



WEST VIRGINIA PUBLIC THEATRE PRESENTS

A
**CHRISTMAS
CAROL**

December 16-19
Lyell B. Clay Theatre
Canady Creative Arts Center
TICKETS: \$14-\$25

Get tickets using this Eventbrite QR Code
or by calling 304-992-6338



Coni & Franc has helped with holiday shopping for nearly 4 decades

BY JENIFFER GRAHAM

Newsroom@DominionPost.com

For 39 years Connie and Frank Merandi have provided professional and friendly service to their customers in downtown Morgantown.

Coni & Franc is a full-service boutique that offers everything from bridal gowns to accessories to men's shirts.

"After Thanksgiving and Black Friday, we are celebrating our 39th year," Connie Merandi said. "Customers will be able to pull discount tickets from a brandy sniffer. The tickets will offer savings off their purchases even if the item is already on sale."

She said customers wanting gowns for the Christmas holiday should make arrangements as soon as possible. In-store custom alterations are available by the store's professional designers.

"There are a lot of black-tie events being scheduled," Merandi said. "We're already selling gowns, cocktail wear and shoes."

She said customers can choose from sizes ranging from 2 to 26 from an array of gowns for all age groups.

Merandi said gifting is also being offered for those who are unable to shop in person.

"We do great gifting," she said. "We box, wrap and send the gifts. Payment can be made on our website or by phone."

Merandi said gift certificates are also available, including for image consulting.

"Image consulting is a great gift. It's something someone would not do for themselves," she said. "It's a great gift to be given with a gift card. This gives the

CONI & FRANC

Address: 422 High St., Morgantown

Phone: 304-296-9466

Facebook: at Coni & Franc

Hours: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday, 10

a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, and starting

Thanksgiving from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday.

person the opportunity to have a consultation and buy a new outfit and accessories. We treat the person receiving the image consultation like a queen."

Merandi said Coni & Franc offers jewelry, accessories, hair ornaments, gift certificates, scarves and gloves, and many different items for people in all walks of life. There is jewelry for women of all ages, handbags for young girls and college students, every day bags and wallets as well as wristlets and a large selection of shoes.

"We have multi-generational clothing for women, dresses for baptism, first communion, every day, going out, work, first interview, homecoming, prom, pageants and talent wear. We have formals for galas for the bride and bridesmaids. We do it all," Merandi said.

Customers can also find men's shirts, fur cuffs for sleeves with Velcro, different types of wraps and moderately priced jackets for outerwear.

"We have clients who have been with us since the beginning," she said. "We have four generations that come in. We have people from children to elegant ladies in their 90s. I had a grandmother



Ron Rittenhouse/The Dominion Post

Connie Merandi with some of the merchandise at Coni & Franc.

that brought her daughters in — now the daughter is bringing in her daughter."

Merandi said if a customer comes in and can't find what they are looking for, she is ready to help.

"If a customer is looking for something for a child or men's wear that we don't

carry, I'll pick up the phone and call other downtown shops to see if they have the item. I want everyone to do well, so I'm happy to refer a customer to someone else in our business community."

TWEET @DominionPostWV

**SHOP SMALL.
SHOP LOCAL.
SHOP DOWNTOWN
This Holiday Season.**

**Local Restaurants • Art Galleries
Gifts • Entertainment
Local Crafts • Apparel**

MAIN STREET
morgantown
downtownmorgantown.com



Discover The Shoppes at Seneca Center!

A HISTORIC DESTINATION FOR DISTINCTIVE SHOPPING, DINING & SERVICES.

The Cutting Room Boutique

Classic to Trendy
LADIES APPAREL
JEWELRY
SHOES

- Gift Certificates
- Free Gift Wrapping
- Alterations Available

Seneca Center
304-413-2800
Monday-Saturday 10-5
or by appointment



PRESENTING

THE SOAP OPERA

New Hours:
Tuesday-Saturday 10-4



50%
OFF
Select
Items!

Women's and Men's Luxurious
Body and Bath
Products & Accessories,
Candles and Home Fragrances.

Jack Black
Authentic and Original



THYMES

CASWELL-MASSEY
...and many more!

Seneca Center • 709 Beechurst Ave. • Morgantown • 304-292-1211
presentingthesoapopera.com

THE TEA SHOPPE & Tea Room

Relax, Refresh, & Reflect



We offer the Traditional Afternoon
Tea Service as well as full-sized
gourmet sandwiches, homemade
soups, paninis, quiche, salads and
freshly baked sweets.

Over 180 Loose Leaf
Teas & Tisanes
Teaware & Accessories,
Giftware, Gift Baskets,
Gift Cards and more!

Hours: Tues.-Fri. 10-4 • Sat 9-4 • Sun 11-3
www.TheTeaShoppeWV.com • 304-413-0890 • Seneca Center

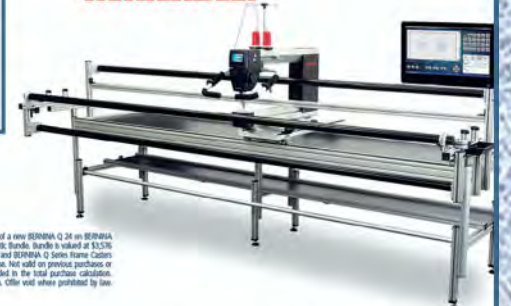
Q 24 ON BERNINA PRO FRAME WITH Q-MATIC BUNDLE

Save up to **\$9,079** with
a special bundle package**

**SPECIAL FINANCING
AVAILABLE!**

BUNDLE PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- Batting Bar
- BERNINA Pantograph Kit
- Frame Casters
- BERNINA Q Series Gift Box



BERNINA

OCTOBER 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2021

†† Offer valid October 1-December 31, 2021 at any participating BERNINA dealership in the United States of America. Offer applies to the purchase of a new BERNINA Q 24 on BERNINA PRO frame with Q-matic for a special price of \$12,995 (\$14,124 MSRP). Offer good for one BERNINA Q Series on BERNINA PRO frame with Q-matic bundle. Bundle is valued at \$12,576 and includes the BERNINA Q Series Gift Box (\$1,249 MSRP), BERNINA Pantograph Kit (\$1,579 MSRP), BERNINA Q Series Batting Bar (\$329 MSRP), and BERNINA Q Series Frame Casters (\$379 MSRP). Total package savings are \$9,079. Savings discount will be applied by the participating US BERNINA dealership at the time of purchase. Not valid on previous purchases or with any other savings offers or coupons. Some restrictions may apply. Subject to availability. Available while supplies last. Taxes are not included in the total purchase calculation. Customer is responsible for all applicable sales tax. If customer returns the product, purchase discount will be lost. Cannot be redeemed for cash. Offer void where prohibited by law.



