



THE CRICKET OUT & ABOUT

On Cape Ann | Holidays 2025

Holiday Books

Local Shopping | Gift Guide

Feast of the Seven Fishes - Then & Now

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Beats Me

In the parlance of “the youths,” these might be filed under, “instant audio glow-up.” Beats Studio Pro and Solo Pro headphones are undeniably strong gifts for anyone who lives with music on. Studio Pro is about full, cinematic sound with upgrad-ed noise cancellation, richer bass, and a cushier over-ear fit (ideal for long flights, deep-focus work, or just zoning out). Solo Pro brings the same clean Beats tuning in a lighter, on-ear style that’s perfect for everyday carry. Both fold down compactly, and look sharp without trying too hard. Available in an array of soft colors. Solo 4, \$149.99, Studio Pro (at left), \$349.99. Both at. \$349.99 at **Manchester Ace Hardware**, 35 Beach St., Manchester | (978) 526-4000



Hand Sewn Woodland Cozy

It seems the "woodland fairy" theme in design and apparel is back, and we can imagine these knitted beanie cap and matching fingerless gloves would be a hit for anyone drawn to things with a "craft" feel. The vibrant hand embroidery featuring flowers, bees and mushrooms are so pretty. One size fits all, fleece lined, 100% Merino Wool, hand knit and embroidered in Nepal (so expect slight irregulari-ties that are to be expected with handmade items). This set is guaranteed to add a pop of color to your ensemble. Beannie, \$39 and half gloves, \$38. Both at **Willoughby’s**, 20 Main St., Rockport | (978) 546-9820



Pull Out the Classics!

At this time of year, the idea of games at home feels so right. And here are two games that are now total classics. First up, it’s Banagrams, invented in 2005 by a man who felt that Scrabble was too slow and wanted to create a faster anagrams game that would “drive you bananas.” It’s small, portable (in a banana-shaped pouch), and wildly popular. Then there’s Catan, invented in 1995 as a strategic board game where players compete to be the first to reach victory settling the fictional island of Catan. In October, Netflix announced it had acquired the global rights to develop film projects based on the popular game. Get ‘em both for the game lover in your life. Banagrams, \$19.99 and Catan, \$54.99. Both at **Tote-loos!**, 142 Main St, Gloucester | (978) 281-2011



Everyone Loves a Hoodie

The familiar warmth of this men’s Carhartt hoodie offers versatility that you can dress up or down depending on the day. Hanging with the family? Check. Hauling stuff? Check. The midweight cotton-blend design is super soft and has a relaxed cut that gives you extra room at the waist and an easy fit through the sleeves. Just \$69.99 at **Nelson’s**, 233 Main St., Gloucester | (978) 281-5615



Organic, Functional, and Stunning

For the design-obsessed foodie, Mallet Works’ hand-finished kitchen mallets hit (pun intended!) that sweet spot between sculptural object and legit tool. With their clean design lines, these mallets are a total joy to look at, but when they’re in hand, it’s clear these have serious heft. Elevate everything from cocktails to cutlets with style that feels effortlessly cool. And while it may not be in the official company description, they also, weirdly, make you feel like a badass. Woman owned, made in Maine and Michigan. From \$62, at **Goodlinens Studio**, 130 Main St., Gloucester | goodlinensstudio.com.

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