

REPORTER

Solano County are you ready for holiday shopping?

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Got your game plan ready?

For Black Friday, that is, billed as the biggest shopping day of the year.

With Thanksgiving turkey in their bellies and Christmas deals on their minds, shoppers in Solano and across the nation are slated to go wild for deals that start as early as Thursday afternoon.

In Vacaville, stores like Best Buy at the Nut Tree will be opening at 6 p.m.

At the Vacaville Premium Outlets, retailers plan to open their doors around the same time while also hosting a "midnight madness" event.

In Fairfield, select stores at Solano Town Center plan an 8 p.m. opening on Thanksgiving night. Check SolanoTownCenter.com for details.

On Friday, the mall will feature a live broadcast by KUIIC from noon-1 p.m. in Center Court and live music by Rocketship Radio during the same time and place. Other activities include American Red Cross Letters to Heroes on the mall's upper level near Sears, Toys for Tots in Center Court and the Salvation Army Angel Tree on the upper level near Forever 2. Kids can also visit with Santa in the Express Court from 10 a.m.-9 p.m.

The local shopping fun continues on Saturday in downtown Vacaville where Small Business Saturday will be marked with specials and gift ideas at more than 40 retail stores throughout the downtown area.

Meanwhile, Walmart officials officially unveiled Black Friday plans Monday at its West Sacramento supercenter, said to be the largest in Northern California.



Busy holiday shoppers make their way through the Vacaville Premium Outlets during last year's holiday shopping season. More are expected this Thursday and Friday as the official launch of the season begins. (Reporter file)

On tap across the Walmart chain -- with stores located in Vacaville, Fairfield and Dixon -- are 21 items guaranteed to be in stock for an hour along with a bevy of hot deals that shoppers will be given wristbands for. If you're in lines marked especially for those deals, spokesman Randy Hargrove said, the wristbands are a way to ensure you get what you came for and still allow you the freedom to roam and shop some more. The goal -- a successful experience for shoppers.

"We'll have toys, we'll have electronics, we'll have video games," he said, ticking off some of the specials. "Everything you can imagine, we'll have."

Special deals are set for 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. Thursday, with other deals scheduled starting Friday.

Among the special items are a 16 gb Apple iPad mini with WiFi for \$299 with a \$100 Walmart gift card, a 32-inch Funai LED 720p HDTV for \$98 and video games such as Assassins Creed, NBA 2K14, Batman and Grand Theft Auto V (Xbox 360 and Playstation 3) for \$34 each.

Unsure what to buy for the youngsters?

Walmart partnered with 1,000 youths in its "Chosen by Kids" program to determine the most wanted toys of the season.

The results -- kids want the VTech Go! Go! Smart Wheels Train Station Playset, Sofia the First Talking Doll and Animal Friends, and the Flutterbye Flying Fairy Doll.

Also tops are the Barbie Dreamhouse, Furby Boom and Elmo, in the form of the new Big Hugs toy.

Whatever you choose, Rene Puentes, store manager of the West Sacramento location, hopes you have a great time shopping.

"This is really an exciting event, this is our Super Bowl," Puentes said. " We're ready to take care of our customers. ... We'll have unbeatable prices and items that won't be matched."