

What's hot this holiday season for last minute gifts

Procrastinators beware. Scant few days remain until the gong sounds for Christmas morning. A perennial problem for those who wait until the last minute to do their shopping is the age-old question of what to buy. A check with local businesses came up with suggestions for last-minute gifts and stocking stuffers in the annual race to December 25th.

Each Christmas season it seems as if some new toy comes out that is on every child's wish-list. This year is no exception. KayBee Toys in the Cleveland Mall reports a rush, make that stampede, on Furby dolls. Other toys reported as popular include Teletubbies, yo-yos, "virtual" electronic pets, and any type of video game.

As NASCAR stock car racing continues to grow, so do the items available for fans. Mountain Motorsports in Kings Mountain has gifts for racing enthusiasts that includes key chains, t-shirts, stickers, cards, and 1/64 scale models in all the favorite drivers and cars.

For the sportsperson on your shopping list, SageSport in Cleveland mall says that miniature footballs, key chains, teddy bears and shot glasses with sports team logos are good giving suggestions. For the active, hiking socks and skiing accessories are always appreciated.

Golfers have had plenty of fine weather to practice their art this fall. Golfers Choice in Kings Mountain suggests tees, club head covers, hand towels,

and sleeves of golf balls for stocking stuffers. Clothing gifts for golfers can include wind jackets and hats.

Currently enjoying a resurgence in popularity, cigars and cigar accessories make classy gifts. Tobacco Road Smoke Shop in Shelby says that cigar cases, cutters, lighters, pouches, and of course stogies make good stocking stuffers.

For do it yourself auto mechanics, City Auto Parts in Kings Mountain recommends small tool sets in the \$10-20 dollar range. Flashlights and basic roadside emergency kits also make good gifts that would be greatly appreciated on a dark and stormy night.

Rumor has it that Santa Claus rides a motorcycle from time to time. For the cyclist in the family, Honda of Shelby suggests goggles and gloves as good last minute gifts. Motorbiking stocking stuffers could include chain lube, cleansers, and oil filters.

What would Christmas be

without some new CDs? Sound Shop reports that the top five CDs this season are by Jewel in the rock category, Method Man in rap, Garth Brooks for country fans, and gospel singer Kirk Franklin.

It's still not too cold to tend the yard and garden this season. Shelby Nursery and Garden Center says that attracting birds to the winter garden is a good way to beat the blahs. To this end, they recommend bird baths, bird feeders, suet cakes, and even trickling water fountains as gifts for nature lovers.

In the old days, a trip to the hardware store was always a part of every Christmas shopping season. A bit of that old time feeling can still be had by browsing a well stock hardware. In Kings Mountain, Bridges Hardware says that good stocking stuffers and last minute gifts could include lighted screwdrivers, pocket knives, genuine Blenheim Ginger Ale, die cast Volkswagen model cars, and even a pair of old

timey overalls.

Books and winter days go together. For curling up on the sofa or in a sunny corner this season, Waldenbooks in Cleveland Mall reports several new titles as hot sellers. Just a few of these include "Bag of Bones" by Stephen King, "Century" by Peter Jennings, and "For Love of the Game" by Michael Jordan.

Once a novelty, home computers have become a way of life now. Media Play in Gastonia suggests any type of computer games as excellent last minute gift. Other currently popular electronic gift items include laser pointers, hand-held organizers, and pagers.

As the days to Christmas dwindle, there's no need to panic if your shopping isn't complete. Hopefully, the gift selections on this list will be what someone is looking for, or will spark an idea for some other present. So, put on your Santa hat, crank up the car, and hit the stores before that red sleigh comes into sight.

Many Unique Gift Ideas

- Ornaments • Snowmen • Santas
- Angels • Table Top Items
- Gourmet Candy • Picture Frames
- Flags • Doormats • Pillows
- Gardner's Delight

Christmas Trees
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Fraser Fir Wreaths
Plain and Mixed



NURSERY & ARBORETUM
1/2 Mile from Doctor's Park on N. Lafayette St.
Hours Nov. 29th thru Dec. 20th
Mon.-Sat. 8:30-5 Sunday 1-5



482-2224



Web Watch

(NAPS)—For great holiday recipes, visit the Nestlé Toll House website at www.tollhouse.com.

To learn about taking computer courses on the web, see Street Technologies at <http://www.theanswercenter.com>—its catalog features more than 150 titles to consider.

Simple solutions to holiday garment care dilemmas can be found on the Rowenta web site at www.rowentausa.com.



FOR HOLIDAY SHOPPERS—Christy Sluder (front), a customer service specialist at Eckerd's in Mount Holly joins photo lab technician Jennifer Pepper in arranging holiday merchandise. The Mount Holly business sells a lot of small items like gift wrap and cosmetic gift sets during the holiday season. Last-minute shoppers often stop by. According to Ms. Pepper, "8:45 (p.m.) is our famous time."

The Santa & Mrs. Claus You've Been Looking For:



J Scott Studio

2501 E. Ozark Ave./Burton Hills Plaza
Gastonia, N.C. 28054

865-7440

SANTA PACKAGE:

1 - 5X7/ 2 - 4X5

No
Appointment
Necessary

8-wallets
\$14.95

Nov. 3 thru Dec. 23 • 2pm to 9pm Daily



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