOTO BY EMILY WALTON | DEMOCRAT

Reader's World in Sedalia offers a variety of items perfect for gifts this holiday season.

those types of books. Of course, you just kind of have to ask everybody what does the person like? What shows do they like? That sort of thing. We try to find something to suggest."

For kids, Goodwin recommended "We Don't Eat Our Classmates" by Ryan T. Higgins and "The Deep End (Diary of a Wimpy Kid Book 15)" by Jeff Kinney. For young adults,

she recommended "City of Ghosts" by Victoria Schwab and "Nightbooks" by J.A. White. The Harry Potter books along with its merchandise are also always popular.

For adults, there are multiple sections of books and Goodwin works to keep popular books and new releases at the store.

"We always keep the New York Times bestsellers stuff here and then our new releases," Goodwin said. "We update it every Sunday so we try to keep track of what's popular and what's going on right now. The 'Where the Crawdads Sing' (by Delia Owens) has just been selling for years now. It's really good as well."

Books that make it onto celebrity book lists often end

up doing well, including "Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents" by Isabel Wilkerson, which customers have been saying is "really great." For mystery lovers, Goodwin recommended "Ninth House" by Leigh Bardugo and "The Guest List" by Lucy Foley.

"I think that a lot of people like Sandra Brown and Janet Evanovich," Goodwin said. "Suspense is usually a big one. Patterson always has something, he never quits."

A great gift during the holiday season could be classic stories in "really nice bindings" for those who want to spend a little more. Books like "The Grimes Complete Fairy Tales" and "The Lord of the Rings" tend to sell pretty consistently, according to Goodwin.



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The store also offers a section of books by local authors.

Reader's World does not just offer books. There are a variety of toys, baby items, science kits, robots, stuffed animals, dinosaurs, funny socks, stocking stuffers, cookbooks, and magazines. A popular item during the holiday season is the store's variety of calendars since most people will need a new one for the beginning of the year.

Goodwin said puzzles have been a popular purchase during the pandemic.

"I guess because people have been stuck at home they need something to occupy them," she said. "Puzzles, sometimes family games, because we have a lot of games. We've tried to beef up our education section because some kids are at home doing school online and their parents are trying to help..."

"We have art stuff," she later added. "I think this year like things that are going to keep kids busy is going to be a helpful thing. We try to get,



Stuffed animals are one of the many gifts great for kids at Reader's World along with other toys, books, science kits, and more.

and I don't know how long they'll last, puppets. Sometimes teachers like stuff like that so they can use them in class."

Reader's World also offers free gift wrapping during the holiday season.

Reader's World, 1400 S. Limit Ave., can be reached at 660-827-0940 or at [www.facebook.com/readersworldsedalia](http://www.facebook.com/readersworldsedalia).

Emily Walton can be contacted at 660-530-0146.



PHOTO BY EMILY WALTON | DEMOCRAT

The store works to keep up to date with best sellers and what is popular with customers.



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6.		11.	
7.		12.	

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1.		5.	
3.		8.	
4.		9.	

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