

Cookies, from page B1

Melt white chocolate with remaining shortening in double boiler. Add green food coloring if desired. Spoon chocolate into a sandwich bag and snip the bottom corner. Drizzle chocolate over the hardened chocolate balls.
Makes 36.

**MASTER BAKER
1ST PLACE
MICHELLE LANG**

CHOCOLATE PEPPERMINT COOKIES
1/2 c. oil
1 box Betty Crocker devil's food cake mix
1 T. peppermint extract
1 T. butter
2 eggs
1 c. semi-sweet chocolate chips
1/2 candy cane, crushed

Preheat oven to 350. Thoroughly mix first five ingredients, then stir in remaining ingredients. Drop by spoonfuls onto ungreased baking sheet and bake 10-12 minutes.



Tamara Steiner/Clayton Pioneer
Santiago Martinez, Joyce Martinez and Roxanne Pardi kept the crowd busy with Christmas carols while the judges did their work.

**MASTER BAKER
2ND PLACE
MARY ANN COLLANDER**

INVISIBLE BAKLAVA
2 lbs. unshelled walnuts (about 3 cups shelled)
3/4 c. sugar
2 tsp. allspice
2 tsp. cinnamon
40 filo pastry sheets
1 lb. butter, melted
Whole cloves

HONEY SYRUP
1 c. sugar
1 c. water
1 1/2 c. honey
2 tsp. vanilla

Preheat oven to 300. Brush 9 x 12 (1 1/2-inch deep) baking pan with melted butter. Combine shelled nuts with sugar, cinnamon and allspice. Cut pastry sheets to fit the pan. Layer 12 pastry sheets in baking pan, brushing each with melted butter. Cover with 1/4 of the walnut mixture. Cover with 5 pastry sheets, brushed with melted butter, and sprinkle this with another 1/4 of the nut mixture.



It's a tough job, but somebody's got to do it. Hard at work are the Pioneer's cookie contest judges making the best of this tough job.

Cover this layer with 6 pastry sheets, also brushed with melted butter. Continue with another 1/4 of the nut mixture and cover with 5 pastry sheets, brushed with butter. After spreading the last 1/4 of the nut mixture, top with final 12 pastry sheets, brushed with butter. With a sharp knife dipped in hot butter, cut the baklava into 1/2-inch wide strips, then cut these strips diagonally to form small diamond-shaped pieces. Stick a clove in the center of each piece. Heat remaining butter and pour it into the knife slits between the strips. Bake until lightly browned, about 1 hour. Prepare Honey Syrup while

baklava is baking. Cook sugar and water over low heat until syrupy (about 10 minutes). Add the honey and vanilla and cook another 5 minutes. (This makes more syrup than is needed for this recipe.) After baklava is removed from oven, increase oven temperature to 400. Pour boiling honey

syrup over the baklava. Return baking dish to the oven and bake for a few minutes or until the syrup has penetrated the layers and the top is golden brown. Remove and pour as much honey syrup over the baklava as it will absorb. Let stand at least 3 hours before serving.

**MASTER BAKER
3RD PLACE
PAM GHATTA-BOWDEN**

OATMEAL CHOCOLATE CHIPPERS
1 c. butter
1 c. brown sugar
1/2 c. sugar
2 eggs
1 tsp. vanilla
1 1/4 c. flour
1/2 c. unsweetened cocoa powder
1 tsp. baking soda
1/2 tsp. salt
2 c. oatmeal
1 12-oz. bag chocolate chips

Preheat oven to 350. In a large bowl, beat butter, sugars, eggs and vanilla until creamy. In a separate bowl, combine flour, cocoa, baking soda and salt. Gradually add flour mixture to the wet ingredients until well blended. Stir in oatmeal and chocolate chips. Drop by teaspoonfuls onto ungreased cookie sheet. Bake 9-10 minutes. Cool on cookie sheet for 1-2 minutes, then remove to rack to cool further. Makes 4 dozen.

**TEEN BAKER
1ST PLACE
CADY LANG**

MOO-COW COOKIES
1 box chocolate cake mix
1/2 c. oil
2 T. water
2 eggs
1 c. white chocolate chips

Preheat oven to 350. Mix together first 4 ingredients. Add chocolate chips until blended evenly. Drop by teaspoonfuls onto ungreased cookie sheet. Bake 10-12 minutes.

**TEEN BAKER
2ND PLACE
KATELAN BOWDEN**

RUSSIAN TEA CAKES
1 c. butter, softened
1/2 c. powdered sugar
1 tsp. vanilla extract
2 1/4 c. flour
1/4 tsp. salt
1 c. chopped walnuts (or other nuts of your choosing)
Powdered sugar

Preheat oven to 400. Beat butter until fluffy. Gradually add the powdered sugar and vanilla. Sift flour and salt, then add to butter mixture. Add chopped nuts. Shape into 1-inch balls and place on a cookie sheet. Bake 10-12 minutes or until lightly golden. Roll in powdered sugar while still warm. Let cookies cool and dust once more with powdered sugar.



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-Zina Docto*

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