Holiday Gift Guide

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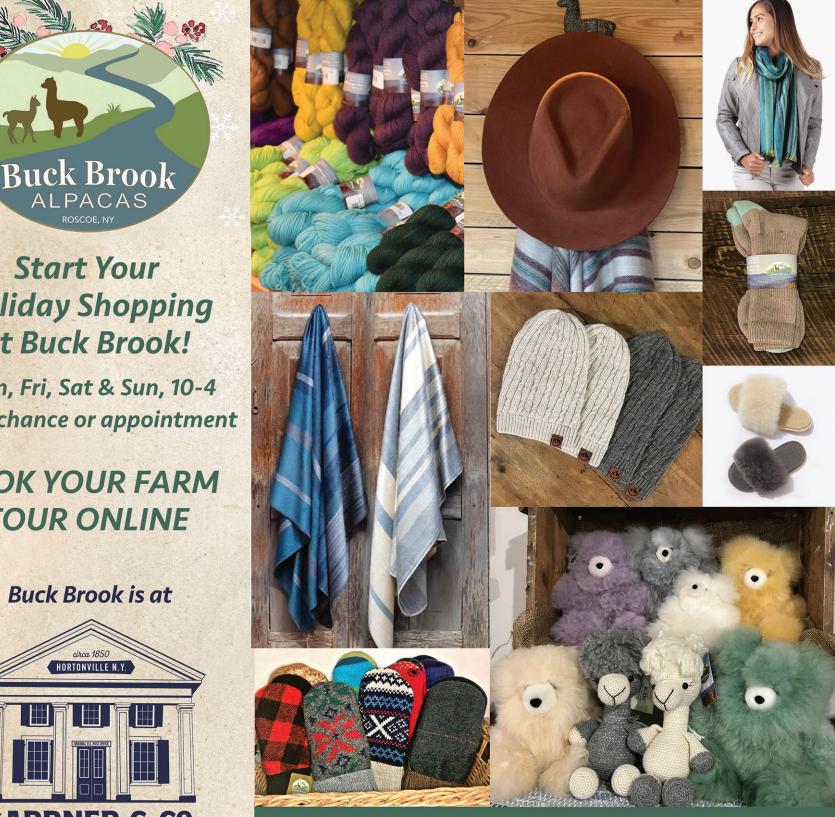
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EDITORIAL Bask in the spirit of the Holidays

he holiday season is upon us, and with that brings the joy and togetherness that makes the winter



months better.

There are so many great ways to celebrate the season, both at home and within your community. Decorating your home with seasonal items or taking a drive to look at other people's decorations is always a fun time, and there are plenty of local businesses that offer holiday items to spruce up your home.

If you have young family members that participate in chorus/band in school, many of the local schools host a holiday concert, which is a great way to spend an evening.

We have also entered into the season of giving, as exchanging gifts with your loved ones is a highlight of this time of year.

Finding the perfect gift for someone can be difficult, but there are local businesses throughout the county and beyond that offer gift baskets and holiday deals to make it easier to find what you're looking for this season.

From holiday flower arrangements to hand-crafted custom decorations, it is easy to find a great gift if you know where to look. And for many of these local artisans, being commissioned to make these holiday gifts brings them as much joy as the person receiving it.

Holiday markets, tree lightings and other holiday events hosted by the community are a great way to bring people together to celebrate together.

The holiday spirit is contagious, so be sure to spread it to others when you can. Choose to be kind and spread positivity. But also keep in mind that there is no expiration date on choosing to be kind, it doesn't need to just be for the holidays, and the lessons taught during this time of year are great during the other 11 months as well.

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SULLIVAN COUNTY DEMOCRAT

HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE NO. 2 5H



Published by Catskill-Delaware Publications, Inc. Publishers of the



(845) 887-5200 Callicoon, NY 12723 December 12, 2023 • Vol. CXXXIII, No. 54



NATIONAL NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

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An experience beyond baked goods

STORY AND PHOTOS BY ALEX KIELAR

he Jeffersonville Bake Shop, located at 4906 NY State Route 52, has plenty to offer for the holiday season, on top of what they already offer throughout the year.

The holiday specialties include three specialty holiday drinks a toasted hazelnut caramel latte, a peppermint mocha latte and a gingerbread latte. They are also selling holiday cookie boxes for 30 dollars, which include 35 mini cookies of seven different types.

