Just in the Nick of Time

Your last minute holiday shopping guide

MEN’S NIGHT OUT

DECEMBER 17, 2015

5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

HAVE YOURSELF A MERRY RIDDLE Christmas

MEN’S NIGHT THURSDAY Dec. 17
SPECIAL SALES! Open until 8pm - One night ONLY!

CHECK US OUT IN-STORE OR ONLINE Riddlejewelry.com

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Call 672-2431 today!

30% OFF ALL JOHN DEERE TOYS IN STOCK!

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(wise) Men’s Night Out offers last minute shopping options

FROM STAFF REPORTS

SHERIDAN — (wise) Men’s Night Out will give men in the Sheridan community a chance to do some last minute shopping this week.

The event is coordinated by the Historic District Promotions Committee and will take place Thursday from 5 p.m.

Area businesses will offer Men’s Night Out specials. In addition, those shopping Thursday night can enter a drawing for a Collector’s Series Ruger 10/22 Carbine 50th anniversary edition — valued at $350 — courtesy of Big Horn Trading.

Leading up to the (wise) Men’s Night Out shopping event, women are encouraged to stop by participating stores to sign the stores’ wish lists.

For each wish list that a woman signs with gift ideas, she will be entered into a drawing for a 14-carat white gold .24-carat diamond solitaire pendant necklace courtesy of Kraft’s Fine Jewelry.

For a full list of participating businesses, contact the Downtown Sheridan Association at 672-8881.

Creating a picturesque downtown

Cheryl Sinclair pushes a snow blower across Main Street Tuesday morning to clear the sidewalks in front of her businesses.

Thursday, December 17th
FROM 5PM TO 8PM
at these participating businesses:

LADIES:
Shop in at participating retailers before Men’s Night to complete your wish lists for a chance to win a 14 Karat white gold .24 ct diamond solitaire pendant necklace!

MEN:
Shop Men’s Night, December 17 between the hours of 5pm & 8pm for a chance to win!

Join us on Facebook for immediate updates about YOUR community!
**NEW YORK (AP) —** What to get a tech-savvy kid who’s tired of the same old tablets and video games? New toys this year range from easy-to-assemble circuits to a talking dinosaur powered by IBM’s Watson artificial-intelligence system.

Most of these from coming companies, yet they can be found at major retailers or ordered online. All are designed to foster learning and creativity.

**LITTLEBITS ($200 for Gadgets & Gizmos; ages 8 and up)**

Although circuit-building sets have long been around, Littlebits is taking invention and building electronic-powered devices to a new level. The brightly colored components connect together easily with magnets, then attach to mounting boards like Legos.

It took about 45 minutes to build a remote-controlled robot. The instructions include color pictures of everything I needed to see. I found them easy to follow, and older children should, too. Although I didn’t get everything right the first time, I had fun checking my circuits and solving problems. Kids will as well. Other projects in my set include a wireless doorbell, motorized fun and rotating lamp.

One drawback: There aren’t enough sets to make multiple projects. The kit has two mounting boards, and I needed both to build my car and remote. Because the boards are needed for most of the projects, you have to take apart what you built to make something else.

To get around that, you’d need to buy expansion packs with extra boards and parts.

**STIKBOT ($30 for a starter kit, technically for ages 13 and up because of social-media restrictions)**

What makes this toy fun is its marriage of ages and social media with old-fashioned stop-motion animation, which attracts kids to make pictures in a video. It harkens back to the “comically” cartoonish of days gone by.

The starter kit comes with two

**SNARKS —** small, flexible plastic figures with suction cups for feet and hands — along with a basic tripod for your smartphone. You download an app and watch the Snarkets and whatever else you have around the house to create your own stop-motion movie. The movies can then be shared through social media such as Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

Zig Global Ltd., the company behind Snark, puts its favorite on YouTube through “The Snark Show” and gives out cash prizes for the most creative. You can see some of the best at

http://www.snarkets.tv/videos/.

**The creativity of Snark fans is truly amazing.** My 5-year-old daughter can’t stop watching and has been begging to make her own movie.

