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HOME & FAMILY

Gift of giving

Martha Peleys knows the pressure of shopping for the perfect gift and has a few ideas to help with your holiday shopping. **PAGE B8**



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ARON EGGHAUER PHOTOS—ADSENHAUER@POSTSTAR.COM

Serena Kovalosky opens her oven door to check on a tea cup full of melting bacon drippings for a batch of flavored dog biscuits in her Whitehall home. She has also made chicken, peanut butter, and apple and carrot treats.

Wag worthy

Serena Kovalosky got fed up years ago with the materialism surrounding Christmas and, as an artist, always created exotic gifts, such as her ornaments made from gilded gourds. Eventually, however, the Granville artist ran out of ideas for her human friends. Three years ago, she decided to delight their pets with her "paws"—itively yummy treats.

"I thought it was a really cool message," Kovalosky said.

Kovalosky already is known on her street for decorating a pine tree in her front yard, not with lights, but with nuts for the squirrels and carrots for the rabbits, so it seemed only natural she would bake dog bones and make cat snacks.

She has had much better luck with the bones, however, as the felines tend to be finicky.



To learn more, log on to www.kovalosky.com or www.dogtreatrecipes.org.

Recently, Kovalosky filled cookie sheets with her bone-shaped cutouts in peanut butter and bacon, and apple and carrot mixtures she found on www.dogtreatrecipes.org. She thought she might also try a gluten-free biscuit with gluten-free flour and xanthan gum.

"When you see what's in most animal food, there's sugar, there's preservatives. I wanted to make something healthy," she said.

Kovalosky presents the treats in foam trays lined with foil and arranged rows by flavor for a "gourmet selection."

"It's honoring the animals. They're as much a part of anyone's family as the rest of us, and so far the dogs have been pretty happy," she said.

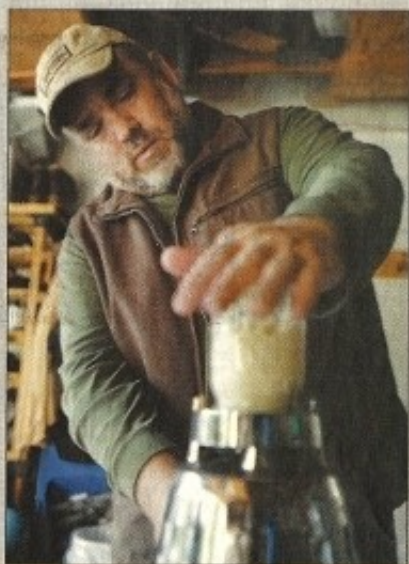
Gifts with a personal touch

By MEG HAGERTY
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Martha Stewart doesn't have to have the monopoly on homemade gifts during the holidays.

As several area residents demonstrate, you can create stylish presents that would pass muster with even a domestic diva, and you probably won't spend much time in the kitchen, either.

It's a good thing.



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Doug Streets pours several ounces of cleaned, chopped horseradish in his Queensbury garage. Streets prepares the spicy root as gifts for friends and family, and experiments with other plants and herbs.