The seven types of cookie included in the cookie boxes are



gingerbread, meringue, chocolate chip, peppermint mocha and linzer cookies (with tangy apricot jam filling) as well as chocolate pecan and cranberry orange shortbread sticks. Five of each type are included to equal up to the 35 total.

Cookie boxes can be ordered until Wednesday, December 20 and are exclusively a pre-order opportunity. Also part of the holiday specialties are cake pop boxes of quantities of either six or 12. Cake pops are made of leftover cake rolled into a ball in the form of a lollipop.

Jeff Bake Shop sells a lot of other goodies all year long, which includes pies for 30 dollars and cakes from 15 dollars and up. Pastries such as scones, danishes and croissants are also offered as well as different types of bread such as sourdough and baguette. They also sell gift certificates all year, ranging from five to 50 dollars.

All the baked goods at Jeff Bake Shop are made with eggs from local farmers and they use coffee beans from local roasters as well as making espressos and other coffee drinks with milk from local dairy farms.

The shop creates a great atmosphere that invites customers to stick around, with a library and marketplace also being a part of their store. There are a number of books available for purchase and comfy armchairs to read them in. The marketplace has homemade ready-to-go lunches, local bottled beverages including beer and wine as well as several locally made gifts and snacks.

The current hours of the bake shop are 7:30 a.m. till 5 p.m. daily, but will be changing in January. The shop will be closed on Christmas. They offer all-day breakfast from 7:30 a.m. till 2 p.m. everyday and lunch from 11:30 a.m. till 2 p.m. Breakfast options include three-egg omelets, breakfast sandwiches and hot breakfast plates. The lunch menu includes sandwiches such as grilled cheese and BLT and salads.







Clockwise from above: The Jeffersonville Bake Shop main entrance.

One of the staples of the holiday season is their holiday cookie boxes which are available for pre-order December 20.

There are different goodies all year long, such as cakes and pastries.

The shop also sells nonfood or beverage products, such as hats and travel mugs.

Jeff Bake Shop is offering three holiday specialty drinks, two of which are pictured here.

Cake pops are available for purchase as well.



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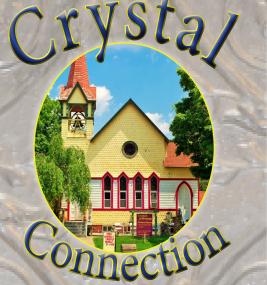


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8H HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE NO. 2

SULLIVAN COUNTY DEMOCRAT

Callicoon Kiwanis brightens community's Holidays with many donations

BY FRED STABBERT III

The Callicoon Kiwanis Club gathered at the Callicoon Brewery's upstairs dining room to enjoy its Annual Holiday Party on Sunday, December 3.

More than a dozen members were in attendance as the club donated \$15,000 to a dozen local organizations to help support youth activities in the area.

Callicoon Kiwanis Club President Trish Ellmauer introduced the organizations that were able to attend the event, noting that Kiwanis has been a strong supporter of all youth endeavors for the past 75 years.

Jason Kean, who was there to accept the donation on behalf of the AYSO Soccer Program said, "It was our best year ever."

He said that a new record was set this year in many categories.

"We had 377 kids participate on 37 different teams in five age categories," he said. "They played in 250 games at 14 different fields."



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

More than a dozen Callicoon Kiwanis members and guests attended the recent Holiday Party at the Callicoon Brewery.

He went on to explain that children who participated came from four different Sullivan County towns and Pennsylvania and there were 120

volunteers involved.

Georgia Mitchell, who is a Callicoon Kiwanian, accepted the donation on behalf of Interfaith Outreach United (I.O.U.).

She had a similar story to Kean's regarding how much her organization CONTINUED ON PAGE 9H



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Continued from page 8H

organization helps the community. "We recently handed out 68 Thanksgiving Dinner baskets which helped feed 276 local people," Mitchell said. "We are now doing a toy giveaway for Christmas and all families need to do is sign up."

Mitchell explained how much Kiwanis' donation of 30 turkeys helps her organization.

"God Bless Kiwanis," she said. "You help us so much. Thank you, thank you, thank you."

Julie Pisall and John Ogozalek were also on hand to accept their donation on behalf of The Kingfisher Project.

The organization is dedicated to help fighting drug abuse among local teens and was founded in honor of Julie and Robert Pisall's daughter, Rebecca, who died in a tragic drugrelated murder nearly 10 years ago.

