Back-to-school shopping season thrown into chaos amid pandemic

Jonathon and Megan Wilhelmy

The back-to-school shopping season, second only to the holiday season in terms of consumer spending, has been thrown into uncertainty by the effects of the pandemic. As parents and educators plan for the future of education, the back-to-school season will be all the more challenging.

It is the most challenging time in history for back-to-school shopping, said Scott Flintridge, managing director of strategic merchandise planning. "There is no strategy for the back-to-school season. It is an even more challenging time for parents and educators."

With the pandemic, "back-to-school shopping is a necessity," said Flintridge. "Parents need to ensure their children have the tools they need to succeed."

The back-to-school season is critical for the economy, as it is a significant contributor to overall consumer spending. With uncertainty surrounding the future of education, parents and educators are looking for ways to prepare for the fall.

"We need to be ready for the fall," said Flintridge. "Parents need to prepare for the fall, which means they need to be ready for the back-to-school season."

For more information on back-to-school shopping, visit our website.
**Obituaries**

**Dean R. White**

**OAK RIDGE** - Dean Robert White, aged 79, of Oak Ridge, died Monday, July 22, 2013, at his home. He was born in Green Bay, Wis., on September 17, 1933, son of the late Robert W. and Elma (nee Janeau) White. He graduated from Green Bay Preble Senior High School in 1951, and received a degree in chemistry from the University of Wisconsin in 1955. He served in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War. He was a member of the American Chemical Society, the American Institute of Chemists, and the American Association of University Professors. He was a chemistry professor at Oak Ridge National Laboratory for 25 years. He is survived by his wife, Ruth (nee Mainer), to whom he was married for 54 years; two sons, Robert E. White of Oak Ridge and Michael D. White of Maryville; and three grandchildren, Katherine, Megan, and John. Services will be held at the Oak Ridge Valley Baptist Church on July 25, 2013, at 2 p.m. Interment will follow in the Green Hill Memorial Gardens. Contributions may be made to the American Heart Association or the American Cancer Society.

**David Adams**

**Digger's** - David Charles Adams, 82, of Oak Ridge, died Thursday, July 18, 2013, at Methodist Healthcare Oak Ridge. He was born in Knoxville, Tenn., on January 25, 1931, son of the late Navytta and Earl Adams. He was a retired postal worker with the U.S. Postal Service. He is survived by his wife, Alva; one son, Ron (Sue) Adams of Maryville; one daughter, Sherry (Joe) Fouts of Oak Ridge; six grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. Services will be held at the Wilson Funeral Home on July 20, 2013, at 2 p.m. Interment will follow in the Oak Ridge Valley Memorial Gardens. Contributions may be made to the American Diabetes Association.