A&J SEWING STUDIO

Seneca Center • Suite 21 • Mon., Tues., Wed., Fri. 10-5 • Thurs. 10-7 • Sat. 10-4

304-282-3667

ajsewingstudio.com



Village Salon Wigs

Owner Brenda Waller



BOGO
BUY ONE GET ONE AT
20% OFF
Wigs starting at just \$35

Veterans/Military, Police,
First Responders, Medical Personnel
& Cancer Patients 10% off

Seneca Center | 709 Beechurst Avenue, Suite 6
681-285-8857 • <https://g.page/village-salon-wigs>

Hours: Tues & Thurs Saturday Mon, Wed, Fri
11am-6pm 10am-2pm Closed



Big Green Egg

The Most Versatile
Cooking Device Ever

Grill • Oven • Smoker



RUSTIC BY DESIGN
FIREPLACE & PATIO

Seneca Center
304-284-8211

Mon.-Thurs. 10-5
Fri. 10-3 • Sat. 10-3



www.comfortforeveryseason.com

Seneca Center • 709 Beechurst Ave. • Morgantown, WV • Free Parking

Main Street Morgantown has events filled with holiday spirit

BY JENIFFER GRAHAM

Newsroom@DominionPost.com

If you want to get in the holiday spirit, plan to attend some of the activities offered in downtown Morgantown.

Barbara Watkins, executive director of Main Street Morgantown, said the annual JC Christmas parade will be Dec 6. She said Santa will make an appearance during the parade.

If the weather doesn't cooperate, the parade will be moved to Dec 9.

Another way to enjoy the season is by taking in a show at the Met Theatre. Watkins said the historical Metropolitan Theatre will host its annual Christmas shows and performances, including "The Nutcracker," which will be presented at 1:30 and 6:30 Dec 4, performed by the Morgantown Dance & Morgantown Ballet Co. For more information about upcoming performances and shows go to morgantownmet.com or Facebook.

"We'll be having a Christmas wreath-decorating contest from Dec. 11 to the 14th," she said. "We're asking the downtown businesses to decorate a wreath. Customers visiting the businesses will vote on the wreaths. We'll have a wreath drawing on the 20th and the customer whose name is drawn will win the wreath. If there are 20 businesses participating, 20 customers will win a wreath."

She said customers at the businesses

will also get to vote for their favorite wreaths.

"There will be three categories to choose from — Most Like Business, Favorite Wreath and Most Creative Wreath," Watkins said. "The business that wins in each category will be congratulated on social media."

She said there will be a decorated Christmas tree in front of the Monongalia County Courthouse, and for those doing their Christmas shopping, local shops will be open.

"We have a lot of unique businesses like the leather shop (Tanner's Alley Leather), Hoot and Howl, the Appalachian Gallery and a lot of great restaurants," Watkins said. "There is also a lot to see downtown. You can take your picture with the Zachery Morgan statue or the Don Knotts statue, or visit the oldest house in Mon County — Old Stone House Gift Shop."

The Old Stone House dates to 1795 and is on the National Historic Registry. It is now owned and staffed by the Service League of Morgantown and is open 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Thursday-Saturday. For more information, go to facebook.com/OldStoneHouseGiftShop or call 304-685-5947.

Main Street Morgantown (MSM) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to the continued revitalization of downtown Morgantown and the Historic Wharf District.

TWEET @DominionPostWV



Ron Rittenhouse/The Dominion Post

Barbara Watkins, executive director of Main Street Morgantown, stands in front of the Metropolitan Theatre on High Street, where shows, including "The Nutcracker," will be presented.

UPTOWN CHEAPSKATE

HOLIDAY STYLES FOR LESS



5001 MID ATLANTIC DR | @UPTOWNMORGANTOWN



Shop the historic Old Stone House for handmade holiday gifts

BY HALEY MOZINGO

HMozingo@DominionPost.com

Stop by the historic Old Stone House for some handmade holiday gifts this year.

Old Stone House will host several different sales throughout the holiday season.

Its Holiday Shopping Marathon has already begun and will continue until the end of the year.

From Dec. 3-5, there will be a Jingle Bell Sale. During this sale, customers will be presented with a basket of jingle bells. Customers will pick a bell and based on the color of the bell they can get a discount.

The discount ranges from 10% to 20% off purchases, but there is a chance to get a bell that gives up to a 40% discount.

Old Stone House will also have a Pre-Holiday Sale, which will run from Dec. 16-19, with reductions on fall, Christmas, holiday and winter items.

There will also be shopping by appointment-only Dec. 20-23, and an After Christmas Sale Dec. 30-31 during regular store hours.

"If you are looking for something unusual as a gift, we have a lot of things to offer," said Susan Dotson, president of the Service League of Morgantown.

Old Stone House can also assemble gift baskets for anyone who may not have a lot of time to spend in the shop. There are several themes that customers can choose

OLD STONE HOUSE

Office: 313 Chestnut St.

Hours: 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and by appointment only Monday through Wednesday. Private appointments can be made by calling or texting 304-685-5947.

Web: oldstonehousewv.org

from such as West Virginia foods, animal lovers, and bath lotions and creams.

"We're like any other small business. This is our big season," said Dotson. "We've got to make the most of it."

Shoppers are required to wear face masks.

The shop emphasizes and sells a lot of West Virginia-made products. Items in the shop include pottery from East Wheeling Clayworks and Scottie Roberts Wiest Pottery from Elkins, glass ornaments from Blenko Glass Co. and Appalachian Glass.

Old Stone House's profits go to support groups through its Charity Partner Program. These groups include RDVIC (Rape & Domestic Violence Information Center), Community Kitchen at Trinity Episcopal Church, Pantry Plus More, St. Ursula Food Pantry & Outreach, CASA for Kids, Meals on Wheels, and Catholic Charities.

The shop has also contributed more than \$401,100 back to the community, including to Morgantown Public Library,



Patsy Andersen shows one of the Christmas displays at the Old Stone House on Chestnut Street in downtown Morgantown.

Ron Rittenhouse/The Dominion Post

Mon County School Libraries and other charitable donations throughout Monongalia County.

Old Stone House is the oldest stone house in Monongalia County.

Records and family legends suggest the house was built around 1795 by Jacob Nuze.

It is now owned and managed by the Service League of Morgantown, which was founded in 1935. From 1935 to 1976 the Service League rented the house for its headquarters and shops.

Its mission is to give back to the community to improve the lives of residents through charitable, educational and cul-

tural activities.

Dotson has been a member of the Service League of Morgantown since 2013.

"We try to provide a real service to our customers, and that's easy to do because we know that we're going to benefit the community through our efforts here," said Dotson. "A lot of us are very engaged because of what the purpose is behind the house, and it's a lot of fun."

For more information about Old Stone House check out its website <https://oldstonehousewv.org>, as well as on Facebook.

TWEET @DominionPostWV

Find relaxation at Tuscan Sun Spa

BY JIM BISSETT

JBissett@DominionPost.com

As the pandemic rolls on, the customers pour in, James Kovar noted recently.

"We see teachers and nurses, more and more," he said.

"And other healthcare workers. Anybody who's on the front lines. They need a break."

As in, having a totally self-centered experience, the director of marketing for Tuscan Sun Spa & Salon said.

"Self-centered," in a good way, he's quick to add.

Since owner Cheri Satterfield opened the first Tuscan Sun Spa & Salon in Clarksburg 17 years ago, the mission and motivation of all the above hasn't just stayed the same, Kovar said.

It's gotten better.

Several kinds of facials. Manicures, pedicures, wraps and massages.

Makeup. Hair styling.