"If it wasn't for John (Ogozalek) we wouldn't have seen Rebecca's essay, entitled Kingfisher," Julie said. "We use this donation to help fund a yearly scholarship at Sullivan West to a student furthering their education."

Ogozalek said the donation goes a long way in supporting the youth of our area.

"Even one student hearing that someone cares makes a difference," Ogozalek said. "You never know how you are going to change a life."

He said the Kingfisher Project is dedicated to helping youth learn more about drug addiction, and "the problems are changing every day."

Callicoon Kiwanian Anne Knack was on hand to accept the donation on behalf of the Sullivan West Musical Program and Sullivan West Toys for Kids.

Knack explained that between 75 and 100 students are involved in the production, and the funds will be used to help defray the costs of the supplies and other needed items.

She also said the Toys for Kids program was going well at Sullivan West headed by Tara Brey and all her elves.

President Ellmauer then announced the other organizations who were receiving donations, namely:

- Delaware Youth Center
- Delaware Valley Junior Rifle Club
- Fremont Red Dogs Junior Football
 Girl Scouts

• Boy Scouts Troop 109, Jeffersonville











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Rolling V toy collection

olling V Bus Corporation is known for helping groups and organizations in need in their community since 1979. This year is no exception, as they renew their commitment to the Toys for Tots holiday program.

Community members are encouraged to stop by one of their garages in each of their towns; Ellenville, Liberty, Livingston Manor, Neversink, and South Fallsburg and drop off new unwrapped toys. These toys will

then be distributed by the local chapter of Toys for Tots to families in need this holiday season. Through the gift of a new toy or book, Marine Toys for Tots programs bring the joy of Christmas and send a message of hope to America's disadvantaged



children. To date, they have distributed 652 million toys to 291 million deserving children, and last year in the Hudson Valley they supported over 17,000 children with almost 50,000 toys according to toysfortots.org.

"We have always tried to do as much as we can, when we can, for the communities we serve. It's a privilege that we have never taken for granted." Phil Vallone, Founder Rolling V Bus.

For more information about

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the Toys for Tots holiday toy collection at Rolling V, or if your group or organization is having a holiday drive and toy needs more help, please reach out Phil Vallone philvallone@ rollingv.com.

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118240

METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION IMAGE



What better gift is there?



BY RUTH HUGGLER

our holiday shopping list might already be lengthy, but please remember to include the furry, finned or feathered family members who have been good... or at least been there... every day of the year.

Haven't they...

• kept you active and fit with regular vacuuming and moving furniture?

• tested your memory of the names of your family (and anyone else you see regularly)?

• helped you learn the days of operation and the hours of every pet store?

• challenged your ability to dodge pet vomit in your bare feet?

• helped you learn to properly secure a pet carrier in the car?

• taught you how to respond to a clicker?

• filled your compost pile with wood shavings, or made bare spots on your lawn?

• taught you the middle-of-thenight pet Emergency Room drill?

• tested your dishwasher's sterilize mode?

• exposed you to more animal anatomy than you ever wanted to know?

• made the phrase "wash your hands" your mantra?

• helped you appreciate a good (pet) manicure?

• given you the patience for a

METRO CREATIVE SERVICES PHOTO

good grooming session?taught you the economy of a dripping faucet?

• helped accentuate your wardrobe with real fur?

• taught you the wisdom of early-booking a kennel for the holidays?

• tuned your hearing to detect the sound of vomit in the dead of night?

• tested your balance for walking outdoors at all hours, in all seasons?

• challenged your sense of what to wear in case of accidental pet stains?

• taught you what a zoonotic disease is and why to avoid it?

• challenged your sleep habits (and yoga status) to include slumbering pets?

• filled your to-do list with less about you, more about them?

• given you an appreciation for your favorite chair (if it's ever empty again)?

• taught you all the ways to say "I love you" without an interpreter?

They will not be impressed by labels or price tags, but pets will definitely appreciate more hugs and scratches, a good lap to nap in after a warm dinner, and having family home more hours with them. Add a resolution to continue each year with more of the same, and enjoy the benefits of having trusty companions to share the holidays, and every day, with you.



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To join this winning team, call (845) 292-1639 The origins of Winter Wonderland

HONESDALE, PA — "Sleigh bells ring, are you listening?" Chances are you can sing the next sentence. "Winter Wonderland" is one of the most recognizable Christmas songs in history and the most often recorded. Honesdale native Richard "Dick" Smith was inspired by his hometown to pen the beloved tune in 1931.

