

WEATHER

Today: Mostly cloudy and mild this morning. Cloudy and colder tonight with a high of 58 degrees and a low of 26 degrees.

Friday: Mostly cloudy, windy and cold throughout the day with a Black Friday high of 31 degrees and a low of 17 degrees. Clear and cold overnight.

READY, SET SHOP!

SALE OPENINGS TODAY:

- » **Walmart:** 8 p.m. (sale start time, store open 24 hours)
 - » **Kohl's:** midnight
 - » **Target:** 9 p.m.
 - » **Best Buy:** midnight
 - » **Shopko:** 9 p.m.
- SALE OPENINGS FRIDAY:**
- » **Kmart:** 4 a.m.

TURKEY TRIVIA

Turkey consumption has nearly doubled over the past 25 years. In 2011, per capita turkey consumption was 16.1 pounds compared to 8.3 pounds in 1975.

THINGS TO DO

FOOTBALL

- » Houston-Detroit 11:30 a.m., CBS
- » Washington-Dallas 3:15 p.m., FOX
- » New England-New York Jets 7:20 p.m., FOX

COMMUNITY DINNERS

- » 11 a.m., Stevens Point Moose Lodge, 1025 Second St. N.
- » 11 a.m., St. Bronislava Catholic Church, 3200 Plover Road.
- » Graffiti's, 912 Main St., noon, free meal for veterans and their families.

MACY'S THANKSGIVING DAY PARADE

9 a.m. to noon, NBC

TURKEY TROUBLES?

Talk to a turkey expert by calling the Butterball Turkey TalkLine at 800-288-8372 or visit the experts online at www.butterball.com.

FOOD SAFETY

Bacteria can spread throughout the kitchen and get on hands, cutting boards, knives and countertops. Frequent cleaning can keep that from happening. Always wash hands with warm water and soap for 20 seconds before and after handling food.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Stevens Point Journal

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2012
WWW.STEVENSPOINTJOURNAL.COM

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DOWNTOWN SITS IN FLUX



Third Street, shown Wednesday, where the CenterPoint MarketPlace building was. PHOTOS BY B.C. KOWALSKI/STEVENS POINT JOURNAL

WITH MALL PROJECT WRAPPING UP, LEADERS SAY DEVELOPMENT IS KEY



CenterPoint MarketPlace, as it appeared in July.



CenterPoint MarketPlace, as it appeared August.

By B.C. Kowalski | Journal staff | bkowalski@gannett.com

With all but the last pieces of CenterPoint MarketPlace torn down and newly constructed Third Street open,

Stevens Point officials say they need to focus on getting new business downtown to pull Tax Increment Finance District No. 6 into the black.

City leaders are hoping the Lullaby Furniture Co. site, which still sits empty in the district, can help spark that development.

The city borrowed \$5.9 million in 2011 to tear down part of the mall, rebuild Third Street and move Mid-

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Gift cards are on display at the check-out aisles Monday at Target in Weston. DAN YOUNG/GANNETT CENTRAL WISCONSIN MEDIA

Gift cards gain in popularity with givers, recipients

By Keith Uhlig

Gannett Central Wisconsin Media

WAUSAU — Here's a reason for those who hate shopping to rejoice: Most people want to get the quick, easy and convenient gift card.

Nearly six out of 10 people would like to get a gift card as a Christmas present this year — 59.8 percent — according to a National Retail Federation's holiday consumer survey of about 9,300 people. That's up from last year, when 57.7 percent said they'd like to receive gift cards.

The survey results show a trend that has been building for several years, local retailers say.

"I don't know the statistics, but our gift card sales have been increasing," said Melissa Innis, the executive team leader at Target in Weston. "Especially toward the end of the holiday season, during the crunch time."

The increase in gift card popularity comes as no surprise to Tom Vandehey, 44, of Wausau.

"I think it gives you the flexibility to get what you want," he said.

Vandehey said he likes getting and giving gift cards because they are practical gifts that ensure the recipient will be able to get something he or she wants. He's judicious about how he uses gift cards, though. Vandehey doesn't think gift cards always are appropriate — a spouse might not appreciate a

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\$1.50 retail
For home delivery pricing, see Page 2A

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Joseph Cera
Marvin Feltz
Vivian Maas

Weather

For today's complete forecast, see Page 3B.



BRODY DESIGNS

CUSTOM GOLDSMITHING

HOLIDAY HOURS | Mon 9-5 | Tues 9-7 | Wed 9-5 | Thurs 9-5 | Fri 9-7 | Sat 9-7 | Sun closed
VISIT BD | Village Park Shopping Center, Hwy B, Plover | 344-9630 | brodydesigns.com

