

Happy Thanksgiving

WHY DETROITERS ARE THANKFUL TODAY | THINK, 1B

PARADE BEGINS AT 9:20 A.M.

The Detroit News

Thursday, November 26, 2009

Metro Final



BLACK FRIDAY

Retailer eyes on crowd control

BY JACLYN TROP
The Detroit News

For many shoppers, the day after Thanksgiving means pre-dawn wake-up calls and jaw-dropping deals — as well as parking lot scuffles, line-cutting brawls and aisle-bound elbow jabs.

What's open
Where and when to shop. **20A**

But after last year's Black Friday stampede death of a Wal-Mart employee in New York, retailers in Metro Detroit and across the country are on high alert.

They're taking steps to make the day safer, from extending door-buster sales to handing out tickets for coveted merchandise. Some are staying open all night and reconfiguring store layouts to avoid the customary post-Thanksgiving mad dash.

Black Friday shopping is "a contact sport — no doubt about it," said Michael Bernacchi, University of Detroit Mercy marketing professor.

"Much in the same way that Super Bowl and Olympic crowds are managed, so will this year's Black Friday crowds."

Wal-Mart will open at 6 a.m. today and remain open through Friday night to avoid a customer rush. The world's largest retailer has also developed crowd control plans that will help shoppers move more smoothly through the

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Today's weather **HIGH 43** **LOW 37**

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SAVING A YOUNG WAR HERO



Robin Buckson / The Detroit News

Mohammed Lansing, center, whose real name is kept secret for his safety, plays with Mohammed, left, and Ali Najj, members of his host family. Mohammed is getting medical help in Michigan thanks to Maj. David Howell of Grand Ledge.

Iraqi boy thankful for soldier who cares

BY KIM KOZLOWSKI | The Detroit News

East Lansing

He was a young boy living in Iraq when he caught the eye of a major in the Michigan Army National Guard.

The boy's mother took off his cap and exposed his disfigured head.

"Will you save me?" the boy, then 11, said to Maj. David Howell.

Five months later, Howell got Mohammed a visa, a passport and a commitment from surgeons at Michigan State University that they would help the boy. Mohammed

has since received thousands of dollars in free medical care, giving him a lot to be thankful for during his first Thanksgiving in America. His story is one of both the

gratefulness of a boy and the remarkable commitment of a Michigan National Guardsman, who went off to fight a war and ended up repaying a debt and freeing a child from wounds of his youth. It is also about a boy who has made others feel blessed to have joined his journey.

"Mohammed asked me in plain English, 'Will you save me?'" said Howell, who lives in Grand Ledge and now works as a physician assistant for Flint cardiologists. "I felt an obligation as an American to do something for this family. If I was

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Pontiac reaches end of the line

Once-hot brand that defined era of muscle cars gets low-key goodbye

BY DAVID PHILLIPS
Special to The Detroit News

Orion Township — The ride is over for the brand that put rolling excitement on the road for generations of Americans.

General Motors Co. built the last Pontiac for the U.S. market Wednesday: a white, G6 sedan that rolled off the assembly line in Orion Township around 12:45 p.m.

There was no cake or commemorative banner or senior GM official on hand, and no media were allowed: just a group of "final process" workers to oversee the last 100 G6 models assembled.

"We're focused on a quality build-out for the customer," said GM spokesman Kevin Nadrowski.

Many workers stopped to pose for photos with the last cars as they moved down the assembly line.

It was a subdued goodbye for an 82-year-old brand that debuted under the bright lights of the New York Auto Show in 1926.

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Toyota will fix 4.3M gas pedals

Brake override system to help cut risk of unintended acceleration

BY CHRISTINE TIERNEY AND DAVID SHEPARDSON
The Detroit News

Toyota Motor Corp., under pressure to reduce the risk of unintended acceleration, will introduce a fail-safe measure in its vehicles to make it easier for drivers to slow down.

Toyota said Friday that it would install a brake override system soon in some of the 4.3 million vehicles it is recalling in the United States because of potential uncontrolled acceleration. It plans to equip all of its vehicles with the system in the 2011 model year beginning next fall.

"The safety of our vehicle owners and of the public is of utmost concern to Toyota," said Irv Miller, spokesman for Toyota Motor Sales USA.

Toyota also will reconfigure the gas pedals on the

Please see *Toyota*, Page 31A

Howes: Toyota doesn't look so shiny now. **4B**

Obama to lay out Afghan plan Tuesday

Washington — President Barack Obama is expected to announce an increase of up to 35,000 troops for Afghanistan in a Tuesday night address to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

The additional troops are part of a plan to "finish the job," as Obama said this week, and his announcement will include an exit strategy, said press secretary Robert Gibbs.

NATION & WORLD, 23A

New flu, new habits to allay people's fears

Southfield — As H1N1 flu spreads, people are taking extra precautions in public spaces like gyms and airports.

TODAY'S FOCUS, 26A

President to propose broad emissions cuts

Washington — President

Barack Obama plans to propose widespread greenhouse gas emission cuts at a climate meeting in Copenhagen.

BUSINESS, 4B

Check out (twice) our wish list for car buffs

Detroit News columnist Scott Burgess has gift ideas for auto enthusiasts on your list.

DRIVE, 1C

LIVE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

STAR WARS
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2 SHOWS • 3 & 7:30 PM

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