

# Gentlemen prefer great gifts

BY SALLY D. KETCHUM  
Special to the Record-Eagle

Yes, holiday shopping is chaotic at times — crowds in all the familiar places, popular items sold out (at least in the right size), sometimes harried salespeople, ditto for the shoppers and lists that seem to change every day.

This year there is a sure trio of related clothing trends: pattern, texture and color. They're big everywhere, but especially in menswear.

In fact, Maurie Allen of Traverse City's Captain's

Quarters says that "after 38 years at the store, when I thought I'd seen it all, this fall and winter season is proving me wrong."

Allen added that, regarding this season's gifts for menswear "you can't have too much fun."

Just as cooking has its "holy trio" (carrots, onions and celery) to anchor recipes, this year's menswear has its triumvirate that makes gifts sure to please. One trend appears in knitted-in textures, or in knitted-in color patterns (intaglio), or



patterns determined by color blocks or stripes.

Tim Moeggenberg of Moeggenberg's Professional Menswear says that pattern and texture are also popular, often woven in, in shirts.

Also, the patterns are often heightened by what Moeggenberg calls "off colors," like tangerine, melon, and lime.

Allen said that that whole industry has been sporting "incredibly rich colors, magnificent textures and bold patterns this year."

While holiday shoppers gravitate to color this year, some prevailing colors are surprises. Jordan Owen, production manager of Quantum Great Lake's Traverse loft, a sailor and a member of the Traverse Bay Blues rugby team, says that "Orange is the new red."

Predictably Traverse winter sports enthusiasts are buying (and adding to their



wish lists) outdoor clothing and gear, and this year it is high-end gear like North Face.

North Face clothing and equipment is sold in northern Michigan stores like EMS, Brickwheels, Inc., Backcountry Outfitters and Market Place Circle, to name a few, are sure to please local skiers, snowboarders and the people who give them gifts.

Socks, having a reputation as dull are, nevertheless, critical to the outdoorsman.

Owen likes Smartwool socks and other high quality socks for sports and work.

"My father suffers, as I do, from having too much clothing. Whatever I would give him needs to be of the highest quality and truly functional," he said.

While many men of Hollywood, the music world and other celebrity circles are wearing bomber jackets from Rodeo Drive, Traverse City is not far behind. For shoppers with a flexible budget, a courent bomber jacket can be found locally — and at low prices (about \$200-\$300) if one scouts around.

Leathers by David in Traverse City offers a top grain leather bomber jacket with a map lining, knit cuff and waist. Antique brown sells best (dark brown and black are offered also) and



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The North Face line is sold at several local sportswear or clothing stores, such as gloves and knit hats with fleece lining or polartech fleece jackets, like those at Traverse City's Backcountry Outfitters.

the price is modest, considering that high-end run to several thousand. Some designer jackets, like Louis Vuitton or Hermes, can range from \$4,000 to \$7,000.

Moeggenberg offers lamb-skin bomber jackets with a zipout liner at an affordable price.

Neckwear this year is more than that "old Christmas tie" and a few trends are certain, if contradictory. The first is pale or exotic shades of solid colored ties. Politicians during recent campaigns, celebrities (when they do wear ties) and especially Donald Trump when he is in the boardroom of television's "The Apprentice" — all work this trend.

In spite of the tie-less trend, ties can say a lot. Owen cites CNN's Tucker Carlson as a man who makes a statement with a bowtie.

It's that "boyish intellectual," said Owen. "Carlson picked up the bowtie from George Will and ran with it. I guess anyone under the age of 50 who wears a bowtie can be presumed to have some sort of pretense or agenda."

An executive, who asked not to be named, said that he purposely wore a magenta silk tie to an important meeting. His boss showed up wearing the same tie.

Robert Hollin, a Reno visitor shopping in Traverse City, said he hopes to seek out vintage clothing in small shops, or at least a vintage look in the larger stores.

"The one thing I know for certain, though, is that this year I am shopping early," said Rollin.

Sally Ketchum writes from Williamsburg and from the U. P.



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This holiday season, Moeggenberg Professional Menswear in Traverse City says texture and patterns are the trend, such as this gray herringbone jacket or these 100 percent silk ties.



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