

## South Carolina Editorial Roundup

Times and Democrat, Orangeburg, South Carolina, on holiday shopping:

The most recent Winthrop Poll indicates that South Carolinians' holiday spending habits are going to be a reflection of their beliefs in the economy. Many say times are better and are going to get better still, but nearly an equal number see times getting worse.

More than half (51.8 percent) see national economic conditions getting better, while 42.3 foresee worse times ...

All in all, that's not a bad forecast for retailers in a state where economic recovery is slower than the national pace. Winthrop Poll findings show South Carolinians remain concerned with jobs/unemployment, identified as the most important problem facing the Palmetto State (16.7 percent), with the economy third (12 percent).

By extension, South Carolinians will be looking to stretch their dollars as far as possible while making the most of Christmas giving and holiday-related expenditures.

With the biggest shopping days of the season ahead this week and into next, Donna Skeels Cygan, author of "The Joy of Financial Security: The art and science of becoming happier, managing your money wisely, and creating a secure financial future," ([joyoffinancialsecurity.com](http://joyoffinancialsecurity.com)), has seven questions for you to ask yourself about your holiday spending habits.

— Do I believe that the amount I spend on gifts reflects on me as a person? ..

— Am I living my values when I overspend? How often have you filled your shopping cart with piles of gifts just because it's what the neighbors are doing or you find an irresistible sale?

— Am I a victim of the instant gratification "epidemic"? In a world of fast food, two-day shipping, video streaming and 24-hour online shopping, most of us aren't used to waiting. ...

— Have I considered the joy that financial self-control can bring?

"There are many things in life we can't control, and we need to accept that," Cygan says. "Remember, you control how much you spend, now and throughout the year. You'll find that when you control the controllable and live within your means, you'll feel much more at peace — even if the pile of gifts under the tree is smaller." ...

<http://www.apnewsarchive.com/2014/Summary-of-recent-South-Carolina-newspaper-editorials/id-3a03a034b882471ea6762f621c2f69cf>