Even anti-aging treatments, weight-loss therapies and chemical face peels — all administered by a highly trained, professionally certified staff.

These days, you'll find spa locations in Morgantown and Clarksburg. A new location in Canonsburg, Pa., is set to open in February, Kovar said.

And the spa's northernmost (to date) location is undergoing remodeling and other final touches in Albany, N.Y., the marketing director reports — "We're pretty excited. Lots of things happening."

Lots of holiday promotions at every Tuscan location, of course, Kovar said.

Visit <https://tuscanspaandsalon.com/>

TUSCAN SUN SPA

Address: 401 Boyers Ave., Star City

Phone: 304-296-1325

Hours: 9 a.m.-9 p.m. daily, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday.

or Tuscan's Facebook page to see for yourself.

You'll find the addresses and telephone numbers there, too, he said — which is a good thing since you'll want to ask about the cozy bathrobe and the World's Softest Blanket promotion.

Yep, he said: The World's Softest Blanket. That's how it's billed, and it definitely, the marketing director said, lives up to its hype.

When he isn't traveling to the various spa locations, Kovar is dug in at his office in Fairmont.

Tuscan's corporate headquarters is in the Friendly City's landmark High Gate Carriage House, which is also the site of a Christmas craft fair in December — details may be found on social media, Kovar said.

Meanwhile, there's no hype when it comes to the singular motivation of Tuscan Sun Spa & Salon, Kovar said.

"We want our customers, and that's you, to have the best experience possible," he said.

"It's about taking away your stress. It's about making you feel good about yourself. We're the place where your journey is our passion."

TWEET @DominionPostWV

SLEIGH THAT GIFT.

Now through Dec. 24th, only!

Buy a \$250 Gift Card in store & receive a **FREE** luxurious blanket!

Instantly Print or Email Gift Cards Online!

TUSCAN SUN
SPA • SALON • MED SPA
GIFT CARD

TUSCAN SPA AND SALON.COM
Morgantown 401 Boyers Ave | 304-296-1325 Fairmont 1013 Fairmont Ave. | 304-333-0281 Clarksburg 482 Emily Dr. | 304-326-2204



MISSION: FOUR'DABLE

Quad Packs
Just \$239

Gift Giving Season is Here... And We've Made it Easy, Fun, And Affordable!

Wisp Resort is redefining value for skiers and riders in the mid-Atlantic with Mission: Four'dable quad packs just \$239 through November 29th. Enjoy freedom and fun on the slopes while creating memories with family and friends to last a lifetime. TIP: Quad packs make great holiday gifts!

HERE'S THE DEAL:

- Four unrestricted lift tickets just \$239
- Just \$239 through November 29th
- Available online only at wispresort.com
- Tickets valid any day the resort is open during the 21.22 winter season, NO BLACKOUT DATES
- Transferable – can be used by you, your family or friends
- Tickets expire at the end of the 21.22 winter season
No returns, exchanges, extensions, cash value, and not for re-sale.

Come join us: Accept the Mission!

855.227.6250

Deep Creek Lake, MD

wispresort.com

Terra Cafe to offer sweet holiday treats and gifts



Ron Rittenhouse/The Dominion Post

Terra Cafe sits between Industrial Avenue and the trail in Star City.

BY HALEY MOZINGO

HMozingo@DominionPost.com

Make your way to Terra Café for some sweet treats and gifts this holiday season.

Starting Monday, Terra Cafe will offer a special bakery menu for the holiday season. Items will include special pies and cakes that can be ordered and ready for pick up the week of Christmas.

The cafe will also offer coffee and maple syrup in bulk. The syrup is made locally from Valley Farm in Terra Alta. Its coffee is sourced from Mountaineer Roasting and Quantum Bean Coffee.

There are also Terra Cafe gift cards available for purchase. The cafe also sells art made by local artists.

On Dec. 16, the cafe will host a Dine & Donate event for the Ronald McDonald House from 2-8 p.m. After the event, 10% of purchases will be donated to the Ronald McDonald House.

Terra Cafe's outdoor patio is now enclosed and equipped with heaters, so it will remain open all season.

"This is a good place to bring friends and family for the holiday season because you can still sit outside on the patio," said Tara Trukovich, general manager at Terra Cafe.

TERRA CAFE

Address: 425 Industrial Ave., Star City

Hours: 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday and 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday

Phone: 304-554-2233

Online: terracafevw.com

Terra Cafe provides fresh, local ingredients from Possum Tail Farm, Round Right Farm and Brookside Farm.

The cafe offers something for everyone, from fresh salads, sandwiches, coffee and smoothies to made-from-scratch soups, pastries, cakes and cupcakes.

Terra Cafe is committed to promoting health-conscious eating and lives by its mantra that everything is fresh, local and made from scratch.

Terra Cafe, 425 Industrial Ave., is open 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday and 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday.

For more information and updates on Terra Cafe, check out its website at terracafevw.com/ as well as on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

TWEET @DominionPostWV

Shop Jack & Jill
MENSWEAR
For the Perfect Gift for him.

Sportcoats • Suits • Cashmere Sweaters
Slacks • Scarves • Shoes • Belts • Socks • Hats

Featuring:
Hickey Freeman • Peter Millar
Allen Edmond • Tommy Bahama

2 GREAT LOCATIONS!
3009 Northpointe Plaza • Morgantown, WV • 304.225.1161
1116 Fairmont Ave. • Fairmont, WV • 304.368.1161

CONI & FRANC

Thank you for a wonderful 39 years!



Personal Shopping, Coaching and Wardrobe Consultation
FREE Gift-wrapping, Gift Certificates, Shipping and Delivery

www.coniandfranc.net



422 High Street, Morgantown, WV 26505 | 304.296.9466
info@coniandfranc.net



For all your jewelry needs, all you need is Allison's

BY ERIN CLEAVENGER

ECleavenger@DominionPost.com

To Allison Mogyoros, the owner of Allison's Fine Jewelry, and her staff, attention to detail and a personalized experience are what shopping locally is all about.

"We try to make our customers feel like they have their own personal shopper," she said. "The attention and service you receive is far better than a big box store crammed full of shoppers all trying to hurry in and out."

Mogyoros has been the owner of Allison's since 2016. She purchased the business, formerly known as Jane's Jewelers, after working as the manager there since 2009.

At Allison's, you will find a unique variety of diamond and gemstone rings, earrings, necklaces and bracelets. The store also offers custom designs and carries over 1,000 engagement ring and wedding band styles.

"There is nothing we can't do," Mogyoros said.

In addition to jewelry, the store also carries top of the line watch brands. From Timex to Rolex and everything in between, they have you covered.

The Boutique at Allison's, which is attached to the jewelry store, adds other fashion accessories to the mix with a wide variety of cozy winter cardigans, scarves, hats, gloves, and warm winter wraps.

Shoppers can even find licensed WVU merchandise and a lot of made-in-the-

ALLISON'S

Address: Chelsea Square at 1137 Van Voorhis Road

Web: allisonsfinejewelry.com

Hours: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturdays

Phone: 304-599-8080

USA styles.

They also carry purses, including leather and vegan leather.

Mogyoros said shoppers can find something for everyone in the boutique and it won't break the bank.

