

Holiday Time In

Albert Lea

Fri, December 1, 1pm – 7pm Fri, December 8, 1pm – 7pm Fri, December 15, 1pm – 7pm Fri, December 22, 1pm – 7pm

Festival of Trees

Northbridge Mall

Come and visit the beautiful trees decorated by different individuals and groups. Free will offering

December 3 - December 22 - Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday 1pm - 4pm Joy to the World Northbridge Mall Free Will Offering

Sat, December 2, 10am – 4pm Christmas Gathering

Freeborn County Historical Museum

1031 Bridge Ave

Santa will be there for a photo with your children. Cookies and refreshments will be served. Check out all of the lights and decorations. \$1 donation or free to Museum members. For more information: www.fchm.us

December 14, 4-7 pm

Downtown Holiday Bazaar

Rainbow Country Trolley rides. Horse-drawn Belgian horses, serenaded by Jerry Buse singing favorite holiday songs. Santa Claus • Caroliers • Bragen Rights Photo Booth • Merrill's Popcorn • Hot Cocoa & Coffee • Community Brass Band • Face Painting • Store Specials

Thu, December 15, 6:30pm – 8:30pm Hollandale Christian School Christmas **Music Program**

Hollandale Christian School, 203 Central Ave S, Hollandale No charge for admission









ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS • Supplement to the NRHEG Star Eagle • Editor: **Reed Waller** © 2017 by JDL Publications, Inc.



ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS

December 1, 2017 - December 3, 2017

Christ Community Church's 21st Annual Women's Christmas Candlelight Dinner.

Christ Community Church, 2200 4th St NE 6:00pm hot cider & table viewing - 6:30pm candlelight dinner & program

December 2, 2016

Holiday Traditions Exhibit & Open House

12:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Christmas music, treats and celebration with a main floor display of holiday traditional decorations, artifacts, stories of meaning in this season of giving and remembering. The Timeline of Unique Stories exhibit is open on the balcony; and the Museum Gift Shop, open for browsing with a cup of hot cider!

December 2, 2017 - December 3, 2017 **A Touch of Country Class present** "Never Enough" Christmas Boutique 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. 41830 - 150th St., Waseca Holiday crafts and antiques

December 2, 2017

Holiday Handmade Fair - Waseca Art Center

10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

The hand-made fair is open to any artisan, artist or craftsperson making handmade jewelry, soaps, cards, fine art, baked goods/candies (must be from a certified kitchen) and other handmade items.

Saturday, December 16 - 2:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m. Sunday, December 17, at 2:00 p.m.

Christmas Time's A Comin'

Starfire Event Center 204 2nd Street SW

A country gospel & holiday musical performance.









WASECA

Saturday, Dec. 2 8:30-11:30am

WALDORF

Friday, Dec. 15 9:00am-3:30pm





Ællendale, Mn ristnas

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2017

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Orrin Mortensen - Owner

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING - Friday 6:30 p.m. - Everyone welcome!

HOLIDAY BINGO - Friday after tree lighting - \$20 for 20 games • Prizes • Proceeds toward community sign project

REMNANT SALE at Floors 4-U - \$5-\$10-\$15 - Refreshments served

FIRST NATIONAL BANK Holiday Open House - Friday 11 am - 1 pm -Ellendale Community Center

Going on NOW through December 9

Drop off coats at Floors 4-U

Sponsored by ECAG Coats will go to area students

Top of the Hill"

302 5th Ave. • Ellendale, MN • 507-684-3351 HOURS: MON-FRI 8:30-6:00 • SAT 8:30-2:30

Stacey's Therapeutic Massage is celebrating newly expanded hours! From now until December 23: when you purchase 3 hours of massage you get 1/2 hour free! Any combination of massages for yourself or gift certificates for others! No limit on how many you can purchase. Great Christmas gift idea!

Stacey's Therapeutic Massage Stacey Blouin RN, CMT

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30th Annual the Country Saturday, December 9, 2017

HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR - Saturday 11 a.m.-5 p.m. - Ellendale Community Building

CAREY LANGER performing - Saturday 4 p.m. - 7 p.m. - Ellendale Municipal **Liquor**

REMNANT SALE at Floors 4-U - \$5-\$10-\$15 - Refreshments served SANTA BINGO - Saturday 2 p.m. - Whispering Oak - Santa comes at 3 p.m. NORWEGIAN UFF DA SALE at Lerberg's Foods - Saturday all day - prize drawings

SOUP & BREAD LUNCH - Saturday 11 a.m.-2 p.m. - Ellendale United Methodist Church











Reduce holiday spending without cutting back on cheer

of the holiday season is a hard reality -- nearly six in 10 Americans don't have enough savings to afford an unexpected expense like a \$500 car repair or \$1000 emergency room bill, according to a Bank survey conducted by Princeton Survey Research Associations International.

Thursday, November 23, 2017

While 83 percent of U.S. consumers are expected to spend \$1,189 this holiday season, an amount equal to or more than they spent last year, there is no reason to enter the new year in bad financial standing if you do some smart planning and spend wisely. Here are some great ways to reduce your seasonal spending, without cutting back on the cheer.

- Know your limit. Figure out how much you can spend on gifts, decorations, etc. Divide the total amount into a per-gift limit. If it doesn't add up, cut back the gift list or consider making a baked item or other homemade gift, or giving a gift certificate for a service you might provide, such as babysitting, car washing or house cleaning.
- Shop wisely. Watch for special sale days and coupons. Many online retail sites offer free shipping, discounts and other promotions during the holiday season. After the holidays, look for deep

(StatePoint) Amid the merriment sales on wrapping paper and greeting cards to save for next year's celebrations.

