



## Eastern Oregon Marketplace

FAST OREGONIAN

#### **TUESDAY**

February 12, 2019

**Postal Customer** Local

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## Tips for a Great Valentine's Day

or a holiday intended to celebrate love, Valentine's Day has a complicated legacy; according to Psychology Today, couples are more likely to break up in the weeks surrounding the day. Why? Experts say unrealized or unreasonable expectations or comparisons to past celebrations can make what on any other day would be just fine a disappointment.

Another reason, psychologists say, is because Valentine's Day tends to add even more pressure on couples who are already struggling. They want to make it a perfect night to prove to themselves they're not having problems, or they find their negative feelings intensified by the day's events.

To make Valentine's Day a great opportunity for a big, romantic gesture of love or a quiet reminder of why you've been together as long as you have, plan ahead, know what you both want and give yourself a chance to have a fun day with your partner.

Make reservations as far in advance as possible. This isn't just for restaurants and hotels either; line up a babysitter as soon as you can. If you wait until the last minute, your options will be lim-

Talk to each other. Make sure you know each other's expectations and you know wnat your partner wants. You'll have a much better holiday if you plan your festivities together. Do either of you want flowers delivered to your office or breakfast in bed? Tell each other beforehand.

Don't go overboard on **spending.** It's easy to max out your credit card on flowers,



chocolate, dinner out, a limousine or whatever grand plans you have. Figure out your budget and find creative, fun and romantic ways to maximize your resources.

Turn off your phones. It's hard to disconnect completely (especially if you have kids at home with a babysitter), but do the best you can to silence your phone. Ignore

calls from work, don't check texts, and even if you're just hanging out on the couch, stay off Twitter and Facebook and talk to each other.

Add a little personal touch.

A handmade card or handwritten note, a random text in the middle of the day, small gifts that will mean a lot to each other all can make your day a little more special.

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