

# Neighbor

Comics

Caveman gags galore from B.C. will make you smile



— Page 3

## Area students shine as 2008 state scholars

Many Tri-Cities area students have been named as Illinois State Scholars for the class of 2008.

This honor is based on a combination of ACT scores and class rank.

Here is a look at some of them:

**Aurora Central Catholic:** Nicholas Abell, Aurora; Kathleen Allison, Aurora; Stephen Chettiath, Sugar Grove; Alyson Clayton, Aurora; Katherine Connelly, North Aurora; Megan Frey, Aurora; Brittany Giberson, DeKalb; Elizabeth Kottkamp, North Aurora; Stephanie Moore, Aurora; Michelle Palmer, DeKalb; Kelli Schmidt, Montgomery; Anna Scott, Sugar Grove; Matthew Sullivan, Aurora; Melissa Talkington, Aurora.

**Marmion Academy:** Andrew Canning of St. Charles, Henry Carlson of Batavia, Robert Cesario of Aurora, Nicholas Daly of Winfield, Robert Fortier of Geneva, Daniel Garofalo of Aurora, Timothy Handell of Aurora, Christopher Heuman of Aurora. Ryan Hunt of Aurora, Thomas Hymel of Batavia, David Iozzo of Batavia, Edward Leonard of Geneva, Justin Lovelace of North Aurora, Matt McHugh of Batavia, Michael Meszaros of Batavia, Joseph Minardi of Yorkville, Garrett Morales of St. Charles, Michael O'Brien of St. Charles, Richard Peck of St. Charles, Michael Rios of North Aurora, Robert Rodriguez of North Aurora, Gordon Scott of Aurora, William Simon of LaGrange, Joshua Stein of Aurora, Paul Tkach of Geneva, Taylor Weis of Batavia, Brian Weltzer of Sugar Grove and Christopher West of Montgomery.

**Kaneland High School:** Eleni Ajazi, Tyler Larson, Adelina Azemi, Jacquelyn Mathieu, Jenny Bauer, Victoria Mathieu, Alex Blazek, Jennifer Mercado, Steven Boor, Stephan Munyon, Jessica Bruce, Nathan Peters, Dana Bus, Brianna Pitstick, Morgan Butts, Kristin Pitstick, Sarah Carson, Kenneth Poczekaj, Christine Crites, Rebecca Rissman, Ryan Eberle, Miranda Schieve, Christine Gebauer, Megan Shumaker, Holly Hartmann, Jacqueline Smith, Kelsey Hodge, Julia Tockstein, Emily Hopkins, Brian Towell, Spencer Johnson.

**Rosary High School:** Lauren Beall (Sugar Grove), Kathryn Breisch (Batavia), Kaitlin Clark (Geneva), Lauren Contorno (Elburn), Jean Danner (Lisle), Megan Davey (North Aurora), Kelsey Demetralis (Aurora), Alyssa DesRochers (St. Charles), Mary Dunn (Plano), Sarah Dzurik (Oswego), Elizabeth Emanuel (Aurora), Danielle Froehlich (Aurora), Sheila Heaton (Batavia), Kathryn Hebert (Bristol), Molly King (Aurora), Rachel Kluber (Batavia), Melanie Mackeben (Sycamore), Jillian Magee (Oswego), Kathleen McNally (Geneva), Shannon O'Shea (Aurora), Desiree Perez (North Aurora), Nicole Raucci (Batavia), Amanda Roche (Aurora), and Allegra Skurka (Oswego).



The Popcorn Factory in Lake Forest, which made the world's largest popcorn ball (weighing over 3,400 pounds and 8 feet in diameter), is one place you might look for Illinois-produced gifts.

STEVE LUNDY/slundy@dailyherald.com 2006

# Land of Lincoln pride

## Illinois helps you help Santa with food and agribusiness guide

BY SUSAN SARKAUSKAS  
 ssarkauskas@dailyherald.com

A sweater? Nice. (Yawn).  
 An ornament? Thank you. (Stifled yawn.)

Looking for something better?

