

# Arts & Entertainment

## Holiday shopping is bearable again

To discover the glory of online Christmas shopping is to uncover the serene quiet of a cabin a million miles from nowhere.

In the holiday rush, there is one thing that has kept me sane. That is, spending money without all the aggravation.

As a self-proclaimed Grinch, I attest that shopping in the weeks that follow Thanksgiving and lead up to Christmas is frustrating if not hellacious, and enough to

drive the jolliest of humans mad.

Each year it starts on "Black Friday," when people wake up at 4 a.m. and stand in lines that wrap around parking lots, in blizzards with five-foot snow drifts to buy \$99 plasma screen TVs. Sardine madness in stores last through Christmas, where presents are torn into.

For the next few weeks the saga continues. The meticulously-purchased

### You Think?



By Pasha Carroll

presents are exchanged for smaller sizes, brighter colors or more savvy styles.

'Tis' the season for crowds thicker than bour-

bon infused eggnog, for women more competitive than a 40-year-old bachelorette at the flower tossing part of a wedding reception and for irate fathers stowed away in the hardware section of Sears.

As the days tick steadily to Dec. 25, coupons fly and plastic burns.

It is enough to break the most technologically advanced cash register and leave you in a half-a-mile long line behind mothers of seven getting it

done in a day and last minute lovers contemplating personal gifts.

But I (and many others according to booming online sales) outsmarted them all.

This year I found refuge from the madness at the best shopping mall (and I despise shopping malls) ever, the World Wide Web.

I have ordered a thing or

Please see **Shopping** Page D9

## It's all a son in prison could do to help

This week's smile is a two-fer sent in by Tony Montabana, Crestview.

Two Wal-Mart greeters were sitting at the entrance to the store, side by side. One greeter says to the other, "Slim, I'm 73 and am full of aches and pains. I know you are about my age. How do you feel?"

Slim replies, "I feel like a newborn baby."

The first one replies,

"You feel like a newborn baby."

Slim say, "Yep, no hair, no teeth, and I think I just wet my pants."

\*\*\*\*

An older guy living alone on his farm wrote to his only son, Dudley, in prison.

"Dear Dudley, I'm feeling pretty badly. It looks like I won't be able to plant my garden this year. I'm getting too old to be dig-



ging up a new plot of ground. Wish you were here — I know you would take care of it for me.

Love, Dad."

About a week later, the farmer received a letter saying, "Dear Dad, don't dig up the garden. That's where I buried the bodies. Love, Dudley."

(Dudley knew the prison officials always read everyone's mail.)

The next morning the F.B.I. stormed the farmer's property and dug up the entire garden area.

They didn't find any

bodies; apologized to the old farmer and left.

Soon the farmer received another letter. "Dear Dad, go ahead and plant your garden now. It was the best I could do under the circumstances."

Heard a good one lately? Send it to The Sun and we'll let you tell it to all our readers. E-mail to [sunnews@link.freedom.com](mailto:sunnews@link.freedom.com), or U.S. mail to P.O. Box 2363, Santa Rosa Beach FL 32459.

