



By Carolyn Lee The Imperial Republican

It's 3:30 p.m. on Friday, which, as everyone SHOULD know, is Valentine's Day, and you haven't a clue. You don't know what to get your significant other, or a parent, or a child. But, you need something.

Luckily, there are many stores in Imperial that cater to the last-minute shopper.

Take, for instance, The Added Touch. Owner Jeri Markee said that until 4 p.m. on Friday you can order a flower arrangement, or just walk in and purchase one until 5 p.m.

She said that although she will tell a male about the 10 different colors of roses she sells, most men will still pick out the red ones.

The Added Touch also has a "nice selection of plants," candle lines, chocolates, balloons and stuffed animals.

M&M's Natural JAZ is offering Valentine heart cookies in red boxes for your favorite someone.

Owner Marcy Nesbitt said if someone wants a personalized cookie, the order should be sent in by noon on Friday.

M&M's is open until 5 p.m., as usual.

Fine Things Jewelry and Gifts is open until 5:30 p.m. Friday, as usual, which is great for those last-minute shoppers.

Owner Merrilyn Leibbrandt suggests stainless steel bracelets, stainless steel cross necklaces, titanium or cobalt chrome wedding bands or animal statuary for the guys.

Her store is full of gifts for women, Leibbrandt said, including diamond earrings or pendants, a variety of sterling silver jewelry with blue inlaid opals or jewelry with black and white stones in 14 karat gold or sterling silver that represents "I love you day and night."

Traveling down the street to Adams Drug, those wanting to give Valentine balloons should let them know 15 minutes prior to pick up. Adams Drug is open until 6 p.m.

The store has a wide variety of Valentine signs, picture frames, plush animals, childrens' clothing and the ever popular Russell Stover candy.

Further down Broadway is Shari's Ceramics and Gifts, which has "red neck" items for the guys and home decor, scarves, jewelry and sweaters for the women.

Out at Alco, there is a wide variety of Valentine candy and candy flowers.

Plush animals, warming candle holders, cards, plus lingerie for the women and cologne for the men are waiting to be purchased. And they're right in the front of the store, where they can be grabbed in an instant.

Seriously, put some thought into a present or gift for your loved ones. As the old saying goes, "It's not the gift, but the thought that counts."