How about Cafe Louisiane Hotter n' Hell hot sauce, Charlie Trotter-brand sauces and marinades, butter made from Illinois-grown pumpkins, sausage made in Hampshire, or organic herbal shampoos?

You can shop for Christmas and support Illinois businesses at the same time thanks to the new "Food and Agribusiness Guide" published by the Illinois Department of Agriculture.

The online guide lists more than 130 Illinois companies that sell food and personal-care items, as individual products or in gift baskets or gift sets.

One example is the almond butter and dark chocolate fair-trade coffee set from Futter's Nut Butters of Hawthorn Woods.

"It's a real different kind of thing," because of the gift's nutritional value, said Jody Futterman, owner. The almond butter is good for your heart, with cholesterol-lowering properties. The dark chocolate

is high in antioxidants.

And the coffee?

"It's just an added boost!" she said, laughing. But it is good for your heart in that you will know that your money is going to a farmer who pays his laborers a living wage,

and who uses organic means to grow the beans."

The list includes a description of the Illinois-grown or produced items, addresses, phone numbers and links to the companies' Web sites. Many offer online ordering, as well as lists of stores where you can get their products.

Participating local suburban firms include the Long Grove Confectionery Co. of Buffalo Grove; Octavia Teas of Geneva; Papanicholas Coffee of Batavia; Ahrns Famous Inc. of Crystal Lake; Candy Tech of Buffalo Grove; Diana's Specialty Foods of St. Charles; Dreymler and Kray meat processors of Hampshire; E Sutras botanic products of Schaumburg; Garden Row Foods of St. Charles; Jel-Sert of West Chicago; John B. Sanfilippo and Son Inc. nut processors of Elgin; Kernel Season's of Elk Grove Village; Lambs Farm of Libertyville, a nonprofit organization employing adults with developmental disabilities; Lynfred Winery of Roselle; Mary's Gourmet Foods of Wheaton; Reid Foods of Gurnee, Rose Packing of Bar-



Bottles of chardonnay are prepared at Lynfred Winery in Roselle.

BEV HORNE/bhorne@dailyherald.com 2005

ington; Terri Lynn Inc. nut processors in Elgin; Galena Cellars, which has a store in Geneva; Uncle Mel's barbecue products, in Wheeling; and the Popcorn Factory in Lake Forest.

The list is part of the state's increasing efforts to promote Illinois agribusiness — and to teach us that agribusiness isn't just about seed corn and tractors.

Illinois is No. 1 among the 50 states in sales of food produced or processed, with \$149 billion in sales; New York is next, with \$75 billion.

And yes, some of that is due to us having such big corporations as Archer Daniels Midland — but it also comes from 1,497 processors large and small. Many of them are based in Chicago and northern Illinois.

"People do not think of that area of the state as agricultural," said Jeff Squibb, a spokesman for the department.

"We wish more people would recognize that."

The list also fits in nicely to the trend of people buying and eating locally.

"This gives us a better opportunity to better position Illinois products," Squibb said.

To see the complete list, visit the department's Web site at [www.agr.state.il.us](http://www.agr.state.il.us) and then click on the blue box on the right side of the page, entitled "Illinois Food and Agribusiness Guide." The "Gift Baskets/Gift Sets" category can be found in the bottom right corner.

## Enjoy solstice with a stroll

Don't let the shortest day of the year get you down — stop by Tekakwitha Woods Forest Preserve in St. Charles for the Winter Solstice Sunset Stroll.

During this naturalist-led hike, participants will watch the sunset, observe wildlife in the twilight, and learn about the interplay of cultural and ecological events on the winter solstice. The Winter Solstice Sunset Stroll will be from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Saturday.

All ages are welcome at this free event. In the event of inclement weather, call (847) 741-8350 for cancellation update.



Cookies are among the many food products sold at Lambs Farm in Libertyville, a nonprofit organization that employs adults with developmental disabilities.

COURTESY OF LAMBS FARM



Futter's Nut Butters come in chocolate almond espresso, as well as a variety of other flavors. The business is based in Hawthorn Woods.

COURTESY OF FUTTER'S NUT BUTTERS