

Food gifts

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Grand Traverse Pie Co.

GT Pie Co. is adding a new line of organic Premium Tart Montmorency Cherry products. According to owner Mike Busley, the new line includes preserves like Berry Cherry and Lakeshore Berry, as well as Cherry Butters and Sauces and Cherry Honey Mustard.

Of course, a trip to GT Pie wouldn't be complete without pie. The majority of GT Pie Co. pies are shippable, though some (like pecan and pumpkin) are more perishable and are not shippable.

To give a gift that will really knock someone's socks off, Busley recommends the "Pie-of-the-Month," where each month a new pie will arrive to the gift recipient.

"You don't have to think about it, it just happens," he said.

525 W. Front St., TC; 922-7437;
www.gtpie.com.

Leelanau Cheese

Though the holiday time is often

associated with sweet treats, Leelanau Cheese, based at Blackstar Farms, offers a wide variety of specialty Swiss- and French-style handmade cheeses.

According to Anne Hoyt, who owns the business with her husband John, Raclette is the premier cheese for use in fondue. It makes a wonderful holiday gift and can be paired with many different items including crackers, olives or other gourmet accessories. It is also delicious in soups and quiches or on sandwiches.

They also offer Leelanau Cheese Spread in flavors like plain, dill, garlic and peppercorn. Hoyt recommends a trip to Blackstar Farms to visit the retail area and, more importantly, the tasting room.

10844 E. Revold Rd., Suttons Bay;
271-2600; www.blackstarfarms.com

Gifts that keep giving

Higher Ground Trading Co.

At Higher Ground Trading Co. in Leelanau County, you can give

the gift of coffee and also support a higher cause.

Higher Ground is one of a growing number of northern Michigan businesses that uses a Fair Trade Business Model.

"To give a snapshot of what we do: by purchasing Higher Ground coffee, a farmer receives a livable wage and Higher Ground donates money into communities for building schools and clinics," said owner Chris Treter.

Higher Ground offers gourmet coffees grown by small-scale producers from around the world. Higher Ground is also Michigan's only 100 percent fair trade, organic and shade-grown coffee company.

For the holidays, Treter suggested their new blend "Water for All." By purchasing the coffee, \$5 off each bag will go towards a water project in Southern Mexico.

P.O. Box 326, Leland; 264-9687;
www.javaforjustice.com

By the Light of Day

Another Fair Trade company is



Record-Eagle file photo

Employees prepare pies at Grand Traverse Pie Co.

By the Light of Day: Organic Loose Teas and Tisanes. Owner Angela Macke prides herself on being not only 100 percent organic but also a participant in Fair Trade.

"I get thank you notes from

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