

HOLIDAY SHOPPING SURVIVAL GUIDE

Holiday shopping season typically begins the day after Thanksgiving and extends all the way to Christmas Eve. While that's a considerable amount of time for shoppers to find gifts for everyone on their shopping list, many people will still find themselves putting holiday shopping off until the last minute.

In certain ways, last-minute holiday shopping is easier than ever. Thanks to online retailers who can ship products overnight, men and women who delay their holiday shopping have more options at their disposal than they did before the arrival of the Internet. And unlike the days of yore when the best deals were largely exclusive to Black Friday, some shoppers find that competition between online retailers and traditional brick-and-mortar stores is so great that deals can be found regardless of when they begin shopping. But while waiting until the last minute to begin holiday shopping may not be as risky as it used to be, shoppers may still benefit by sticking to certain strategies so they can find the perfect gifts without breaking the bank.

- Stay within your budget. Even last-minute shoppers have holiday shopping budgets. But it

can be harder for last-minute shoppers to stick to their budgets because they have less time to comparison shop and hunt for deals. As the holiday shopping season winds down, resist the temptation to go over budget. If a gift you had in mind is available but more than you can spend, look for something else. Overspending on holiday shopping in December is a recipe for debt in January, and no shopper wants to begin the new year weighed down by consumer debt.

- Shop local. National chains and big box retailers are renowned for rolling out great deals during the holiday season, but such stores may have very limited or unimpressive inventory left by the time last-minute shoppers begin shopping. Local retailers are often incapable of slashing prices as significantly as their larger competitors, and that may mean they have more extensive inventories available throughout the holiday shopping season. In addition, shoppers who stick with local retailers won't have to pay shipping costs to ensure items arrive on time.

- Shop during off-peak hours. Shopping during off-peak hours can help last-minute shoppers make efficient use of the limited time they have

to buy gifts for their loved ones. Visit stores early in the morning or late at night, or schedule a mid-week afternoon shopping trip so you aren't spending what little time you have left waiting on lines or hunting for parking.

- Give something less traditional. Holiday gifts need not come from stores. Rather than spending their time shopping for gifts for loved ones who seemingly have it all, last-minute shoppers can give the gift of a donation in their loved one's

name. Last-minute shoppers who want to give something more tangible can create a homemade gift that's both unique and heartfelt. If your DIY skills are lacking, give a loved one the gift of a night out on the town at your expense.

Shoppers who wait until the end of the holiday shopping season to begin their searches for holiday gifts can still find great gifts without going broke.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Habitat for Humanity
Habitat for Humanity's Restore holiday sale is this Thursday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 2155 Getty Circle Unit 1.

Holidays in the Hanger
Cottage Grove's Oregon Aviation Society is celebrating the holidays and invites residents to drop by the museum located at 2475 Jim Wright Way.

Gold Museum
The Bohemia Gold mining Museum has a new location in the Boots and Sandals Square Dance Barn across from Bohemia Park. Thursday

through Saturday 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Genealogy
The CG Genealogical Society is looking for new members. For more information, call 541-942-9570.

Game day
The senior center game day is scheduled for Thursday at 12:30 p.m. at the center inside the library.

Teen group
The LGBTQIA teen group sponsored by South Lane Mental Health will meet Thursday at 4 p.m. Please call 541-942-3939 for

more information and location.

912 Project
The 912 project will meet Monday at Stacy's Covered Bridge restaurant at 6:30 p.m.

Magnolia Gardens party
The community Christmas party will be held Thursday at 2 p.m. at 1425 Daugherty Ave. A reading of "A Christmas Story" and Christmas music will be rebroadcast by KNND radio on Christmas Eve.

Village Green lights
Christmas lights are up at Village Green Th-Sun 5-9 p.m. Fee applies.

Free holiday meal today

Hosted in Eugene by Lane Youth

On Wednesday December 13, Lane County Youth Services will host their 12th annual Holiday Meal from 11 a.m. – 2p.m. in the Carmichael Room at Lane County Youth Services Serbu Center. The meal is provided by the Martin Luther King Jr. Culinary Arts Program free of charge and is open to the entire community.

"This is our opportunity to teach the kids the importance of connecting with and giving back to our community," said Lane County Youth Services program supervisor, Jose Alvarez.

The annual meal began as a University of

Oregon Family and Human Services student senior project 12 years ago and has since become an invaluable part of the holiday season for Lane County Youth Services.

No RSVP is required. Parking is free and located directly in front of the Serbu building. The event will also feature a free raffle for a number of prizes as well as free food boxes for pick-up. Lane County Youth Service is located at 2727 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd (directly across MLK from Autzen Stadium).

Holiday Gift Guide

Eugene Saturday Market's 2017

Holiday Market

Handcrafted Gifts, Sold By Their Makers
International Food Court
Live Music

Weekends: Nov. 18 - Dec. 17 + Dec. 22-24
10 AM - 6 PM • Lane Events Center, 13th & Jefferson
More details at www.holidaymarket.org 541-686-8885

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