

HOLIDAY COUNTDOWN



3 SHOPPING
DAYS LEFT

WHAT TO BUY ON A BUDGET

Most of these gifts range from \$10 to \$20, so you won't have to dread opening your January credit card statements. Plus, these are great gifts that almost anyone will appreciate.

—Mark Reiter
BLADE STAFF WRITER

▼ For the music lover on your list — a 2-giga-byte **MP3 player** with earbuds from **JC Penney**. At **\$19.99** this is an amazing, low-cost stocking stuffer. Available in five bright colors, it can hold up to 64 hours of music or 1,360 songs and clips easily.



◀ The stylish yet functional **Rubber Bumpy Strap watch** comes in five fun colors: pink, white, turquoise, blue, green, and yellow. Only **\$14.99** at **Target**.



▼ The **North Face Men's Bones Beanie** guarantees a warm fit for any winter activity. One size fits all in four colors: red, deep water blue, graphite grey, and black. **\$20** at **Dick's Sporting Goods**.



▲ **Gunmetal Drop Earrings**. Who says jewelry has to be expensive? For **\$6.40** **Pier 1** has teardrop earrings that will add flair to any occasion and complement most outfits.



▶ Thrift gifting is made easy with a **14-inch glass flower vase** from **Bed Bath & Beyond**. This sleek round glass makes a beautiful addition to any arrangement yet its heavy enough to hold any bouquet. Cost: **\$9.99**.



◀ A gift idea for wine connoisseurs that won't break the bank is the **Metrokane Rabbit wine preserver** that can be purchased for **\$14.99** at **Dillard's**. A gauge on the stainless steel pump calculates the right amount of pressure to create the necessary vacuum to keep wine fresh.



▶ The **Sharper Image 2.4-inch digital photo album key chain** makes a great but affordable gift for anyone. At only **\$9.99**, the miniature photo frame allows taking snapshots of favorite memories along anywhere. Available at **Macy's**.



▲ A selection of hand-poured, affordable **soy candles** can be purchased at **Shannon Jean** on Glendale, or online at **shannonjeanlc.com**. More than 150 scents are available and customers can wait while the candles are poured. Prices start at **\$1.50** each for a 1.5 ounce candle. The store also has do-it-yourself candle kits for **\$10**.



▲ The **\$6.47 Fringe Joy porcelain tea mug** with strainer from **Barnes & Noble** will keep anyone toasty. The festive 12-ounce cup is dishwasher and microwave safe.

▲ The patriotic cook will enjoy this **oven mitt (\$9.95)** and matching **pot holder (\$7.95)** from **Williams-Sonoma**. These handy quilted, cotton-lined kitchen items are made in America and are machine washable.