"It has timeless lyrics that are just as fun to sing or listen to as they were in 1934. Though the song is generally recognized as a Christmas song, the lyrics do not refer to Christmas at all, just the snowy winter season."

Smith was born in Honesdale, PA on September 29, 1901. He lived with his parents John and Eliza Smith and siblings in a house with a direct view of Honesdale Central Park and the Wayne County Courthouse. He learned to play the piano at his family home.

He graduated from Honesdale High School in 1920 and then left the area. Smith attended Penn State where he conducted the school's orchestra, served as editor-in-chief of the school newspaper and wrote several songs for the Glee Club and plays. After graduation, he managed movie theaters in Connecticut, New York City and Chattanooga, TN.

Smith married Jean Connor from Scranton on March 30, 1930 and contracted tuberculosis shortly after in 1931. He was admitted to Lenox Hill Hospital and later Scranton's West Mountain Sanatorium, where he wrote his best-known work, "Winter Wonderland." He wrote the song about the snow-covered beauty of the central park in Honesdale that he saw from his boyhood home. Felix Bernard composed the music for the song.

Although Smith realized his dream of writing a Christmas song, he passed away before it rose to popularity. He died on September 29, 1935 at the age of 34. "Dick Smith's song has become a classic– a work of enduring excellence," said the Wayne County Historical Society. "It has timeless lyrics that are just as fun to sing or listen to as they were in 1934. Though the song is generally recognized as a Christmas song, the lyrics do not refer to Christmas at all, just the snowy winter season."

"Winter Wonderland" was featured in Ziegfeld Follies on Broadway and Guy Lombardo and the Royal Canadian Orchestra performed the song. Over 200 artists have recorded "Winter Wonderland" including Bing Crosby, The Andrew Sisters, Perry Como, The Carpenters, Diana Ross and Aretha Franklin.

"There is a small plaque on the front porch of a privately owned house in Honesdale where Dick Smith grew up. The locals know which house it is and tell their children and friends."

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STORY AND PHOTOS BY DEREK KIRK

Pick up the perfect crystal or give the gift of experience at the new Salt Cave at Crystal Connection in Wurtsboro, the largest crystal store in the Northeast, affectionally called the "Jewel of Sullivan County."

Co-owners Travis Ogden and Tim Bracci set up shop in a repurposed 1890 Methodist Church 16 years ago, creating a home for spiritual growth and healing. Ogden noted that customers and neighbors recall memories of dinners, weddings and other jovial gatherings in the past. Now, customers can look forward to experiencing this interactive store and the Salt Cave wellness space, "The Ancient Art

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of Salt."

A newer addition to the store added in August, the services in this wellness space include salt-lavender foot soaks as well as the three featured rooms — the vibro-acoustic sound bed, the private Salt Halotherapy room and the Salt Cave. Customers can book appointments at www.crystalconnectionnewyork.com/saltcave, or through the Mindbody App.

With the use of pharmaceutical-grade salt and infrared light, among many other services, customers at Crystal Connection can utilize science-based technology to focus on various aspects of physical and spiritual healing, as well as creating community with one another.

The vibro-acoustic sound bed rates run at \$1 per minute, the Salt Cavern (set for larger parties) at \$40 per 40 minutes and the private Salt Halotherapy room (set for two) at \$30 for 20 minutes.

In addition to wholesale on gems, minerals and other crystal products that come from all around the globe, there are dozens of deals available for customers, giving them the availbility to pick and choose what suits their needs.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18H

The Salt Caves at Crystal Connection offer a wellness space for peace and healing, with rooms and services available for booking.



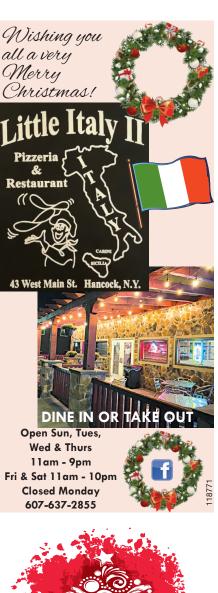
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Amethyst geodes and dozens of other colored minerals and crystals make great gifts.



