Retailers meet same-day delivery demands

By DAVID Rienecker

NEW YORK — A protracted holiday season won't come as a surprise to online shoppers this year. Amazon, Target, Macy’s and other retailers are offering speedier delivery including overnight and same-day options that will continue even past the holidays. The trend for faster shipping isn’t new, but it’s become more critical this year as shoppers who have become more used to fast delivery in the courtroom, it’s not enough to get fewer groans, they want the deepest discounts. And when it comes to ordering online, they don’t need to be shipped fast!

“Today, I’m not even sure what anything means anymore,” said a 47-year-old mother of two who shops in Park City, Utah. “If I see something and it works, I’ll buy it. Don’t ask me what I want. I don’t know what I want. I just want it.”

Ricardo Sandoval sorts packages at an Amazon.com center in Phoenix on Nov. 11, 2010. Merchants are working to make same-day delivery a reality, particularly in major cities — from Amazon testing delivery visits to Target and Google expanding their same-day delivery services.

Time needed to train staffers long before holiday season

By JOYCE M. ROSENBERG

NEW YORK — Chris Mann got up at 4 a.m. on Thanksgiving Day to help the New York Police Department with its annual holiday parade. He then worked for 10 hours straight and finished his assignments by 2 a.m. the next day. By 2 p.m. on Friday, he had started his second shift as a seasonal worker at a large fast-food chain in Manhattan. That required well-organized hiring for the influx of workers who look like they won’t be there for very long.

“Some jobs, you know, you get the job not likely to lead to your retirement employment,” said the owner of Unicorn Goods, an online retailer of clothing and home goods, bringing in another wave of prospective suburbanites and key to weed out anyone who isn’t a good fit. Finding staffers is complicated by the location of his business. Unicorn Goods is based in the New York City Borough of Brooklyn, and some geographically good workers would rather work in the Manhattan, which is where the company is located.

“The mountain to climb isn’t as steep as most people think,” said a 57-year-old man who works as a seasonal worker in Raleigh, N.C. “It really depends on the orders.”

Macy’s, Target and others offering speedy holiday shipping options

By MAE ANDERSON

SALINA JOURNAL

Seeking the right fit

Some small businesses are finding that hiring for the holidays is complicated by the location of their stores or their smaller hiring sizes. Amazon is often closer to customers’ homes than a warehouse. Target spokesperson Kodi Brown said that shipping in half an hour was still a challenge, when it comes to making operations mini-mart-to-shoppers.

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mark Buff, CEO of Mohu, poses Nov. 21 with stacks of the company’s products. Mohu doubled his staff to 50 for last year's holiday season.

November online spending grew at its fastest pace in several years

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

$61 billion online in November

Shoppers are expected to spend 16 percent of their annual sales. U.S. retailers are forecasting this season is better than last year.

The focus on faster shipping is gaining on large retailers, including overnight and same-day options that will continue even past the holidays. The trend for faster shipping isn’t new, but it’s become more critical this year as shoppers who have become more used to fast delivery in the courtroom, it’s not enough to get fewer groans, they want the deepest discounts. And when it comes to ordering online, they don’t need to be shipped fast!

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