> • Spend differently. New ways to pay for items can make the task of budgeting organized and straightforward. Check out specialty e-retailers like Purchasing Power, which is offered by many employers as a voluntary benefit, and gives workers an opportunity to shop for thousands of brand name products they need now, for which they can make manageable payments over time through payroll deduction. With no credit checks, hidden fees or interest, it's a service you may find gives you more flexibility over a traditionally expensive

> "It's not always possible to pay for big ticket items in-full when you need them, whether you're buying a tablet for your teenager for the holidays or a family vacation package next summer," says Elizabeth Halkos, Chief Operating Officer for Purchasing Power, LLC. "We created this solution to empower people to budget more wisely, and buy the things they need, while avoiding penalty fees and ballooning interest associated with other payment options."

> Ask your employer if an employee purchase program and financial wellness benefit



SPECIALTY E-RETAILERS can be a resource for thriftier Christmas buying. Photo © Geber86 - Getty Images

PurchasingPower.com is available to your workforce.

Some additional cost-friendly options for the holidays:

- Suggest a family gift exchange. Spare the expense and frustration of trying to find gifts for each member of your extended family. Instead, pull names from a hat and find something special for just one person. For extra fun, play 'Secret Santa," keeping gift-giver identities concealed until the gift exchange.
- Spend time together. In lieu of gifts, bring everyone together over

the holidays. Have a board game night or a day of service, such as serving meals at a shelter.

• Enjoy the season. There are many ways to celebrate spending little to no money. Curl up for a holiday movie marathon, bake cookies or look for free holiday concerts in your local area. Shopping malls and community centers typically offer a schedule of no-cost holiday entertainment.

For a better financial start in the new year, spend wisely this holiday season. Smart budgeting and new payment options can make it easy.

Great ideas for holiday gifts that keep on giving

(StatePoint) The holidays come and go so quickly, and while many tokens of love and friendship are enjoyed and then forgotten, this year, consider items that make a more lasting impact. Not sure where to start? Here three gift ideas that will keep on giving, all year long.

Taste Sensations, Delivered

These days, there are food subscription boxes for just about anything you can think of -- from exotic spices, to gourmet candies, to meats and delicacies. Take the tastes of your loved one into account and consider keeping their kitchen wellstocked all year long with monthly deliveries of amazing food and ingredients. These subscriptions make culinary variety, extravagance and exploration convenient for recipients, who need only await the arrival of their next boxed delivery with wheel that guides the knife at the coranticipation.

A Well-Honed Kitchen

Even serious home cooks who seem to have every new kitchen appliance available, may not realize how important it is to have a knife sharpener. When knives dull, they become more difficult and dangerous to wield, slowing food preparation and making slips of the wrist more likely to occur. But you can fix that for the cooks in your life.

Help loved ones to chop, slice and dice more efficiently and safely with a knife sharpener they can use as soon as knives begin to dull. Look for a model built to last through many uses. For example, the Compact Electric Knife Sharpener from Smith's Consumer Products, features a synthetic sharpening

rect angle and has an ergonomic design that makes it easy and comfortable to use. To learn more, visit Walmart.com.

New Hobbies

Whether it's salsa dance, classical guitar or French cooking, many centers that offer arts and music lessons allow gift-givers to buy credits for loved ones. This gives recipients an opportunity to select for themselves what they want to learn about on a schedule that works for them. But this gift goes far beyond a temporary diversion. Learning a skill offers lifelong opportunities for new pursuits, friendships and accomplishments.

Reconsider your holiday shopping strategy, focusing on items that will improve the lives of loved ones, well beyond the season.



A knife sharpener helps cooks prepare meals faster and more safely.

"Hometown Holiday Weekend" Omatonna

Visit your local merchants and stay for holiday events!

Thursday Nov 30 – Sunday Dec 3, 2017

Hometown Holiday Weekend

Join us for Hometown Holiday weekend as we host various holiday events, shopping, music, family activities and Breakfast with Santa!

Dec 1 - 2, 2016

Christmas in the Village

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Live music in the Dunnell House, History Center & Saco Church Children's hand-on crafting experience in the History Center. Visit Santa in the History Center. Lefse Demo and Gingerbread House contest.

Sunday, December 3

Historic Holiday Home Tour

12pm - 5pm

Tickets available in advance at Kottkes, Tri M, Lerbergs, A Touch of Charm, SCHS and at the homes on the day of the tour. No Children under 10. No smoking or cameras

December 8, 2017

Holiday Concert (2nd Annual)

to Benefit Steele County Toys for Tots

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM CST

Holiday Concert to Benefit Steele County Toys for Tots

Musical performances will include the local talent of: Golden Tones, OHS Carolers, OHS Jazz Band, Vianna Bohlen, Tim & Andrea Van Gelder, Trinity Bell Choirs (BELLievers and Angelus Bells), Greta Jacobson and many more.

December 9-10, 10:00am – 11:30am

Cocoa with Santa and Mrs. Claus

Who doesn't want to tell Santa what they are wishing for...? It is a busy time for him and his elves. But he and Mrs. Clause always enjoy their visit to Owatonna to listen to the requests. The old upright piano comes to life with Mrs. Clause playing carols. The Polar Express will be read by Mary Kay Feltes for all to enjoy.





All I Want For Christmas

Holiday Shopping in New Richland!











