



HOLIDAY COUNTDOWN

WHAT TO BUY

TICKETS FOR CHRISTMAS



Cedar Point season pass — The thrill seeker on your list will be quite pleased to see a Cedar Point gift card appear in their stocking. The Sandusky roller coaster haven has been voted the best amusement park in the world for the 15th straight year. New this season will be a ride called the GateKeeper, which will be the tallest and longest wing roller coaster in the world. Season passes, including platinum passes, are available. **For more info go to cedarpoint.com or call 419-627-2350. Single day tickets are \$29.99 (juniors and seniors) to \$54.99 (adults at the gate). The season passes range from \$74.99 (juniors and seniors) up to \$169 (platinum pass).**



Both the Ohio and Michigan lotteries offer scratch off tickets priced from \$1 to \$20 in various forms. But if you're in the holiday spirit, how can you ignore \$1 scratchers such as Comet Cash, Dasher Dollars, Blitzen Bucks, and Rudolph Riches from the Ohio lottery? Michigan gets festive with Holiday Millions, Nutcracker Cash, Silver Bells, and Holiday Treats. Perfect as stocking stuffers or gift exchanges. If they win big maybe they'll share. **Available at most convenience stores and gas stations.**

— By Mark Monroe
Blade Staff Writer

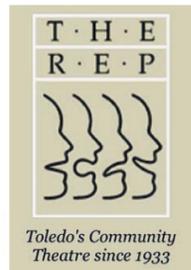


UT/BG men's and women's basketball games — If hoops are a favorite pastime, tickets to some great college basketball games may be the ticket this holiday season. Single game and partial plans are available for the University of Toledo and Bowling Green State University men's and women's basketball games. **The Rockets offer a \$59 ultimate fan plan. The Falcons offer a three-game flex plan for \$45. For a full schedule and ticket info go to: utrockets.com or call 419-530-4653. For BGSU call 877-BGSU TICKET or bgsufalcons.com. Cost: \$6 up to \$25 for single game tickets.**

Stranahan Theater and Great Hall — There's a large variety of live entertainment at this venue that could be just the right ticket. Upcoming shows include comic Lewis Black, rock group Matchbox 20, Irish musical production Lord of the Dance, and the musical Mary Poppins. **Info on tickets, which range from \$28 to \$75, is available at stranahantheater.org or 419-381-8851.**



Connxtions Comedy Club — How about bringing in the New Year with a night full of belly laughs? The South Toledo comedy club is offering a New Year's Eve Dinner Show with the comedy of Alex Ortiz. The show includes prime rib dinner buffet, reserved seating, party favors, and door prizes. Shows are at 7:30 and 10:30 p.m. Ortiz is known as the bad boy of comedy and is a three-time winner of Showtime at the Apollo. Gift certificates, including a "Laugh Package for Two," and special group outing packages also are available. **More info online at connxtionscomedyclub.com or at 419-867-9041. Tickets for Friday and Saturday shows \$12-\$15. New Year's Eve shows \$59 and \$39. Laugh packages-two tickets for \$25.**



Toledo Repertory Theater — A night out to take in some live theater might warm up a special person on your list. The Rep has served up community theater since 1933. Upcoming shows include *The Fox on the Fairway* (a comedy filled with high jinks) in January and the classic *Death of a Salesman* (Arthur Miller's 1949 Pulitzer Prize winning drama) in April. **Individual, group and season ticket packages are on sale at 419-243-9277 or online at toledorep.org. Adult: \$20; Senior: \$18; Children 13 and above: \$10; Children 12 and under: \$5. Other local theater performances include *The Village Players* at thevillageplayers.org. Their next production is *The Dinner Party* running January 11-26, 2013. Tickets are \$16 for adults, \$14 for students and seniors.**

Huntington Center — The downtown arena offers a whole host of entertainment for nearly anyone on your list. Youngsters can enjoy the basketball antics of the world famous Globetrotters. Fans of all ages will be in awe at the Monster Jam in March when 12-foot tall, 10,000-pound monster trucks rip up a track full of obstacles. Music lovers can see superstar Carrie Underwood in May as the Country music singer continues her "Blown Away Tour." **Tickets are available by phone at 800-745-3000 or online at ticketmaster.com. Tickets: Globetrotters (\$30.65-\$111.75); Monster Jam (\$31.80-\$52.20); Underwood (\$53.05-\$74.75).**



Valentine Theatre — From a fairy tale story ballet, a jazz tribute, a string quartet, a children's musical adventure, and an acclaimed acappella ensemble, the downtown theater has plenty of ticket options. *Swan Lake* presented by The National Russian Ballet Theatre kicks things off, followed by the Toledo Jazz Orchestra's An Evening With Duke Ellington, and the Kronos Quartet. Then the children's series How I Became a Pirate is next, followed by Sweet Honey in the Rock to end the month. **Specific dates can be found at valentinetheatre.com or 419-242-2787. Tickets range from \$14.50-\$50.**

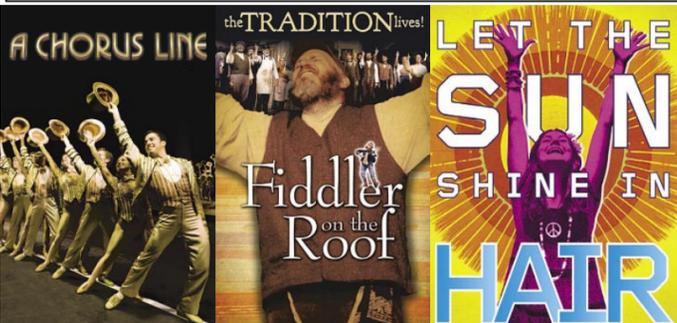


Toledo Museum of Art — Friends or family on your gift list might enjoy a trip to view the only showing in the United States of the 'Manet: Portraying Life' exhibit that runs through January 1, 2013 at the Toledo Museum of Art, 2445 Monroe Street. **Admission is \$8 for ages 23 through 64, \$5 for others, and no charge for children 5 and younger. If you want to give them two gifts in one, a combination ticket to the Manet exhibit and the Made in Hollywood photo exhibit is \$12. Museum members, get in free, so do some sleuthing to see if they belong.**



Imagination Station — Treat the whole family to a day of mind-expanding fun at Imagination Station on Summit Street in downtown Toledo. One of their special exhibits, 'Sesame Street Presents: The Body' runs through Jan. 27, 2013. Geared especially to younger children, the interactive exhibit teaches about healthful lifestyles, and the outsides and insides of the body. **Admission is \$9.50 for those 13 and older, \$7.50 for youth age 3-12, and \$8.50 for seniors 65 and older. Children under 2 are free. Also: Imagination Station offers gift memberships. For more information go to imaginationstation-toledo.org or call 419-244-2674.**

Prices subject to change during season.



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