

'Hunting' for stocking/sausage stuffers?

By Darragh Doiron

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A pair from our advertising staff provided lunch. Ed Kestler gave Diana LaBorde some deer meat, and she whipped up enough chili to feed The News staff. I thank them both, and I didn't even mind hearing all Ed's hunting stories.

I'll bet his friends would take to Hi Mountain Seasonings' new Snackin' Sticks kits. Collagen casings are new to me. They are weird, efficient little things that I'm sure our grandmothers would have considered a little miracle. Visit www.himtnjerky.com, based in Riverton, Wyo., to learn more.

Barring attachments to a meat grinder and fresh venison, I've been using the Cracked Pepper & Garlic, Original, Hickory and Pepperoni seasonings on regular meats and not mixing in the thickening agents. I'm interested in getting into the whole snack stick process, but I wanted to make sure y'all hunters know about this product going into the season. Each kit comes complete with seasonings, cure and collagen casings to season 20 pounds of meat, for \$19.95. Gander Mountain is a supplier.

Dark and sweet

To think I mocked Europeans for preferring dark chocolate to milk chocolate. Decades after I made a sour face over the "bitter" chocolate, I find Americans are catching up to the acquired taste. It's my favorite now. I don't waste my time on that too-sweet stuff.

A sassy cat holding a full cup is the logo for Boulevards dark hot chocolate mix. The Bradenton, Fla.-based company promises comfort and chocolate in every cup. If you didn't know it's good to have your hot chocolate organic and kosher, I'll tell you, it is sweet. Stock up for cold weather.

Big Red treat

I heard a man extol the virtues of Gold Rim Blue Bell ice cream with Big Red soda poured on top. A woman at the same event shared that she enjoyed angel food cake with lime yogurt topping on a regular basis.

Think Fiber fun

Did you ever think your snack bars would be designed by a former international fashion model? Lizanne Falsetto is also a mom, and “a true believer in the healing and nourishing power of nature and the goodness of simple, tasty food.” Her “thinkproducts” line is full of the super berries and nuts making headlines. I started with “think5” red berry which offers the equivalent of 3 cups of vegetables and 2 cups of fruit. Pretty pastel packaging also houses Brownie Crunch, Chocolate Mudslide, Dark Chocolate and White Chocolate Chip.

Superfoods can be addicting, but you have to be open. My daughter made a face at the bite I offered, then five minutes later wanted more. I crave them any time of day.