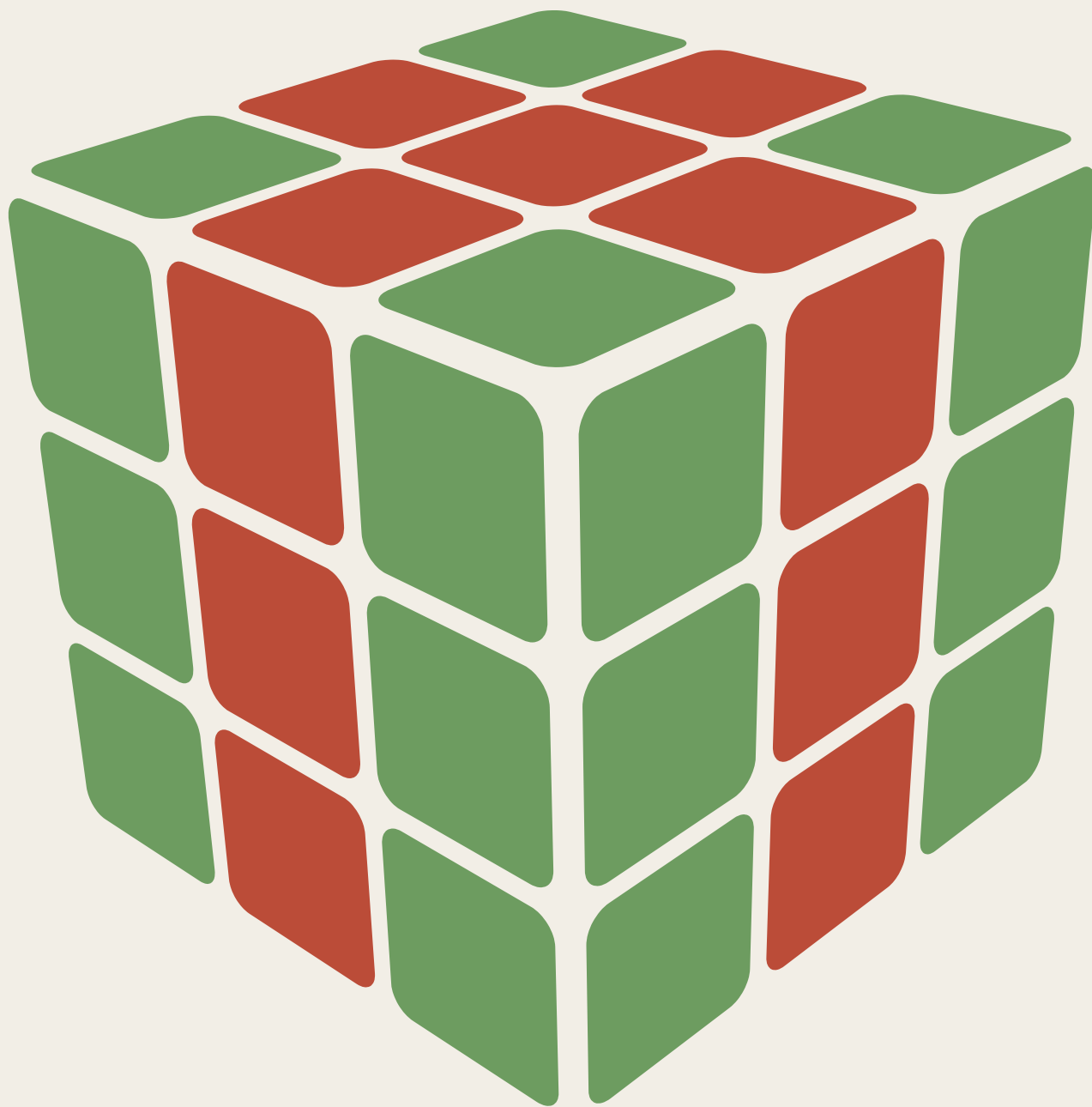


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BUSINESS

MONEY • WORK • KNOW-HOW

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2023 • SECTION D



PUZZLED? LEARN HOW TO SOLVE THE GIFT-GIVING SEASON

Story by GITA SITARAMIAH
Illustration by STEVE ZIMMERMAN
Star Tribune staff

Buy now, pay later can add up quickly

Make sure you have budgeted enough to pay off the bills when due.

By JACKIE VELING
NerdWallet

Shoppers gearing up for the 2023 holiday season won't have to look hard for a convenient way to pay for all those presents.

"Buy now, pay later," a type of payment plan that divides the total cost of your purchase into smaller installments, is offered at most major retailers, including Walmart, Target and Amazon.

The option is expected to fuel \$17 billion in online holiday spending this year — up almost 17% from 2022

— according to forecast data from Adobe Analytics, an analytics and measurement tool from software company Adobe.

The short application, immediate approval decision and no hard credit check can make buy now, pay later seem like a no-brainer financing option, but experts say it's risky. Ask yourself these questions before opting in.

Do I need to pay interest?

While most shoppers will encounter zero-interest pay-in-four plans — which divide the cost of your purchase into four equal installments with the first due at checkout, and the remaining three due every two weeks —

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Gianna Kordatzky hates the thought of well-intentioned gifts gathering dust in the days and months after Christmas morning. As the mother of four with two dogs and a 1½-story New Brighton house with limited storage space, she's honed her giving strategy when it comes to her teenagers. Kordatzky, co-owner of the Family Fun Twin Cities website, which offers experiential ideas for parents, will give each of her kids a book she knows they'll like and one game as a group present they can do together. Her socks and underwear stocking stuffers are the annual family joke. "It's more about the fun of the opening of the gifts and filling in what's needed for their lives rather than adding more things to their lives," she said.

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Holiday spending can bring anxiety

Here's some new advice for a more affordable gift-giving season.

By MICHELLE SINGLETARY
Washington Post

This is the season when spending is celebrated.

It's the season of giving, but it can be unforgiving. Expectations are high for you to demonstrate you care by packaging your love in a pretty box or gift bag.

I get asked all the time how to pull back during the holidays when money is tight or a job situation is tenuous.

Federal workers have been living under the threat of a shutdown for weeks — as have those whose busi-

nesses and income are tied to a functioning government. Even if a shutdown is averted, the relief is only temporary because our highly divided Congress all but ensures there will be a next time.

Despite the waning inflation, companies are still shedding jobs.

Last month, LinkedIn announced it would lay off 668 employees, or about 3% of its staff. This month, Nextdoor, a neighborhood network company, announced it was cutting 25% of its workforce, while automaker Stellantis said it would offer buy-outs or early retirement packages to about 6,400 nonunion U.S. salaried employees.

My employer has offered

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