They have plenty of great gifts in the \$10 to \$70 range.

"The boutique is a great place to get gifts or even treat yourself," she said.

The staff at Allison's really want to get to know their guests and the people they are purchasing for.

"We ask questions to help determine what designs are best suited for the gift receiver," said Mogyoros. "We want jewelry to be a special memory and a purchase that can be handed down to future generations. We want you to walk out with something you really love."

Allison's is a full-service jewelry store, which means in addition to sales and custom design, it offers jewelry and watch repair, band adjustments and battery replacement. Clock repair services are



Ron Rittenhouse/The Dominion Post

Allison Mogyoros, owner of Allison's Fine Jewelry, and her great-niece Tillie Sandy at the jewelry store.

also available.

The store is currently having its holiday sale, which takes 70% off fine jewelry and runs until Christmas.

Special extended holiday hours begin in December.

TWEET @DominionPostWV

"WE ASK QUESTIONS TO HELP DETERMINE WHAT DESIGNS ARE BEST SUITED FOR THE GIFT RECEIVER."

Allison Mogyoros
owner

TERRA



**FRESH • LOCAL
MADE FROM SCRATCH**



**GIFT
CERTIFICATES**

**GIFT
IDEAS**

**GIFT
BASKETS**

Customized Cakes & Pastries *can be made Gluten Free

**425 Industrial Avenue
Star City • 304.554.CAFE
terracafewv.com/catering**

TANNER'S ALLEY LEATHER DESIGN STUDIO

GIFTS THAT LAST



416 High St. • Downtown Morgantown • tannersalleyleather.com

You will find something you like at Jack and Jill's Menswear

BY ERIN CLEAVENGER

ECleavenger@DominionPost.com

For decades, Jack and Jill's Menswear has been known for its friendly, personalized approach while providing high-quality clothing to Morgantown's and Fairmont's best-dressed men.

"We started in Fairmont in 1955," said Frank Tatta, owner of Jack and Jill's.

Tatta's parents, the late Louis and Rose Tatta, opened their first location in Fairmont all those years ago.

"I took over in 1978 and opened the second store here in Morgantown in 2005," he said.

Tatta said Jack and Jill's specializes in luxury men's apparel with superior tailoring services. The store carries a variety of finer name brands from all over the world.

"We've got a large inventory," he said. "And some really unique items out of Italy and Europe."

Brands found at the store include Hickey Freeman, Peter Millar and Allen Edmonds.

"Most of our products are made in the United States, Canada and Europe," said Tatta.

Custom suits and tuxedo rentals aren't the only services offered.

Tatta said they carry everything from suits and sport coats to casual pants and jeans.

JACK AND JILL'S

Address: 3009 Northpointe Plaza in Morgantown; 1116 Fairmont Avenue in Fairmont

Hours: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday through Friday 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday

Web: jackandjillmenswear.com

Phone: Morgantown, 304-225-1161; Fairmont 304-368-116

Shoppers will also be able to find shirts, ties, sweaters and sport shirts.

"Some of the more popular items are the Barbera wool vests out of Italy," he said. "And the Peter Millar outerwear vests are really popular."

Jack and Jill's will be able to help you look your best in everything from outerwear to socks, belts and shoes.

Anything you are looking for and whatever the occasion, the staff will be able to provide endless possibilities to keep you looking sharp this holiday season.

Whether you are looking for five-pocket jeans, a heavier white sport shirt, or need to have a suit or sport coat tailored just for you, Jack and Jill's will make sure you walk out of the store looking and feeling your best.

"When you come to my store, you will find something you like," said Tatta.

TWEET @DominionPostWV



Ron Rittenhouse/The Dominion Post

Frank Tatta, of Jack and Jill's Menswear, adjusts a tie for Dwight Thornton.

"I TOOK OVER IN 1978 AND OPENED THE SECOND STORE HERE IN MORGANTOWN IN 2005."

Frank Tatta
Owner of Jack and Jill's

The Old Stone House Gift Shop
Make your list and check it twice...
 ...for Blenko, Naked Bee products, WV Foods & Christmas Decor.
Jingle Bell Sale!
December 3rd-5th
 Choose a jingle bell from the box to find out what your discount is!

Sunday Hours: **Noon-4pm**
 Thursday, Friday & Saturday
 Hours: **11am-3pm**

10% of our sales donated to St. Ursula Food Pantry and Outreach!

313 Chestnut St., Morgantown, WV

PRIVATE SHOPPING APPOINTMENTS are available other days & times ~
 Phone/Text: 304-685-5947.

/OldStoneHouseGiftShop

Food is a Passion.
 Food is Love.

This season,
 give more love.

GIFT CARDS, CATERING, PRIVATE EVENTS

Sargasso

215 Don Knotts Blvd.
 304.554.0100

sargassomorgantown.com/catering

Looking for an heirloom? Check out Spencer & Kuehn

BY JIM BISSETT

JBissett@DominionPost.com

Just like a diamond, a Christmas shopping list has many facets.

Look at yours right now: There's a bevy of boot-cut jeans, fast-food gift cards and wireless-whatevers already taking up most of the page.

Yep, some people are just plain easy to buy for — except that one person.

That special person who just might be worthy of, say, a 21st century heirloom.

Which is why Spencer & Kuehn Fine Jewelry Studio is in business.

The studio in Pierpont Centre is known for its unique creations and custom work, making for a gift that is truly unique.

"Everything you see here is the only one of its kind," co-owner John Kuehn said, recently, as he gestured around the display cases. "That's because we designed it and made it. All right here."

If Kuehn's name sounds familiar, that's because it is. For 40 years, he was a staple in downtown Morgantown.

The former WVU economics professor followed his entrepreneurial bent to High Street, where he founded a jewelry store in 1976.

In the process, he re-awakened his artist's muse, which had been snoozing since grammar school.

Besides getting himself certified as a gemologist, he became an accomplished painter while becoming just as known for his intricate wood carvings.

SPENCER & KUEHN

Address: 716 Venture Drive, Morgantown

Phone: 304-296-9669

Hours: 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Saturday

He ventured into custom jewelry work, too, and that's still a signature.

All of the above caught the eye of Katherine Spencer, whose name is also on the sign.

She learned the art of jewelry and metalsmithing at the Rochester Institute of Technology, in her hometown of Rochester, N.Y., and, like Kuehn, the classroom brought her to West Virginia.

Spencer was teaching art at a high school in Wetzel County, when Kuehn's two daughters, who had taken over after their dad's unsuccessful retirement, hired her as a bench jeweler.

Whether it's recasting your cherished great-grandmother's favorite earrings into a pendant — or your late dad's wedding band into something that captures his spirit — the studio's first order of business is to embrace the unique, as its advertising tag line says.

"Some of our customers will just say, 'Come up with something,'" Spencer said. "And we work with our customers who have definite ideas about the piece," she added.



Ben Powell/The Dominion Post photos

Katherine Spencer and John Kuehn in the new location on Venture Drive. Below is a selection of rings carried by the jeweler.

"Our customers are special and we want to make something that's special for them."

Visit spencerandkuehn.com for a look at the studio's work and what it can do for your engagement ring or wedding band.

