

Keep an eye on **security** through holiday season

It may be the most wonderful time of the year — but it's also hunting season for scammers and thieves. And the weather and holiday decorations and gatherings can pose unusual risks. A few basic precautions can help ensure that your holidays stay safe and fun.

Watch out for scammers. According to the Federal Trade Commission, \$1.48 billion was reported lost last year due to fraud, an increase of 38 percent over the previous year. The Internet is a happy hunting ground for scammers. While we're all always looking for a good deal, if you're not paying attention you could easily find yourself out thousands of dollars or with a stocking full of counterfeit goods.

Giftcard scams are everywhere online. Consumers should be particularly wary of too-good-to-be true social media offers like "Pay \$10 to receive \$100 in gift cards." If you're buying a gift card, make sure you're purchasing directly from the seller.

Watch out for phony shopping sites (double check the URL). Or, better yet, put down the mouse and shop in Sisters to eliminate that risk altogether!

If you are planning to travel during the holiday season, don't advertise it on your social media. That just alerts thieves as to when your house will be empty. Notify a trusted neighbor when you're headed out of town and ask her to keep an eye on your house and report any

suspicious activity. Have someone clear snow, and stop your mail and newspapers while you are away. Make sure your house looks like somebody is home to deter a burglar.

Keep your Christmas tree and gifts out of view from windows. When you aren't home, it's easy to break through a window and grab your gifts. Deter porch pirates with security cameras.

Be extremely careful hanging Christmas lights, especially now that roofs and walkways are slick with Sisters Country snow and ice. Consider hiring a professional service with good equipment to handle the chore.

December is the deadliest month for electrical fires, according to FEMA. Check your Christmas lighting to make sure it's in good shape. Space heaters should be checked and not left on when unattended. Don't plug them into a power strip. Turn holiday lights off when you go out for the evening or when you go to bed. A timer is nice so you don't have to go out in the dark and cold to unplug them.

We tend to cook more during the holidays, and there can be lots of distractions. Review kitchen safety and make sure you've got a fire extinguisher and know how to use it.

Get your furnace checked and your chimney swept before Santa slides down it, and test your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors.

A few basic precautions will help make sure your holidays stay joyful.

— 9th Annual —
Holiday Faire
 Located at 142 E. Main Ave., Sisters
November 29 - December 21
 Great selection of handmade items from local vendors. High quality! Unique gifts! Free admission!
 Monday - Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
 Sunday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
SPONSORED BY THREE SISTERS LIONS CLUB



Your Place For
Artisan Holiday Gifts!

Paintings
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 Candles • Prints
 Fused Glass • Cards
 Leather Bags & More!
 Custom framing too!

Wildflower Studio
 Art Boutique & Framing
 541-904-0673 • 103-B E. Hood Ave., Sisters
 a unique blend of local artwork and custom framing



Holiday Shopping Made Easy!

Not only do we have the most popular shoe brands, we carry Brighton jewelry; huckleberry jams and candies; slippers; socks and more! All perfect for gift-giving.

SUNDANCE SHOES
 541-549-4240 | IN TOWN SQUARE, SISTERS



SISTERS
 COFFEE CO.

Open 6am-6pm Coffee Roasted Daily 273 W Hood Ave. Sisters, OR



FREE T-SHIRT!
 With any \$25 purchase
 (Offer valid through 12-24-19)

YOUR STORE
 CLOTHING COMPANY
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 \$9.99 - \$14.99 - \$19.99

541-549-2059
 216 W. Cascade Ave.



Sisters Coffee Co.

Sisters Coffee is toasting their 30th anniversary this holiday season! To celebrate, they're re-releasing their Mom and Dad's beloved blend, WC Durham Private Reserve. Grab this beautiful dark roast classic before it runs out.

Shop local for the holidays and treat your loved ones to a coffee date with a Sisters Coffee gift card, or choose from our new selection of mugs, cozy crew-necks, and Oregon-knit beanies. You'll also find a wide array of new coffee offerings that are hitting shelves this holiday season — the perfect stocking-stuffer for the whole family to enjoy. Need larger quantity for corporate gifts? Reach out to customercare@sisterscoffee.com for discount pricing on coffee orders of 50 bags or more.

Need to ship a gift to a loved one? Order online at www.sisterscoffee.com and let them take care of the rest. Offering free shipping through December 20.



Your Store

Sisters folks looking to put checkmarks on their Christmas list without putting a dent in their wallet owe themselves a visit to Your Store.

Give the gift of Outlaws spirit with black-and-white Outlaws logo T-shirts and sweatshirts. Or show your college pride with Ducks or Beavers wear — all at fantastic prices, with sales from \$5 to \$19.99.

This year, there's a whole lot of camp options available.

The selection is huge, the prices are elf-friendly, and the shop is conveniently located right on Cascade Avenue. Through December 24, get a free T-shirt with any \$25 purchase.