**COGNITOS DINO ($120, ages 5 and up)**

This small, plastic dinosaur from New York-based startup Elemental Path has a voice reminiscent of Yoda from “Star Wars.” The toy uses Watson’s speech recognition and cognitive abilities to create an interactive experience.

The Dino will engage in conversations with your child and remember personal details such as his or her name and favorite color. With Watson’s help, the toy will also answer some questions such as “Why is the sky blue?” and “Do bats come from?” in a kid-appropriate way. It’s not meant for sharing with siblings, though, as Dino will track of just one child’s preferences.

The toy connects directly to your computer network, so no phone or tablet is needed. The books, which come in three colors, is sold only online and not in stores.

**THE INCREDIBLE INTERGALACTIC JOURNEY HOME ($80, ages 3 and up)**

Lost My Name, a London-based startup, uses satellite maps and apps to create customized books that go well beyond similar products on the market.

The beautifully illustrated book tells the story of your child’s journey out from home as a star, their books' popularity nearly lands and eventually a satellite may show your child's neighbor and home.

Although my daughter already has books personalized with her name and friends, she’d be a kid out of our seeing and neighbor from space.

The books, available in seven languages, are sold only online.

**TIGGly ($5 per set, ages 5 and up)**

Tiggly aims to make learning fun by combining toy shapes and letters with apps for iPod or Android tablets.

For example, little sea creatures in the Submarine app ask kids to complete words by placing the required vowel letter on the tablet. Use the wrong letter, and a little crab character gives a disapproving look, while the tablet makes a “huh?” sound. Words completed correctly are saved up by a little submarine.

The shapes and letters are soft and easy for little hands to pick up and manipulate.

The set for the youngest kids, ages 3 to 5, focuses on shapes while another teaches basic math to kids ages 3 to 1. The most advanced teaches early reading skills to 4 to 8-year-olds. Apps include a variety of games. Most are free, while a few cost $1 to $3.

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**Gift Guide: Kiddle tech beyond video games, tablets**

**1. Books are read aloud for long road trips.**

**2. Books don’t need batteries.**

**3. Books don’t hunt when you drag them along in the middle of the night.**

**4. Books never come in the wrong color or size.**

**5. Books don’t initiate your allergies.**

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**Superhero Central:**

**LOS ANGELES (AP) —** DVD or Blu-ray box sets can be great gifts for film fans, but they often follow predictable trends and let’s face it, boring choice — unless they come with a life something extra, like a Tony Stark tattoo that says “Back to the Future” flux capacitor.

Here’s a look at some of the best box sets of the season, and some outside-the-box gift ideas for movie lovers on your list.

**SUPERHERO CENTRAL:**

**Get acquainted with the Avengers and Guardians of the Galaxy with Marvel’s latest collector’s set.** “Marvel Cinematic Universe: Phase Two,” which packs seven films and nearly three hours of bonus content inside a box shaped like a Monopoly board that holds an infinity stone. The set also includes the aforementioned Tony Stark tattoo and other Marvel memorabilia ($19.99, www.amazon.com ).

**BACK TO THE FUTURE,** AGAIN: Go back to the future with this comprehensive collection of Doc Brown and Marty McFly’s time-travel adventures in a year that marks the 35th anniversary of the original film. “Back to the Future: The Complete Adventures” includes all three films, all 26 episodes of the “Back to the Future” animated series, two hours of new bonus material and a 32-page booklet. The set’s special feature is an updated flux capacitor to help you build your own $12,000 ($89.99, www.amazon.com ).

**WIND & WAVE:**: Celebrate the 40th anniversary of “Moby Dick” and the Holy Grail” with this limited-edition collector’s set. The set’s packaging features a light-up replica with the Pythons by John Oliver ($59.99, www.amazon.com ).

**DAZZLE THEM WITH BRILLIANCE:** Take a master class in movie comedy with the “W.C. Fields: Comedies Essentials Collection.” Issued in honor of Fields’ 100th anniversary in film. The four-DVD set includes 18 films, featuring such stars as Bob Hope, Mae West, Bing Crosby and more ($14.99, www.amazon.com ).