TWEET @DominionPostWV



Home Instead
To us, it's personal

Be a Santa to a Senior®

Give a Gift During the Holidays and
Brighten a Local Senior Citizen's Holiday

The holiday season is known for celebration. But for lonely or isolated older adults, it can be anything but. That's why Home Instead® created Be a Santa to a Senior, which aims to give to those in need.

4 easy steps to get involved:



Find

a participating Be a Santa to a Senior store.



Remove

the ornament with the senior's gift request from the tree.



Purchase

the requested gift(s) listed on the ornament.



Place

the bulb and gift(s) in the designated box next to the tree.

To get involved, contact Home Instead office at: 304.906.4333

Tree Locations:

Home Instead, 125 Granville Square

Walgreens, Fairmont Road

Westside Senior Center - Dupont Road

Lakeside Physical Therapy, Cheat Lake

Huntington Bank, Lobby-Drive Thru, High Street and Suncrest Locations

Kingdom Church, Fairmont Road

Walgreens, Chestnut Ridge Road

Friendly Nails, Earl Core Road

Mylan Park Aquatic Center

EVERYDAY'S A PARTY
Morgantown's Year-round Party and Costume Store!

Save **\$10.00** on a **\$50.00** Purchase!
of Party Supplies ONLY!

HUGE SELECTION of BEER, WINE & TOBACCO!

Sunday 10am-4pm • Mon.-Thur. 9am-9pm
Fri. 9am-10pm • Sat. 9am-9pm

**3119 University Ave.
Morgantown, WV**

304-598-5556
Locally Owned & Operated

27 Days until Christmas!

Think about a donation while holiday shopping

YOUR SHOPPING lists have likely been made for this holiday season. Family members probably made the list, as have good friends. You might even have local helpers on there: the letter carrier, hairdresser, babysitters, cleaning services, etc.

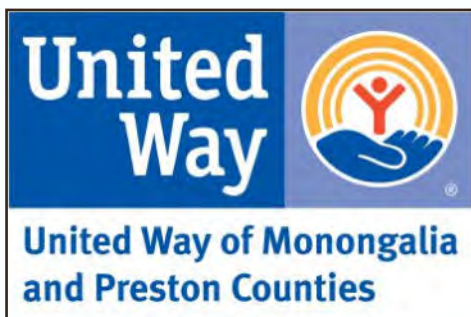
But if we could add one more onto the list, it would be to give a donation to charity.

As you know, it's the season of giving, but it's also one of the most important times of the year for many charities, including United Way. While out shopping for family and friends, we ask that you remember the people in our community who may not have that luxury.

Many here are facing food insecurity, homelessness, mental health issues, mounting utility bills, problems finding affordable childcare, and more. A gift to the United Way of Mon and Preston Counties helps this community by working on solutions to these problems and many more.

United Way helps fund 39 different programs at 26 area agencies in our community. For example, Milan Puskar Health Right receives funding to operate its primary care and mental health programs, as well as Friendship House.

Bartlett Housing Solutions receives help to continue its Emergency Triage Shelter and the Nitor Transitional Bridge Housing program. Preston County Workshop uses the funding to run agricultural programs. Christian



Help manages its Career Closets and is able to give out emergency financial assistance because of United Way funding.

There are too many organizations to list in this column, but to learn more about them and what programs United Way is funding, visit unitedwaympc.org/funded-partners.

In addition to helping these community organizations, United Way runs several health and human service programs internally, including Helpful Harvest Food Program, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, WV211 hotline, and the Mon County Family Resource Network.

Helpful Harvest serves 13,000 people each month through its feeding programs throughout Mon and Preston counties. More than 45 feeding programs in both counties rely on food received from Helpful Harvest, which is made possible by the Hazel Ruby

McQuain Charitable Trust and Milan Puskar Foundation. More than \$1.6 million has been leveraged in produce and USDA Farmers to Families Food Boxes to the program.

In addition to this food initiative, United Way and one of its funded partners, Food for Preston, play a central role in arranging Mountaineer Food Bank's Mobile Food Pantries in Preston County on a regular basis. This allows people who need food to drive through and pick up a box.

In just a couple weeks, United Way, in partnership with Christian Help and the Monongalia County Humane Society, will run the Holiday Toy and Food Distribution, one of the largest holiday giveaways in the area. Many families in need will receive toys, food and pet food for the holidays thanks to this program, which is in its 40th year.

Giving to the United Way, even just a little donation, this holiday season means that your dollars combine with many others to go to work right here in this community to create positive change.

And that good feeling you get when you donate isn't just all in your head. There are big perks to giving to others. When you give, whether it's financially or even volunteering your time, statistics show that it makes you more happy and fulfilled. Dave Ramsey, a financial expert and talk radio show host, cites

giving as one way to counter depression and help you live longer. And according to the Cleveland Clinic, giving a financial donation and/or your time through volunteering can help lower blood pressure, increase your self-esteem, lower stress levels, help you have a longer life, and just give you greater happiness and satisfaction.

What better way to get into the holiday spirit than doing something for others and giving to charity?

At the United Way, we've tried to make donating as simple as possible. You can visit unitedwaympc.org/give, text MOUNTAINS2022 to 41444, Venmo us at @unitedwaympc, or fill out one of our pledge cards if you've been given one in a workplace campaign. You can even sign up for new debit/credit card round-up technology at the above website.

United Way of Mon and Preston Counties takes its stewardship role seriously and puts your donation to work where this community needs it most. Please consider giving the greatest gift of all to not only your community, but also yourself this year: A donation of time or money to charity. Because giving to others is what the holiday season is all about.

AMANDA POSEY is the director of marketing and communications at the United Way of Monongalia and Preston Counties. She can be reached at amanda@unitedwaympc.org.

Unique food, amazing cocktails on the menu at Sargasso

BY ERIN CLEAVENGER

ECleavenger@DominionPost.com

Cutting edge cuisine with authentic hospitality are always on the menu at locally owned and operated Sargasso.

"From our lunch menu, to our brunch, to our evening dinner menu, we have some really unique options that people can't find anywhere else," said manager Richia Austin.

All of Sargasso's menus feature a variety of items that could satisfy any palate from appetizer to dessert.

"We have some really talented chefs here," said Austin. "They put so much creativity in their work and it shows in the plates that we serve everyday."

Led by Chef Dave Halterman and Chef Thomas Metzler, the culinary staff at Sargasso work tirelessly to make sure every detail of the meal is perfect. Each chef brings his own special flavor to the menus, making for a truly unique experience.

Metzler grew up cooking with his grandparents in Vorarlberg, Austria. He is

SARGASSO

Address: 215 Don Knotts Blvd., Morgantown

Phone: 304-554-0100

Hours: 11 a.m.-2 p.m. and 5-9 p.m. Monday and Wednesday through Friday; Saturday hours are 5-10 p.m. and Sunday's brunch is from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Closed Tuesdays

Online: dinesargasso.com

a graduate of the Schloss Hofen culinary school in Lochau. His unique experiences lend to creative dishes inspired by his European roots and local ingredients.

Halterman grew up in French Creek, but started his professional culinary career in Portland. His love for the mountains brought him home to West Virginia, where he continued cooking before landing at Sargasso. Dave's passions are as eclectic as his food and his understanding of the world's bright spices make him a unique talent.

