

Style from page C1

West store owner Annette Horn.

Just last week Horn noticed Katie Couric wearing turquoise earrings during several episodes of *Today*. The Native American pow-wow during the Winter Olympic Game openings also helped.

"Most of our customers, like Hal, aren't trend followers. Their love of Native American and Southwestern styles are strong despite what's popular," Horn said.

Still, Americans want American-made items right now, she said. Her business has increased since Sept. 11 and people are feeling patriotic. They want a piece of America's heritage.

While Brenner is more focused on art and style rather than Native American culture, Horn explained she's connected to both.

When she purchased the store eight years ago she had it blessed by a Native American medicine man. Since Brenner himself is an artist, he appreciates visual beauty. Horn said Brenner has a natural knack for style.

Sharing tales

Knowing the culture though, is part of the intrigue for many people. Horn said nearly all the items in her store have a story behind them. She and her employees love to share tales with their customers. In fact, many items were discovered by Horn or her employees on their journeys west. Of course, Native American-made pieces

from Michigan and Canada are also available.

Brenner personalizes the items he buys. For example, he added turquoise stones to several carvings and other pieces. He designed a then commissioned an out-state artist to create an iron mantel with Southwest patterns.

Some of Brenner's decor isn't for the faint of heart. A pet taken from the body of a small bear, face included, is tucked to a wall near the basement. The pelt and paw of a coyote's leg is draped over a piece of art. The philosophy of Native Americans is to use an animal's body for survival needs like food, warmth or shelter. Brenner uses animal skins for decoration. For him, it's all part of the decor.

"I like the look of the house, and when guests come over they love to look around it," he said.

And whether it's in vogue or not, Brenner will still be a fan.

Native West, at 863 W. Ann Arbor Trail in Plymouth is open Mon.-Thurs. 10-6 p.m.; Fri. 10-8 p.m.; Sat. 10-5 p.m.; and Sun. noon to 4 p.m. Phone: 734-455-8838.

Invite us to visit your house. Send a photo of your favorite room for consideration in *At Home* to Susan Steinmueller, At Home Editor, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009. E-mail: JPEP@home.com, and information, as a text file, or copy and paste into e-mail, to steinmueller@home.com.net

Weird weather calls for change of venue

Mother Nature has thrown the weather for a loop with roller coaster temperatures that make it difficult to plan outdoor week-end activities. Time to revise your family's entertainment schedule to include transition activities - those you typically plan for late March or early April when the snow disappears but it's not quite spring - to help your family weather the transition period.

Get a jump on spring. Paint flowers on your windows. Purchase washable paints or glass crayons at a craft store. Work as a family to sketch your window design on paper. When everyone is happy with it, outline your "indoor garden" on your windows, then fill it in with cheerful colors.

Inventory spring clothing, sporting goods and outdoor equipment. Determine which clothes your children have outgrown. How many items will you have to purchase? Some stores are already having spring clothing sales.

Start replacing a few items at a time now so you won't feel like you're spending a small fortune at one time later.

Take your children with you to try things on now when the weather is questionable - they might not be in the mood to go

CELEBRATING FAMILY



LISA LUCKOW-HEALY

shopping when the weather warms.

Check out the condition of spring and summer sporting equipment and uniforms. Make a list of what needs to be replaced, refurbished or added onto so you can make wise purchases the next time you frequent the sporting goods store with your family.

Are you planning on starting a family garden this spring? Ask family members what they think will be necessary to help your garden grow.

Sit down to plan it out. Visit a nearby garden shop to talk to experts about your family's wish list.

Make sure you're on the right track. When planting weather arrives, your family will be prepared to plant the perfect garden!

Cuddle up in the warmth of a craft haven. Wander through the hobby shop in search of a new hobby or the continuation of an existing one. Add onto an heir-

loom Lionel train set. Get your gang interested in building a model airplane that will be ready to fly when the warm weather arrives.

Reserve some time at your local paint-your-own pottery shop. Paint special family plates to enhance your everyday dinnerware and create more enthusiasm for mealtime, or skip the plates and cups and choose to paint ceramic pots to hold special spring plants and flowers.

Do some homework in the kitchen. Teach your kids to cook at home or away. Start with basics like making simple breakfast dishes (i.e. pancakes, French toast, scrambled eggs, fruit shakes), or pull out favorite family recipes and teach your gang how to prepare them.

Get your older children in the cooking groove so they can prepare meals on a weekly basis. Even young children will enjoy stirring, measuring and taste testing.

Go take a cooking class at a local specialty kitchen. From Scratch in Farmington Hills and Nanny's Kitchen in Rochester are two locations that offer cooking classes for both children and adults, as well as time you can reserve for a personalized cooking party with other families, or a birthday party for your child.

Your family can learn and have fun doing it at the same time.

When all else fails, head north.

If you're not ready to let go of winter pastimes, check the temperatures in the northern part of the lower peninsula. Weather permitting, plan a family weekend away at one of many northern Michigan ski resort areas.

Bargain rates on lodging and lift tickets are available this time of year.

While there, open your minds to activities you've never tried, whether they include tubing, cross-country skiing, snowboarding or snowshoeing.

These outdoor sports can turn your day into a great winter adventure.

Take a half-day out of your vacation to go exploring the local towns nearby.

For instance, if your family is staying near Boyne Mountain, Boyne Highlands or Nubs Nob, go exploring Harbor Springs, Petoskey and Charlevoix. All of these towns offer quaint shops and restaurants with plenty of ambience and local flavor.

Remember that sloppy, unpredictable weather doesn't mean your family has to be forced inside and turned into couch potatoes.

There are plenty of great family activities to take advantage of during seasonal transition time.

Market from page C1

to 1940s, including cottage style, painted furniture, drapes and tablecloths. She has been in the show for two years.

"This is my favorite show," said Berryman, whose business is called Endless AcScents. "It's just gorgeous."

Pretty displays

"I think it's the exhibitors (that make it special). The displays are really pretty. Even if

you don't buy anything you'll go home full of ideas."

Wendy Lewis of Beverly Hills will return to the event, presenting romantic as well as fun items from her business, Connecticut Greenery. Her unusual pieces will include a bench made from iron from France dating from the 1800s.

Garden gates made from antique iron, and a work made from an old conveyor belt, will be

among her other items.

"People are in need for spring to come and they love gardening," said Mary Bagdol, Lewis' assistant.

Sandy Vartoogian said her Four Seasons Antiques will feature "a little bit of everything, things for the home and garden," including "adorable" glasses from the 1950s. The Livonia shop specializes in items from the 1930s through the 1950s.

Vartoogian has attended the market for the last two years. This will be the first time Four

Seasons Antiques will be exhibiting at it.

"The dealers have put a lot of effort into their displays," Vartoogian said. "They make it very springy. It's like a breath of spring."

Hours for Michigan's Home and Garden Antiques Market are 2-9 p.m. Friday, noon to 8 p.m. Saturday, noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$7 regular, \$6 with any ads or listings of the event, no charge for children age 12 and under. One paid admission is good for all days of the show.

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