

## GIFT IDEA: Jewelry from Junk Yard Dog and White Bear Jewelry

There is nothing more alluring than handmade jewelry. Each piece unique. Each piece carefully crafted from metal and gemstones. Each piece made from the blood, sweat, and tears of a true craftsman. Two companies come to mind when thinking of handmade jewelry in Weakley County: Junk Yard Dog Jewelry and White Bear Jewelry.

Jennie Coleman-Hernandez, founder of Junk Yard Dog Jewelry, is a wonderfully creative woman who makes jewelry from items found in her father's junkyard. Her favorite items to make are necklaces. She loves them for no particular reason. She uses different techniques in her creations. She forges or hammers the copper she uses to increase its strength, giving it interesting textures and shaping the metal. She loves the warmth and color of copper, a metal that among many jewelers is considered to be a practice metal. Coleman-Hernandez intricately weaves gemstones and cop-



**JUNK YARD DOG JEWELRY** — Jennie Coleman-Hernandez mixes metal and gemstones for one-of-a-kind pieces like the one shown above.

per into gorgeous one-of-a-kind pieces. She also makes customized pet tags. So if your furry friend is in need of a little sparkle this Christmas Jennie is the perfect person to see. Her company, Junk Yard Dog Jewelry, is named after a dog that she rescued. Sugarboy, the black mutt, instantly claimed Coleman-Hernandez. When Sugarboy crossed the rainbow bridge Jennie was devastated. She created Junk Yard Dog Jewelry to honor

his memory. Coleman-Hernandez donates a portion of the profits from each piece of jewelry to local animal rescues like Diamond in the Ruff and will occasionally help to pay a vet bill. You can shop Junk Yard Dog Jewelry on etsy at [www.junkyarddogjewelry.etsy.com](http://www.junkyarddogjewelry.etsy.com) or on her Facebook page, Junk Yard Dog Jewelry. You can also keep your eyes out for Jennie and Junk Yard Dog Jewelry at local arts and crafts fairs.

Sarah Skelton, owner of White Bear Jewelry, is an apprentice silver- and goldsmith studying under one of the 114 master bench jewelers in the United States.

She is also a wire jewelry artist and has a certification in jewelry design from the New York Institute of Art and Design. Sarah works in silver and copper as well as gemstones. She, like Coleman-Hernandez, also uses reclaimed copper. She also uses elements from vintage jewelry to create one-of-a-kind pieces of jewelry. Skelton loves to create custom pieces for her customers, and works closely with them to make sure that the piece is exactly what they want. Skelton believes that all women should have something that makes them feel absolutely beautiful.

White Bear Jewelry was started as a hobby but quickly grew into a passion. Each piece is care-

fully and lovingly put together. Skelton even prays over each piece, asking that the wearer be protected and graced with God's love. Her designs are bohemian in style and her clients tend to be free spirited individuals. You can find Skelton's work on her website, [www.whitebearjewelry.com](http://www.whitebearjewelry.com), and her Facebook page, White Bear Jewelry. Skelton is currently accepting custom orders as well as orders directly off of her website.

Jewelry always makes the best gifts for the women in your life. Whether traditional or avant-garde, jewelry has the unique ability to make its wearer feel beautiful. Make sure to shop both of these great local jewelers this holiday season.



**WHITE BEAR JEWELRY** — Sarah Skelton creates unique custom pieces. Above are some examples of her unique bohemian style.

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