"We are just one of those places that stand out because of how dedicated our

chefs are and how important the plates are for each table," Austin said. "They try so hard for every guest and they really go above and beyond to make it a really palate-filled experience."

Sargasso not only prides itself on great food, Austin said the service is also a priority.

"We really care about hospitality and making sure our servers are aware of what's on our menu and where it comes from," she said.

Austin said they are also very proud of their cocktail menu and wine list. "Our wine list has been handled preciously and developed over time to be what it is," she said. "We are really proud of our wine selections and our cocktails — we have amazing cocktails that really just stand out amongst others."

The restaurant also serves a brunch menu from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. every Sunday. Austin said their brunch is a hidden secret that more people need to try out.

"Our brunch is so amazing," she said. "It's just a fun experience. We have great cocktails, great food and really great pric-

ing for what it is."

This year the restaurant will also host a New Year's Eve dinner. "It gives you something to do before the ball drops," Austin said. "Have a nice meal, have a bottle of champagne, then go out and do whatever you want to do for the rest of the night — but enjoy a good meal here first."

Sargasso is located at 215 Don Knotts Blvd. in Morgantown. They are open for lunch from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. and dinner from 5-9 p.m. Monday and Wednesday through Friday. Saturday hours are 5-10 p.m. and Sunday's brunch is from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

For Reservations call 304-554-0100. For more information or to look at their menus visit their website dinesargasso.com or like their Facebook and Instagram pages at Sargasso Morgantown.

Sargasso is also affiliated with sister restaurants Terra Cafe at 425 Industrial Ave. in Star City, and River Birch Cafe at 48 Donley St. in Morgantown.

TWEET @DominionPostWV

Happy Holidays

Unique history of Cutting Room adds to offerings

BY MORGAN AKERS

Newsroom@DominionPost.com

The Cutting Room Boutique sits nestled in suite 26 of Seneca Center on Beechurst Avenue.

Filled to the brim with a variety of upscale clothing and jewelry, The Cutting Room brings something for everyone.

Owner Sandy White has been serving the community for 17 years. White worked for businesses that previously filled the space through the years, until October 2018, when she opened The Cutting Room Boutique — naming it after the glass-cutting room for Seneca Glass that occupied the spot until 1983. Photos of the historic glass-cutting room hang on the wall behind the register, paying homage to the boutique's beginnings.

Offering services from free gift-wrapping, to alterations and gift certificates, The Cutting Room Boutique caters to all holiday needs.

"Our price points are all over the board, so everybody can find something here," said White.

Consistently restocking and bringing in new items means you're sure to find what you're looking for.

The Cutting Room Boutique is open

THE CUTTING ROOM BOUTIQUE

Address: 709 Beechurst Ave. Suite 26 Morgantown

Facebook at The Cutting Room Boutique

Contact: thecuttingroomboutique@gmail.com, 304-413-2800

Hours: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Saturday

from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

The boutique caters to everyone's busy holiday schedules by taking appointments for those who can't make it during business hours to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to find what they're looking for.

Masks are not required at this location, but employees take precautions in consistently cleaning and sanitizing surfaces for everyone's safety.

Customers can sign up for newsletters with the business, at thecuttingroomboutique@gmail.com, or call at 304-413-2800.

TWEET @DominionPostWV



Ron Rittenhouse/The Dominion Post

Sandra White shows jewelry at Cutting Room Boutique at Seneca Center.

Stylish and trendy — you'll find it at Village Salon Wigs

BY HALEY MOZINGO

Newsroom@DominionPost.com

Head over to Village Salon Wigs to find stylish and trendy wigs.

Village Salon Wigs, owned by Brenda Waller, opened Oct. 19 in the Seneca Center.

"My mission was to be able to provide quality and affordable wigs to anyone who needs or would like to have one," said Waller.

"That was something that used to not be available here in Morgantown."

Waller does custom fittings and said she works to make sure customers get what they need.

The salon offers a wide selection of synthetic wigs, human hair wigs and Remy wigs, which are a mix of human hair and synthetic hair.

Village Salon Wigs gets its wigs from all over the world, including the U.S. Some of its vendors include Paula Young Wigs, Forever Young Wigs and Jon Renau Wigs. Wigs start at \$35.

The salon offers a 10% discount for military personnel, medical personnel, first responders, police officers and cancer patients.

Right now, Village Salon Wigs is running a buy-one-get-one-20%-off the day of purchase of equal or lesser value. It will also offer a model special, where if a

VILLAGE SALON WIGS

Address: 709 Beechurst Ave., Seneca Center Suite 6

Phone: 681-285-8857

Hours: 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday and 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday

Web: village-salon-wigs-wig-shop.business.site/ and on Facebook.

customer would like to model for the salon's social media, they will get 20% off any wigs they purchase that day.

Village Salon Wigs also partners with the cancer centers at Ruby Memorial Hospital and Mon Health.

Before opening in the Seneca Center, Waller ran her business from her home for a year and a half.

"It kind of outgrew the house and the Seneca Center has been a nice place to spread my wings," said Waller.

Waller worked as a cosmetologist for 35 years and also serves as a cosmetology instructor at Laurel Business Institute.

"Morgantown is a nice city to put business into. We have such a variety of people and cultures," said Waller. "That makes it really nice."

Village Salon Wigs, at 709 Beechurst Ave., Seneca Center Suite 6, is open 11



Ron Rittenhouse/The Dominion Post

Brenda Waller, owner of Village Salon Wigs, shows some of the many hair pieces she carries at her store in Seneca Center.

a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday and 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday. Walk-ins and appointments are welcome.

To learn more about Village Salon

Wigs check out its website <https://village-salon-wigs-wig-shop.business.site/> and on Facebook.

TWEET @DominionPostWV

Season's Greetings

WVPT returns live performances to stage

Newsroom@DominionPost.com

Live performances are returning to West Virginia Public Theatre, beginning with "A Christmas Carol" staging several performances in the Clay Theatre in the WVU Creative Arts Center in December.

Directed by Jerry McGonigle and adapted by Andy Lyons, shows begin Dec. 16 and run through Dec. 19.

WVPT has been presenting "A Christmas Carol" to Morgantown for years. Performances are set for 7:30 p.m. Dec. 16-18 and 2 p.m. Dec. 18-19. This rendition of "A Christmas Carol" is an original West Virginia Public Theatre adaptation.

"We are working from scratch with this brand-new version of the script," McGonigle said. "It's going to be an exciting theatrical production incorporating innovative technical wizardry."

McGonigle added that while the pandemic makes putting on a live show difficult, it is something those at WVPT feel compelled to do.

"It's hard to put on a performance right now in the world we're living in," he said. "It's even harder to not put on a performance right now in the world we're living in and that's why we're going for it."

He said he and his crew have been working on appropriate protocols to get

WEST VIRGINIA PUBLIC THEATRE

Tickets: Single tickets are on sale and may be purchased online at Eventbrite or in person at the College of Creative Arts Box Office lobby from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Monday-Friday.

More info: wvpublictheatre.org

audiences safely back in the theater.

