

Tis the Season 2014 Community Comment Mike Goldsby December 4, 2014

I saw my first Christmas decorations in a store on the day before Halloween and I heard my first Christmas carol in a store three weeks before Thanksgiving. I haven't sent my Christmas cards or put up the tree. But none of this matters. It works out every year. Christmas is a wonderful season, for me.

Our area is blessed with a number of events and observances. Ferndale Rep is featuring A Christmas Carole through the weekend before Christmas. It stars my longtime friend Charlie Beck as Ebenezer Scrooge. This Sunday is the Lighting of America's Tallest Living Christmas Tree, a Ferndale tradition since 1934. That is this Sunday the seventh at 5:30, at the end of Main Street There's a Linguica and Beans Dinner over at Portuguese Hall at the same time.

the This Friday, Fortuna sponsors their Electric Lighted Truck Parade at 6:30/Sunday, December 14th is the Christmas Lighted Tractor Parade in Ferndale. This is the 22nd year and the event starts at 7:00.

On the second Saturday of every December is the K E K A Truckers Christmas Parade. It starts at 6 o'clock at Redwoods Acres and is truly worth seeing. This year's event is a benefit for the Boys and Girls Club of the Redwoods Teen Center.

A donation this time of year is a perfect way to reflect the spirit of the season and honor the birth of Jesus. I seldom carry cash but I make sure to have some now for the Salvation Army bell ringers. There are so many good charitable organizations like Food for People, Arcata House, Changing Tides Family Services, and more. You may have your favorite. The amount you give is not as important as the act of charity.

I do like to support small businesses and shop local. People outside of our area love baskets of Humboldt products. We have places like Cypress Grove cheese, Loleta Cheese, Henry's Olives and many others. Throw in some local wines from Robert Goodman or Dogwood or Moonstone Crossing. Or some local microbrews, like a pack of Great Whites from Lost Coast Brewery. Giving products from Humboldt also gives people the straight line, to crack a joke about Humboldt's other product. Really funny, never heard that one before.

Toys for Tots

Humboldt is blessed with lots of small manufacturers and artists as well. Do yourself a favor and go check out the Holly Yashi storefront in Arcata, by the old Creamery Building. They have a variety of small gifts with a wide range of prices.

In Ferndale, everybody loves the Mercantile, with the old timey products. But also check out Ferndale Music and Red Eye Laboratory down the street. Red Eye owners Shawn and Maggie Griggs have a wonderful collection of original art and prints; Local landscapes and seascapes, surf images, even scenes of jellyfish and imaginary armored deep sea fish. The art is reasonable and most of the images can also be found on their T shirts as well. The perfect gift for that sullen teenage boy or hipster son-in-law.

Not everyone enjoys the holiday season as much as I do. Some people struggle with grief or depression or even seasonal affective disorder. It is a good time of year to be kind to people. You do not know what other people are experiencing in their lives and a little kindness helps. I know some of you love to bark at minimum wage clerks when they wish you a "Happy Holiday". Hopefully, someone will show you a little kindness.

This is Mike Goldsby for Community Comment