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17H If you're unsure of what crystals would make a good gift for your loved one or which service they might enjoy, gift certificates are available to ensure your gift-getter is getting the gift they want. The deals include a \$120 card for \$100, \$90 for \$75 and \$50 for \$60. \$25 gift certificates are available as well.

The shop, located at 116 Sullivan St, is completely touch and experience friendly and is a sacred space constructed with the intent for people to feel, heal and connect to themselves and the world around them.

Don't forget to check out the ever-growing Christmas light show display outside of the store as well! Crystal Connection invites all who may wish to wander and get lost in the magic of the illuminated holiday spirit.

The shop is open all days through December from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., and closing December 30 to January 15. More information can be found on their website, CrystalconnectionNewYork.com, via phone at (845) 888-2547, email crystalconnectionNewYork@ at gmail.com, or their social media, CrystalconnectionNewYork.

SULLIVAN COUNTY DEMOCRAT

HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE NO. 2 19H

There are so many gift ideas at Crystal Connection to dazzle the eye — from crystals and minerals, to geodes and jewelry, beautiful handmade baskets, books and intention candles and even a collection of crystal singing bowls, there's something here for everyone.

The shop offers crystals and other precious minerals from all around the globe.



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20H HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE NO. 2

Something for everyone

STORY AND PHOTOS BY VINCENT KURZROCK

R52Home, situated behind Sullivan Sul location to discover a range of unique finds and presents for that special someone this holiday season.

Owner and operator Randy Klocko, who formerly operated Youngsville's The Claire Hotel, established the self-described vintage/modern home accessories variety shop in January 2020 as an opportunity to share his treasures that had not yet been seen in the area.

"I wanted to do another business because I loved the area and [the] people," said Klocko, "I wanted to bring items to the area that weren't here already."

With its rustic-modern aesthetic, the store offers a wide variety of items, from glassware and jewelry to antiques and one-of-a-kind lamps and cushions for the home.

A beautiful Christmas tree and a warm greeting from Randy himself await guests right away.

A vast assortment of publications, including reading, cooking, and design books, are also carried. Among the diversity of goods in the store are fragrances. When you visit the store,

SULLIVAN COUNTY DEMOCRAT





Situated behind Sullivan Sundries, R52 Home may appear small initially, but is large in character and atmosphere.

you can find something that strikes your eye because it contains a little bit of everything.

The store also has a large selection of ornaments and other decorations, including candles, to make your home seem beautiful for the holidays.

"Decorating your home brings joy to the winter months," according to Klocko.

In addition, R52 Home offers gift cards; this year, house socks are their best-selling item.

For the holiday season, the store's hours differ slightly. They are as follows:

• Thursday – Saturday 10 - 6 [Normally 11 to 6] Sunday and Monday 10-4



A wide array of jewelry are just some of the treasures available.



Randy Klocko, pictured, searched the Northeast for a wide variety of unique treasures and antiques to provide to his shoppers.



Gifts such as these could end up under your tree as well this holiday season.



If you want to spruce up your wardrobe, R52 Home is plentiful in shirts and similar articles of clothing.

HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE NO. 2 21H



HOP



Creek House Grill

Located at 19 Lower Main Street in Callicoon, the Creek House Grill opened in 2022 by owners Karen and John Dettori. They offer wide variety of great food options, including soups, sandwiches and entree specials. Their hours are 4 p.m to 9 p.m. Wednesday through Friday, Saturday from 12 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday 11 a.m to 8 p.m. They are closed on Monday and Tuesday.

Hancock Liquor

Snacks, drinks, and a wide variety of wines and a spirts are available at Hancock Liquor for all of your holiday gift-giving needs. They offer a wide selection of pre-made gifts to choose from in addition to creating personalized gift baskets. They will be happy to place an order for you if you are unable to find what you are looking for in stock. Additionally, the shop provides free gift wrapping.



Monticello Greenhouses Looking to shop for that special someone this holiday season? Look no further than Monticello Greenhouses! Located at 217 East Broadway, Monticello Greenhouses, Inc. offer a variety of floral arrangements and gifts, which includes special winter bouquets for the holiday season as well as gift baskets, wreaths and a selection of Christmas trees. They are open Monday through Saturday 8:00 a.m. till 5:30 p.m. and Sunday 8:00 p.m. till 3:00 p.m.