All company members were required to be vaccinated. All audience members will be required to wear masks as required by the venue. Tickets will be sold as general admission so audience members can sit where they feel the most comfortable.

In addition to "A Christmas Carol," WVPT in early January will host a developmental workshop of a new musical with book by Stephen King and music by John Mellencamp.

This event will be free to the public, feature actors from around the country, as well as Tony Award-winning Broadway director Jeff Calhoun. Lastly, WVPT is planning for a summer 2022 season that



Submitted photo

West Virginia Public Theatre will stage "A Christmas Carol" in December.

features "I Do, I Do," "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time" and "Thurgood."

TWEET @DominionPostWV

WVPT HAS BEEN PRESENTING "A CHRISTMAS CAROL" TO MORGANTOWN FOR YEARS.

Husband and wife team for sewing store

Newsroom@DominionPost.com

Husband and wife team, Joe and Anne Perella opened A&J Sewing July 1, 2019.

Anne says it's been an incredible 2 1/2 years, so far.

She handles sales, classes and marketing, while Joe is the service technician and cabinet delivery man.

Located in the Seneca Center, Morgantown, they offer sewing machines, accessories and supplies.

A&J Sewing Studio is a full-service Bernina sewing machine dealer, and Anne says they are proud to offer Horn of America sewing cabinets. Horn is a nationally recognized product, and that company is based in West Virginia, too.

The studio offers a variety of classes ranging from basic sewing, machine quilting techniques, machine embroidery projects and serging. The couple also services all brands of machines.

The studio will offer a few other machine features for the 2021 holiday season.

A&J SEWING STUDIO

Address: 709 Beechurst Ave., Suite 21, Seneca Center

Phone: 304-282-36671

Hours: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Wednesday and Friday; 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Thursday; 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday

Online: ajsewingstudio.com

You can find more about A&J Sewing Studio at ajsewingstudio.com; as well as on Facebook and Instagram.

The studio is open six days a week: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Wednesday and Friday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Thursday and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday. It is closed Sundays.

Anne said she is unboxing new inventory and getting ready for the holiday shopping season.

TWEET @DominionPostWV

Mom and daughters offer tea and more at The Tea Shoppe

Newsroom@DominionPost.com

Do you have a tea lover on your shopping list?

Maybe you are thinking you'd like to learn about and drink more teas.

The Tea Shoppe in Seneca Center on Beechurst Avenue should be your first stop.

Owned since March 2013 by Lisa Biafore and her daughters Rachel and Regina, the Tea Shoppe has a lot to offer tea drinkers.

Carrying more than 180 types of tea, there should be something for everyone. Favorites include Harry & Meghan's Royal Wedding Tea, Cream Earl Grey and Winter Palace Marzipan Rooibos.

The Tea Of The Month Program might make a perfect stocking stuffer.

Each month, your recipient will receive two ounces each of three new teas selected from the shoppe's best, favorite and most popular teas from around the world.

Tea Room serves a traditional afternoon tea, as well as a full menu of gourmet sandwiches, paninis, salads, quiche, soups, scones, sweets.

It also hosts baby and bridal showers, princess tea parties, teavents for adults and tea tastings and pairings.

There are also gifts such as tea acces-

THE TEA SHOPPE

Address: 709 Beechurst Ave., Suite 23 (Seneca Center)

Phone: 304-413-0890

Web: TheTeaShoppeWV.com

Hours: Closed Mondays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday-Friday 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday

sories like a Matcha set, infusers and tea balls; tea pots and cups; mugs, starter sets and gift baskets.

Biafore said there would be specials throughout the holiday shopping season and she expects to offer extended hours between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

TWEET @DominionPostWV

AMONG THE MORE THAN 180 TYPES OF TEA, ARE FAVORITES HARRY & MEGHAN'S ROYAL WEDDING TEA, CREAM EARL GREY AND WINTER PALACE MARZIPAN ROOIBOS

**Get local news and sports
in The Dominion Post
or online at
DominionPost.com**

Planning a gathering? Try Every Day's A Party

BY MORGAN AKERS

Newsroom@DominionPost.com

Every Day's A Party has been a staple of the Morgantown Community since opening its doors in 2007. This locally owned and operated party store offers everything and anything needed for a great time.

Every Day's A Party offers a wide array of party supplies and sources its products from all over West Virginia. Walking into Every Day's A Party, one will find a selection of beers and wines made right here in the Mountain State, carrying everything from Sophisticated Hound craft beers to Lambert's Vintage wines.

Offering products for everything from Christmas parties to wedding supplies, you're sure to find what you're looking for, and if you can't, Every Day's A Party staff will do whatever they can to find that for you, and at the best price possible.

EVERY DAY'S A PARTY

Address: 3119 University Ave. in Suncrest

Phone: 304-598-5556

Hours: 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday through Thursday and Saturday, 9 a.m.-10 p.m. Fridays and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sundays.

Online: facebook.com/EverydayPartyMT/

"We take great pride in customer service. If there's something we don't have, we will go above and beyond to get it," said Clark Shrum, store manager.

You can find Every Day's A Party at 3119 University Ave. in Suncrest or call at 304-598-5556. You can also find it on Facebook. The business is open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Fridays and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sundays.

TWEET @DominionPostWV



Support your local economy:
Shop small businesses
this holiday season

Study: U.S. shoppers outspend Chinese to restore luxury market

Associated Press

MILAN — The personal luxury market of high-end accessories, leather goods and apparel has snapped back to pre-pandemic levels as U.S. shoppers outspent those in China in pursuit of the latest fashion trends, according to a study released Thursday by the Bain consultancy.

Global consumer spending on personal luxury goods, including the latest sneaker trend or design collaboration, is forecast to spike by 29% this year, to 283 billion euros (\$325 billion). That's a return to 2019 levels and a turnaround from the gloom of the 2020 pandemic lockdowns that shuttered stores and halted international travel. The recovery is expected to be supported by a strong holiday shopping season, Bain said.

"We are pretty positive, even if the growth rate in particular in China has been slowing down since mid-August. But they are still very strong," said Claudia D'Arpizio, the Bain partner who headed up the study. "There has been a sharp V-shaped recovery for personal goods."

The larger global luxury market, which extends to high-end travel, dining, fine art and furnishings, continues to lag 2019 levels, Bain said.

Consumers have shifted spending to high-quality furnishings, as many have been spending time at home instead of globe-trotting, while travel restrictions have been especially hard on luxury hotels, fine dining and cruises, all sectors that have yet to fully recover.

Global luxury comprehensively is expected to reach 1.1 trillion euros (\$1.26 trillion) this year, which is about 10% below 2019 levels.

The hardest-hit sector is luxury cruises, with spending down 80% from pre-pandemic levels and reduced even

from 2020. Still, strong bookings for 2022 offer "glimmers of hope," D'Arpizio said.

With international tourism still hampered, consumers have started picking up their new fashion trends at home, instead of fueling duty-free sales abroad.

U.S. consumers have at least temporarily supplanted the Chinese as the biggest spenders, accounting for one-third of all sales this year, compared with about 23% by Chinese shoppers, who were on par with Europeans.

That trend is expected to invert by 2025, with nearly half of all spending by Chinese consumers, just over 20% by Americans and 18% by Europeans.