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### H TO K AND VICE VERSA

By Alan P. Olschwang, Huntington Beach, California

- |   |  |                                 |                                |
|---|--|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>ACROSS</b>                           | 70 Synchronized                        | 1 Former sovereign of Iran      | 59 Serpent's so long?          |
| 1 Equal exchange                        | 72 Station from Tenn.                  | 2 Diminish                      | 61 Irish dramatist Brendan     |
| 5 Fruity drinks                         | 73 Was conspicuous                     | 3 Bohemian                      | 63 Can. prov.                  |
| 9 Blue-dye plants                       | 77 Dormant                             | 4 Ant                           | 66 Lang. course                |
| 14 Guitar adjuncts                      | 79 French heads                        | 5 Shape of fashion              | 67 Stag attendees              |
| 19 Spy Mata                             | 83 Organisms requiring oxygen          | 6 "Mack the Knife" singer       | 69 Sadness                     |
| 20 Magma on the surface                 | 84 Word after A or Asia                | 7 Dissipate like vapor          | 71 Tranquil                    |
| 21 Homegrown                            | 85 "William Tell" composer             | 8 Without in Bordeaux           | 73 Hangs down                  |
| 22 Make ends meet                       | 87 Dazzlingly bright                   | 9 Calls to arms                 | 74 Phone or port opener        |
| 23 Aardvark's lunch                     | 88 Curvy molding                       | 10 Fastball pitcher             | 75 Algerian port               |
| 24 Teheran's place                      | 90 Surveillance, shortly               | 11 PC image                     | 76 G.I. entertainers           |
| 25 Separate                             | 92 Soak up some rays                   | 12 Round Table knight           | 78 Disney sci-fi movie         |
| 26 Altercation                          | 93 Intuits                             | 13 Pipe fitting                 | 80 Book before Philemon        |
| 27 Policy hawk's call?                  | 95 Highlands miss                      | 14 Vintner's special offerings? | 81 Make law                    |
| 30 Calvin of fashion                    | 97 The Four Lads call for cleanliness? | 15 One of the Astaires          | 82 Bathroom fixtures           |
| 31 Goodnight girl                       | 100 Kind of rights                     | 16 Eucharist plate              | 84 Malicious                   |
| 32 Dawn's early light                   | 102 Hammerhead end                     | 17 Of the eyes                  | 86 Lennon's love               |
| 33 Outward sign                         | 104 Bridge positions                   | 18 Director Oliver              | 89 Sword lily                  |
| 35 Ghana's capital                      | 105 Premature or late, e.g.            | 28 Island off Galway            | 91 Plot secretly               |
| 38 Swindle                              | 109 Fa follower                        | 29 Dos Passos opus              | 94 Totality                    |
| 40 Bursera resin                        | 110 Mote                               | 34 Little devil                 | 96 Cuddled in public           |
| 41 Johann Sebastian in his early years? | 113 Approaches                         | 35 "___ Dei"                    | 98 Part of M.I.T.              |
| 44 Piece for one instrument             | 114 Portable pasta program?            | 36 French pancake               | 99 Invents                     |
| 46 David's poetry                       | 120 Nocturnal primate                  | 37 Breath mints                 | 101 Highway divider            |
| 51 Saul's uncle                         | 121 Dubuque resident                   | 39 Styx ferryman                | 103 Reindeer tender?           |
| 52 Geometric measures                   | 122 Fey of "SNL"                       | 40 North Carolina university    | 105 Channel opening            |
| 54 Planters                             | 123 Fly high                           | 42 Scrooge word                 | 106 Convicted Helmsley         |
| 56 Canadian tribe members               | 124 Author Madeline L'___              | 43 Comic Johnson of "Laugh-In"  | 107 Colossal                   |
| 57 Rigidly conventional                 | 125 Flying wings                       | 45 Switchboard overseer         | 108 Tremulous sound            |
| 60 Entertainer Blades                   | 126 Desertlike                         | 47 Francis and Dahl             | 109 Ray                        |
| 62 Radiator additive                    | 127 Jamaican fruit export              | 48 Be inclined?                 | 111 Word with attack or button |
| 64 CNN newsmen                          | 128 Asian weights                      | 49 Patch up                     | 112 Old oath                   |
| 65 Ladder toter, perhaps                | 129 Designated                         | 50 Former fast flyers           | 115 Did laps                   |
| 67 Subtraction starters                 | 130 Gumshoes                           | 53 Provisions                   | 116 ERA or RBI, e.g.           |
| 68 Part of DJIA                         | 131 D.C. old-timers                    | 55 Fi predecessor               | 117 Kind of order              |
|   | <b>DOWN</b>                            | 58 Not outside                  | 118 Kind of tale               |
|   |  |                                 | 119 Eye part                   |

### THE Saturday Crossword

Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

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# Arts & Entertainment

## See a foreign film at the community center

All events listed will be at the Destin Community Center, Stahlman Avenue, one block north of U.S. Highway 98 in Destin, unless otherwise noted. Brochures detailing all the programs are available at the community center. For registration or information, call (850) 654-5184. Prices listed are for resident/non resident.

### ONGOING

- Aerobics, low impact, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 9:15 - 10:15 a.m. Take water and towel. \$3
- Duplicate Bridge, Mondays and Thursdays, 9:30 a.m. \$4 per session, no partner needed.
- Chess Club meets Mondays, 5 p.m., Buck Destin Park. (850) 543-4973
- Destin Woman's Club meets second Wednesday of each month, September - June. Sherry at (850) 837-2933 or visit [www.destin-womansclub.org](http://www.destin-womansclub.org).