U L L I V



Narrowsburg Proper and Proper To Go Are mother and daughter owned specialty shops, run by Joan Santo and her daughter Julie. Narrowsburg Proper, located at 44 Main Street, offers a vast selection of craft beers, cider, CBD products and much more. Proper To Go, located at 119 Kirk Road in Narrowsburg, is their specialty grocer, offering prepared foods, daily specials and a wide selection of several types of food. The hours of Narrowsburg Proper are Monday through Saturday 12 p.m. till 5 p.m. and Sunday 11 a.m. till 4 p.m. Proper To Go is open on Monday and Sunday 11 a.m. till 4 p.m. and Tuesday through Saturday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. SULLIVAN COUNTY DEMOCRAT

HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE NO. 2 23H

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Cider Mill offers something for everyone

BY JEANNE SAGER

t's hard to say what you'll see first when you walk through the doorway of the newly renovated — and recently reopened — North Branch Cider Mill.

Is it a charming country store filled with local produce, jars of jam and maple syrup and a variety of home goods?

Is it the returning memory of a crisp fall morning walking through these very same doors a long, long time ago?

Or is it a mixture of the two, memories fading in and out as you wander a once familiar space made over, discovering the ways in which new Cider Mill owners Tom Roberts and Anna Aberg have both made the space their own and restored what once was there.

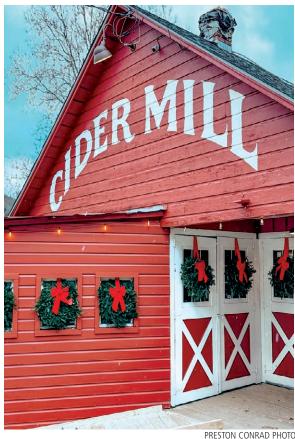
The answer, perhaps, lies not in the view itself but in the viewer.

Since the Cider Mill reopened for the Thanksgiving holiday weekend, some 25 years after its door seemed to have closed for good, there have been plenty of viewers - and shoppers - stopping in at the historic North Branch destination.

The mix of visitors and locals has been exactly what Roberts and Åberg both hoped and planned for as they mapped out the new North Branch Cider Mill and the items available inside. There's cider of course, although

Right: The main entrance to the newly re-opened Cider Mill. **Below: Owners Anna** Åberg and Tom Roberts





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for now it's being brought in as plans to bring the mill's old cider press back to life are still under way and won't be completed this year. There are apple cider donuts too, and apple pies baked by a local baker.

There are the aforementioned jams and jars of maple syrup, as well as jars of pickles, teas and assorted candies — most available to be purchased by the weight, so a child can walk into the mill with a fistful of change and afford to walk out with a sweet treat.

Along with the variety of local foods, plus some of the couple's favorite treats from their native countries — Roberts hails from England and Åberg from Sweden - the center of the store plays host to a variety of small gifts and home goods, from quirky light fixtures and to utilitarian kitchen items like apple corers and mushroom brushes that shoppers can pick up for themselves or as a small token of thanks for a holiday host.

Pre-packaged gift baskets are available too, as well as a variety of holiday decor items that run the gamut from simple paper angels to



SULLIVAN COUNTY DEMOCRAT

OMESTEAD PHOT Shelves are stocked with goods just waiting for customers to peruse.

intricate felt figurines to hang on the tree.

And much like the different views from the front door, the prices affixed to items dotting the store are all varied.

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wreath-making kits at another so both the person who wants to pay for something all put together and the person who says "OK, I can do that myself" can find something to buy.

As Roberts says, "We have something for everyone."

That's been the couple's goal from

the beginning — to create a space where both visitors and locals feel welcome and can find exactly what they need, be it a dozen eggs for a few dollars or a warm blanket for closer to \$100.

HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE NO. 2

25H

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"We wanted it to feel familiar

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26H



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when people came in. We wanted it to feel like a place where everyone could come in and find something that was for them," Roberts explains. "You can bring a single dollar in here and still have a great experience."

The result is a country store that's not unlike the Cider Mill of days gone by, right down to the thick canvas bags with the iconic Cider Mill logo available for sale.

"We inherited something great, and we didn't mess with it!" Roberts says.

Located at 38 North Branch Callicoon Center Road, the Cider Mill will be open six days a week -Tuesday through Sunday — from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. through the end of 2023. In January the opening hours will shift, but the goal is to remain open year-round and grow.

Work is under way across the lawn on the property's historic barn, which is to become headquarters for the couple's business ventures and house expanded offerings.

"This is really just a taste of what's to come," Roberts says.



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