



# HOLIDAY COUNTDOWN

WHAT TO BUY

# LAST-MINUTE GIFT IDEAS



▲ **Netflix or Hulu Plus subscriptions** — Have a TV buff on your list? Both streaming services are fairly inexpensive — \$7.99 a month — and would make a great gift. Sign up online at [netflix.com](http://netflix.com) or [hulu.com/plus](http://hulu.com/plus). And the Internet is open 24-7.

▲ **Alcohol** — Unless your last-minute gift recipient doesn't enjoy a glass of wine, or isn't 21, you'll find something to take home at **Joseph's Beverage Center, 4129 Talmadge Rd.**, which is open until 6 p.m. Christmas Eve. Plus, with an extra beer or cocktail, maybe you'll get Aunt Virginia to do the Macarena.



▲ **Headphones** — You need headphones for just about everything, it seems, and they're so easy to lose. Never hurts to have an extra pair. Plus, the larger sets are all the rage. A variety of colors, sizes, and brands are for sale at **The Anderson's** — where you can pretty much buy anything you can imagine, at least until they close at 5 p.m. on Christmas Eve. Coby headphones, \$9.99.

**Y**ou did it again, didn't you? Even though I'm pretty sure last year you said, "I'm never waiting until the last minute to do my Christmas shopping again." Nothing you can do about it now. I mean, I get it. You're busy. Don't worry — we've got your back.

— Taylor Dungen  
Blade Staff Writer



▲ **Health and beauty products** — Stores like Rite Aid carry a variety of fun, easy gifts — like lotions, nail polish, perfumes, and colognes. **Burberry** for men sells for \$39.99; **Viva la Juicy**, by Juicy Couture, retails for \$28.99-\$43.99. Rite Aid also sells board games, toys, coloring books, and Snuggie blankets. Local stores are open until 9 p.m.



▲ **Hollywood-inspired accessories** — **Hollywood Casino** doesn't shut down, not even for a big guy in a red suit. Swing by the gift store, which will remain open for the holidays, and pick up a purse or nice-looking watch. Prices range, but watches and clutches sell for \$10. Gift cards are also available.



▲ **Gift cards** — Grocery stores and gas stations make it so easy to be a last-minute shopper. You can run in, grab a bunch of gift cards to everyone's favorite stores — or something like a prepaid Visa — and call it a day.

▲ **Sporting event tickets** — Visit any team's Web site and you can probably buy tickets for a game. Snag some good Walleye seats, or maybe tickets to a Cavs game in Cleveland or the Pistons at home in Detroit. Bonus: you can usually print the tickets at home.



▲ **Winter wear** — What woman couldn't use another scarf and what kid can have too many adorable frog hats? Kroger has an array of reasonably priced scarves, gloves, and hats. The scarves cost \$6.99; this frog hat retails for \$15.99. Local **Kroger** stores will be open until 6 p.m. on Christmas Eve.

▲ **Lottery tickets** — Buy the scratch-off variety from any gas station and maybe your recipient will get lucky. And, heck, maybe they'll show you some gratitude and float a few bucks your way when they strike it rich.



▲ **Cold, hard cash** — The beautiful thing about ATMs is that you can access one around the clock. Just don't overdraw your account. This stocking stuffer can't miss and won't need to be returned because it doesn't fit.

Prices subject to change