

# Homegrown for the holidays

By Kristi Godby  
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It's so hard in this big-box store, internet-prime world to buy special Christmas gifts. Shopping becomes less about the gift and more about where it can be purchased the cheapest, since every chain store carries a version. Of course, gifts can always be handmade, but in unskilled hands Pinterest fails are more common than not.

The solution: local small-town shopping. The Greenbrier Valley and its downtowns of Lewisburg, White Sulphur Springs and more can offer something different and personal in a gift, and isn't that the whole idea?

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GREENBRIER COUNTY CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU | Courtesy photos



Loyal mountaineers will love the clothing and accessories by Pretty White Trash, carried in Lewisburg by Sunflower Soul.



Studio 40 carries knitted hats and hand warmers made in West Virginia.

## STATE PRIDE

West Virginians have a fierce pride in their home state, and what better gift than one that shows off that feeling?

Wolf Creek Gallery has the perfect jewelry for the woman who wants to show her love for the Mountain State. Their silver- and gold-toned West Virginia-shaped bracelets and necklaces proclaim "take me home" or the simple, yet powerful "home."

Pretty White Trash, carried by Lewisburg's Sunflower Soul, is a locally designed men's and women's clothing and accessories line for the loyal mountaineer, with taglines like "wild & wonderful," "love, music and mountains" and "almost heaven."

RIGHT: Wolf Creek Gallery has multiple wears to show your love for West Virginia.



## MADE LOCAL

Everyone has that sister or friend who lives in a big city and is up on all the latest trends. Access to every imaginable store makes buying a gift for him or her almost impossible. Send a local gift.

Bella, the Corner Gourmet has West Virginia-shaped cutting boards made in Lewisburg from West Virginia trees.

Studio 40 carries hand-dyed, one-of-a-kind silk scarves by Nellie Rose Davis, an Elkins native, and knitted hats and hand warmers by Lani Emrich from nearby Pence Springs.



Give a gift with attitude, like these tumblers from Harmony Ridge Gallery.



Smooth Ambler offers a taste of Appalachian spirits.

## COCKTAILS

When all else fails, try alcohol. In the Greenbrier Valley, there are plenty of local libations for gift-giving.

Smooth Ambler Spirits in Maxwelton is the state's only distillery, a maker of hard liquor. Give the gift of West Virginia-made gin, vodka, rum and whiskey.

The Greenbrier Valley also has the state's only cidery (alcohol made from apples) in Hawk Knob Cider and Mead, which offers four varieties of the hard juice.

Finally, the Greenbrier Valley Brewing Company is the local brewery. Its product is notable for its availability in cans as opposed to bottles. Be sure to check out the local tasting rooms to quality test your gift before purchase.

BELOW: Flavors brewed at home, from the Greenbrier Valley Brewing Company.



Hawk Knob Cider and Mead is the state's only cidery. It produces alcohol made from apples, and offers four varieties of the hard juice.



## ART

The West Virginia Fine Artisans Gallery provides a wealth of holiday gift ideas, and everything is wrought by area artists. There is quite the range of offerings from recycled jewelry made from colorful aluminum cans, to large, carved-wood statement pieces. Quilted table runners, metal garden decor and wall art are waiting to delight the most contrary giftee.



Harmony Ridge Gallery has a line of gifts perfect for hard-to-buy-for men.

## FOR THE MEN

The most challenging to give gifts to are men. There are only so many times they can receive work pants, beef jerky and a tie before it gets redundant. Many stores can help with the gentleman dilemma.

Harmony Ridge Gallery carries unique and fun gifts for guys like flasks and flashlights, or tumblers with cheeky sayings such as "pickled" and "sauce."

Or buy them an "Antique Cabins and Barns" T-shirt and hat from the city where Barnwood Builder reality TV star Mark Bowe lives.

The Front Porch carries some really cool menswear that fits right in on the hiking trail or in the barnyard.

RIGHT: The Front Porch carries menswear like this "Antique Cabins and Barns" hat from the city where "Barnwood Builders" reality TV star Mark Bowe lives.