- Destin Seniors meet Mondays, 9:30 a.m.
- Intermediate Party Bridge, Buck Destin Park, Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:45 p.m. Sue Goetz at (850) 837-1967
- Jazzercise classes, Mondays and Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m., and Thursdays at 5:45 p.m.
- Oil painting in Bob Ross method, \$35, plus supplies. Thursdays, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., canvas \$10, supplies \$10.
- Single Moms of the Emerald Coast meet third Saturday of each month at various locations. No charge. (850) 855-9839 or [singlemomsec@yahoo.com](mailto:singlemomsec@yahoo.com)
- Spanish classes for adults, Mondays, at 4, 5 and 6 p.m. (850) 682-0886.
- Tai Chi, Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m.

### DESTIN CALENDAR

- Volleyball for adults, Pick up games 6 - 9 p.m., Wednesdays. \$2 - non-residents
  - Walk to music in the gym, 8 - 9 a.m., Monday - Friday.
  - Woodcarving - Coastal Wood Carvers meet Fridays, 9 a.m. - noon. \$3. Instruction, ideas and first block of wood free.
  - Yoga classes, Tuesdays, 9 a.m., \$10 per class, open to beginners and advanced. Bring mat and props. Adrienne, (850) 685-7758
- ONGOING FOR KIDS**
- Ballet classes, Wednesdays, 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. for ages 3 - 5, and from 10:30 - 11:15 a.m. for ages 5 and

- up. \$30 per month.
- Baton twirling classes, Thursday nights, 5:30 - 6 p.m., K - 2nd grade and 6 - 6:30 for 3rd - 6th grade. \$25/month, batons available for \$24. Diane Gamble-Gordon (850) 897-6014
- Cuddlers & Toddlers, for 4 months - 4 years at library, Thursdays 9:30 a.m. and Tuesdays 3 p.m.
- Funky Dance Class, 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. for ages 8 and up. \$10/class or \$35/month.
- Game Room open to ages 10 and older, Monday - Friday, noon - 9 p.m. Children under 10 must be accompanied by an adult. Ping pong, pool, foosball, basketball.
- Kidz Klub, after school hang out M-F until 5:30 p.m. \$10/residents, \$20/non-residents.
- Spanish for children ages 2 - 12, 9 - 10 a.m. Des-

- tin Language Academy, (850) 682-0886 or [www.DestinLA.com](http://www.DestinLA.com) for dates and times.
- Stage Performers, ages 4 - 18, Tuesdays, 4 p.m. Music class that teaches children to sing and dance
- Tap Dance, 4:30 - 5:30 p.m., Mondays, ages 11 - 15.
- Dec. 31 - Harbor lights fireworks cruise, Destin Harbor. (850) 837-6241
- Friends Guild of Destin Library sponsors award-winning independent and foreign films each second Tuesday, 7 p.m. Free and open to public. Films are unrated but directed to mature audiences. Limited to 60 people. Ticket required, available at library circulation desk one week prior to showing. (850) 837-8572

## Shopping

Continued from Page D8

two online in my day; a pair of shoes here, a baguette there, office furniture and a slipcover for my couch. It crossed my mind to skip my traditional manic shopping sprint on Dec. 24

last year and shop on the Internet. But I succumbed to carrying paper bags from store to store. Then I worried about boxing, wrapping and getting all gifts to their destinations. But this year it was pleasantly easy. I shopped in my PJs by the fireplace in the comfort of my very own apartment.

All my gifts came in their very own gift boxes. Out of town packages were shipped directly to their recipients. After packages to my own home were delivered, separated, rewrapped and donned with a card and bow, they went under the tree. And I even had time to relax and enjoy the

wrapping. I enjoyed browsing various pages, shopping around from store to store, and taking my time when choosing a perfect gift. I felt like I discovered a hidden jewel, a secret that is bound to somehow clog Web shopping when discovered by the masses. The holiday season with

the Internet has been this Scrooge's Ghost of Christmas Present, as it let me feel the real joys of the holidays, without all the pressure of buggy pushers and headaches from perfume counter women. Pasha Carroll lives in Atlanta, Ga. She can be reached at [pashacarroll@gmail.com](mailto:pashacarroll@gmail.com).

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## water·color·market



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