**SPIRITED ANIMATION:** “The Collectors Works of Hayao Miyazaki” is another master class in Blu-ray form. This Amazon exclusive comes all 11 of Miyazaki’s feature films, including the Oscar-winning “Spiritual Jar” along with hours of bonus features, a commemo- rateable booklet and the 1972 TV pilot the famous animator directed ($213, www.amazon.com ).

**STAR WARS:** Anything “Star Wars” is sure to be well received as the anticipated seventh installment hits theaters next month. Go big with the crested BB-8 remote-con- trol droid ($149), or keep things warm, fun and stylish with the Chewbacca can cozy ($12.99, www.amazon.com ).

**POPULAR SNACKING:** What’s better than a cool treat? Popcorn, of course! Hartley’s, including the classic, but why not try something different, like Popkin’s Pinkadelic gourmet corn, with white chocolate, raspberry and pop rocks? Other choices include Dilly Pickle, www.dillypickle.com and Popped’s Pinkadelic gourmet corn, with white chocolate, raspberry and pop rocks? Other choices include Dilly Pickle, www.dillypickle.com

**YODA ($120, ages 5 and up)**

The creativity of Star Wars fans is truly amazing. My 5-year-old daughter can’t stop watching and has been begging to make her own movie.

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**Get glasses just in the NICK of TIME!**

**BANNED:**

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**Thank you for your continued support!**
Give a memorable gift: 6 unusual gift finds in books

NEW YORK (AP) — Twisted cat poetry only Charles Bukowski could have come up with is among the holiday season’s more unusual books.

Six suggestions:


“On Cats,” by Charles Bukowski, edited by Abel Debritto. The rough and tumble writer died in 1994. This anthology of his poems and short prose honors the animals that touched his soul. Bukowski captures the spirit of his own pet cats as fighters, hunters and survivors, including photos of himself with his critters. From HarperCollins, $38.95.

“Hillary Rodham Clinton Presidential Papers,” illustrated by Caitlin Kuhnawal. Choose a facial expression and pantsuit from among the presidential candidate’s greatest hits, or pose Bill Clinton in his bathrobe with his lawyer on a foldout White House front lawn. This truly quirky gift includes 10 paper dolls of the Clintons, bodysuits, favorite supporters Bonnie and Oprah and three sets in all. From Quirk Books, $14.95.

“Little Miss and Mr. Me Me Me parody series,” by Dan Zevin, illustrated by Dylan Klymenko. The iconic little children’s books by Roger Hargreaves featuring the goofy Little Miss and Mr. Men characters have been teaching good behavior for 45 years. They’ve had a big 2015: A feature film is in the works, Uniqlo came up with a clothing line and now there’s this twist on the parodies. Lots of wild antics and life lessons from “Little Miss Overshare” and “Mr. Selfie, Little Miss Overshare and Little Mr. Selfie” settings. From Three Rivers Press. Each book is $9.99.

“The Selous in Africa: A Long Way from Home,” by Rolf D. Baldus and Walter R. Jebber and Robert J. Ross. Lots of wild animals eating other wild animals in this coffee table book celebrating the Selous Game Reserve in southern Tanzania, Africa’s oldest and largest protected area. The Selous is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the continent’s largest and greatest undisturbed ecosystems. From Officina Libraria/ACC Distribution, $65.

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NEW YORK (AP) — Not looking to spend a bundle on holiday gifts? Head to the nearest dollar store instead.

“Hipster Hats: A blue-stripe Where’s Waldo knit style for the guys and a dachshund in bun and ketchup and this Chuckles the dog clown. August features a dachshund in bun and ketchup and this Chuckles the dog clown. August features notes from Dressed-Up Pets.” The cover is hand-stamped with a dachshund’s face. From SALT AND PEPPER: Though we’re not sure who’s who, this condiment set is truly friendly. Its two arm-in-arm ceramic shakers are described thusly: “Meet George. He’s Claude’s best mate and not afraid to show it.” From COIN BANKS: Let the Monsters Inc. and SpongeBob SquarePants gangs help teach toddlers the value of saving their pennies with mini coin banks. These two are stuffed with multicolored candy canes.

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More than 100 businesses are participating in the Christmas Stroll button campaign. For a full list of participating businesses, see the Sheridan County Chamber of Commerce website at sherdanwymomingchamber.org.