Bain forecasts that tourism will rebound by the end of next year to mid-2023, but D'Arpizio said she expects the pandemic will have established new habits, with luxury shoppers doing a lot of spending at home, not necessarily abroad.

"We expect tourists to come back. We don't expect them to be as relevant as before," she said.

The pandemic also has accelerated the shift to online shopping and reinforced the predominance of bigger brands in the marketplace, while encouraging the use of collaborations and digital campaigns to grab attention.

"The pandemic is widening the gap. We now see clear winners and losers. Bigger brands have more muscle," D'Arpizio said.

In this way, they have exploited connections within larger conglomerates, like the Gucci and Balenciaga tie-up between the two brands owned by French group Kering.

For all your jewelry needs, all you need is

ALLISON'S
FINE JEWELRY™

Christmas Sale

up to **70% off** In-Stock Fine Jewelry
& up to **30% off** in Our Fashion Boutique

Now through Dec. 24th

...and We Pay Your Sales Tax!

1137 VAN VOORHIS ROAD
SUITE 11
MORGANTOWN, WV 26505
AllisonsFineJewelry.com
f /AllisonsFineJewelry

"Charlie"

The Santa experience this year is a mix of laps, distancing

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Santa is back this year, but he pleads caution as he continues to tiptoe through the pandemic.

“Be smart. Be caring. If you have the tiniest tickle in your throat, the tiniest feeling, worry about yourself and worry about everybody else, and know Santa will always be there next year,” said 57-year-old Kevin Chesney, who’s been donning the big red suit since he was a kid.

Amid a downturn in Jolly Old Elves — about 15% fewer in one large database — Chesney is busier than ever from his North Pole in Moorestown, N.J. The photo studio where he works quickly sold out its 4,500 appointments to sit with him and the seven other Santas in the studio’s stable.

They’re among the brave in Santa’s ranks with full-contact visits, lap-sitting included, though Chesney wears a mask until just before the photos are taken.

Other Santas might not be wearing masks or plastic face shields, or hanging out in protective snow globes like many did last year, but it seems 50-50 this season that they’re not quite ready for hugs, whispers in their ears for secret wishes and kids smiling or sobbing on their knees.

Some Santas will remain behind barriers that popped up last year for safety. At Minnesota’s Mall of America, the big man will be housed in a log cabin behind a window with guests seated on benches in front of him. At 169 locations for the outdoor retailers Bass Pro Shops and Cabela’s, benches will also be used, with plastic partitions deployed at some stores for Santa’s photo ops.

Other retailers and Santa hosts are offering the option of no or full contact, even when mandates to distance aren’t in place.

And many require or encourage reservations online to cut down on the number of people waiting.

More than 10 million U.S. households visited Santa in a mall or store in 2019, according to GlobalData Retail’s managing director, Neil Saunders.

Nearly 73% of them also spent money at nearby restaurants or stores, he said.

Last year, the company’s research found that 6.1 million households visited Santa, with fewer retailers and malls offering the holiday star in person. Of those visitors, 62% ate or shopped nearby.

Saunders said projections this year have about 8.9 million households expected to visit Santa in person, with virtual visits still a big option.

“Lingering concerns about the virus and ongoing restrictions in some states and localities continue to act as a brake on visiting Santa in person,” he said.

Chris Landtroop, a spokeswoman for Santa vendor Cherry Hill Programs, is optimistic. The new rollout of vaccinations for children 5 to 11 will certainly help.

“Santa is so back and we are super excited about that. Last year was incredibly tough,” Landtroop said.

The company has been sourcing Santas all year for the 800 malls, big-box stores and other locations it serves, with options for no-contact visits, too. Cherry



AP photos

Santa, Sid Fletcher, and Kendra Alexander of St. James, Minn., are separated by a glass barrier in a log cabin as they pose during her visit Nov. 15, at The Santa Experience in the Mall of America in Bloomington, Minn. Where allowed, some malls and big-box stores are offering Santa’s guests a choice of full contact or social distance. A new spin name on sanitizer sits on a counter, at The Santa Experience the Mall of America.

Hill requires its Santas and other employees to be vaccinated and those with exemptions to be tested regularly.

“At the end of the day, we want guests to feel comfortable,” Landtroop said.

Luther Landon has been providing the Santa Experience at Mall of America in Bloomington, Minnesota, for nearly two decades.

Last year, he hit on the log cabin idea but was shut down after a day due to the pandemic. He pivoted to virtual Santa and this year will offer both.

“We think that it would be very irresponsible of us to just ignore it and pretend like everything’s back to normal,” he said of the pandemic.

“We’ve hidden some microphones so Santa can hear just fine. I know from our Santa community and knowing so many other Santas that the majority of them are reluctant, highly reluctant, to go back to the way it was before the pandemic. But we also have some who are just like, you know what, I don’t care. Having both of those groups is what’s happening in the country, too.”

Russell Hurd in Royse City, Texas, has been playing Santa since 2017, after he retired from the Army. He’ll be in his red suit to go with his long — and very real — white beard at the Gaylord Texan Resort & Convention Center near Dallas. His visits with the throngs are distanced and masks are required. He longs for that to end.

“The way it used to be, it’s meaningful for us Santas, too. I mean, we’re human beings. We crave that interaction, but for now we do what we can,” Hurd said.



Hurd is unvaccinated and tests regularly for COVID.

“I know a lot of unvaxxed Santas across the country. I mean, it’s not just Texas,” he said.

Count American Dream, a mega mall of 3 million square feet in East Rutherford, N.J., among retailers offering distanced Santa. He’ll be on ice, skating the indoor rink with visitors, and also tooling around with guests in hot pink golf carts.

At Macy’s stores, Santa will be making his list and checking it twice from behind a desk, with guests seated on the other side.

“We’re encouraging everyone to maintain masking throughout their visits,” said Kathleen Wright, senior manager at Macy’s Branded Entertainment. “Santa has been a part of the Macy’s tradition since 1862 so we’re overjoyed that we can safely continue the tradition this year.”

At Oakbrook Center, a mall in suburban Chicago owned by Brookfield Properties, Santa’s spot is a tricked-out motorhome with his fans allowed inside. Santa will be happening at 117 of 132 malls Brookfield owns in 43 states. The company is following local mandates on safety protocols but will distance anyone who asks. The same goes for CBL Properties, which owns 63 malls in 24 states and offered Santa visits from a safe distance last year.

“We’re bringing back a more traditional Santa experience this year,” said CBL spokeswoman Stacey Keating. “Visitors who wish to do so will be able to sit on Santa’s lap or on Santa’s bench. Masks will not be required at the set or during photos unless there’s a local mandate in place.”

And, bonus: “We’re also bringing back pet photo nights with Santa,” she said, “as well as Santa Cares, a reservation-only event that caters to those with sensory sensitivities and for whom the traditional experience may be too overwhelming.”

WE'VE
MOVED.
AND
WE
HAVE
WHAT
YOU
NEED



SPENCER & KUEHN
FINE JEWELRY STUDIO

FOR
THE
HOLIDAYS



304-296-9669

Pierpont Centre - 716 Venture Drive, Morgantown, WV