

Tough decisions this weekend

On Friday and Saturday, eight of our member merchants will host their Christmas Open House. Most will provide special treats, discounts and door prizes.

Some Open House highlights include Customer Appreciation Day on Friday at Pennys From Heaven Spa. Guest speakers representing Arbonne, Trim Blast, and Jewels by Park Lane will be on hand.

Over at Brantley's, shoppers can spin the wheel to find out how big a discount they get on their purchases.

There will be door prizes and free gift wrapping at Deb's Gifts. Register for gift certificates to be given away at Heritage House Kids and To & From, and a shopping spree at The Looking Glass. Those who attend the Open House at Merle Norman Cosmetics can enjoy exclusive access to limited-edition gifts.

Don't forget the Open House at Vicki's Flowers where you can enjoy sweet treats while browsing through the big selection of Christmas decor.

The toughest thing about eight shops hosting Christmas Open House on the same weekend may be deciding which shop to visit first.

For Open House details, check out the full page of ads in today's newspaper.

Over the last two weeks I visited those eight shops

while taking pictures for some Christmas shopping galleries I have uploaded to the web at shop.rainsville.info. I could not help but notice that each shop is a unique, one-of-a-kind business where you can get unique, one-of-a-kind gifts.

They are unique, yet they have a great deal in common. Each has more gift options than most people realize, and they are adept at helping customers choose gifts through personal service. Each is owned and staffed by people who live in northeast Alabama. Each has put a lot of work into preparing for the Christmas shopping season.

Saturday, the Chamber is hosting its annual auction, a chili supper, and the third annual Sand Mountain Dessert Bake Off at the Tom Bevill Enrichment Center. You will certainly face tough decisions at that event—which chili or soup to choose, which desserts to sample, and, with over 100 items to be sold to the highest bidder, which items to bid on.

For more information, you can call me at 638-7800, or visit rainsvillealabama.com.